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Human Remains Found in Ashes of NW Mo. Opera House

MAITLAND, Mo. (AP) - A northwest Missouri sheriff says DNA testing will be needed to determine if human remains found in a burned-out opera house are those of the missing owner.

Sixty-six-year-old Kenneth Rainwater has not been seen since fire destroyed the Maitland Opera House in Holt County on Aug. 24. Rainwater lived in the three-story, historic converted tavern.

The St. Joseph News-Press reports that remains found in the ruins were confirmed Friday as human. But Sheriff Scott Wedlock says it could be a month or more before they're identified.

Rainwater was charged in May with possessing child pornography and was released from jail five days before the fire on \$50,000 bond. His bail bondsman said he feared Rainwater may have taken his own life.

Associated Press