

## Watauga Man Found Dead; Possible Storm Victim

Written by Steve Frank  
Tuesday, 07 May 2013 14:04

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Authorities are trying to determine whether a Watauga County man might have been a victim of the stormy weather or a traffic accident, that after an alert dispatcher matched information that led to the discovery of the man's body early this morning. A Silver Alert was issued early this morning for 93-year old Brady Kermit Cheek, missing from his Rainbow Trail residence in Boone. A State Patrol dispatcher, seeing the bulletin, matched the vehicle to one found by patrolmen Monday in Wilkes County and called for another look at the scene of what was thought to be an abandoned wrecked vehicle. That 2005 Blazer had been found around 6 to 7 miles south of Wilkesboro off of NC 16 while two State Patrol troopers were investigating another wreck, the SUV barely visible from the guardrail that was being checked for damage some 150 feet below. The original troopers checked that vehicle and the surrounding area, but finding no one or evidence of injury, they had the vehicle towed and stored. Matching the Silver Alert and the stored SUV, the dispatcher sent two patrolmen back to the scene at 3:30 this morning, and they followed the path of swift water through a drainage system under the roadway and found Brady Kermit Cheek's body on the far side. It appeared he had exited his crashed vehicle only to slip into the flooded drainage ditch and be swept away some 500 feet and underneath the road. An autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause of death in the incident.

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