

## SUVs found submerged, ties to Wilkes

Written by

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Two stolen sports utility vehicles were located Saturday morning off Riverside Drive in the Patterson area of Caldwell County: in a pond.

**A hunter spotted a red Chevrolet Blazer in the pond, which is located on private property. The entrance gate to the lot was destroyed, and there were tire tracks near the pond's edge. Divers from Hudson Rescue were called in to assist Lenoir Rescue and the Sheriff's Office. A second vehicle, a navy Chevrolet Tahoe, was discovered a few feet away from the Blazer.**

The Blazer, registered to HIS Auto Sales in Wilkes County, still had the key in the ignition. The Tahoe was reported stolen by a Collettsville resident in June, and was found with a busted window and steering column. Police say the Tahoe had been submerged for some time. Witnesses say the gate was intact on Friday, leading police to believe that the Blazer was dumped Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Both vehicles were submerged in approximately 12 feet of water. The Sheriff's Office plans to contact the vehicles' owners and conduct a full investigation. It's an out-of-the-way location, officials say- and they suspect both dumpings are connected.