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## Divers search lake for stolen safes

*By Shelly Whitehead*  
*Post staff reporter*

Boone County water rescue team divers spent about six hours Tuesday searching the depths of Doe Run Lake for a number of stolen safes that police believe two Northern Kentucky brothers took from tri-state Family Dollar stores and dumped into the water.

Police in Harrison, Ohio, asked the Boone County team to join police divers from Hamilton County in the search after officers arrested Adam and Matthew Musard last week for breaking into a Harrison Family Dollar location about three weeks ago.

In the course of the investigation into that crime, Harrison Police Detective Norb Coopman said the brothers soon became suspects in a much wider circle of safe-snatching break-ins. And investigators believe all of them ended at the bottom of Doe Run in Kenton County and another Northern Kentucky lake.

"We got information that these guys were involved in multiple burglaries of similar (Family Dollar) stores in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana from early May of this year up to date. It could be more than 10," Coopman said.

"Then we got information that they dumped the safes in two locations. One of those was Doe Run Lake, and the other location I'm not going to give out."

Coopman said that most of the burglaries occurred at Dollar Stores near the Interstate 275 loop. In all of the incidents under investigation, the stores' safes were stolen during overnight break-ins. He wouldn't say how much money was taken.

Coopman said additional searches are being planned this week of both lakes.

Those spots provided convenient disposal places for the safes, he said.

"If you think about this logically, it would be kind of hard to hide them at their house," Coopman said. "They'd have to find somewhere to get rid of them."

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Todd Davis CFO  
SSN# 457-55-5462

Kenton County Police Capt. Darren Smith said officers from his department were called to assist in Tuesday's lake search, since Doe Run is in their jurisdiction. Smith said divers spent about six hours in the water.

"They did not recover anything," Smith said. "I think some of the equipment malfunctioned."

Boone County Search and Rescue Team Leader Dale Appel said there were some problems with the unit's sonar equipment, but divers still managed to thoroughly search one side of the lake. He said that although Doe Run reaches depths of 45 feet, the search was restricted to more shallow areas.

"Where we looked, it probably reached a little over 12 feet because what we were looking for would be difficult to throw very far," he said. "Between us and Hamilton County, we would have found it if what we were looking for was there. So it's not where we actually looked, but we'll go back to do a little more."

Coopman said investigators hope divers can resume the Doe Run Lake search later this week.

The Musards have been jailed in Northern Kentucky since their arrests last week. But, after extradition proceedings in Kenton County Tuesday, Adam Musard, 23, of Covington, was transferred to the Hamilton County Justice Center in Cincinnati.

Matthew Musard, 25, is still awaiting extradition to Ohio. He remains in the Campbell County Detention Center in Newport on \$10,000 bond following his arrest Friday.

Coopman said both men are charged with breaking and entering, safe-cracking and theft in Ohio. He said the investigation is continuing into the Musards and their connection to local Family Dollar store break-ins.

Publication date: 08-29-2007



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