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Body found floating by river

■ 76-year-old man discovered in about 3 feet of flood water.

By **MELISSA JACKSON**
Tribune Staff Writer

SAWYER — Police have identified the elderly man found floating face down in flood waters along the rain-swollen Galien River in Chikaming Township Thursday morning as George Genetzke.

Chikaming Township Police Chief Jim Stormont said relatives of the 76-year-old man, who owns the property near where he was found, called 911 after they saw a body floating face down in the water off Minnich Road, just north of Hanover Road.

He was last seen Tuesday evening and his family had returned to check on him.

"He appeared to be deceased from the shore," Stormont said.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Department Dive Team was called in to recover the body. Deputy Barry Oliver said Genetzke was floating atop a log that was caught against a tree roughly 25 feet from dry ground. About 50 feet beyond him were the overflowing banks of the Galien River, he said.

"The area he was actually in was a flooded area," Oliver said.

Divers found the body in about three feet of moving water. However, Oliver continued, there were indications from marks the floating log had rubbed into the tree that the water had been as high as five feet. He said it was possible to fight the "constant steady current" that was flowing through the area that morning, but added that the current was likely faster in deeper water.

"It appears that he somehow fell into the water," Stormont said.



Tribune Photos/SANTIAGO FLORES

Tammy Shovelton talks with actor Dennis Quaid after getting her picture taken with him Thursday at the premiere of the movie "The Express" at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend.

Stars walk the green turf

Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown charm fans at premiere

By **ERIN BLASKO**
Tribune Staff Writer

A SOUTH BEND actor Dennis Quaid returned to Indiana on Thursday for the first time since the late 1970s.

The Golden Globe nominee, who starred in 1979's "Breaking Away," which was filmed in Bloomington, walked the green turf at the College Football Hall of Fame before a special screening of his most recent film, the biopic "The Express," at 7 p.m. inside the hall's Stadium Theater.

Quaid was joined by co-star Rob Brown, whose film credits include "Coach Carter" and "Finding Forrester."

In "The Express," 24-year-old Brown plays Ernie Davis, a Syracuse University football player who in 1961 became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy.

Quaid, 54, plays Davis' coach, the legendary Ben Schwartzwalder, who led Syracuse from 1949-1973 and who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1982.

Larry Lacluyse of Mishawaka was one of about 100 or so people who waited patiently Thursday for the stars to arrive.

Standing behind a barricade erected on the Gridiron Plaza, the 67-year-old held a battered Syracuse-orange football helmet with the letter "E" stenciled on the side.

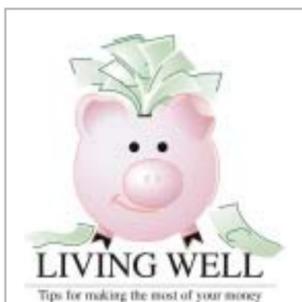
On the Web

To see video from the premiere of "The Express," go to www.southbendtribune.com.

See STARS/A4



Racheal Hamilton, left, and Alicia Sink review pictures they took with Quaid at Thursday's premiere.



LIVING WELL
Tips for making the most of your money

SOUTH BEND
If you're looking for a place to find a variety of good-quality hard-back and paperback books, DVDs, CDs and other miscellaneous things, check out the Friends of the Library book sale Saturday.

The sale, which is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3408 Ardmore Trail on the city's west side, features the library's leftovers. Some of the most popular draws are children's and romance books, but you can sometimes also find such things as computers and artwork. For best choice, show up early.

For more things to do over the next few days, see today's **Weekend** section.

What are you doing these days to live better — and save money? E-mail your suggestions to kkilbride@sbtinfo.com.

Homicide suspect cornered in a tree

■ Niles area man wanted in Illinois leads state, local police on chase.

By **LOU MUMFORD**
Tribune Staff Writer

NILES — A suspect in a homicide in Hickory Hills, Ill., who attempted to evade police Thursday morning in Niles has been identified as Ronald Smith, 41.

A Niles area resident, Smith was being held on multiple felony charges and a parole violation. Investigators from Hickory Hills also were headed to Niles Thursday to question Smith about the homicide there.

Smith was apprehended after police officers from Michigan and Indiana cornered him in a tree above a shed near 13th Street and

Bertrand Road. He fled to the area, Michigan State Police in Niles said, after ditching a car, which reportedly had been stolen, behind the Stephens Motel, 3113 Michigan 51 S., where Smith and another man had been staying.

Smith ingested narcotics prior to his arrest, police said, and was taken to an area hospital for treatment.

The second man at the motel also was arrested on charges of possession of narcotics and counterfeit currency, police said. They said evidence in the room indicated the counterfeit money had been produced there.

The name of the second individual was withheld pending his arraignment in Berrien County Trial Court.

Police said Thursday's series of events began shortly after 8 a.m., when a

Michigan state trooper attempted to stop an auto driven by Smith for a speeding violation on U.S. 12. Rather than stop, Smith accelerated the auto, leading the trooper on a chase south on Michigan 51 until Smith abandoned the car near the motel and fled into a wooded area.

About 60 police officers then converged on the area, cordoning it off while a Niles city police tracking dog picked up Smith's scent and helped track him to an area behind the Rural King store. Police arrested Smith after he was discovered in the tree, about 30 feet off the ground.

Police said no shots were fired and no one was injured during the pursuit.

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Tribune Photo/BARBARA ALLISON

Michigan State Police officers brace themselves Thursday morning as an Indiana State Police helicopter takes off again from the Rural King parking lot on South 11th Street in Niles.



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ON THE WEB

Read Heidi Prescott's blog at www.southbendtribune.com.



Forecast, C7
Mostly sunny,
high of 78

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