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## Drowning rescue attempt stymied

Post staff report

An attempt to rescue a drowning man Friday night failed when the victim's struggles threatened to drag the would-be rescuer under water.

Michael Haney, 25, of Newport was fishing with two friends on the Newport side of the Licking River about 7 p.m. Friday when he decided to try swimming across the river.

His friends told police that Haney got about halfway across and then began struggling.

"Apparently, the current in the river was stronger than he had anticipated and he began struggling, and then yelled for help," said Campbell County Deputy Coroner Laura Randall.

"At that point, one of his fishing companions dived in and actually had him in his grip.

"But then he (Haney) started pulling him under, too, and he had to let go."

A Boone County Water Rescue diver pulled Haney's body from the river about 11:30 p.m. Friday. Covington firefighters assisted with the search.

Ms. Randall said Haney's body is being taken to his native Maryland, where his family lives.

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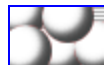
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