05-30-2007 Glen Rose TX – Teyran Peterson – GM LEO – Body Recovery Boat Accident

Texas mourns the loss of another game warden

http://blog.chron.com/dougpike/2007/05/texas-mourns-the-loss-of-another-game-warden/
May 30, 2007

From my friend Steve Lightfoot at TPWD comes the following, saddening press release to let us know that Texas lost another game warden this morning. – DP

Teyran "Ty" Patterson

GLEN ROSE, Texas – Texas Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson, 28, died in the line of duty today during a search and rescue operation on the Paluxy River near here. Patterson apparently drowned after his boat capsized in floodwaters.

Patterson and his partner, Game Warden Danny Tuggle, were attempting to recover the body of a 17-year-old suspected drowning victim when the accident occurred. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement officials are investigating. No additional details about the incident are available.

Tuggle, a 25-year veteran game warden, suffered near-drowning injuries and has been airlifted to Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth.

Patterson was the second Texas game warden killed in the line of duty in less than three months. Game Warden Justin Hurst was shot and killed on March 17 during an exchange of gunfire between law enforcement officers and a suspected poacher.

Since 1919, 17 Texas game wardens have lost their lives in the line of duty, five by drowning.

Patterson was a graduate of the 51st Texas Game Warden Academy in 2005 and had been stationed in Johnson County. He is survived by his parents, Viann and Joe Patterson of Seguin, Texas.

"Ty died doing what he loved. He died serving a Texas family dealing with its own tragic loss," said Col. Pete Flores, TPWD Law Enforcement Division director. "We are going to miss this courageous young game warden, and our hearts and prayers go out to his parents and loved ones."

Texas Game Warden Dies During Search and Rescue Operation

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/?req=20070530a
May 30, 2007

GLEN ROSE, Texas - Texas Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson, 28, died in the line of duty today during a search-and-rescue operation on the Paluxy River near here. Patterson apparently drowned after his boat capsized in floodwaters.

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Johnson County game warden drowns during rescue operation

http://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/news/johnson-county-game-warden-drowns-during-rescue-operation/article_7c765eac-bccf-547a-9bac-e544c610a01b.html
May 30, 2007 Matt Smith/Staff Writer

Texas Game Warden Teyran “Ty” Patterson, 28, died Wednesday during a search-and-rescue operation on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, according to a press release from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Patterson was stationed in Johnson County after his 2005 graduation from the 51st Texas Game Warden Academy. He apparently drowned after his boat capsized in floodwaters, said Steve Lightfoot, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman.

Patterson and his partner, Game Warden Danny Tuggle, were searching for the body of a suspected 17-year-old drowning victim when the accident occurred, Lightfoot said. Apparently the 17-year-old, Courtney Butler, entered the river to rescue another teenager, whose identity and whereabouts are unknown.

The Butler's whereabouts are also unknown.

Tuggle suffered near-drowning injuries. A helicopter transported him to Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital. Tuggle was listed in good condition. Lightfoot said Tuggle also works in the Johnson County area.

Patterson is survived by his parents Viann and Joe Patterson of Seguin. He grew up in Sequin and attended Sequin High School.

"We're super proud of everything Ty's done in his life," Joe Patterson said. "I'd like to say he was an example many people should try to follow. He didn't drink, smoke or chase women. We have lost a treasure in my son, a treasure. And even though I don't understand why, I know he's gone home to be with the Lord."

Patterson is the 17th Texas game warden to die in the line of duty since 1919.

Five others died by drowning.

Patterson is also the second game warden killed in the line of duty in less than three months. Game Warden Justin Hurst was shot and killed March 17 in Wharton County during an exchange of gunfire between law enforcement officers and a suspected poacher.

"Ty died doing what he loved," said Col. Pete Flores, TPWD Law Enforcement Division director. "He died serving a Texas family dealing with its own tragic loss. We are going to miss this courageous young game warden, and our hearts and prayers go out to his parents and loved ones."

Johnson County Sheriff Bob Alford called Patterson's death a tragic loss.

"He's just a fine young man who was dedicated to his profession and a great asset to us," Alford said. "He worked out of our office for a time and always backed our deputies and helped out when we had questions. This was his first station out of the academy. He was a super guy who had his whole life ahead of him."

State Rep. Rob Orr, R-Burleson, said he was greatly saddened by Patterson's death.

"This untimely loss of Game Warden Patterson is a tragedy for Johnson County, the state of Texas but most importantly his family, friends and colleagues," Orr said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time."

Updated Article:

Texas Game Warden Dies during Search-and-Rescue Operation

http://www.setxsports.com/ip/index.php?/topic/17103-texas-game-warden-dies-during-search-and-rescue-operation/#comment-249432

31 May 2007

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Patterson and his partner, Game Warden Danny Tuggle, were attempting to recover the body of a suspected drowning victim where the river crosses FM 205 in Somervell County when the accident occurred at about 8:10 a.m. Wednesday. On Tuesday afternoon, Courtney Butler, 16, of Stephenville, was swimming with friends on the river. Friends reported her missing around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. This afternoon, a team of enforcement agencies continues to search for Butler. TPWD law enforcement officials are investigating the incident. No additional details about the incident are available.

Tuggle, a 25-year veteran game warden, suffered near-drowning injuries and was also transported to Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth, where he was treated and released at noon today.

Somervell County Sheriff Greg Doyle and several deputies were observing the search Wednesday morning when the boat carrying Patterson and Tuggle capsized, and several deputies immediately entered the water to aid the game wardens. Members of the Somervell County Fire and Emergency Medical Service also entered the water to help the game wardens, and provided emergency medical aid immediately after the incident.

“Swift and effective action by Sheriff Doyle and his deputies probably saved the life of Warden Tuggle” said Maj. Butch Shoop, TPWD Law Enforcement Division regional director out of Fort Worth.

“Somervell County Fire and EMS immediately went to work trying to help Warden Patterson. We deeply appreciate the assistance we have received from these and other organizations involved, including the Texas Department of Public Safety, which provided a helicopter to help search the river.”

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Texas Game Warden Dies During Search-and-Rescue Operation

http://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20070531a
May 31, 2007. EDITORS: 2nd Ld-Writethru

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http://gunsandhosestx.com/game-warden-teyran-patterson/

GAME WARDEN TEYRAN "TY" PATTERSON IS A SEGUIN, TEXAS NATIVE WHO GRADUATED FROM TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2004. HE BEGAN WORK AT CMC STEEL TEXAS BEFORE BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE 51ST TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE GAME WARDEN ACADEMY.

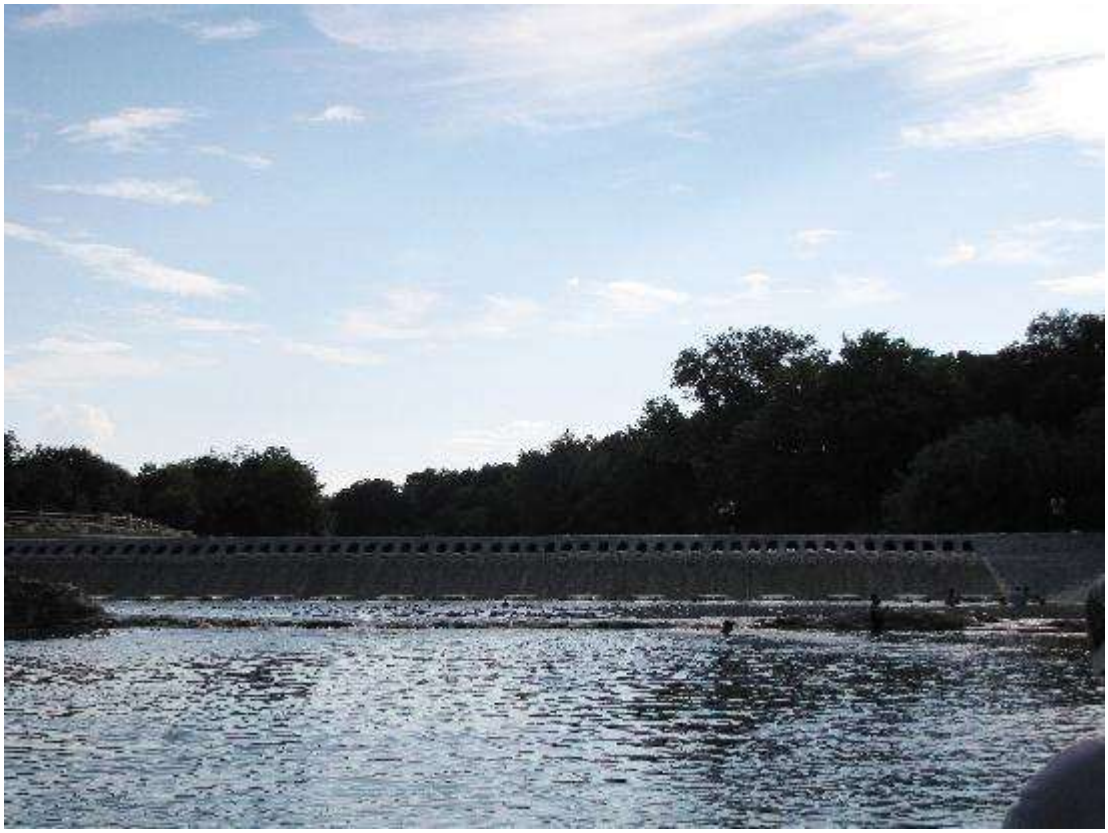
GAME WARDEN PATTERSON HAD A 6'2", 285LB FRAME, BUT DESPITE HIS INTIMIDATING STATURE WAS A GENTLE GIANT KNOWN FOR BEING A KIND AND CARING PERSON. HE ENJOYED PLAYING BASKETBALL WITH HIS "BOYS" IN CLEBURNE AND LIFTING WEIGHTS.

WHENEVER HE HAD THE TIME, HE WOULD GO VISIT HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH WHOM HE WAS VERY

CLOSE. **GAME WARDEN PATTERSON** WAS A MAN OF HONOR WHO SHOWED LOYALTY TO HIS FAMILY AND LOVED ONES, AND SHOWED PASSION IN EVERYTHING HE DID. A HERO TO MANY, HIS OLDER BROTHER JOE SAID, "TY IS A HERO IN MY EYES AND POSSESSED THE GIFT TO SEE THE GOOD IN EVERYONE."

ON WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2007, **GAME WARDEN TEYRAN PATTERSON** AND HIS PARTNER, DANNY TUGGLE, WERE ON THE PALUXY RIVER WHEN THEIR BOAT CAPSIZED. **TY** WAS ABLE TO ASSIST HIS PARTNER TO SAFETY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY **GAME WARDEN PATTERSON** DROWNED WHILE STRUGGLING IN THE WATER. HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS PURE HEART. **GAME WARDEN PATTERSON** IS SURVIVED BY HIS PARENTS, JOE AND VIANN PATTERSON; HIS SISTER, CRYSTAL; AND BROTHERS, JOE, JR. AND DEMETRIUS.

TX - Glen Rose - Big Rocks Park Overfall Dam



Incidents

Date:	29 - May - 2007
Fatalities:	1

Description:	Game Warden was trying to find the body of a 16 year old whom they suspected had drowned. His boat capsized in flood waters and he drowned.
Web Documentation:	http://setxsports.com/ip/index.php?/topic/17103-texas-game-warden-dies-during-search-and-rescue-operation/

Teen's body found in Paluxy River

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/060207dnmetdrowning_.5b293d9.html

Friday, June 1, 2007 By KIMBERLY DURNAN / The Dallas Morning News

GLEN ROSE - Authorities found Friday the body of a 16-year-old girl who was the focus of a search effort that led to the drowning of a Texas game warden earlier this week.

The body of Courtney Butler, who was from Stephenville, was found about 2:30 a.m. in the Paluxy River in Glen Rose by Somervell sheriff's deputies monitoring the area with lights, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said.

Courtney and her friends had gone swimming Tuesday three miles upstream near the river crossing on FM 205 west of Glen Rose.

"The water was rushing because of the rains," said Dub Gillum, a highway patrolman with the Texas Department of Public Safety. When Courtney's boyfriend got swept up, she jumped in to help.

"He came downstream and was holding onto a tree when he was pulled out by Somervell County deputies," Mr. Gillum said. Courtney did not resurface and authorities launched a search.

Texas game warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson, 28, drowned Wednesday when his boat capsized during the search. Mr. Patterson's partner Danny Tuggle was airlifted to a Fort Worth hospital and was in good condition.

Courtney graduated from Paradigm Accelerated Charter School in May, the school's superintendent Ron Johnson said.

"She was very bright, talented, friendly and outgoing," Mr. Johnson said. "She was focused on graduating. She was trying to get out in a hurry. She wasn't even 17 when she graduated."

Ms. Butler wouldn't have thought twice about jumping into the river to save a friend, Mr. Johnson said. "She's the kind of person who wouldn't have thought about the danger to herself … She would just want to help."

Body Of Teenager Recovered; Search Claimed Life Of Texas Game Warden

http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/7786146.html
June 1, 2007

Somervell County Fire and EMS crews recovered the body of a teenage drowning victim early Friday morning from the Paluxy River in downtown Glen Rose, marking the end of a search that claimed the life of one Texas game warden and sent another to the hospital.

The emergency crews found the body of Courtney Butler, 16, around 2:15 a.m. Friday at a spot on the river known as Big Rocks, where they had set up lights and were keeping watch in anticipation the body would surface.

The Stephenville teenager was reported missing Tuesday evening.

She had been swimming in the river with friends.

On Wednesday Texas Game Warden Teyran Patterson, 28, died and his partner, Game Warden Danny Tuggle was airlifted to a Fort Worth hospital, after their boat capsized as they searched for the body.

Patterson was the second game warden to die in the line of duty in less than three months.

Game Warden Justin Hurst was shot to death on March 17 in an exchange of gunfire with a suspected poacher.

Click Here For Texas Department Of Parks And Wildlife Web Site

Counties mourn loss of game warden

http://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/local/local_story_152090524.html
By Matt Smith/Staff Writer

Search for missing Stephenville girl continues on river
While family members and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representatives made funeral arrangements, residents in Johnson and Guadalupe counties remembered Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson as a friend and inspiration.

"I've been in Seguin 10 years, and not many kids get out of here after school," said Tally Neal, former assistant principal and football coach at Seguin High School. "But Ty did. He'll be well-remembered for his person, family and character. I don't think he'll ever be forgotten."

Patterson, who was Johnson County's game warden, died Wednesday during a search-and-rescue operation on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose. He drowned after the boat carrying him and his partner, Game Warden Danny Tuggle, overturned about 8:10 a.m. near where the river passes under Farm-to-Market Road 205 in Somervell County.

Patterson, 28, and Tuggle were searching for the body of suspected drowning victim Courtney Butler, 17, of Stephenville when their boat capsized. Somervell County sheriff's deputies joined Somervell volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in pulling both men from the river. Tuggle, a 25-year veteran game warden, was transported by helicopter to Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital after suffering "near-drowning injuries" according to a Texas Parks and Wildlife press release. As of Thursday, Tuggle was in good condition and expected to recover fully, said Tom Harvey, a Texas Parks and Wildlife spokesman. Paramedics attempted to revive Patterson.

Officials have not found Butler's body, Harvey said. Friends reported Butler missing about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. While swimming with friends, Butler may have jumped in the river to save a friend when she disappeared. It remains unknown whom Butler was attempting to rescue. No one else has been reported missing or drowned in the area, Harvey said.

Johnson County Precinct 1 Commissioner R.C. McFall grew up close to and still owns property near the Paluxy River. He called the area a popular swimming spot that grows extremely dangerous at times.

"I was born and raised here, and we used to play and swim in that area all the time," McFall said. "There's a cement dip that cars used to drive across. That was our way to town before the bridge was put in in the early '60s, and then there's a pretty deep, good swimming hole. But when we get rain like this and it's rising, it's the swiftest river in Texas. It falls about 10 feet per mile."

Law-enforcement personnel from Johnson County joined Thursday morning's procession along Interstate 35W that carried Patterson's body back to his hometown of Seguin.

Patterson graduated Seguin High School in 1998. He played linebacker and running back for the school's football team and also played baseball. Patterson received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Texas State University then served as a dispatcher for the Seguin Police Department before graduating from the 51st Texas

Game Warden Academy in 2005. After graduation, the department stationed Patterson in Johnson County.

"He came out to meet me and introduce himself; Johnson County was his first assignment," McFall said. "I gave him keys to the office so he could stop by if he needed ice, and I figured it's not bad to have a game warden stopping by your office at night. Anyway, we became really good friends over the past couple of years."

McFall said Patterson was less interested in writing tickets than in helping people and working with children.

"It just breaks your heart, and you hate to lose someone that young," McFall said.

Many in Seguin feel the same way, said Judy Peschel, public information coordinator for Seguin ISD.

"This has just hit our small community really hard," Peschel said. "His family is well-known and loved here."

Neal said Patterson's accomplishments give everyone in Seguin something to be proud of and should inspire young people to know they can make a difference.

"Ty was an excellent student and athlete," Neal said. "The kind of person you knew was going somewhere. It's such a hard loss; my heart's just heavy, and it's still hard to even talk about."

Services are tentatively set for Monday at the Seguin-Guadalupe Coliseum.

A scholarship-benefit fund in Patterson's name has been established, and donations can be sent to Wells Fargo Bank, 101 E. Nolte St., Seguin 78155. For information, call 830-379-1171.

Rescue efforts turn deadly

http://www.glenrosenewspaper.com/stories.mv?pageid=Rescue_efforts_turn_deadly
Monday, June 11, 2007 *By Storie Sharp*

Her flip flops lay where she kicked them off and marked the last steps a young female made before she entered the rain swollen violent Paluxy river to help rescue a friend on Tuesday, May 29 at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Witnesses on the scene of a popular swimming area, located in a low area where County Road 205 once crossed the Paluxy, said that Courtney Butler, 16, of Stephenville, jumped in to help her boyfriend who had fallen into the violently churning water.

The river was running faster and rising quicker than usual because of the large amounts or rain received in the area over several previous days. Both teens

became caught in a whirlpool of rolling rapids and debris, and were unable to get out.

The young man, Carlos Manzano, 19, was eventually caught by a swift current and washed downstream where he caught hold of a bush sticking out of the rising waters.

Watching from the bank and unable to reach her, the witnesses said they saw Butler come up once in the forceful waters near where she initially went in, and then did not see her again for what seemed like a very long time. They reported seeing her one final time, being pulled quickly away from the area in the rushing water. They did not see her again.

Valiant efforts from the Somervell County Volunteer Fire Department/EMS and Somervell County Sheriff Deputy Steve Gibson were successful in eventually retrieving Manzano from the tree. The teen was immediately transferred by EMS to the Glen Rose Medical Center.

Rescue personnel continued to search for the missing girl until after dark; returning to begin more aggressive efforts early Wednesday morning.

The search became a rescue mission again soon after resuming, when a flat-bottom boat carrying two Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Wardens was suddenly sucked in by the strong waters and overturned. SCFD/EMS crews on the ban, Sheriff Greg Doyle and Deputies Anders Dahl, Shane Tipton and Steve Gibson began attempts to get the two Wardens from the raging water.

Hood County Game Warden Danny Tuggle, 58, was pulled ashore and immediately given medical aide before being carried up the steep embankment to waiting EMS crews. Tuggle was transported to Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth where he was treated for near-drowning injuries

Efforts to retrieve Tuggle's partner, Johnson County Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson, 28, were not so successful, with the strength of the water making it almost impossible to get the capsized boat and the submerged Patterson to shore. The men were finally able to secure and pull the victim from the waters after almost 10 minuets of fighting the current. Vigorous CPR efforts continued on Patterson until he was air lifted to the hospital, but they were unable to revive the fallen officer.

Search efforts continued for the missing Butler, with local rescue personnel, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel, Department of Public Safety dive teams and helicopter assistance from around Texas working around the clock. Surveillance stations were set up at numerous locations along the Paluxy, including Big Rocks Park, where

Butler's body was finally recovered at approximately 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 1 by SCVFD/EMS crews.

Funeral services for Butler, a 2007 graduate of Paradigm School in Dublin, were held on Tuesday, June 5, at Valley Grove Baptist Church, in Stephenville with Rev. Glenn Shock officiating. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Comanche. She is survived by her parents Mike and Karen Butler of Stephenville; one sister Lindsey Butler of Stephenville; and many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Patterson earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University, and was a graduate of the 51st Texas Game Warden Academy in 2005. He was stationed in Johnson County. He is survived by his parents, Viann and Joe Patterson of Seguin, Texas.

The Seguin Gazette-Enterprise reported more than 2,100 residents and law enforcement officers from across the state and as far away as California gathered at the Seguin-Guadalupe County Coliseum — filling the facility and spilling onto the concourse outside — to celebrate Patterson's life, show thanks and respect for his service and sacrifice and comfort the Patterson family in a 2-1/2-hour memorial service.

Somervell County Sheriff Greg Doyle stated that everyone is very saddened by the loss of TPWD Game Warden Ty Patterson.

Danny Tuggle, hospitalized

Ty Patterson, drowned

"Our hearts and prayers go out to Ty's family and friends, as well as to the Butler Family," said Doyle. "At the same time, we are extremely proud of the efforts of our local Volunteer Fire Department and especially those of my Deputies, who went above and beyond the call of duty to help rescue the victims."
How could this happen? Aren't these guys trained to deal with flood situations?? I know both and I am very sad - they never found the girl's body either.

River tragedy in Glen Rose (Posted Today 02:51 pm)

A game warden died and another suffered near-drowning injuries after their boat capsized today in a search and rescue operation on the flooded Paluxy River in Glen Rose. Game warden Ty Patterson, 28, of Cleburne apparently drowned, and

Granbury game warden Danny Tuggle was airlifted to Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth, but his condition has improved and is expected to go home tomorrow. They were attempting to recover a 17-year-old suspected drowning victim.

This is the boyfriend handing on to a tree in the water and another picture they have on the website..you can get on the the Fox 4 link and this article, as well as some other pictures and keep track of the story if there is any more printed at www.glenrosenewspaper.com This is all I an get for now - I did email my freind to see if a police report was possible

rainbowhillfarm@windstream.net writes:

A teenage boy fell in to the Paluxy so his girlfriend jumped in to try and save him - he got out and she didn't. The game wardens were out in high water dragging and I'm not sure how many were in the boat -2 or 4 - anyway the boat capsized and the guy that drowned hit his head and was either unconscious or semi-conscious so the Granbury guy jumped in to save him - they say he got caught up in the drag line somehow - they DID have life vests on - the inflatable kind - the Granbury guy'd did not inflate when he pulled the cord, and he was not able to get to Ty's to inflate his. They found the girl's body 3 days later (on her 17th birthday) at Big Rock - a local tourist attraction that has been recently dammed.

HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Published Wednesday and Saturday | Granbury, Texas 76048 | www.hcnews.com | 75 cents

Photo by Sheila Sharp, courtesy of Glen Rose Newspaper

hervell County rescuers try to save game warden Ty Patterson after saving game warden Danny Tuggle. Their boat capsized on the Paluxy River Wednesday north of Glen Rose.