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#### **NEWS**

## Man drowns, woman rescued from flood-swollen river

July 1, 2004









A man tubing on the flood-swollen Frio River has drowned and a girl was rescued and revived along the waterway in a separate event.

Four men entered the river at Seven Bluffs, near Concan, and floated to a small dam where they lost their tubes and got caught in the undertow Wednesday.

Three of the men were rescued by emergency workers. But Dennis Gillespie, 33, of Robstown, was pronounced dead at Uvalde Memorial Hospital.

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Earlier in the day, Jessica Barnhill of Hondo went tubing in the river and made it as far as the same small dam on a ranch near Concan, said Chief Deputy Raul Medina of the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department.

Barnhill went over the dam about 2 p.m., lost her tube and became caught in the undertow created by the spilling water. She was not breathing when members of the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department and the Concan Volunteer Fire Department pulled her from the water, Medina told the San Antonio Express-News in Thursday's editions.

He said the teenager was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation, brought to Uvalde Memorial Hospital and released later in the day.

Medina said tube rental businesses along the river were closed because of the dangerous conditions and deputies were trying to keep people who brought their own tubes away from danger.

Earlier this week, state game wardens found two teenagers in a tree and rescued 20 other people from a condominium and a vacation rental home when both were struck by 16-foot-deep floodwaters from the Frio.

The river's watershed in Real and Uvalde counties had been pounded by days of thunderstorms at the end of one of the wettest Junes on record.

The river was expected to return to safe levels by the weekend in those counties, but authorities were keeping an eye on the high water as it worked its way toward Tilden, in McMullen County.

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