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IOWA'S HEROES — Tim Everett

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Woman tried to pull son into river, stopped by officer

By Jeff Reinitz, reporter for The Courier

WATERLOO — A Waterloo woman apparently suffering from mental health issues told her young son “they were going to the river and then going to heaven” as she pulled him toward the Cedar River.

Officer Tim Everett made sure they didn't get there.

Now the Waterloo police officer is being recognized for saving the life of the boy and his mother as she allegedly attempted to kill the child and herself.

Everett on Tuesday received a certificate of commendation for his actions on the banks of the Cedar River on the night of April 16, 2016. Daniel Trelka, director of safety services, presented the award.

“Not only was Officer Everett in the right place at the right time ... but his keen situational awareness quickly made him aware of what horrific event was about to unfold,” Trelka said.

Trelka said the boy's mother was attempting to kill the 9-year-old and herself in the river. Court records state the mother had said they were going the heaven.

The incident started when Everett, a patrol officer, noticed a vehicle stopped on the Mullan Avenue Bridge without lights or emergency flashers at about 8:50 p.m. on April 16. Nearby, he noticed the woman and child struggling as she attempted to pull the boy down the bike trail toward the water.

“As soon as the child sees the uniformed police officer, I think the child starts yelling, ‘Help me! Help me! Help me!’ So then, he kicks into overdrive,” Trelka said.

He said Everett realized she was trying to end their lives by throwing the child and herself in to the Cedar.

“It’s chaotic, it’s hectic. Emotions are high, but he quickly figures it out and gets them separated and calls for backup,” Trelka said. “She wasn’t happy to see him. The child was very grateful to see him.”

Everett was able to get the mother and son to sit down until other officers arrived, according to the report.

Officials with the Iowa Department of Human Services were notified, and the mother was taken to a local hospital for observation. She was arrested on child endangerment charges Monday after she was released. She is identified as 27-year-old Quenetta Chantaon Patterson of Waterloo.

“These events, where the officers make a positive difference, occur in this community with all the departments day in and day out, and we need to recognize the officers more,” Trelka said.

Everett started with the Waterloo Police Department in September 2004. He was seriously injured in January 2008 while working traffic accident in ice and fog at the U.S. Highway 20 and Iowa Highway 21 interchange. He was standing outside his squad car when a passing vehicle lost control and struck him.

The injuries forced Everett to retire, but he was able to recover and rejoined the force in 2011, Trelka said.

This story was provided courtesy of [The Courier](#).