

Devastation

On this 2nd day of March, three years ago, my hometown of Salyersville was in a state of despair. An EF3 tornado had touched down and taken anything and everything in its path. Although my family and I weren't directly affected by the tornado, we were emotionally affected. What happened to the small town I had grown up to love? Would it ever be the same?

March 2nd, 2012 started out as any other day would. I got up and headed to school. I was in 6th grade at South Magoffin Elementary. We had practiced tornado drills before, so when they sent us out into the hallway to get into the position for the drill, I thought nothing of it. It began to get dark out and it started hailing. The wind was picking up and I began to realize that this wasn't just practice.

We stayed in the hallway for much of the day and many of the students left early. By that time we realized that it was warm outside, too, too warm for an early March day. The weather stations had warned that a tornado could form, and it was likely that it would happen.

Once I arrived at home, I did what I always do after school; turned on the TV and had a snack. I remember logging into Facebook and seeing pictures posted of rainbows and sunny skies. People were questioning the weather forecasters, saying, "Where's the tornado?"

And then it started storming. It got really dark out and the electricity went off. We turned on the radio and listened to the news. When the announcer said that town had been hit, I didn't know what to think. Were all of my friends and family ok? Was it heading toward my house?

The town I knew was gone. So many houses, buildings... With the help of the government agencies like FEMA and the Red Cross, we pulled through. Three years later, our small town is back, for the most part. Though it will never be the same, WE ARE MAGOFFIN!

Destiny Handshoe