The Tornado of 2012 by Tana Conley

It was March 2nd, 2012. An average day in Magoffin County until 5 pm. Everyone's eyes were glued to the TV as they sat and listened to their local news channel give a state of emergency warning for eastern Kentucky, tornado warning. No one knew what was going to happen. Around 7:15 it seemed, as the world had just got silent, the birds stopped chirping, the frogs stopped croaking, you could hear a pin drop. Then we heard it, the loud roaring, kind of sounded like a train whistle, wind blowing every direction and the creek water running the other direction. A tornado had touched down in Magoffin County. This tornado shocked everyone and changed some people's lives short and long-term ways.

The first effect the tornado had on me was my school. After the tornado took out the Salyersville Grade School us students had to go to an old grade school a few minutes away from our old school. It was a mess, there weren't many classrooms available so we had to combine classes. That made it difficult, as there were 30-31 kids per room. The sixth grade classrooms weren't classrooms at all, they were mobile trailers in the back parking lot. When I had free time me and other friends would go to the 'library', which was just the widest room in the building and unpack books and fix them as the best we could so all the kids could have a library book.

Now the middle school and high school are joined together into one school building. Its hard on both the middle school and high school kids and teachers because the limited space and lack of supplies. Teachers are fighting for the copying machine everyday. Us middle school kids get treated unwanted by many high school kids.

The second way the tornado affected me was my home. After the tornado hit we were out of electric and water for at

least a week. That meant no Internet, no TV, and no heat. My yard was covered in tree limbs, and my neighbor's trampoline was over a hill. My uncle and aunt came to check on us that night after the tornado and we thanked God, everyone was okay. The next morning it poured the snow and with no heat we covered ourselves in as many blankets we could find and entertained ourselves the best we could.

Finally after a week of the snow and no heat nor electric our power came back on, we all got ready and went to go out to see the town. As we went across the parkway getting ready to turn into town, you could see the destruction, the trees were lying flat and there were tree limbs everywhere, most of my favorite restraunts were destroyed, gas stations were crushed, our small town had been destroyed. As the tears came to my family's eyes, we just prayed that everyone was okay.

Days went by, about everyone in the county was out on the road, moving tree limbs, helping neighbors, cleaning their yard, fixing broken windows and trying to get things back to normal. I don't think there would be a Magoffin County right now if our community wouldn't have came together the way they did. The March 2nd tornado may have destroyed our town but it didn't take away our sense community, here in Magoffin we aren't just a county, were a family.