

Memorial for Jessica and Elyjah Lee to be held at 6 p.m. tonight at the Roubidoux Bridge.



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FLOOD TIMELINE



Aug. 6, early morning - Rain continued to pour in the area - up to 5.5 inches between midnight and 5 a.m. - causing major flooding within Pulaski County borders

Aug. 6, 4:30 a.m. - Missouri Red Cross volunteers move into the area to provide relief for victims displaced by flooding

Aug. 6, before daylight - A young boy and his mother were swept by raging floodwaters from a road near Interstate 44 to Mitchell Creek

Aug. 6, midmorning - The body of Elyjah M. Lee was recovered in Mitchell Creek near Waynesville Middle School; Missouri State Highway Patrol and Pulaski Sheriff's Department continued searching for his mother, Jessica D. Lee.



Aug. 6, afternoon - Gov. Jay Nixon declares a

EDITORIAL

Never forget 08/06/2013



Debris piles up against Old Highway H, causing flood waters to surge through toward Waynesville Middle School and Slaughter Field. PHOTO CREDIT PAUL HACKBARTH

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Just days after the community was shaken by the 100-year storm, Sheriff Ron Long compared Aug. 6, 2013 to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 - we all remember where we were and what we saw that day.

And in a lot of ways, it forever changed us.

Our community will forever remember the two lives we lost that day - Jessica and Elyjah Lee, who were swept away in the early morning hours.

But in the midst of all the chaos and tragedy, the strength and resilience of Pulaski County was brought to the surface.

Even the man who lost the most - Michael Lee, who lost

his daughter and only grandson in the flood, said he was overwhelmed by the amount of support from the community in the midst of the catastrophe.

Government leaders, city workers, first-responders, and everyday citizens stood tall, reaching out of their comfort zones and job de-

YOUR VIEW

What did you learn about this community on Aug. 6, 2013?

Luge Hardman What I learned about our community was the spirit of giving and the spirit of community was very much alive in Waynesville and Pulaski County. My first calls that day were from General Smith and Mayor Sanders. Everyone was ready to help and give. It was an experience I will never forget.

Kathy Cass My husband and I were on the road (truck driver) ... our son who was 21 at the time was home taking care of the house and working. We saw the pictures of all the rain and flooding on facebook. We couldn't get home fast enough. Our son called me and said all the roads are closed, he couldn't get home. I tried not to worry or stress but all the images of what was happening at home made me cry. We finally made it home and saw the destruction the floods caused. But we also saw all the support and caring from a wonderful community.

Michelle Romney Lee August 6th is a day I will remember the rest of my life. I lost my daughter Jess and my grandson Ely. In the worst hours of this day I saw the heart and love of this community I will never forget! All I can say is I'm proud to call this home. Thank you all so much for everything you've

FLOOD

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scriptions to help out their communities.

“Literally thousands of people — from the little older lady who made coffee for the rescue searchers to the Fort Leonard Wood soldier who volunteered after work everyday to help look for my daughter — literally thousands of people helped us,” Michael said. “Even the people whose houses were underwater, they stopped what they were doing and helped us look for my daughter. You have to appreciate that kind of our community.”

Forever our lives will be touched by the brave and courageous acts carried out by police officers, state troopers, firefighters, EMTs, volunteers, and countless others who weathered the storm.

Almost immediately after the flood engulfed the county, Waynesville Mayor Luge Hardman asked one simple, yet powerful question: “what do I do next?”

And through rescue missions, volunteerism, donations and hard-work, residents slowly pieced back together a county stricken by hardship, proving that Pulaski County is resilient.

One year later, passers-by can barely notice Pu-

laski County as a community that was hit by a 100-year flood, though 260 homes were damaged throughout the county, and hundreds of people without flood insurance were left with thousands of dollars in damages.

And those of us who were there that day — who heard the cries from victims waiting to be rescued, smelled the propane filling the water, and saw their own community submerged — will not forget.

The community will gather tonight at 6 p.m to honor Jessica and Elyjah Lee at the Roubidoux Bridge. Parking will be at the Waynesville Gun and Pawn or the RV Park.