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(Neb.)-Funerals Held In Rapid City And Sioux Falls After Drownings



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/20/2013 07:31 AM

Photo: The Big Sioux River

VERMILLION, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Friends and family gathered in Vermillion to say goodbye to a teenager who drowned in Sioux Falls while trying to rescue her younger brother.

Sixteen-year-old Madison Wallace died in the Big Sioux River at FallsPark late last week trying to save her 6-year-old brother Garrett, who had fallen into the water but later emerged unhurt. A bystander, 28-year-old Lyle Eagle Tail, also died trying to help.

People who knew Madison said she overcame the challenges of an autism disorder and grew into a girl who thought of others before herself, often giving family members homemade gifts.

She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and will be buried later in Utah.

Eagle Tail, who had spent part of his life in Rapid City, was the father of a 7-year-old daughter and also had a baby on the way. Friends say he didn't know the boy or his sister when he rushed to help them that day. His funeral is scheduled for Saturday morning in Rapid City with wake services beginning Friday evening.