

Small towns hit hard by tornado outbreak

TORNADOES, from Page 1

Service in Goodland, said that is when the air is warmer and more capable of holding moisture, which helps for the supercell storms that are capable of producing tornadoes.

Last year, Kansas had two tornadoes in February, but it had 31 in May and 24 in June.

Sherman County did not have any tornadoes, but there were many in the surrounding counties. Thomas and Sheridan counties each had one, Decatur County had two; and Gove, three. The Thomas County tornado damaged several farmsteads just east of Brewster on Oct. 6.

A large storm that hovered over northwest Kansas on June 20 spawned 16 tornadoes in Norton, Sheridan and Graham counties, tying

the regional record for most tornadoes in a single day from 2007.

In May, the southeast Kansas town of Reading was hit by a tornado that destroyed 56 homes and 14 businesses. None of these Kansas tornadoes was higher than EF3, but there was one fatality.

EF4 and EF5 tornadoes, which are classified as "violent tornadoes," are rare. Floyd said the last EF5 recorded in the 19 counties covered by the Goodland weather station was on April 29, 1945, near Oberlin. That tornado destroyed several farmhouses and killed 15 people. An EF4 was recorded in May 23, 2008, near Quinter, which injured two people. That was one of only two since 1950.

Floyd said the records can be inaccurate, he said, because of all the empty space in northwest

Kansas. A tornado can hit an area, but leave little evidence of how strong it was. It's easier for meteorologists to determine the strength of a tornado when they can examine more debris.

In a tornado, the weather service advises people to seek shelter in a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor. Wrap yourself in blankets or overcoats to protect against flying debris. In schools or other large buildings, stay away from big rooms with wide span roofs. Interior stairwells are a good place to take shelter.

On the road, the service advises motorists should get out of their cars and take shelter in buildings or low places, but overpasses should be avoided.

Mobile homes should be immediately evacuated.

Hospital staff working to improve walk-in clinic

CLINIC, from Page 1

Board President Patty Eckhardt wanted to know what they would be changing.

Hoelting said they are trying to get the medical screenings nurse out amongst the patients who are there for the clinic. The nurse is supposed to screen patients and find out who is sick from the cold and flu and who has more serious

issues. He said there are also some issues on billing from the lab.

Jolly said they needed to get it started and fix any problems along the way.

Hoelting said they are trying to keep track of how long someone has to wait to see the doctor. Ross said just letting the people know in the waiting room if they are running behind helps.

Kansas Secretary of State samples wild game at Brewster banquet on Saturday

BREWSTER, from Page 1

any act of Congress under the Commerce Clause," Kobach said. "Until U.S. v. Lopez."

That case, from 1995, had to do with the Gun Free School Zone Act, a federal ban under the Commerce Clause that prohibited carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school. The Supreme Court decided that the federal government couldn't regulate where people could carry guns under the Commerce Clause, Kobach said.

Another important decision is coming up later this month, he said, where the Supreme Court will consider the Affordable Care Act.

The situation is similar, he said, where the federal government is seeking to regulate something under the Commerce Clause.

That decision will be 5-4 either way, he said, and he felt it should be 9-0 against based on strict adherence to the Constitution.

Second Amendment rights are another area where decisions should be 9-0, but there are different attitudes elsewhere in the country. Kobach said that many of his colleagues in law school came from a culture where people had decided that guns were bad. They wouldn't understand about home protection or hunting, he said.

"Many of our justices come from that

culture where guns are bad," he said.

The amendment states, "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Kobach said that some people have interpreted the words differently over the centuries.

Kobach said in the original interpretation, militia meant every capable male, and well regulated meant well trained. In the 1930s, however, some interpreted the word to mean that the amendment only protected the gun rights of those in the modern militia: the National Guard.

In 2008, he said, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a security guard in Washington

D.C. who wanted to take his government issue gun home with him to protect his family.

All of these decisions are important, he said, especially because there may be several Supreme Court justices retiring in the next few years, and whomever is appointed in their place could affect the political makeup of the court.

Kobach concluded by talking about the state's new voter identification law, which put in place proof of citizenship and photo identification requirements. Kobach said he knew he was on the right track with the law when former President Bill Clinton, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the New

York Times all lined up against it.

Opponents keep using a 2006 study that said 11 percent of Americans don't have photo identification, he said.

"30,000 people have voted since that law was passed," he said. "And less than one tenth of one percent didn't have a photo ID with them."

Most of those people had identification, he said, they just didn't have it with them when they went to the polls. Kobach asked the Brewster audience to raise their hands if they did not have photo identification. No one raised their hands.

"This election is important," he said. "We've got to make sure this one's fair."

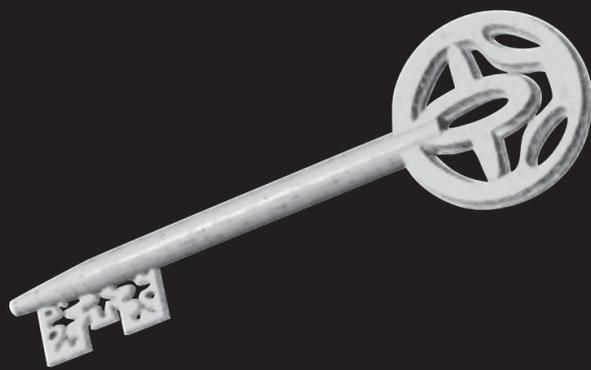
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