

By SAM HATCHER

My wife and I were watching the old Humphrey Bogart movie "Key Largo" a few weeks ago on what we'd define as a slow television night.

The 1948 film is a classic. The story line is about a character played by Bogart who visits a hotel in Key Largo, Fla. and finds that the hotel has been taken over by gangsters.

During the hostage situation at the hotel, a hurricane develops and threatens the area.

At one point in the movie someone peers out a window or door eyeing the approaching weather and reports back to those inside something to the affect, "this one's going to be a bad one."

My, my, I'm amazed at how far weather forecasting has come since "Key Largo."

We now know days ahead when we can expect severe weather and yet Mother Nature still has her way.

When the area was struck with tornadoes and sizable hail days ago, we knew a day ahead to expect such storms. As a matter fact NOAA weather forecaster Bobby Boyd even passed our newspaper a compliment for forewarning our readership about the threat of tornadoes and severe storms in the Friday, March 2, edition.

Oh, sure, we complain and critique those who forecast the weather. We like to say that if they're calling for a trace of snow, we'll likely get 6 inches, but the truth of the matter is that this technology is right more than it's wrong.

Weather forecasters right more than wrong

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

When weather alerts are issued, we should heed the warnings. Many local businesses did just that when the most recent storms occurred. Some sent employees home early and others provided safe areas. At our offices on Hartmann Drive the storm was followed on Twitter and by radar on cell phones and office computers. When folks here saw our offices in the path, they moved their vehicles inside the press room area and as a result likely saved themselves considerable losses from hail damage.

We have very good technology in this particular area of science.

We just need to use good common sense and take advantage of the technology.