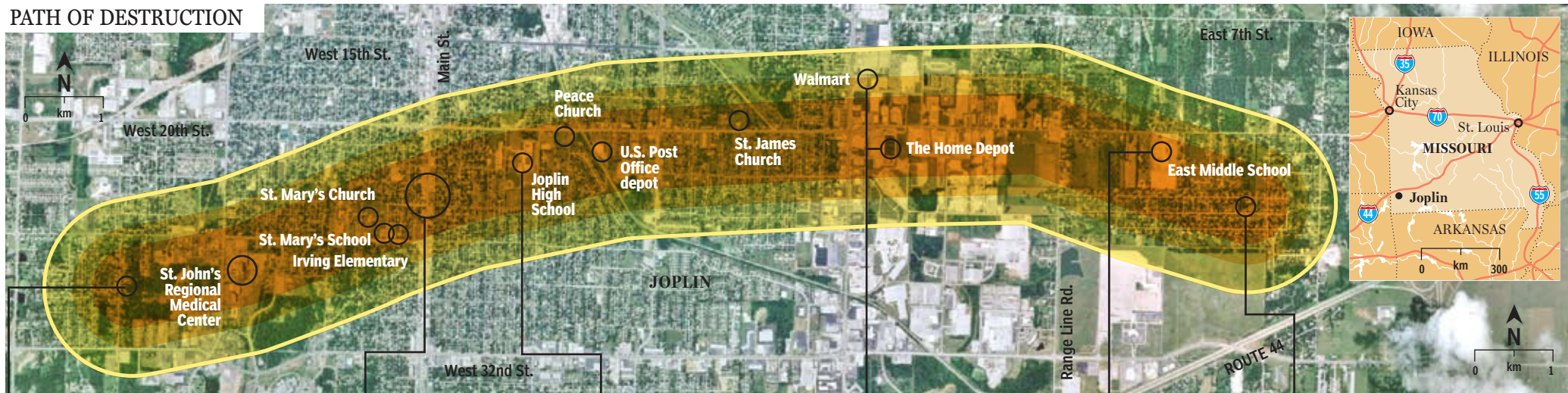


JUDGMENT DAY IN JOPLIN

Survivors rode out winds as high as 300 km/h as a massive tornado tore a 2 km wide trench for almost 10 km through the heart of Joplin, Missouri.

PATH OF DESTRUCTION



■ The tornado funnel touched down in a residential neighbourhood just west of St. John's Regional Medical Center at around 5:38 p.m., Sunday.

■ A number of bodies were found along the city's "restaurant row," on Main Street.

■ Joplin High School was destroyed. Classes for the rest of the year have been cancelled.

■ Home Depot and Walmart were both destroyed leaving customers trapped under collapsed roofs.

■ At the tail end of the tornado's run, East Middle School was destroyed.

■ In all some 2,000 homes and many other businesses, churches, schools and other buildings were destroyed by tornado's end.