

The weather is about all there has been to talk about in the last few days, with everyone seeking ways to stay cool. It's been another hot week with record-breaking temperatures, and the pastures, the lawns and hay meadows are parched and dry. And there doesn't seem to be any measureable relief in sight, at least for the next couple of weeks. I guess the only thing we can do is grin and bear it.

Several in our community have recorded temperatures over 110 and 115 degrees on thermometers on their porches, and most didn't think their car thermometers went that high.

I visited with Heather Salvarino Tuesday. She and Hunter informed me that Hunter was working at Plain and Fancy Sandwich Shoppe, hoping to save some money up for a new gun. He and Cody were planning a trip to the Hill County, over the weekend to the deer lease, hoping for maybe a little bit of cooler weather down that way.

Heather also reminded everyone that they deliver lunches from their sandwich shop, and that way you can avoid the construction on the square.

I heard from Vera Harrington this week, and like everyone else, she was talking about the weather. She had been in Ovilla over the weekend, helping Mitzi with a garage sale, and had set a bottle of water on her back bumper. The bottle of water rode all the way from Ovilla to Martin Springs on the bumper without falling off. "I couldn't believe it!" exclaimed Vera. "That's over 120 miles, and all I can figure is that the plastic maybe glued to the bumper. I even know I wasn't just driving that good."

Vera also reported that she had heard from her granddaughters, who are spending time with friends in Colorado, south of Colorado Springs. They reported nice temperatures and "having to build a fire" at night as they went through the mountains of New Mexico. They plan to return home on Friday and hate to face the heat.

Cole Cable is spending part of his summer vacation working at the Democratic Party headquarters in Austin as an intern before returning to college for the fall semester.

Several from this community were in Sulphur Springs last Friday to attend the Democratic Women's Luncheon and to meet with new Hopkins County Democratic Party Chairman Tommy Long.

Rick and Marshelle Avent are in the process of moving away from Reilly Springs as they have purchased a new home in the Sandy Ranch Addition.

I visited with Jana and Weldon DeWitt on Sunday, and they have Landri and Sam Lawrence for the week. It's always nice to spoil Landri and Sam for a little while. Jandi and Michael were on an anniversary trip, this week.

Jandi and Michael will be returning to Sulphur Springs to pick up the kids and to attend the first birthday party of little Hallie Lawrence on Saturday. Jan and Jacy Lawrence will be arriving on Thursday for the party as well, and to spend a few days in Hopkins County.

Birthday greetings are in order for Vanessa Fisher. She celebrates her birthday today.

Bryant Fisher, Jerry Spencer and Don Smith are in Florida this week at a National Beef Council meeting.

Blake and Kendra Fisher had to come back from their trip to the Guadalupe River over the weekend. They were celebrating their first anniversary and reported a wonderful time, despite the river being low.

Marilee Fisher reported that she and J.R. were looking at the long-range forecast and that it is saying that this area may continue to be dry through the autumn and winter.

Several from this community were in Yantis on Saturday for the Annual Yantis Catfish Parade,

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Fish Fry and Fishing Tournament. Of course, Jerry Miller was responsible for getting the parade organized, and it went off without a hitch, despite the intense heat on Saturday.

A large crowd of folks supported the Yantis Volunteer Fire Department at their annual fundraising fish fry, on Saturday night. The fish was outstanding, and the Yantis High School cafeteria was a great place to cool off after the parade.

On Saturday and Sunday, several from our community were fishing Lake Fork in an attempt to find that "big catfish."

Jerry and Phyllis Miller were actively involved in the awards ceremony for the tournament on Sunday afternoon and with the Yantis fire department raffle, which drew a record number of prizes and participants. "These funds all go to support our Yantis Volunteer Fire Department and keeps all of us protected," Jerry said. "We will use our funds collected to purchase equipment and to maintain the department for the upcoming year."

This year's Yantis Catfish Classic was won by a 10.1-pound catfish, that was caught by a neighboring fisherman from Emory, and the second place fish was a 9.9 pound effort by a gentleman from Quitman. Fishermen from Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Georgia and Missouri joined Texas fishermen in the tournament.

It actually came a "heat shower" for just a few minutes at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon there on the lake. "At least it hasn't forgotten how to rain," declared Mayor Jerry Miller.

Several of the community youths began football, volleyball and band practices on Monday morning in anticipation of the upcoming school year. All reported hot temperatures and drinking loads of water.

As you endure these record breaking temperatures, don't forget to "check on" your neighbors, especially the elderly and infirm, to make certain that they are staying cool, their air conditioners are working, and that they are drinking plenty of fluids. I know it don't seem like it with 110

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degree temperatures, but eventually we should get some autumn weather. It has never failed us yet.

Pray for some rain and much needed cooler temperatures.

Remember our troops who defend our freedoms and ask for them an extra measure of safety and return trip home. Pray for love in our hearts, harmony in our community and peace in our land. God bless Reilly Springs, Hopkins County and America.