

Folks in this community continue to suffer from the intense heat and pray for rain.

Students and teachers from this community were up early on Monday morning for the first day of school. It sounds like everyone had a productive day and that they all got home all right following an exhausting day.

I was saddened Monday to learn that one of my all-time favorite teachers, Mrs. Rosa Rutherford, passed away. I've shared with many the great memories I have of "Mrs. Rosa," who was the first African-American teacher to come to my all-white school when I was in the fifth grade. It was during the height of the Civil Rights Movement and "Mrs. Rosa" demanded the best of her students, taught us to be proper young ladies and gentlemen, and left a legacy in the classroom with her own class and dignity.

"Mrs. Rosa" soon became one of my fast friends, and we continued that friendship from that day forward. She eventually retired after almost 40 years of teaching, spent her retirement years as a member of the Sulphur Springs ISD Board of Education, where she continued to shape the lives of children. She left behind a legacy we should all follow by example. If anyone deserved a much-needed rest, it was "Mrs. Rosa." This is saying a heart-felt "Thank You" to her for her example and leadership.

I heard from the Fishers this week. Bryant is in Nashville, Tenn., at a Dairy Farmers of America meeting. He was hoping to find some cooler weather in Tennessee.

Vanessa Fisher has enjoyed her sister-in-law and mother, who are visiting this week. They're beginning to wonder if their daughter "is living in hell" after experiencing the Texas heat. Meanwhile, they're all leaving to travel to San Antonio for a visit with another sister, and hope to enjoy some cooler temperatures on the River Walk.

Kendra Fisher welcomed her class back to school Monday at Yantis ISD and reported having a wonderful class and looking forward to a great year.

Rhandi Fails reported that Case has been sick this week with allergies as a result of the hot and dry weather.

Rhandi and Debra Stribling went to Paris on Saturday shopping for “baby stuff,” but it was for a cousin. She also reported attending a birthday lunch on Wednesday for friend Kristi Bevil Ferrell at El Charro’s.

Debra Stribling enjoyed having breakfast with Alexis Stribling to celebrate her freshman year in high school this week. It’s hard to believe that Alexis is growing up.

Vera Harrington held a “wild hog funeral” at her place. She found a deceased wild hog in the ditch and had to get help and the tractor to remove it and bury it. “That wasn’t a pleasant ordeal in 100-plus degree temperatures,” Vera said. “I really don’t know if the hog had been killed by someone or if it just died because of the heat.”

Vera also heard from her granddaughters and got a full report on their first day of school. Elizabeth is entering her senior year, so there is some level of excitement around Mary’s house, along with a “touch of sadness” that she’ll be leaving for college this time next year. “I hope she has a wonderful year,” Vera said. “And it’s certainly hard to accept that she’ll be graduating in the spring.”

The younger granddaughters, Caroline and Charlotte, reported a great start to school, and looking forward to a successful year.

I also received a report from West Texas that Landri Lawrence started kindergarten, and Kobi Kirby started pre-K. Both will be attending Lazbuddie ISD. “They’re the ‘Longhorns,’ so I guess we’ll be cheering for the Longhorns before too long,” said Abby Lawrence Kirby.

Many from this community have been attending the volleyball games in both Como-Pickton and Yantis, as well as the Lady Wildcat games, following their favorite teams. A number of people from Reilly Springs are planning on making the trip to Denton on Saturday to attend the ESPN Wildcat Game.

Written by Bobby McDonald

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Saturday night's Reilly Springs Jamboree was well attended, with some great local entertainment featured on the show. Among the local performers was Magan Spatero Henderson, who was back in Hopkins County and did an outstanding job with two "progressive" country tunes. She was accompanied by her brother, Jocko Spatero, on the guitar. Jocko was making his "stage debut" and few knew that he could play the guitar so well.

A full list of performers were onstage Saturday night and gave a great performance for the many people who attended. Enola Gay announced that she would be hosting the Reilly Springs Jamboree on Saturday night, Sept. 17, even though it would coincide with the ending of Fall Festival. "We've already got a number of people signed-up for the show, and will be having the finals for our singing contest," Enola said. "We hope everyone will come out and enjoy the show, and see who wins the contest."

Until next week, continue to watch the temperatures and make certain that you drink plenty of fluids, and go inside before getting too hot. Make an effort to remember your elderly and infirm neighbors, and check on them regularly to make sure they are cool and hydrated.

Remember our troops who defend our freedoms, and ask for them an extra measure of safety and a safe 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.