



Chip Scheuer

Traffic was bumper-to-bumper most of Saturday on Highway 17 coming into Santa Cruz as residents from over the hill headed for the beaches at the height of the heat wave.

Fog rolls back heat wave

The cosmic air-conditioning repairman finally called on Mother Nature late yesterday evening, restoring cool bay fog and chilly breezes to soothe the sweaty brows of Monterey Bay area residents.

While daytime temperatures remained high yesterday, last night brought the cool, gray film of fog that still coated local skies this morning.

The high temperatures yesterday were lower than the record highs of last week, but were still high enough to pack area beaches and create a voracious appetite for ice cream, popsicles, beer and other cooling substances among the local populace.

Watsonville's high yesterday was 86 degrees, while Santa

Cruz topped out at 78. Overnight lows were 54 in Watsonville and 53 in Santa Cruz.

The first wisps of fog last night apparently herald a return to the customary seasonal weather pattern, however. The forecast calls for more morning low clouds and fog tomorrow, giving way to sunshine later in the day.