

# Area sizzles under heat wave

By EMILIO ALVARADO  
STAFF WRITER

It was so-o-o hot yesterday ...  
How hot was it?  
Can you spell air condition-  
ing!?

Depending on where you were sweating in the Monterey Bay area, temperatures turned the usually cool and comfortable environs into a frying pan.

In Watsonville, temperatures were reported anywhere from 95 to 117 degrees. The official reading in Watsonville was 95.

Don't talk to Jean Sanford about "official" temperature readings.

Sanford, owner of Casserly Golf Course, reported the mercury boiling at 117 in the sun on the golf course. There wasn't much relief in the shade either. The temperature there was 107, she said.

The hottest it has ever gotten at the golf course was 110, Sanford remembers. The golf course has been open since 1959, but has only recorded temperatures since 1966, she said.

In downtown Watsonville, the Watsonville Federal Savings temperature sign registered 104 degrees in the afternoon. Employees kept one eye on bank transactions and another on the sign during the day, said branch manager Cheri Johnson.

While many wiped their brows and complained about the weather, Bob Crisman of Golden State Auto Air and Radiator Service kept reeling in customers. His downtown shop was swamped, he said.

"(Business) went through the roof," he said.

About 60 cars and trucks made a pit stop at Crisman's shop. Most customers decided it finally was time to service that

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Scott Sady

Martin Rivas tosses water on a young charge yesterday at the Callaghan Park summer recreation program.

## HOT

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air-conditioning system that had been on the blink for some time. One truck's radiator, Crisman said, was so corroded he could put his fist through it.

Is hot weather good for business?

"Oh, yeah!" Crisman said. "Hot weather is good business for just about everybody."

Johnny Sotomayor agreed.

Sotomayor is store manager at Barsi's Liquors on East Lake Avenue. He reported sales of soda, ice, beer and drinking water up 40 percent.

"It was a very good day yesterday," Sotomayor said. "I hope today is the same."

Area beaches were another source of relief, as crowds swarmed to the water's edge in hopes of a cooler breeze. State lifeguards reported no water-related accidents, but warned beachgoers the waters are dangerous, with many treacherous rip currents stretching along the Monterey Bay.

At Sunset Beach, lifeguards reported some people entering the water fully clothed. Not a smart move, they said. Lifeguards said clothes greatly increase in weight once they become wet and can act as anchors. They suggest all precautions should be taken to avoid

an accident.

Temperatures yesterday in other areas around the Monterey Bay were high. In Bonny Doon the mercury reached 105, Aptos reported 95, and it went up to 97 degrees in Santa Cruz.

"But it's a dry heat," people kept saying.

Dry heat or no dry heat, the central valley also cooked. There, three-digit temperatures readings were the norm.

Yesterday's scorching heat also created unhealthy air in the Monterey Bay area. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District reported excessive smog levels in three areas that exceeded state standards — Watsonville, Scotts Valley and Carmel Valley.

These high levels of air pollution can cause some people to experience a sore throat, burning eyes and irritation to the upper respiratory system. High levels of pollution may occur again today if the heat wave continues.

But there is some relief in store. The forecast calls for coastal low clouds and fog tonight, with temperatures in the low 50s. Low clouds and fog are expected for tomorrow, clearing to the coast by midday. Highs tomorrow should be in the 60s to mid-80's, with northwest wind to 15 knots and seas to 5 feet through Saturday.