

No end in sight for heat wave

By Ashley Nowe

It doesn’t take a meteorologist to notice that it is unusually warm outside. It’s not just the heat that is affecting Tucson, it’s a lack of rainfall, too.

For the past seven years Tucson’s average annual rainfall has declined 20 percent causing a serious drought, said UA urban horticulture agent John Begeman.

“Ordinarily this doesn’t seem like a significant decline in rainfall, but we really depend on every bit of rain,” Begeman said.

As the drought continues, Tucson is losing more large trees, which causes a loss of shade. With less shade the temperature rises and water evaporates, leaving remaining plants strapped for water, Begeman said.

During the month of November, temperatures were above the 1971-2000 average for virtually all of Arizona, according to the Climate Assessment for the Southwest Web site. Although drought is determined solely by measuring current rainfall with average rainfall, hot temperatures can worsen the drought, said Kathy Jacobs, associate professor and specialist for the UA water resources center.

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Bonuses may put Stoops past $1M

By Brett Fera

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Stoops was hired last week to replace former UA head football coach John Mackovic and interim head coach Mike Hankwitz after the Arizona program suffered its first 10-loss season in school history, finishing 2-10 overall. The team also finished last in the Pacific 10 Conference for the first time ever with a 1-7 mark.

The deal will pay Stoops $450,000 to start, $350,000 in base salary and another $500,000 for radio and television appearances, speaking engagements and public appearances, according to the contract. The salary is $150,000 less than Mackovic’s contract.

Stoops has spent the last five seasons as associate head coach and co-defensive coordinator at Oklahoma, currently the nation’s top-ranked team. The Sooners, led by head coach Bob Stoops, Mike Stoops’ brother, face Kansas State Saturday in the Big 12 Championship game in Kansas City. Mike Stoops will be on the sidelines for the game, but will be in Tucson Dec. 8 to take over full-time duties at Arizona.

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Ariz. students encouraged to register to vote

By Dana Crudo

Student lobbyists said they are optimistic that ASU and NAU student government officers will be starting off next semester donning "I love UA" T-shirts.

That will be the punishment if UA claims victory in this year’s Voter Registration Challenge that will end this Friday.

"NAU has typically won the competition, however UA has had several strong years and has pulled through as No. 1 on numerous occasions," said Alistair Chapman, a student lobbyist.

The six week long competition with the three universities puts student lobbyists to the test by seeing which university can get the most students registered to vote.

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