Hot, dry weather bring drought concerns and burning bans
Weather
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As the month of June comes to a close, the city of Trenton has received just 4.67 inches of rain over the months of May and June, a number that is less than half of what is normal for those two months (normally the wettest two months of the year). Normal rainfall is normally in the area of TEN inches. The situation is made even more critical by another statistic. Specifically, referring to Trenton receiving three inches of rain over the first week of MAY, meaning the past 53 days has brought only 1.67 inches of rain to the city.

In referencing the state of Missouri, 2012 brought the eighth-driest May on record, followed by what will likely be one of the driest June's. Here is University of Missouri Climatologist Pat Guinan:

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Guinan says the last time that May and June, combined, were this dry was in 1988:

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He calls 1988 a "historic" drought year that saw financial losses comparable to the "Dust Bowl years" in the 1930's. He adds that there are NO indications that this hot and dry weather pattern will lift during July:

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In related news, Kansas City Power and Light plans to offer COOLING fans to elderly residents across north central Missouri. The fans are to be delivered to the Green Hills Community Action Agency at 1506 Oklahoma Avenue in Trenton to distribute to those in need.

LIVINGSTON County and the city of Chillicothe have announced that they are joining a growing list of communities to place a BURN BAN due to lack of moisture. The burn ban for Livingston County went into effect at 12:00 Noon on Thursday. It will prohibit all outdoor burning (including the use of FIREWORKS), but does not include the use of barbecue grills.

Chillicothe Fire Chief Darrell Wright says the situation will be monitored daily and should the area receive significant moisture, the ban would be lifted. Other cities to place a similar ban include Independence, Moberly, Maryville, and Hannibal, in addition to central Jackson County. Many communities are said to be "strongly considering" enacting a ban on open burning.

A number of area locations are available to be used as "Summer Cooling Stations". In Livingston County, Chillicothe locations are the Health Center at 800 Adam Drive, the Grand River Senior Center at 607 West Business 36, the Livingston County Library at 450 Locust Street, the YMCA at 1725 Locust Street, Calvary Baptist Church at 206 Locust Street, City Hall's Walking Track at 715 Washington Street, RSVP/Threads at 440 Locust Street, and "SALT" at 913 Webster Street.

Other area locations announced as "Cooling Centers" include the North 65 Center in Trenton, the Sullivan County Senior Center in Milan, the Brookfield Senior Center, and the Marceline Senior Center.