

# THE HANFORD CENTINEL

---

## Heat Is On - Protect What You Got

July 28, 2016

By John Lindt

Hot enough for you? Those 106 degree days are affecting all of us including our plants, our animals and our kids. Local tomato grower Brad Johns says he doesn't use sunscreen when he heads to the beach, but his fields got a good dose of sun protection recently applied with a spray-rig, a whitewash of clay material that protects the tomatoes from the sear of the sun.

Kings dairyman Joaquin Contente says all area livestock owners "pretty much have 100 percent shade for their animals."

And they need it. So do children. This month two new structures will provide much needed shade for two playgrounds at Avenal Rice Park, the town's busiest park. Through a partnership between the City of Avenal and Self-Help Enterprises, the organization secured a \$25,000 Wonderful Community Grant for the shade structures. Many of the town's farmworkers are employed by the company's pistachio operations. During the hottest months of the year playground equipment has been too hot for use previously.