1/4/14

# 2013 weather breaks records

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The year 2013 clenched two "almost untouchable" weather records that had not been broken in Oconee County since the year 1964, according to weather gauge expert Barbara Wilson.

To tally up this past year's weather events, Wilson said 2013's record breaking started in July as the month's total precipitation totaled 15.13 inches above average.

"That 15.13 inches is not the most for any month of July, however, it was the most rain in July since 1916," Wilson said. "July of 2013 broke the record as the wettest July we've seen since 1916."

August of 2013 also topped precipitation charts at 11.99 inches above average rainfall.

"The heavy rainfall for both those months combined helped put 2013 in place as the wettest year we've recorded at the Walhalla Observation Center in a while," Wilson said.

The total amount of rainfall for 2013 reached a record 91.36 inches.

"2013 was the wettest year in almost 40 years," Wilson said. "1964 used to hold that record at 82.16 inches of rainfall."

According to Wilson, the immense amount of rain came from systems that moved east, doubling the precipitation levels from the previous year in 2012.



FILE

**2013 saw a record-breaking amount of rainfall in Oconee County.**

"It's incredible to think of all that rain coming from systems that just parked here," Wilson said. "I mean, it's not like we had any tropical storms that can be credited for such heavy rain."

By mid-year of 2013, the unusual amount of rainfall was above 2012's yearly rain total of 48.96 inches.

"From January to July of 2013, about mid-year, the rain level totals per month were at 58.13 inches," Wilson said. "In just six months, 2013 surpassed 2012's precipitation total for the year."

Other records that skyrocketed during 2013 were unusual high and low monthly temperatures, starting in February.

On Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, the lowest minimum temperature dropped to 19 degrees. Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 also reached a low of 19 degrees.

The highest temperature for any month during 2013 started June 29 at 95 degrees, which Wilson said was "uncharacteristic" for the state.

"Compared to two years ago when the temperature highs were above 90 degrees consistently, 2013's monthly highs were low," Wilson said. "Two years ago, each month where high temperatures were expected had at least 20 days of 90 degrees or higher — sometimes reaching above 100 degrees — but never in 2013."

While 2013 carried the torch for "wettest months" in more than four decades, Wilson says 2014 has already started making its own mark.

"We may have record lows already," Wilson said. "We will see how this weekend goes, but be prepared for a very cold winter."

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