Are you ready for a heat wave?

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Enjoy it today — go have a picnic, play 18 holes, ride your bike or schedule any other favorite outdoor activity — because starting Thursday, and through the next two weeks, you're mostly going to see temperatures scratching the century mark.

Say hello to the dog days!

The forecast Thursday is for the mercury to jump into the upper 90s, and on Friday the National Weather Service in Greenville expects Fahrenheit triple-digit numbers.

Whew!

"It could be 100 or above (on Friday)," said Thomas Winesett, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Greenville.

Winesett said Tuesday that high pressure currently covering the central plains will settle into our area from the west to create sauna-like conditions through at least mid-July.

The historic record high in June for the Seneca area was registered 60 years ago in 1952 when the mercury bubbled at 105, and Winesett said the temperature Friday could get close to that mark. The only good news is that humidity should remain in the 45 to 60 percent range.

"I don't know it will set a record," he said.

Be mindful of helpful public service tips when temperatures turn brutal:

- Drink plenty of fluids;
- Limit outdoor activities, when possible, to morning hours;
- Wear loose fitting and light-colored clothing;
- Bring pets indoor;
- If the AC is not working, open windows, turn on fans;
- Spend the hottest periods at the library, stores, or movie theaters;
- Check in on elderly neighbors; and
- When leaving a vehicle, make sure infants, toddlers and pets are not left behind.

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HEAT: Temps in upper 90s

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The National Weather Service warns that heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year. According to the NWS, excessive heat claims more lives, on average, than floods, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes combined.

If you're looking ahead to the Fourth of July holiday — look for the shade. The forecast is for 97-degree temp with barely a breeze.

carlos@dailyjm.com | (864) 882-2375, ext. 156



Jacob Walker, 15, cools off in the Westminster Pool. The forecast Thursday is for the mercury to jump into the upper 90s, and on Friday the National Weather Service in Greenville expects Fahrenheit triple-digit numbers.

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