

Flash floods expected for Oconee, Pickens counties

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — The interchanging warm and cool weather dominating Upstate forecasts gets even more varied this week as thunderstorms join in the pattern.

The National Weather Service has issued a flash-flood warning for Oconee and Pickens counties and for parts of northeast Georgia on Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday night, predicting as much as four inches of rain.

There's a 100 percent chance of heavy rain and storms all day through the night in Anderson, according to a forecast by the National Weather Service in Greer.

"Once that front moves through it will be considerably cooler Wednesday," said Blair Holloway, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

The weather service also issued a wind advisory until Tuesday evening for mountain counties near the Tennessee border including Oconee County.

The rain is expected to raise temperatures up to a high of 63 degrees and a low of 44 Tuesday night. The forecast for Wednesday and Thursday calls for sun, but the low of the week is 28 degrees predicted for Wednesday night. That day's high is predicted to be 49. On Friday, warmer weather comes back around with a high of 56 degrees.

Snowfall is still some time off with the only chance of flurries for the North Carolina mountains on Wednesday.

Get used to the ever-changing weather pattern of warm and cold temperatures.

Winter begins Dec. 21 but it probably won't feel like it until after the first of the year, Holloway said. A low-pressure system comes through every five to six days bringing higher temperatures and leaving behind chilly weather.

The rain Tuesday should help, but it won't end the drought that has affected much of the Upstate the last half of the year, Holloway said.

Upstate lakes suffered heavily from dry weather with their levels at times 13 feet below target. Hartwell Lake's level was at 653.94 feet Sunday at midnight, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Jocassee at 84 feet is 13 feet below its target level of 97 feet, and Lake Keowee is doing the best at 96 feet, only a foot lower than its target.

South Carolina avoided a major hurricane this year as the Atlantic hurricane season ended Tuesday. For the fifth-straight year the U.S. avoided much of the damage from a