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Rainy week, sunny weekend ahead

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — Anderson is in the path of Deep South thunderstorms expected to reach the area late Wednesday, bringing half-dollar-size hail and up to an inch of rain, weather forecasters predict.

There is a 40 percent chance of rain Tuesday afternoon. The day's high will be 80 degrees and the low will be 64.

Storms will hover over Memphis and Mississippi on Tuesday morning, after traveling from Arkansas and Missouri on Monday, said Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Greer.

Then they will move to the Upstate.

"Wednesday evening and during the night are our greatest time of concern," Outlaw said.

Winds of up to 17 mph could blow down power lines and trees and cause structural damage in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties and northeast Georgia.

Wednesday's high will be 82 and the low will be 60 degrees.

At least a 40 percent chance of rain is forecast through Wednesday night

"By sunrise on Thursday it should be over with," Outlaw said. On Thursday a 30 percent chance of rain is forecast with a high of 75 and low of 50.

The rainy week will lead to a mostly sunny weekend.

"Friday will be a really nice day," Outlaw said.

Friday's high will reach 77 degrees, and Saturday will be partly cloudy with a high of 80. Sunday will be mostly sunny with a high of 81.

Nights should feel more summerlike with the low dropping to only 50 degrees on Thursday.

"We're getting into garden-planting-type weather," Outlaw said.

Storms could leave an inch of rain, adding to the levels of area lakes. Lake Keowee's level of 98 feet hovered near its 98.9 target Monday, according to Duke Energy records. Lake Jocassee is exactly 4 feet away from its target level of 99.4 feet. Hartwell Lake measured 660.78 feet on Monday, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The South and the Midwest received a preview on Monday of what could be a disastrous week.

A thousand residents fled their homes in southern Missouri on Monday as heavy rains falling on saturated ground threatened to break a levee. Smaller evacuations also took place from Kentucky to Arkansas as rivers and lakes continued to rise, and it was expected to get worse.

Forecasters called for severe storms that will drop more heavy rain across the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys, compounding the misery from a storm system that pounded the region last week and over the weekend, spawning tornadoes and washing away roads. Some places have seen 10 to 15 inches already, and the worst flooding may not come until Wednesday.

Two storms with heavy rain and possible tornadoes are moving into the region, with northeast Texas, eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas expected to feel the brunt, said Greg Carbin, a meteorologist with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. Areas in Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee are expected to get several more inches of rain, and Carbin predicted substantial flooding as water falls on ground too wet to absorb it or in rivers and lakes already over flood stage.

He said it's unusual to see two distinct storm systems hit the same spots back to back, but that's what will happen.

"I think we'll see substantial flooding. It will affect those areas already experiencing heavy rain," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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