

Kassadi Cloud, 6, left, and Nathea Cloud, 8, right, beat the heat in the Children's Fountain along the River Walk on Sunday. HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

A week of cooler temperatures expected to begin on Tuesday

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The heat wave that has baked the Upstate since late June is expected to subside this week, bringing much-needed, if temporary, relief, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Greer said Sunday.

Expect one more scorcher today, with a high of 95, he said, before a low-pressure system brings some clouds and rain to cool things down.

Look for highs in the low to mid 80s beginning Tuesday and lasting through the following Monday, Tanner said. After that, it's back into the 90s and possibly triple digits, he said, a pattern expected to continue all summer long.

Rainfall could begin today, Tanner said. There is a 60 to 70 percent chance of rain on Tuesday, and a 50 percent chance on Wednesday, he said.

The region got a taste of the heat to come on the first day of summer, June 20, when temperatures rose into the 90s. Highs dropped back into the mid-80s on June 25, Tanner said.

Three consecutive days of record-breaking temperatures soon arrived at Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, with highs of 103 degrees on June 29, 105 on June 30, and 107 on July 1.

All were records for those dates, Tanner said, and the 107 was an all-time high.



Lauren Hatcher, left, and Joey Pizetoski, right, sit outside 90 degree-plus heat at Cantinflas in downtown Greenville. HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

The heat endured for 10 straight days, including the last three days of June, as high temperatures stayed between the 90s and the low 100s.

On July 5, the high was 99 degrees and that broke the previous record of 98 degrees in 1993, Tanner said.

The high on Sunday was 98 degrees, he said.

Tanner said heat waves like the one expected to finally break on Tuesday will likely "come and go" for the rest of the summer.

"It may not be up in the hundreds like 107 or something, but in the 90s and around the 100 is probably what it's going to be," he said. "We might have some breaks every so often, with a little bit cooler temperatures when the fronts come through."