IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Read more at independentmail.com

Temperatures to reach 80 this week

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

Monday, March 12, 2012

ANDERSON — Spring officially arrives March 20, but pink cherry trees blooming mid winter and 75-degree days suggest the season cannot be contained by a calendar.

It's only going to get warmer, said Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

This week highs are forecast to reach 80 degrees Wednesday and Thursday, 16 degrees above normal.

There were four days in February with highs reaching 70 degrees or higher, Outlaw said, and the normal high averages 60.

Bradford pear trees may be at the end of their short blooming cycle when spring arrives, and pollen has long been in the air.

Still, that's no indication that summer, like spring, will show up early, Outlaw said. It does mean that the outlook for the next few weeks is unseasonably warm.

There is a 30 percent chance of rain Tuesday with a high of 76 and low of 55. Wednesday and Thursday will be mostly sunny with highs of 80. On Friday, a 30 percent chance of rain returns with a high of 77. Saturday and Sunday will be cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs will top 75 degrees.

Canada is getting the cold weather the Carolinas are missing, Outlaw said.

"The reason it's been so warm is the jet stream of cold air is far to the north across Canada," he said.

That leaves the door open for a few cold days until April should the jet stream develop a curve and drop south.

The best chance of rain was Monday night, and local lakes need a good shower. Hartwell Lake stood 652.89 feet above sea level on Monday, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Jocassee measured 21 feet below full pool level Monday, while Lake Keowee stood only 5 feet below full pool.

While the Upstate enjoys an early spring, other parts of the South brace for severe weather.

There is grim news for Gulf states still recovering from tornados that killed hundreds last spring.

As the April 27 anniversary approaches, Accuweather.com reported an active tornado season this year, attributed to high water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico. About

1,300 tornados usually develop in the U..S. each year. There were almost 1,700 in 2011.



© 2012 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online