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Warmer weather in store this week

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — The dry, warm La Nina weather pattern will overpower most chances of a white Christmas in Anderson, a meteorologist says.

Temperatures dropped below normal before Christmas last year, and 1 to 3 inches of snow fell across Anderson County on Christmas Day.

This week, highs are forecast to reach the low to mid-60s, well above average. A strong upper-level pressure ridge creating downward motion in the atmosphere will warm the air, said Scott Krentz, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. That, combined with sun expected to return today, raises temperatures, he said.

Highs into the 60s will persist through Sunday, causing many to hang up their heavy coats until Friday. A cold front and clouds are expected to arrive Friday afternoon.

Highs this week will rise almost 10 degrees above normal, squashing chances of weather taking an extreme shift.

Today's high is 63 degrees with a low of 41, the coldest night forecast this week. Wednesday and Thursday will be partly sunny with highs reaching the 50s and mid-60s. There is a 30 percent chance of rain Thursday night. Friday, the warmest day of the week, will be cloudy with a high of 68. Saturday will be cloudy with a high of 61 and a low of 41. Sunday will be sunny with a low of 38 and high of 58.

Winter snowfall is normal in the Upstate, and the chance increases in January and February, Krentz said. Last winter 9 inches of snow fell at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. Only two winters in the past 100 years received no snowfall at the airport.

Though Hartwell Lake gained depth this month because of recent rainfall, it lost 0.36 inches since Thursday. The lake stood 651.25 feet above sea level on Monday. Lake Keowee stood 5 feet below full pool level, and Lake Jocassee stood 22 feet below full pool level.

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