

## Weekend rain brings monthly total to normal in Anderson

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — A hurricane might sweep across Carolina beaches over the weekend, but even then Anderson still has slim chances of serious rainfall, a meteorologist says.

A Sunday night thunderstorm brought Anderson's monthly rainfall total to 2.9 inches, about 0.40 inches above normal, said Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

Despite rainfall in Anderson, lake levels changed little in the last week. Hartwell Lake is still at an elevation of 655 feet. Lake Jocassee is up 2 feet to 87, and Lake Keowee is the same at 96 feet.

The week's forecast includes lots of sun, few clouds and highs of 89 degrees to 91 degrees. Lows fall between 64 degrees and 71 degrees.

"We could still have some hot days but over the next week we're not going to have any dangerous heat indices," Outlaw said.

Monday's high reached 94 degrees at Anderson Regional Airport and 92 at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, weather service records indicate.

There is a 30 percent chance of storms on Thursday and Friday, but if Hurricane Irene whirls toward the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Columbia will receive most of the rain, Outlaw said.

Irene moved through the Bahamas on Monday evening. Southern Florida waited to see which direction the storm would veer once it left the Bahamas, and emergency management officials warned residents to pay attention to the storm's progression.

"It's trending toward the Outer Banks," Outlaw said. "So right now the official track is toward the North Carolina coast. It's better for us, but for the beach resort area along the coast it's got to be kind of rough. I certainly wouldn't want anyone to go to Myrtle Beach this weekend because it will be rainy and terrible."

By the middle of the week, meteorologists will be able to determine whether the storm will hit the shores of the Carolinas.

But Outlaw advises vacationers to think twice about heading soon to the coast.

"Anybody who is making plans to go to the beach this weekend should reconsider," Outlaw said.



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