

July Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

The streak is over; we finally received above-average precipitation over the entire region. July was the first month with above-average precipitation since last September. Unfortunately, as so often happens in July, a lot of the rainfall occurred in a few short bursts. This means there was flash flooding to deal with along with large hail at times. Most of the moisture occurred toward the end of the month, which helped to keep temperatures below average during that time frame. Overall precipitation was above normal for the month and temperatures right about average.

The month started with dry conditions for the

first three days, with temperatures jumping from the upper 70s on the 1st to the upper 80s and low 90s on the 2nd and 3rd. Mother Nature then produced some of her own fireworks on the 4th, with thunderstorms dropping some brief heavy rainfall late on the 4th into the early hours of the 5th. Another round of thunderstorms developed during the afternoon of the 5th.

Drier conditions returned for most of the time from the 6th through 10th, only interrupted by some thunderstorms and rain showers during the mid-afternoon of the 8th. This was pretty unusual for July, when thunderstorm activity is an almost daily occurrence. Temperatures were generally above normal

during this period as well, with highs in the mid- to upper 80s each afternoon.

A more typical pattern took hold from the 11th through the 18th, with scattered thunderstorms around most afternoons, providing hit-and-miss rainfall accumulations. Higher pressure moved over the region for the next few days, with temperatures peaking in the low 90s on the 21st. This just happened to coincide with the climatological warmest week of the year.

This area of high pressure then shifted to the east over the next few days, allowing high levels of monsoonal moisture to swing into the region and allowing for a northwest flow to take hold. This resulted in lots of thunderstorm activity, where storms would form over the mountains by late morning, then move over the region. As the storms moved off the mountains into the area, they were able to tap into higher levels of atmospheric moisture and often produce intense rainfall. The heaviest rainfall occurred on the 23-24th and again on the 26th. Both episodes resulted in a rainfall total well over an inch, and in some locations several inches. Hail was common during both storm events, sometimes reaching severe levels. From July 21st through July 29th, most locations received more than 4 inches of rainfall, more than a month's worth of precipitation in a week.

Just in time for the end of the month, dry and cooler weather moved in. This pushed out much of the low-level moisture and stabilized the atmosphere. It resulted in temperatures well below normal from the 29th through the 31st and lots of sunshine. High temperatures were in the upper 60s to low 70s on the 29th and 30th, then reached back in the upper 70s and low 80s on the 31st.

A look ahead

August is the last true "summer" month in the region. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant mornings that turn into afternoon and early evening thunderstorms. Highs during the month range from the mid-80s at the beginning of the month to mid-70s at the end. Temperatures at night get more comfortable as well, often dipping into the 40s.

July 2018 Weather Statistics

Average High	81.0° (-1.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	52.1° (+1.1°)
100-year return frequency value max	56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	91°F on the 21st
Lowest Temperature	45°F on the 31st
Monthly Precipitation	4.45"
	(+1.08" 25% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.03" min 0.98"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	4.45"
	(+1.08" 25% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	32 (0)
Cooling Degree Days	80 (0)

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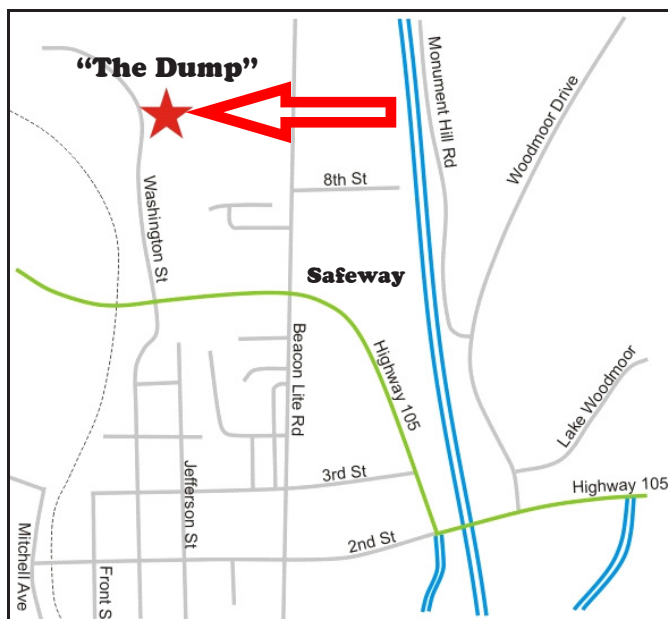
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