

Hottest August could be this year

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Hold the champagne but keep the ice in the bucket.

This month is steaming ahead to break a 66-year-old record for the hottest August in Brevard, government forecasters said.

"It's heading in that direction. We just have to see what the next few days bring," said Tim Sedlock, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

Sedlock said the month-to-date temperatures sizzled up to an average 84.4 degrees.

The warmest August in Brevard was 1941 -- the end of a long summer that came months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and Joltin' Joe DiMaggio's record-setting swing into baseball's history books.

If a record is set for August, it will come weeks after meteorologists noted this past July -- typically the hottest month of the year -- as the fourth wettest July on record with 11.46 inches of rain.

The heavy rains left behind standing water, which combined with a stagnant high-pressure system, kept a thick, sticky haze of humidity blanketing the area, forecasters said.

For some residents, the warm weather means staying in chilled air-conditioned comfort. For others it means heading out to parks and beaches.

At Twisty Cone, a Palm Bay ice cream store celebrating its 25th anniversary this month, the heat has meant doling out more scoops of cool treats.

"We have a lot of people that are streaming in," said Carl Vondeck, an ice cream server at Twisty Cone.

Weather officials warn residents not to uncork the champagne bottle just yet.

While temperatures are expected to remain high for the remainder of the week, they could be tempered by rainstorms, Sedlock said.

"I don't think there's any big chill coming anytime soon," he said.

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