

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 7, Number 7, April 2017



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

With the exception of some hefty-sized hail associated with a storm system that went through in early April, it would seem the state got through the month largely unscathed.

Preliminary reports are that Alabama was hit by eleven small tornadoes in April, with six people injured.

That's below the number of tornadoes you might expect in a normal April if you look at the past ten years (not counting April 2011, which was not a normal April). In a normal April, we would expect between 14 and 15 tornadoes. Of course, if you throw in the 109 from April 2011, that 10-year average jumps to just over 24 tornadoes for the month.

Just getting through April obviously doesn't mean it's time to let down our guard. While April is the busiest tornado month of the year, we get tornadoes in every month of the year, including May.

This May is the 100th anniversary of a particularly bad outbreak of seven tornadoes that pummeled the state on May 27-28, 1917, killing 50 people and injuring at least 274. There were probably many more, smaller tornadoes that went unnoted or unreported at that time.

The seven that were recorded include three F-2s, three F-3s and an F-4 that roared through Jefferson and Blount counties destroying dozens of homes and other buildings in Sayre, Bradford and Village Springs. The storm killed 27 people, including 17 in Bradford.

This was part of a much larger storm system that killed at least 344 people in Kansas, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama.

The violent storm system was at least partially fueled by hot air over the southeast. The Albany-Decatur Daily noted that the day before the storms hit, the temperature in Decatur reached 92 degrees, the warmest day yet during the spring of 1917.

In newspapers dominated by news from the war in Europe and race riots in St. Louis, International News Service coverage from Birmingham noted the heavy damage in Jefferson, Blount and Walker counties, the loss of life, and the extensive damage to railroads, telegraph wires and crops.

The Daily also reported on the collapse of a large tent used for a local Chautauqua revival and

tent meeting. The tent was pushed down by the wind during the singing of "We Shall See the King Some Day."

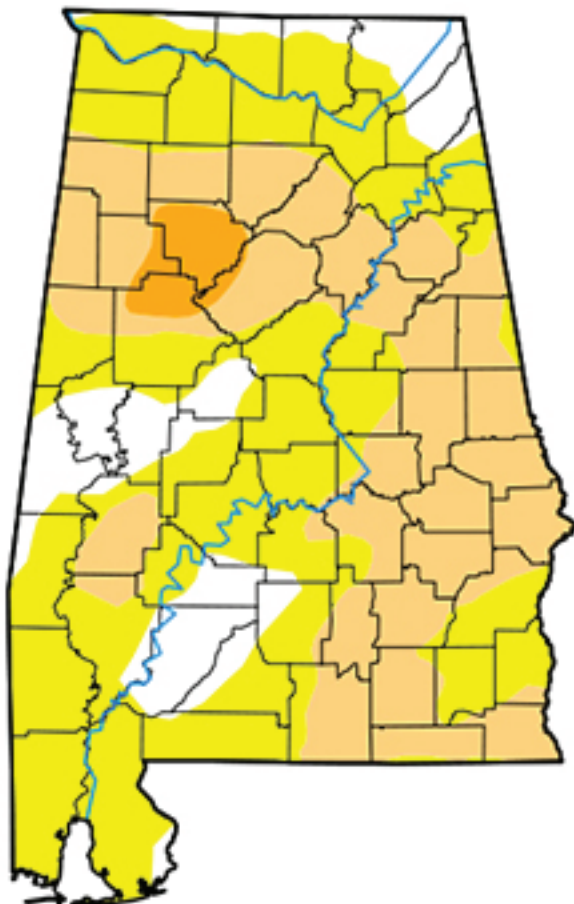
During the third verse, "... the hymn ceased suddenly, and without anthem 'Amen.'" While several people were hit by falling posts, no one was reported injured by the tent collapse.

Events from 100 years ago remind us that if you are in Alabama, today is always a good day to be weather aware and weather prepared, no matter which day it might be.

Amen.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



April 25, 2017
(Released Thursday, Apr. 27, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.28	86.72	38.65	2.67	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-18-2017	6.84	93.16	42.71	2.67	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-24-2017	32.17	67.83	48.58	23.88	2.33	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	22.97	77.03	66.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 04-26-2016	91.12	8.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

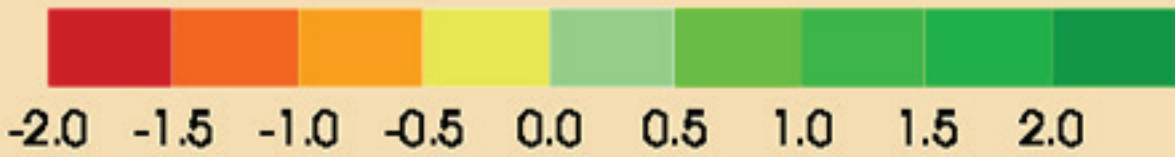
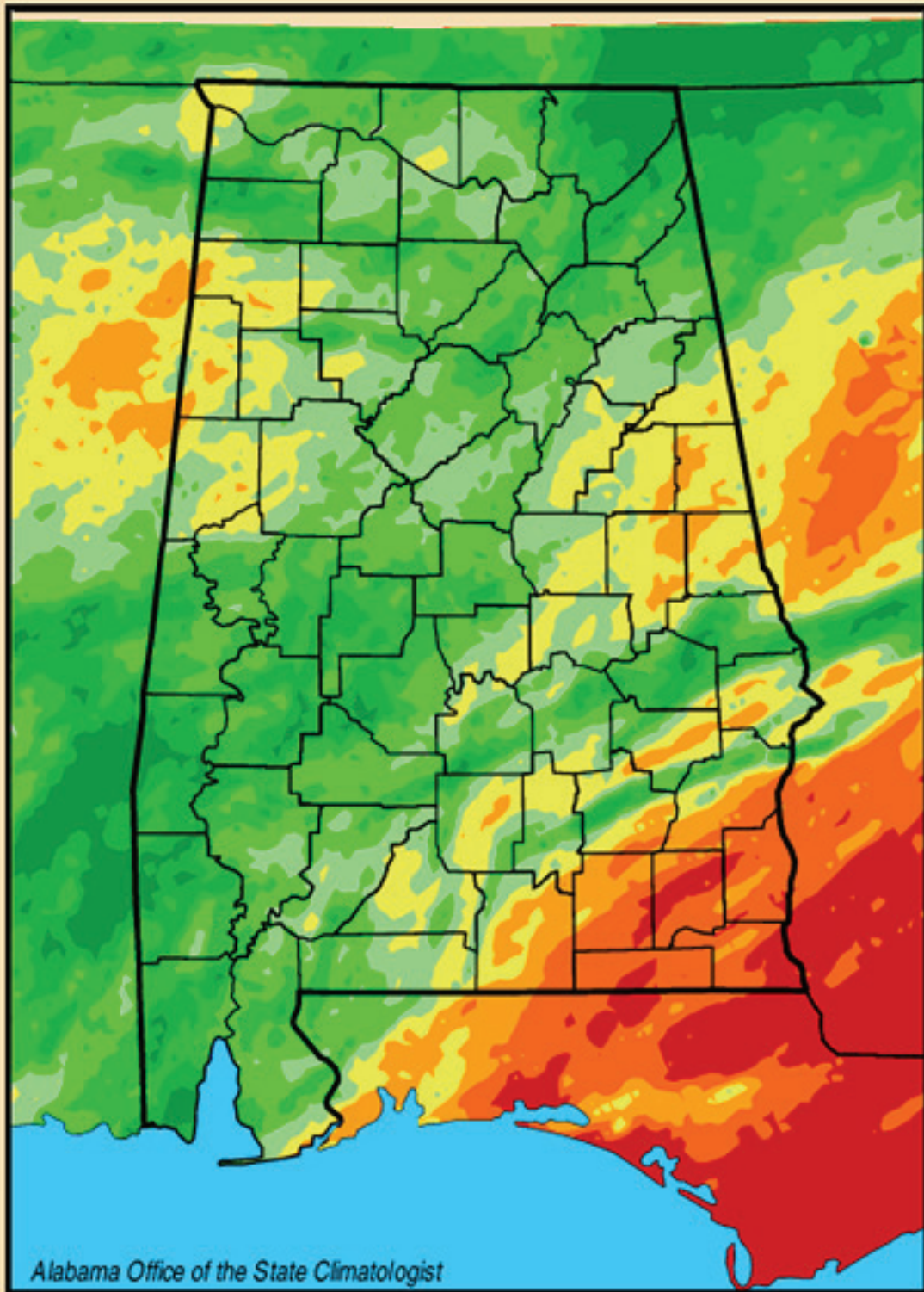
Author:

Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for May 3, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

April 2017

	Station Began	April Mean April Norm	April Hi Temp Record Hi	April Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest April Driest April	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	66.9°	88° 4/29/17	36° 4/8/17	5.99"	17.30" 1979	3.46" 4/5/17
		62.0°	93° 4/17/55	26° 4/17/1905	4.87"	0.17" 1986	6.15" 4/29/83
Auburn	1/1893	68.3°	87° 4/29/17	39° 4/8/17	4.11"	17.86" 1964	1.85" 4/27/17
		64.0°	94° 4/30/42	27° 4/13/40	4.92"	0.50" 1915	5.15" 4/8/84
Birmingham	1/1930	69.2°	88° 4/20/17	39° 4/8/17	6.09"	13.75" 1979	3.18" 4/3/17
		62.6°	92° 4/21/87	26° 4/11/73	4.67"	0.42" 1986	4.61" 4/12/79
Brewton	4/1977	67.4°	86.5° 4/19/17	37.5° 4/8/17	3.76"	11.13" 1975	1.42" 4/3/17
		65.3°	95° 4/30/43	25° 4/7/50	4.50"	0.50" 1981	9.60" 4/14/55
Calera	9/1900	68.7°	89° 4/29/17	39° 4/8/17	5.39"	18.32" 1979	1.93" 4/3/17
		62.4°	90° 4/24/80	25° 4/11/73	5.15"	0.10" 1925	5.33" 4/13/79
Clanton	2/1893	66.5°	86.3° 4/28/17	35.7° 4/8/17	4.31"	22.00" 1979	1.45" 4/3/17
		62.7°	94° 4/25/25	26° 4/13/40	5.43"	0.12" 1986	9.00" 4/8/38
Courtland		65.4°	85° 4/29/17	35.7° 4/8/17	4.62"	M	1.72" 4/3/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	64.6°	85.2° 4/29/17	32° 4/8/17	4.90"	M	2.15" 4/3/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	65.3°	85° 4/14/17	35° 4/8/17	3.37"	13.57" 1911	1.64" 4/3/17
		61.6°	92° 4/29/1899	26° 4/6/1898	4.50"	0.58" 1930	4.38" 4/6/1892
Dothan	2/1902	70.4°	90° 4/28/17	42° 4/8/17	1.58"	10.32" 1944	0.81" 4/3/17
		67.3°	95° 4/30/42	31° 4/13/40	4.11"	0.54" 1967	4.25" 4/6/37
Fairhope	8/1917	67.7°	85.5° 4/27/17	39.1° 4/8/17	4.97"	13.53" 1980	2.02" 4/3/17
		66.9°	97° 4/10/23	29° 4/13/40	4.53"	0.11" 1999	8.31" 4/15/96
Gadsden	7/1893	64.2°	84.3° 4/29/17	33° 4/8/17	5.60"	12.65" 1979	2.22" 4/3/17
		61.6°	94° 4/30/15	24° 4/7/52	5.21"	0.57" 1986	4.60" 4/13/79
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	66.7°	87.8° 4/28/17	39.1° 4/8/17	7.23"	18.41" 1979	2.46" 4/3/17
		63.3°	92°+ 4/28/87	29° 4/1/87	5.37"	0.34" 1976	7.55" 4/13/79
Greensboro	2/1890	66.7°	87° 4/28/17	35° 4/8/17	6.50"	12.37" 1979	1.95" 4/30/17
		64.4°	97° 4/25/16	28° 4/13/40	5.33"	0.59" 1987	4.46" 4/5/56
Highland Home	3/1892	68.2°	85.4° 4/28/17	45.3° 4/7/17	3.38"	14.00" 1964	1.19" 4/3/17
		64.8°	96° 4/30/1906	24° 4/4/87	4.57"	0.35" 1915	7.57" 4/27/84
Huntsville	1/1959	68.0°	91° 4/29/17	37° 4/8/17	3.97"	12.55" 1964	1.95" 4/3/17
		61.2°	92° 4/16/87	26° 4/1/87	4.86"	0.42" 1986	3.85" 4/5/83

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

April 2016

	Station Began	April Mean April Norm	April Hi Temp Record Hi	April Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest April Driest April	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	89.6°	88° 4/27/17	41° 4/8/17	5.76"	15.43" 1980	2.44" 4/3/17
		87.3°	94° 4/21/87	32° 4/5/87	5.70"	0.08" 1999	6.65" 4/5/57
Montgomery	6/1948	70.2°	90° 4/28/17	38° 4/8/17	2.76"	15.64" 1964	1.05" 4/30/17
		64.8°	91°+ 4/5/88	28° 4/1/87	4.34"	0.52" 1986	4.54" 4/8/64
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	66.5°	87° 4/14/17	36° 4/8/17	3.73"	12.81" 1983	1.28" 4/3/17
		61.5°	92° 4/30/87	27° 4/11/89	4.43"	0.36" 1986	5.34" 4/5/83
Russellville	9/1953	64.9°	85° 4/14/17	30.1° 4/8/17	6.95"	14.00" 1991	2.46" 4/22/17
		58.0°	89°+ 4/11/01	22° 4/11/73	4.97"	0.57" 1986	3.85" 4/6/83
Scottsboro	10/1891	64.3°	88° 4/29/17	33.3° 4/8/17	4.61"	9.57" 2000	1.44" 4/3/17
		58.7°	92° 4/30/43	23°+ 4/3/92	4.52"	1.22" 1976	3.72" 4/29/83
Selma	1/1895	66.7°	87° 4/28/17	35.3° 4/8/17	4.36"	10.02" 1973	1.74" 4/30/17
		63.5°	93°+ 4/22/87	29° 4/13/40	4.33"	0.22" 1986	8.74" 4/8/38
Talladega	2/1888	66.3°	88.4° 4/29/17	34.7° 4/8/17	4.87"	18.27" 1979	2.30" 4/5/17
		59.8°	92° 4/18/55	24°+ 4/3/92	4.80"	0.35" 1986	5.72" 4/4/74
Thomasville	9/1891	66.9°	86.7° 4/5/17	35.4° 4/8/17	4.59"	12.02" 1979	1.41" 4/30/17
		64.1°	94° 4/22/87	27° 4/13/40	4.64"	0.49" 1987	5.47" 4/3/79
Troy	6/1908	67.6°	87° 4/28/17	36° 4/8/17	3.43"	8.41" 1979	1.72" 4/27/17
		63.4°	94° 4/30/42	29° 4/13/40	4.25"	0.73" 1986	4.52" 4/15/34
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	67.7°	89° 4/28/17	38° 4/8/17	7.57"	14.41" 1979	2.70" 4/3/17
		63.9°	94° 4/21/87	29° 4/1/87	5.10"	0.30" 1987	6.44" 4/12/79
Valley Head	1/1893	62.9°	85.9° 4/29/17	31.1° 4/8/17	5.74"	10.08" 1979	1.78" 4/3/17
		55.9°	88°+ 4/27/86	19° 4/3/92	4.73"	1.10" 1976	4.18" 4/30/83
Statewide April 2015		67.11° /	91° Huntsville	30.1° Russellville	4.82"	22.0" Clanton	3.46" Anniston
April Norm		62.84° /	97° 2 stations	19° Valley Head	4.79"	0.08" Mobile	9.60" Brewton

M: Data is missing or not available

*New Record

#This data is missing this month due to an instrument malfunction

^ This record differs from long-term data in the AOSC climate database:

http://nsstc.uah.edu/aclimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

April 2017

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	3.20	2
Baldwin	5.74	23
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	6.58	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	4.83	1
Calhoun	5.80	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	n.a.	0
Chilton	4.87	2
Choctaw	7.46	1
Clarke	6.04	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	2.12	1
Colbert	5.41	5
Conecuh	5.31	2
Coosa	3.02	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	4.97	3
Dale	3.74	1
Dallas	5.62	1
DeKalb	7.24	5
Elmore	3.17	6
Escambia	3.71	1
Etowah	n.a.	0
Fayette	5.12	2
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	3.24	1
Jackson	5.76	6
Jefferson	6.65	16
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	5.24	10
Lawrence	5.35	2
Lee	4.35	4
Limestone	5.26	9
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	6.09	1
Madison	3.73	39
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	5.37	1
Marshall	5.63	10
Mobile	7.23	15
Monroe	6.72	2
Montgomery	3.73	4
Morgan	4.54	6
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	7.27	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	3.81	2
Russell	3.75	2
St. Clair	6.46	5
Shelby	6.43	18
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	6.28	4
Tallapoosa	1.49	2
Tuscaloosa	8.22	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	3.82	1
Wilcox	6.45	2
Winston	7.27	2

Normal April Precipitation*

Abbeville	4.08"
Alberta	4.89"
Alex City	4.56"
Aliceville	5.26"
Andalusia	4.88"
Ashland	4.64"
Athens	4.53"
Bay Minette	5.31"
Bessemer	4.80"
Billingsley	5.00"
Centreville WSMO	5.02"
Chatom	5.01"
Claiborne L&D	4.29"
Clayton	4.25"
Dauphin Isl.	4.31"
Elba	4.52"
Eufaula WR	3.56"
Evergreen	4.51"
Fayette	5.75"
Geneva 2	3.92"
Greenville	4.71"
Haleyville	5.48"
Hamilton 3S	5.89"
Heflin	5.26"
Hurtsboro	3.92"
Jasper	5.59"
Lafayette	5.15"
Livingston	5.10"
Melvin	5.38"
Milstead	4.59"
Moulton	5.16"
Oneonta	5.01"
Perryville	5.06"
Plantersville	5.18"
Rock Mills	4.90"
Rockford	5.23"
Sylacauga	4.74"
Union Springs	4.45"
Uniontown	4.64"
Vernon	5.52"
Warrior L&D	5.12"
Wetumpka	4.68"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serc.com

New Local Climate Records¹

April 2017

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
02 April 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	89	2010-04-02	86	68
03 April 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	89	2012-04-03	88	68
05 April 2017				
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	88	2016-04-05	82	68
MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	86	1988-04-05	85	69
06 April 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	82	2008-04-06	78	41
JACKSON	87	1988-04-06	86	33
13 April 2017				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	96	1999-04-13	86	60
14 April 2017				
HAMILTON 3 S	88	2010-04-14	87	55
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	86	1977-04-14	85	63
15 April 2017				
HALEYVILLE	86	1981-04-15	85	114
28 April 2017				
CHATOM	93	1996-04-28	91	67
29 April 2017				
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	90	2016-04-29	89	69
30 April 2017				
DEMOPOLIS L&D	89	1952-04-30	88	65

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
03 April 2017				
ADDISON	1.90	2001-04-03	1.45	79
CAHABA PUMP HOUSE	1.72	1989-04-03	0.70	35
GAINESVILLE LOCK	3.23	1979-04-03	2.02	69
HALEYVILLE	2.65	1977-04-03	2.28	114
HAMILTON 3 S	2.55	1984-04-03	1.87	55
JASPER	2.27	2000-04-03	1.60	56
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	2.74	1950-04-03	2.55	68
MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	2.44	1950-04-03	1.78	69
SULLIGENT	2.60	2000-04-03	2.45	33
TUSCALOOSA MUNI APRT	2.70	2000-04-03	1.83	69
WALNUT GROVE	1.52	1979-04-03	1.32	76
WARRIOR LOCK & DAM	2.70	1979-04-03	2.41	59
04 April 2017				
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	3.15	2001-04-04	1.30	36
TUSCALOOSA OLIVER DAM	2.70	1957-04-04	2.00	117
05 April 2017				
ANNISTON METRO APORT	3.46	1948-04-05	3.01	114
BESSEMER 3 WSW	1.84	1994-04-05	1.55	40
06 April 2017				
CLAIBORNE LOCK & DAM	1.70	1953-04-06	1.35	64
18 April 2017				
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	1.50	1978-04-18	1.18	63
22 April 2017				
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	2.10	1996-04-22	1.65	63
23 April 2017				
ADDISON	2.57	1995-04-23	1.93	79
GADSDEN	1.60	1995-04-23	1.20	64
27 April 2017				
PINE APPLE	2.15	1997-04-27	1.30	49

Max High Temperature, April

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
13 April 2017				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	96	1987-04-22	94	60

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
09 April 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....	34	2016-04-09	35	68

¹ ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records

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