

TODAY'S QUOTE

"A change in the weather is sufficient to re-create  
the world and ourselves."

Marcel Proust

VARIETY

E

MONDAY

February 16, 2004



Star Tribune file photos

No matter what the season or the temperature, Minnesotans love to talk about the weather.

WINTER WARMTH

JANUARY 7

**THE NEWS:** Temperature records that have held for decades melted across Minnesota on Tuesday. In St. James, the high was 59, breaking a record of 45 set in 1963. In Albert Lea, it reached 57, shattering a 102-year-old record of 45. The unseasonably high temperatures also broke decades-old records in several towns, including Austin (55), Maple Lake (54), International Falls and Duluth (both 46).

**PAUL'S TAKE:** Tuesday's amazing 52-degree high in the Twin Cities (breaking a record of 45 set in 1949) is typical for April 13, and the earliest 50-degree reading in a calendar year ever recorded. And, since 1891, we have had only six winters with this little snowfall as of Jan. 8.

HEAT HEIGHTS

AUGUST 24

**THE NEWS:** The official Twin Cities temperature reached 97 degrees Sunday, the hottest day of the summer and only one degree short of tying the hottest Aug. 24 on record, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen said. Three cities — St. Paul (98), South St. Paul (99) and Lakeville (99) — reported temperatures that tied or exceeded the 98 degrees recorded on Aug. 24, 1948, meteorologist Bill Harrison said. The all-time August high was 103, set on Aug. 15, 1936, he said.



Courtney Burket of Lakeville headed for home after a long, hot day at the fair Aug. 24.

**PAUL'S TAKE:** Oh, I can just imagine the chorus of fine whines, groans and whimpers coming from overheated people strolling the Minnesota State Fair later today. It will not be pretty. If you want to avoid the heat and humidity, consider waiting until midweek, when a Canadian cool front will treat us to some free air conditioning.

2003  
WEATHER  
WRAP

Heat, cold and even a broken thermometer made the headlines. Our Weather Page meteorologist, Paul Douglas, took a folksy look at the sweltering and shivering as it happened.

More inside on E3

MONTHLY DATA FOR 2003

	High temp.	Low temp.	Avg. temp.	Diff. from normal	Precip.	Diff. from normal	Snow*
Jan.	54	-12	15.3	+2.2	0.22	-0.82	5.1
Feb.	46	-14	15.7	-4.4	0.54	-0.25	10.7
Mar.	72	-10	31.3	-0.8	1.44	-0.42	13.2
April	89	21	48.3	+1.7	2.40	+0.09	1
May	82	41	57.7	-1.6	6.14	+2.90	—
June	89	49	68.1	-0.3	4.66	+0.32	—
July	92	56	73.7	+0.6	2.06	-1.98	—
Aug.	97	53	75.3	+4.7	1.12	-2.93	—
Sept.	92	35	62.5	+1.5	2.20	-0.49	—
Oct.	85	28	51.0	+2.4	0.62	-1.49	0.6
Nov.	59	9	32.1	-0.3	0.71	-1.23	1.4
Dec.	43	-4	25.0	+6.4	0.62	-0.38	3

TWISTER TEARS THROUGH TOWN

JUNE 24

**THE NEWS:** A tornado that witnesses described as three-quarters of a mile wide and "black as oil" roared through Buffalo Lake in south-central Minnesota on Tuesday evening, causing major damage to the town of about 700. The slow-moving tornado tore into the post office, blew the roof off a liquor store and heavily damaged a Lutheran church downtown. At least five people were injured, but no fatalities were reported.

**PAUL'S TAKE:** We went from the quietest severe weather season in six years to a major tornado outbreak, literally overnight. Yesterday, conditions were ripe for long-lasting, rotating thunderstorms. Updrafts were strong enough to support the formation of large hail and even confirmed tornadoes.



John Valdez shows a photo of the June 24 tornado in Buffalo Lake.

Modern men are crying in public

By Steve Woodward and Garielle Glaser  
(Portland) Oregonian

Contrary to Tom Hanks' line in "A League of Their Own," there is crying in baseball. And politics. And the news media. And professional basketball.

After the Portland Trail Blazers lost recently for the ninth time in 10 games, coach Maurice Cheeks broke down in tears twice. Guard Derek Anderson said he shed a few tears himself.

In the new millennium, men aren't afraid to show their tear-stained cheeks.

"I don't believe that men's constitutions have changed," says Beth Kaplan Westbrook, a psychologist in Portland, Ore. "But I do believe that social roles have evolved between men and women, and men are more comfortable with self-expression."

Michael Botnick, a sociology professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver who specializes in gender, agrees.

"Men have always cried," he says. "However, they have done so in private, and the only difference now is that it's more public. That doesn't mean that male emotions have changed. But the display of them has."

That's a big change from 1972, when presidential candidate Edmund Muskie saw his front-runner status evaporate after allegedly shedding tears about a newspaper publisher's attacks on him and his wife.

Today, crying at appropriate times is seen as a sign of compassion and humanity in a man.

Consider the Bush family. According to reporters, President George W. Bush teared up at a Thanksgiving dinner with U.S. troops in Iraq. His brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, fought back tears as he thanked supporters after his daughter was arrested on charges of trying to obtain a controlled drug with a fraudulent prescription.

INSIDE

Al Sicherman

A recent mailing from Publishers Clearing House takes Uncle Al back 33 years, to when he saved a dollar. (Look, you'll be old some day too.) **Turn to E2.**

TOMORROW

Living a better life

Dr. Edward Creagan, a Mayo Clinic cancer doctor, practices what he preaches. He passes along tips for living a better life in his new book, "How Not to Be My Patient."

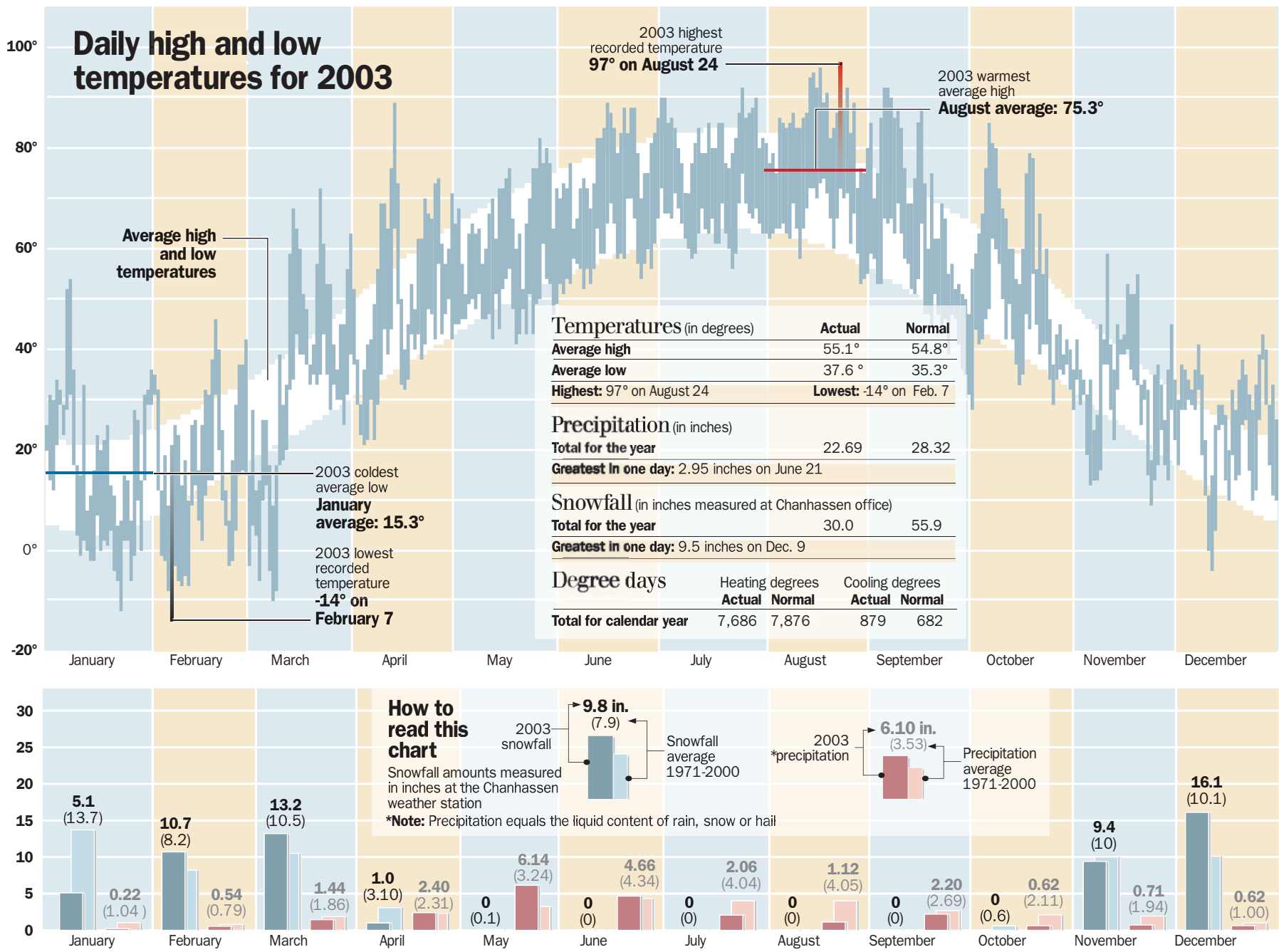
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## FRIGID FALL

## OCTOBER 2

**THE NEWS:** Though many farmers already had harvested their fall crops, a significant number of apples, pumpkins, squash and raspberries were still on the vine when temperatures dipped into the 20s and upper teens Thursday morning. It was the second-coldest Oct. 2 on record in the past century for many parts of Minnesota, and the coldest since 1974. For other regions, including the metro area, it was the third-coldest Oct. 2, when taking into account another frigid Oct. 2 in 1993, according to the University of Minnesota.

**PAUL'S TAKE:** According to climatologist Mark Seeley, we have not had this many days below 60 degrees during this time of year since 1942. Yes, our premature cold spell is unusual, but think of the silver lining. Monster mosquitoes are no longer showing up on Doppler radar, and allergy sufferers are breathing easier.

## SHOWERS SPLATTER STATE



Almost a month's worth of rain fell in just a few days in early September.

## SEPTEMBER 11

**THE NEWS:** After much of the summer passed without any significant rainfall, parts of Minnesota received anywhere from a brief shower to a downright drenching Thursday. Rainfall in the Twin Cities area was expected to total a half-inch to an inch by morning. The rain started early Wednesday in parts of western Minnesota, gradually moving east by Thursday morning. Vesta, Minn., about 10 miles southwest of Redwood Falls, got 4 inches.

**PAUL'S TAKE:** The rains came too late to do any good for this year's crops. In fact, it's making it difficult for farmers to get out into their fields to salvage what's left. Nearly a month's worth of rain has fallen in the last few days, anywhere from 2 to 4 inches, and this will help recharge and replenish soil moisture for next year. It was critical that we got the rain before the ground froze.

## FEBRUARY FROSTING



Star Tribune file photos

Last year, skiers had to wait until February for the first significant snowfall.

## FEBRUARY 3

**THE NEWS:** Fun was the operative word for many across the Twin Cities Monday after the season's first significant storm dumped as much as a foot of snow across parts of Minnesota. Around 11 inches were reported in Montevideo and New London in western Minnesota; Litchfield in central Minnesota received 10 inches. And 9 inches fell in Princeton, north of the Twin Cities, as well as in Watertown, west of Minneapolis.

**PAUL'S TAKE:** Now that it finally looks like a Norman Rockwell landscape outside, the news is pretty good for snow lovers. Any snow in your yard now will probably stick around for at least two weeks, possibly longer. No warm fronts are in sight.

## TOP TEMP TAKEN TO TASK

## OCTOBER 8

**THE NEWS:** They thought it was hot in International Falls, Minn., but not that hot. The official temperature was listed at 95 degrees on Tuesday in the Nation's Icebox, known nationally for its cold-weather testing. But the report was too hot to be true. The 95 was announced before the National Weather Service realized that its sensor in International Falls was broken. Maybe 81 or 82, the Weather Service said. Still, that would be just a degree shy of the city's record for Oct. 7 and well above the normal high of 57. It was all the more striking because last Thursday morning, the low temperature in International Falls was 18.

**RUSS KNUTH'S TAKE:** Minnesota's weather roller coaster is near the top of the hill, and it is only a matter of time before we plummet into the chilly depths of winter. The rest of the workweek will be a reminder of summer. A weak clipper will keep us a couple of degrees cooler than on Wednesday, when we tied a record high of 85 degrees.