

around the metro

• The year was warm and wet, but also cold and dry; Minnesota’s weather in 2005 ran the gamut from lovely to life-threatening.

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A taste of the tropics came to Minnesota in 2005. The fourth-warmest year on record in the Twin Cities saw a warm winter, extremely high summer dew points and warm evening weather throughout the year.

Statewide, the year was among the 20 warmest ever. Despite 365 chances, not a single daily low temperature record was reported in the Twin Cities, St. Cloud or Duluth. In June, July and August, the Twin Cities never had a high below 70 — the first time that’s ever happened.

The year was also among the top 10 wettest statewide, in records going back to 1895, with southern Minnesota being repeatedly soaked through the summer. Entering 2006, Minnesota was the only state in the Upper Midwest that was drought-free.

But Minnesota also reported the lowest temperature in the 48 contiguous United States 35 times during the year. Duluth had its second-snowiest January — for the second year in a row. A January cold snap pushed temperatures across northern Minnesota beyond 50 below.

In the Twin Cities, of 16 daily records that were set, seven were for high minimum temperatures, four were for rain and one was for snow. You may have also forgotten:

January

A Jan. 18-22 snowstorm dropped 40.3 inches of snow on Finland, Minn., the heaviest dump of the year in the state. The Twin Cities didn’t receive its first 1-inch snowfall of the season until Jan. 21, the latest date ever. Embarrass recorded a temperature of 54 below on Jan. 17; 14 below on Jan. 14 was the coldest reading of the year in the Twin Cities.

February

Marshall and Pipestone reported 61 degrees Feb. 4, tying the state record high for the date. Many southern Minnesota communities didn’t drop below zero for the entire month. In the Twin Cities, lows of 35 on Feb. 4 and 33 on Feb. 5 were the warmest ever recorded on the dates.

March

A late-winter storm March 17-18 dropped 19.8 inches of snow on Rochester, the city’s greatest one-day accumulation. The 5.3 inches in the Twin Cities was a daily record. A March 30 tornado in Mower County was Minnesota’s first of the year. By Sept. 21, 68 had been reported, the second most ever.

2005

THE YEAR IN WEATHER



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Feb. 4: Girls on the Roseville High ski team wore tank tops to take advantage of temperatures in the mid-50s.

Sept. 22: In Andover, Tamir Khalil’s garage with two cars sustained heavy damage from overnight storms.

May

It rained on 21 days in the Twin Cities, didn’t hit 80 degrees once (the second time that’s happened in 70 years) and the high of 42 degrees on May 12 was the coldest ever for the date.

June

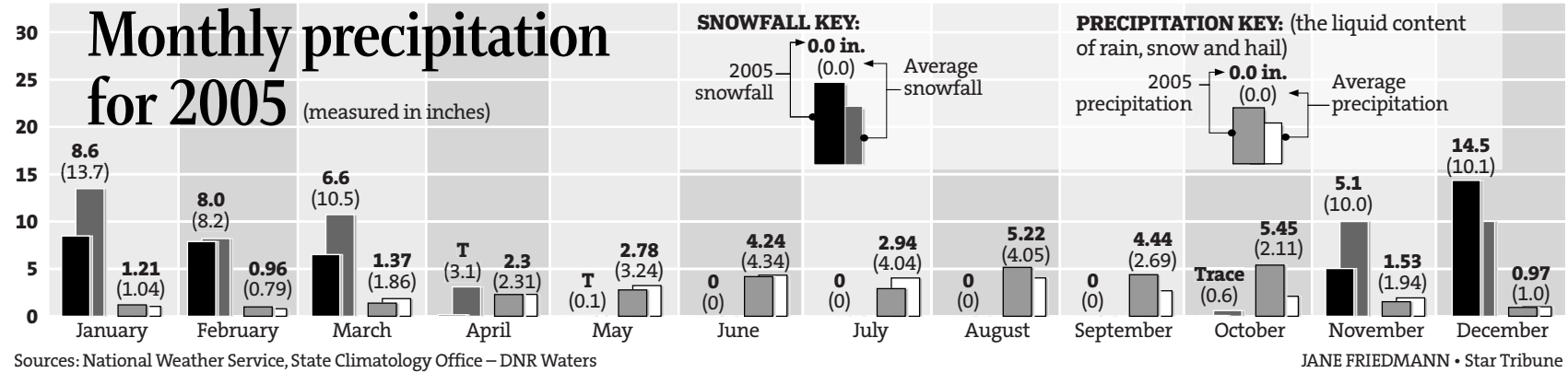
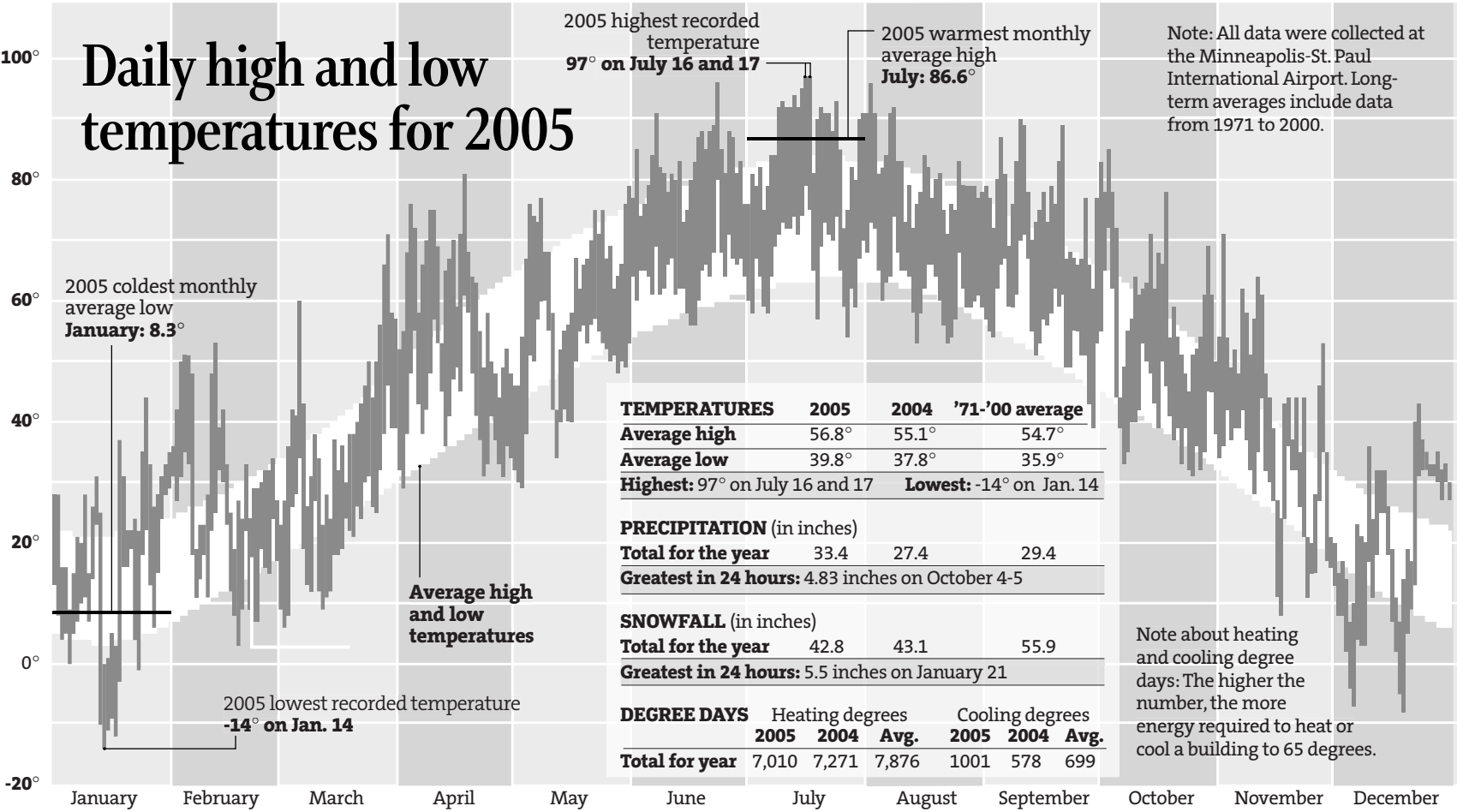
June 7-8 brought heavy rain to southeastern Minnesota, including 6.4 inches at Zumbro Falls. A man died when his car was swept off a Goodhue County road.



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MONTHLY DATA FOR 2005

	High temp.	Low temp.	Avg. temp.	Diff. from avg.	Precip. (inches)	Diff. from avg.	Snow (inches)	Diff. from avg.
Jan.	44	-14	15.6	2.5	1.21	0.17	8.6	-4.9
Feb.	53	3	26.4	6.1	0.96	0.13	8.0	-0.2
Mar.	71	6	31.8	-0.3	1.37	-0.49	6.6	-3.8
April	81	29	52.0	5.4	2.30	-0.01	trace	-3.1
May	79	29	56.4	-2.9	2.78	-0.46	trace	-0.1
June	96	56	73.4	5.0	4.24	-0.10	0	0
July	97	54	76.8	3.7	2.94	-1.10	0	0
Aug.	96	53	71.7	1.1	5.22	1.17	0	0
Sept.	90	39	66.3	5.3	4.44	1.75	0	0
Oct.	85	31	52.3	3.7	5.45	3.34	trace	-0.6
Nov.	71	8	36.6	4.2	1.53	-0.41	5.1	-4.9
Dec.	43	-8	19.4	0.8	0.97	-0.03	14.5	4.5



Sources: National Weather Service, State Climatology Office — DNR Waters



JERRY HOLT • Star Tribune

July 10: Ashanti Hall, 11, of Minneapolis cooled off at the North Commons Community Center pool as the weather crept into the 90s.

July

July 23 saw a state-record dew point of 86 at 5 p.m. at Pipestone and St. James. Duluth recorded its second-driest July ever.

September

Several tornadoes and powerful straight-line winds across the north metro Sept. 21 toppled thousands of trees (a Minneapolis man was killed by one), destroyed a handful of houses and knocked out power to more than 200,000 households, businesses and traffic intersections. Many were in the dark for days.

October

“Three months of rain falling in one night,” according to meteorologist Paul Douglas, doused central and east-central Minnesota Oct. 4-5, with 9.59 inches at the Rush City airport being the state’s highest single rainfall total of the year. In the Twin Cities, streets and highways were flooded and hundreds of vehicles abandoned; the 4.61 inches Oct. 4 set an all-time October daily record.

November

A 25-degree reading on Nov. 10 in the Twin Cities was the first “killer frost” reading in 229 days, a record. In St. Cloud, September through November was the second-wettest in 113 years.

December

A snowstorm Dec. 12-13 brought 5.4 inches of snow to the Twin Cities and 26.3 to an area near Two Harbors, but thoughts of an old-fashioned winter faded as the month ended unseasonably warm and in near-record gloom.

CHECK BACK IN A YEAR

With an eye on a developing La Niña in the southern Pacific Ocean, Jim Block, chief meteorologist with DTN/Meteorlogix, a Burnsville commercial weather service, is forecasting a warmer- and drier-than-normal summer and fall for Minnesota. The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center is signaling chances of above-normal temperatures late in the year, and of above-normal precipitation for most of Minnesota through spring and summer.

MLK HOLIDAY EVENTS

Statewide Celebration, Central High School, Lexington & Marshall, St. Paul. The celebration begins with a 9:30 a.m. rally followed by a march to the Gangelhoff Center at Concordia University on Hamline Avenue. The 11 a.m. holiday program features keynote speaker the Rev. Albert Sampson. A health fair begins at 1 p.m. This is a tobacco-free event co-sponsored by MPAAT. 651-642-0812.

Minnesota Children’s Museum, 10 W. 7th St., St. Paul. Celebrate with CitySongs “Celebration of Diversity” performance at 1 p.m. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7.95 per person. 651-225-6000.

Diversity Job Fair, Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Av. S. Celebrate the holiday by meeting with recruiters from more than 50 leading employers. Immediate openings range from entry-level to executive positions. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call PSI at 952-595-4496.

Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Av. S., Minneapolis. Making Freedom’s Mark: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This exhibit, on the University of Minnesota’s West Bank campus, features the people, events and ideas that inspired the act. Free. The exhibit is on display through March 15. 612-626-0711.

Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center, 22nd and Riverside Av., Minneapolis. Augsburg College presents a Convocation, “Being Global Citizens: Living a Legacy,” at 1 p.m. The featured speaker is Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr., a scholar in residence and director, Center for Non-violence and Peace Studies, University of Rhode Island. Free. 612-330-1180.

Calvary Baptist Church, 2608 Blaisdell Av. S., Minneapolis. A light dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. A service of honor and challenge begins at 6:30 p.m. 612-872-7855.

Powderhorn Park Community Center, 3400 15th Av. S., Minneapolis. The 11th annual celebration is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The agenda includes craft-making, cultural education displays, games and music. Guest speakers are LaDasha Brown, U’nique Longs, Andrea Jenkins and Neva Walker. 612-722-4817.

Southdale Library, 7001 York Av. S., Edina. Local storyteller Jerry Blue will inspire “Dreams Unfurled” and share stories for children at 10:30 a.m. Free. 952-847-5900.

Oxboro Library, 8801 Portland Av. S., Bloomington. T. Mychal Rambo and accompanist Thom West will “Move the Dream Forward” with a performance of inspiring music and words at 6:30 p.m. Free. 952-847-5775.

Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center. Starting at 2 p.m., celebrate “I Have a Dream” with a film of the famous speech and activities for children and families. Free. 952-847-5600.

St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, 104 Linden St., Northfield. “Living the Legacy” is the theme of the annual community-wide celebration. Festivities begin at 6:30 pm with the Carleton African Drumming Ensemble. The program starts at 7 p.m. The featured speaker is Nathan Wolf Lustbader, the Consul of Mexico in Minnesota. Refreshments will be served. 507-664-3504.

Holy Family Catholic Church, 2430 W. Third St., Duluth. Free community breakfast and a live broadcast of “Honoring the Legacy of a Servant” from the Minneapolis Convention Center. The keynote speaker is Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. The event is from 7 to 9:30 a.m.

2006 March and Rally, 4th St. & Lake Av., Duluth. 10:30 a.m. gathering. The march will begin at 11 a.m. The route is from Washington Center through downtown to DECC. The rally begins at 11:30 a.m. The featured speaker is Dr. Josie R. Johnson, the first black member of the University of Minnesota’s Board of Regents.

WHAT’S OPEN, WHAT’S CLOSED

A list of what will be open and what’s closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is on B2.

JANE FRIEDMANN • Star Tribune