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The **SUNDAY**
Daily Journal
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**Spring Sports Preview
in today's Journal!**

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Late spring becoming hardship

For those who rely on visitors, the long winter is hitting the wallet

By Rian Bosse
Daily Journal

Sit and wait — that's about all you can do in weather like this. But for businesses around the lakes area who rely on sunshine and open water, that could mean the loss of a lot of business heading into May.

"We're all waiting," said Kathy Polejewski, manager of the newly remodeled Corner Store on the west side of Otter Tail Lake. "People aren't even coming out to check on their cabins. Some people can't get to them."

Opened in January, Polejewski said she wasn't expecting the new store to get a lot of business in its first few months, but a slow spring has turned sales and stocking preparations upside-down.

"This is the time we were anticipating stocking bait for the opener, but now I don't know what we're going to do. Drill holes for people?" Polejewski said.

Nearby restaurants Guzzlers and Zorbaz will open on May 1, and Polejewski said she hopes that brings a boost. But until then, the only thing this weather is helping is

the chatter from local customers.

"It gives us things to talk about. It's been our topic," Polejewski said. "We're waiting to bring the fun stuff out. We're not bringing in sunscreen anytime soon, that's for sure."

At this time last year, the docks at Vacationland Resort on Otter Tail Lake sat above water. This year, those docks are on land with snow piled up where that water should be.

"Usually the lake is open on the weekend before fishing opener. This

See **Late spring** — Page 10



Rian Bosse/Daily Journal

Trevor Johnson stands next to the Vacationland Resort sign that is still covered in snow. The late spring snow has affected many seasonal businesses around Otter Tail Lake.



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

From left, Fergus Falls firefighters Preston Berg, Zach Hoyer, Jordan Bach and Joel Demmer are often the first ones on the fire truck for a call, since they live in the back of the fire station.

At home in the fire hall

For first time in a decade, four volunteer firefighters using station as living quarters

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

Four young guys live together in a house. They can be found sharing meals together, playing with the dog and watching movies.

It might sound like a typical scenario, but they don't live in any ordinary house. They live at the Fergus Falls Fire Department because, of course, they're all firefighters.

Jordan Bach, Preston Berg, Joel Demmer and Zach Hoyer (along with his dog Duke), all moved

in to the living quarters at the fire station this winter. It's been about a decade since there have been this many guys living at the fire station. One firefighter lived there since 2010, and he moved out last summer.

"It was just time to find a new place to live," Bach said, who's been with the department for 1-1/2 years. "The rent's nice. It's free to live here."

"When a call comes in, we're already here. We're able to respond."

That seems to be the biggest benefit for the guys, being able to be the



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

From left, Firefighters Zach Hoyer and Preston Berg, with dog Duke in the middle, sit on the couch in the Fergus Falls Fire Department living area. Joel Demmer sits in the chair. The firefighters, along with Jordan Bach (not pictured), say living in the fire station has already been valuable experience.

first ones on the first truck that heads out to a call.

"It helps us greatly to

See **Volunteers** — Page 10

Fargo officials outline plans for sandbagging

Associated Press

FARGO — Spring clean-up week has been replaced by spring flood-fighting week in Fargo.

City officials on Friday mapped out their time-tested and improved strategy to protect hundreds of homeowners from a spring flood that will be the latest — and perhaps the largest — in history, at a time when residents are usually preparing to haul junk to their boulevards.

Now some of them might be moving important stuff to higher ground in preparation for the fourth major flood in five years along the Red River and its tributaries.

"To say that this gets easier ... for some of us it's getting old," Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker said Friday during a flood preparation meeting that fell on the

same date as the latest Red River crest on record, in 1979. "We have never had a significant flood in the month of May."

The National Weather Service has given the Red River a 40 percent chance of topping the 2009 record flood of nearly 41 feet in the Fargo and Moorhead, Minn., area. Most structures are protected to about 38 feet, with a few hundred homes needing added fortification beyond that. City and county officials plan to build their sandbag dikes to 42 or 43 feet and clay levees to 44 feet.

Police will begin escorting flatbed trucks with sandbags into Fargo neighborhoods on Tuesday. Area high school students and other volunteers will begin placing bags on Thursday, with most of the work expected to be completed by the weekend.

Second marathon bomber in custody

Associated Press

WATERTOWN, Mass. — For just a few minutes, it seemed as if the dragnet that had shut down a metropolitan area of millions while legions of police went house to house looking for the suspected Boston Marathon bomber had failed.

Weary officials lifted a daylong order that had kept residents in their homes, saying it was fruitless to keep an entire city locked down. Then one man emerged from his home and noticed blood on the pleas-

ure boat parked in his backyard. He lifted the tarp and found the wounded 19-year-old college student known the world over as Suspect No. 2.

Soon after that, the 24-hour drama that paralyzed a city and transfixed a nation was over.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's capture touched off raucous celebrations in and around Boston, with chants of "USA, USA" as residents flooded the streets in relief and jubilation after four tense days since twin

See **Bomber** — Page 3

MAILING LABEL

TODAY:

HIGH: 65 LOW: 40

SUNSET TONIGHT: 6:32 a.m.
SUNRISE TOMORROW: 8:16 p.m.

FRIDAY:

HIGH: 77 LOW: 45
PRECIPITATION: 0

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