



These Rainy River anglers sit back and wait for a bite during the North American Sturgeon Championship.

STURGEON

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and needed a couple helpers in order to pull the fish onto the pontoon she was in. The anglers pulled the fish out of the water by hand, as the net they brought wouldn't have done the job, event organizer Mike Hanson observed.

The catch-and-release

tournament is arranged as a fundraiser for the Birchdale Community Building, and 226 anglers took part in this year's event. This year was the event's 22nd, Hanson said. Cloudy skies and light rain in the morning cleared up in time for the afternoon event, and clear skies and warm weather greeted anglers on the river, and Hanson described the weather as "perfect."



These two anglers express surprise at being told the largest sturgeon caught was 66-1/4 inches.

BASS

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wasn't the only challenge they were faced with this year. Ysen was 8-1/2 months pregnant with her first child, who was expected to make his or her debut around Sept. 10.

"I don't even have the nursery ready yet," Ysen admitted. "I've been too busy fishing."

But maybe she should have been setting up the crib, folding burp rags and stocking up on diapers because not 12 hours after being interviewed by The Journal, Ysen's went into labor.

"My water broke around 1:15 a.m.," she said Tuesday. "Then I started having contractions...I told my husband, I think we better go in."

Audrey Maria Ysen made her debut at 5:47 a.m. Tuesday weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

"I got a text from Bonita this morning while I was at work," Taylor said. "It said, 'Better call your backup.'"

Beneath the text was a picture of healthy baby Audrey.

"I couldn't believe it," Taylor said. "I'm very happy for Bonita, but very sad at the same time. I'm going to miss her this year."

On the same note, Taylor added she is looking forward to her longtime



Anglers Bonita Ysen, left, and Kristi Taylor, throw goodies to the crowd at Smokey Bear Park during last year's International Falls Bass Championship parade of boats.

friend, Amy Carew, fishing with her, but is nervous about making all the decisions in the boat.

"Bonita and I tell each other what we're thinking, what we're doing and what spots we're going to hit," Taylor said. "She knows spots I forget about and has a lot of ideas and I'm not going to have that...I'm going to have to make all the decisions. But as long as Amy can cast - and she can - we'll be good to go."

IFBC girl power
This would have been the fifth year Taylor and Ysen fished the tournament together and the two have a noticeable bond in and out of the boat. "She's my best friend," Taylor said, adding back in 2009 when she put a post

on Facebook asking for an IFBC partner, Ysen jumped at the chance. "We've been in this together ever since."

Shortly after finding out she was pregnant, Ysen said she was undecided if she'd participate in the championship this year. But, Taylor wasn't having it.

"I'm not in this to fish with someone else," she said. "I'm in it to fish with her."

Ysen said she realized fishing in the tournament wouldn't be an issue because she would likely be pregnant past her due date.

"As long as we stay within cell service range, we'll be fine," she said Monday. "My doctor knows

I'm doing this." Just in case, Taylor was ready to come prepared. She fashioned a baby kit complete with a blanket, disinfectant, gloves and pink camouflage bandages to keep alongside the rods and reels in the boat.

"If she gives birth in the boat and (the baby) is healthy, we're weighing it in at the tournament," Taylor said with a laugh.

From her hospital bed Tuesday, Ysen said it would be hard to watch the tournament from the sidelines.

"I'm happy Audrey is healthy and she's here," Ysen said glancing at her sleeping daughter, "but I'm going to miss fishing with Kristi."

Taylor said if Ysen is feeling up to it Thursday, she and Audrey will make an appearance in the parade of boats.

"She might be throwing 'It's a Girl' candies," Taylor said.

And, Taylor isn't the only one having to call in a last-minute partner. Because Ysen had a cesarean section, her husband, Nick, will also forgo his spot in this year's event.

But it's worth it. "Isn't she beautiful?" Nick Ysen said of his daughter as he came down the hallway of Rainy Lake Medical Center carrying a handful of baby clothes. "My whole life just changed."

COUNCIL

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The council also discussed whether a public-private non-profit group that receives public funding and grants from other nonprofit groups would unfairly compete with private businesses.

Monday, the council heard from Isaac Meyer and Amy Mortenson with more detail about the project and its intent. Meyer said 50-70 percent of the business's first year budget would be subsidized by various grants and funds. However, things would be different following the business's first year.

"Following that first year, there won't be anything besides the revenue that's generated from donations and from sales at the store," Meyer said.

The idea for the thrift store came about as an attempt to bring a Boy's and Girl's Club to the community, Meyer said. Low-income people the group serves had said there wasn't much for them to do in the community, he said, so the Boy's and Girl's Club would fill that need.

"All of the revenues that will come in over the costs of operating the store will go right back into the community to fund those programs," Meyer said.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa said the fact the business will fund after-school programs and it will only receive public funding in the first year meant she would support granting KOOTASCA the second-hand goods dealer license.

In new business, the council approved a proposal to advertise for bids for an

automatic water meter reading system for the city. The bids will be advertised on Aug. 23 and Aug. 27, with the opening of bids on Sept. 10.

City Administrator Ken Anderson said the proposal was worked out by the Public Works Director Gary Skallman, and Water Commissioner Rich Christie, along with some of their staff. Anderson said the remote water meter reading system would improve efficiency, and is already in use in other communities.

The system would work with the existing water meters, Anderson said, and would only require a plate attached to existing meters. Then, an employee would be able to drive down a street in a vehicle with a radio receiver, and download the meter information onto a computer in the the vehicle.

"You can imagine the efficiency we're going to realize," Anderson said. "Instead of having two water meter readers go door-to-door...this particular system is going to eliminate that need."

It now takes two water meter readers three weeks on foot to get water meter readings of the whole community, Anderson said. The new system would only take one employee two days to do a reading of the community, he said. The cost savings of only using one water meter reader means the system would pay for itself in five to six years, he said.

Kalar said he wanted to clarify the new system wouldn't be causing someone to lose their job, only that they would have new job responsibilities, and that service would be improved.

City Drug

Bridal Registry

Jenny Olsen & AJ Tucker
August 30, 2014

Jamie Pearson & Bruce Conat
August 30, 2014

Anna LePage & Travis Mann
September 7, 2014

Kristen Lund & Steffan Tveit
September 13, 2014

Angela Mihichuk & Kelly Siemens
September 13, 2014

Shawna Bolstad & Travis Cochran
September 20, 2014

Melissa Fisher & Nick Hagen
September 27, 2014

Christa Landmark & Derek Clark
October 4, 2014

Baby Shower Registry

Baby girl Poe
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Parents: Terri & Troy Poe

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M-Sat 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

The family of Dorothy Brown would like to express their sincere appreciation to all the friends and relatives in attendance of her celebration of life ceremony at the Zion Lutheran Church on August 9TH.

A very special thank you to her Nephew;
Pastor Gary Sartain for providing such a heartfelt and thoughtful service. Dorothy would have been very pleased at the coming together of so many friends, family and loved ones to honor her life.

17th ANNUAL

Kabetogama Community Garage Sale
WEEKEND!

Friday Activities include the
Annual Fishing Contest Finale &
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION!!

Friday and Saturday August 22nd & 23rd

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MAPS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL SALES AT 8AM FRIDAY 8/22
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Brzoznowski Auction on Saturday August 23rd

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