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years of IFBC**
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**Wednesday,
August 20, 2014**

International Falls, Minnesota

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STURGEON CHAMPIONSHIPS



Casey Norby, left, gets some help from Joe Strauss as she shows off the 64-3/4 inch sturgeon she caught in the North American Sturgeon Championship.

Big fish, clear skies

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A man from Williams took home the top prize at the North American Sturgeon Championships in Birchdale Saturday, and all he had to do was wrestle a five-and-a-half foot long river monster into his boat.

Allen Baldwin of Williams landed a 66-1/4 inch sturgeon Saturday on the Rainy River,

and took home the top prize of \$2,120. Second place went to Casey Norby of Grand Rapids, who hauled in a 64-3/4 inch sturgeon. Karen Turban of Birchdale took home third place, with a catch of 59-1/2 inches. Both second and third place winners received gift certificates to Nelson's Store in Birchdale.

Norby battled for quite some time with her catch,



Many anglers took a laid-back approach to the event, and relaxed on their boats on the Rainy River.

Sturgeon to A7 ▶



Bonita Ysen, left, poses for a photo with her 7-hour old daughter, Audrey Maria, along with her best friend and International Falls Bass Championship fishing partner Kristi Taylor. Ysen planned on fishing with Taylor in this year's 10th annual tournament, but Audrey, who was born 3 weeks early, had other ideas. Taylor will now team up with Amy Carew in the event that kicks off Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Bass baby

Just three days before the 10th annual IFBC, angler Bonita Ysen welcomes her first child

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

There was definitely a giddy atmosphere in the conference room of The Journal Monday as Kristi Taylor and Bonita Ysen discussed preparations for the International Falls Bass Championship set to kick off Friday.

"We love this time of year," the women of the tournament's

only all-female team said with wide smiles. "Every year we get more experience, more prepared, we're ready."

As they discussed pre-fishing strategies, getting tackle in order and making sure they packed extra fishing line before hitting the waters of Rainy Lake or Rainy River Friday, the women of team No. 31 pointed out finding the biggest bass

Bass to A7 ▶

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS
CITY COUNCIL**

Council moves on old, new business

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The International Falls City Council revisited some old business Monday, and approved motions on two items tabled from a previous meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting Monday, Mayor Bob Anderson removed an item from the agenda, because he said he hadn't had enough time to develop a response on the issue. The item, to discuss working conditions and environment at the city of International Falls, was on the agenda due to comments made by Councilor Gail Rognerud at the Aug. 4 meeting.

During the Aug. 4 meeting, Rognerud leveled accusations of bullying by a city official against a city employee, that the official has violated the code of ethics the council is expected to adhere to by personally and publicly attacking a city employee. On Aug. 5, Rognerud told The Journal her concerns focus on Anderson.

On Monday, Anderson explained he had requested more information from Rognerud before he would respond to the comments. Anderson said he hadn't had enough time to review the information Rognerud had presented to him, and would work with the attorney he had hired to develop a response.

Rognerud said Anderson had requested the information by Friday, when the meeting informational packet was compiled, and she had the information ready Thursday night.

"I'm willing to give you more time to prepare your response, because of the emotional stress on everyone involved," Rognerud said.

Councilor Pete Kalar said the sooner the matter is resolved, the better, as the situation has created a negative public view toward the council.

"It's almost to the point of getting to be amusement and entertainment for the people in town," Kalar said. "So whatever we got to do to bring this to a halt, we've got to try."

Also Monday, the council approved a license request from KOOTASCA Community Action Inc. for a second-hand goods dealer license for a thrift store the group is planning on opening.

At the Aug. 4 meeting when the issue was presented to the council, action on the request was tabled, because more information on KOOTASCA's intent was needed.

Council to A7 ▶

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