

Casting Call

Local talent takes the stage

A10



Shots, shots, shots

New law requires vaccine for seventh-graders

A3



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Wednesday,
August 27, 2014

The Journal

International Falls, Minnesota

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INTERNATIONAL FALLS BASS CHAMPIONSHIP



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Dave Lindsey, left, and Bill Godin, show four of the five smallmouth bass that helped them win the 2014 International Falls Bass Championship Saturday.

Anglers tested

Ontario team takes title at 2014 competition

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Ontario's longtime tournament anglers Bill Godin and Dave Lindsey won the 2014 International Falls Bass Championship, bringing in not only the most total pounds of smallmouth, but also the big fish and big catch on Saturday.

Team No. 6 won the two-day catch and release tournament with 33.18 pounds.

Godin, of Devlin, Friday caught a big fish on Rainy River weighing 4.44 pounds, and Lindsey, of Kenora, caught a 4.79 pounder Saturday on Rainy Lake on the first cast.

"We got into a spot, and other boats wanted on the same spot, and it was mayhem for the first little bit, then the water calmed down and sure enough I got that one to bite," said Lindsey. "It ran and ran and ran and I thought for sure it would get off, but it didn't."

Godin said once weigh-ins were finished he needed to get to the wedding of his regular partner.

International Falls father-son-Team No. 28 Jay and Ed Taylor took second with 30.14 pounds total.

Rookie IFBC anglers Jake Ruelle and Chris Heibel, Team 51, took third with 29.38 pounds. Heibel, of Ranier, said the team lost a couple fish that would have helped their placement.

"We had a couple little guys we were trying to get rid of (cull) all afternoon and just couldn't get rid of them," said Ruelle, International Falls. "It was a fun couple days fishing. It was a blast."

Team 11 Dan Thorstad, Ray, and Rick Jansen, Hibbing, took fourth with 28.46 pounds.

International Falls Team 39 Scott Thompson and Chad Budde took fifth with 28.29 pounds.

Bass to A7 ➤



Lindsey hoists Saturday's big fish.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS EDA

Dock site might be used for fishing

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

With three members in attendance Monday, the International Falls Economic Development Authority Board held a brisk, half-hour-long meeting.

Bob Anderson and Pete Kalar were absent from the meeting, and the EDA took no action on new business items. Instead, EDA Director Shawn Mason updated the board on recent items from the EDA Advisory Board.

Mason said at the Aug. 19 meeting of the EDA Advisory Board, the possibility of locating a fishing pier on the site of the Voyageurs National Park headquarters was discussed. The Falls EDA owns the land the headquarters is located on, and the federal government leases it from the EDA.

There is a large tour boat dock located on the land, Mason said, which might be able to be altered to work as a fishing pier. When the dock was put in, she said, a fishing pier the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club had at the site was removed.

"That pier was also dedicated to Ray Jans, so it was an important fishing pier close to the city, and within a bike ride or a walk for many youngsters and family members who might not have a boat," Mason said.

Mason said they've met with members of the RLSC about their desire to replace the fishing pier, and VNP Superintendent Mike Ward said the existing dock could be altered to work as a fishing pier.

"We think it would be useful to convert that tour boat dock into multi-use, so it can also be a fishing pier," Mason said.

The advisory board would like to see the idea come to fruition, Mason said, but members don't want the EDA to spend any money on the construction of the dock. Instead, she said they'd like to explore grant opportunities to complete the project.

EDA President Gail Rognerud said a railing may be able to be added to the dock to make fishing safer, as she sees people using the dock for fishing already. Paul Eklund said if people are already using the dock to fish, the EDA has a responsibility to make it safe.

"If there's already people fishing off of there, then we have to do it," Eklund said. "We certainly wouldn't want anyone to get injured or worse out there, because we don't have the right railings up."



Shawn Mason



Gail Rognerud

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VOLUME 5
NUMBER 69