

# Bottom Line News & Views

**FREE**

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## Wounded Warriors In Action

### "Bayfield Cast and Blast" By Patty Pajtach

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Bayfield Cast and Blast weekend for Wounded Warriors In Action was a huge success thanks to the overwhelming generosity of an entire community and the vision of one person with a big heart. The project was started this past summer by Chris Diesing, a sportsman from Brookfield, WI with his heart in Delta, WI.

Chris wanted to find a way to give back to our veterans and found the perfect match with The Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation. This Foundation brings Purple Heart recipients together for weekend sporting trips. Through the great outdoors and the brotherhood of being military veterans, our heroes' mission is to find a sense of healing as they struggle with transition to civilian life...and to know they are not alone.

It began with fundraising. We needed a minimum of \$3,000 to fly 3 heroes to Wisconsin and buy their hunting and fishing licenses. Through the efforts of many the



Photo by Chris Diesing

Corey Josh and Brandon with hosts Terry and Patty Pajtach at Scenic Drive Resort.

goal was met by the end of summer. As Chris included his friends in Delta, all other needs came together quickly.

Two of our heroes had guided bow hunts on private property; another hero experienced his first duck hunt. They also had successful guided Bass and Muskie adventures. Our heroes Josh, Brandon and Cory had an amazing time enjoying the hospitality of our com-

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## Bayfield "Cast and Blast" continued from page 1

munity while creating bonds that lead to healing. When looking back at the first tentative introductions and the smiles on faces at the end of the weekend, it was evident that our first annual WWIA Bayfield Cast and Blast was a success!

The weekend was donated by a number of local businesses as well as the generosity of our community. The warriors stayed in a cabin at Scenic Drive Resort. Terry Pajdash from Scenic Drive Resort and Russell Heule of Dairyland Fence Company guided bow hunts while Dave "Govy" Simonson from Flying Eagle Resort guided a duck hunt. Professional fishing guides Jeff Evans and David Brown led our heroes to

Muskie and Bass. Meals were provided by Delta Diner, Flying Eagle and Scenic Drive Resort. Grandma Doris Pajdash made sure the cabin had fresh baked bread and apple pies. Private land owner Jimmy Anderson enthusiastically gave permission to hunt his land. And there were more offers of help.

As I heard our heroes' stories, pondered their journeys and witnessed healing, I am humbled. These heroes along with all our veterans have given so much of themselves to protect our freedoms and defend our nation. The men and women of our armed forces have given up their youth and innocence so that we can keep ours.

Often they come home with physical injuries, but more often there are injuries that we cannot see. Very often it is the unseen injury that leads to a tragic ending of suicide. Twenty two combat veterans per day commit suicide. If our community in central Bayfield County can provide a place of healing to prevent one or more suicides, then we need to do it.

Now we begin preparing for the WWIA Bayfield Cast and Blast 2014. We would like to fly our 2014 heroes to Duluth instead of Milwaukee to avoid an uncomfortably long car ride. Our initial goal is \$4000. I know people genuinely care and want to give back. Any donation is greatly appreciated and it is tax deductible. Please contact Terry or Patty Pajdash at Scenic Drive Resort (715) 372-4336 for more information.



Brandon Johnson with his limit of ducks on his first ever duck hunt.



Photos by Chris Diesing

(L-R) Brandon Johnson, Corey Nixon and Josh Krueger in front of Delta Diner.



Corey Nixon displays his first Muskie, much bigger than he ever imagined.