

# SPORTS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



## Third Annual Take A Warrior Fishing Tournament

Continued from Page 9.



Ronald Williams accepting his raffle drawing prize.



Terry Brown receiving his prize from a volunteer.



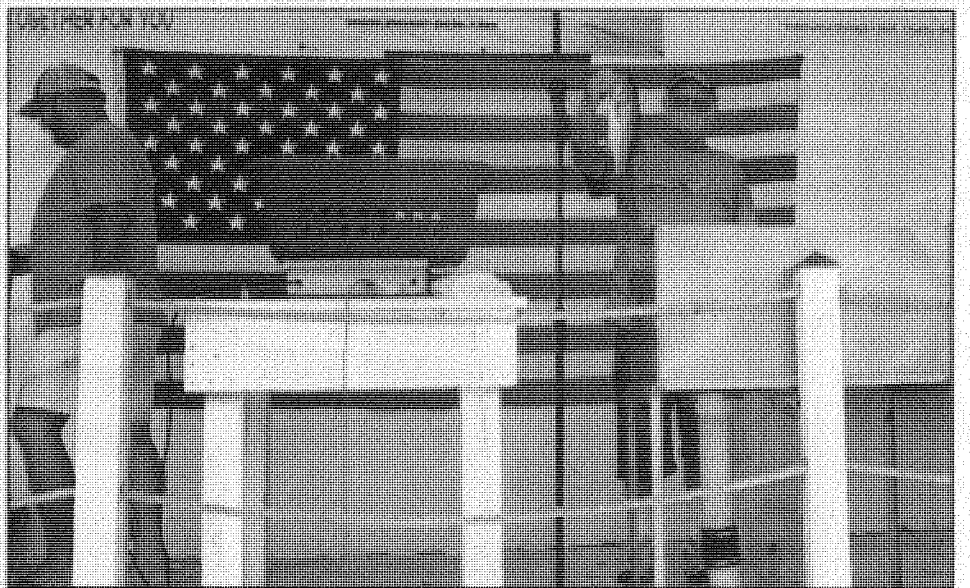
Tyler Perrin proudly display his best catch of the day.



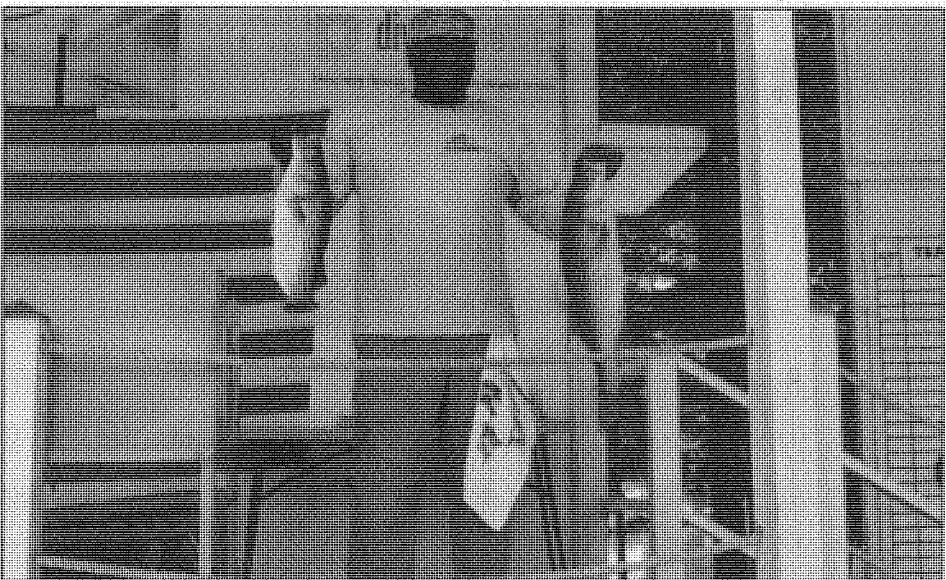
Ulrick Carson getting ready for the weigh-in.



Victor McCard caught 61 Crappie, he spent the weekend cleaning them.



Wayne Warbin displays his catch of the day.



William Webster with his catch of the day.



Raymond Payne with his trophy donated by Herndon Engraving.



# SPORTS

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Troup County News

www.troupcountynews.net

## Third Annual Take A Warrior Fishing Tournament

Continued from Front Page.

Owen's son-in-law joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Benning. During his visits he began to meet some of the soldiers and hear stories of their struggles. Owens stated "You can read about PTSD and TBI all you want, but you will never really understand it until you can talk to someone who suffers from it. The emotions and confusion is overwhelming to see in these "tough as nails" Army Rangers."

Owens told TCN "About five years ago I wanted to do something to help them have that peace and joy that comes from fishing. I have seen how much it helped children with disabilities. These guys develop relationships with the guys who take them out and continue to fish."

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) occurs when an external mechanical force causes brain dysfunction. TBI mental symptoms are: Memory or concentration problems, Mood changes or mood swings, and/or feeling depressed or anxious.

Owens explained "When these guys have a mental injury, such as TBI, and a physical injury it is just unbelievable. I had a guy tell me once that the only time he has felt sane was when he was out on the lake fishing. We had another guy who

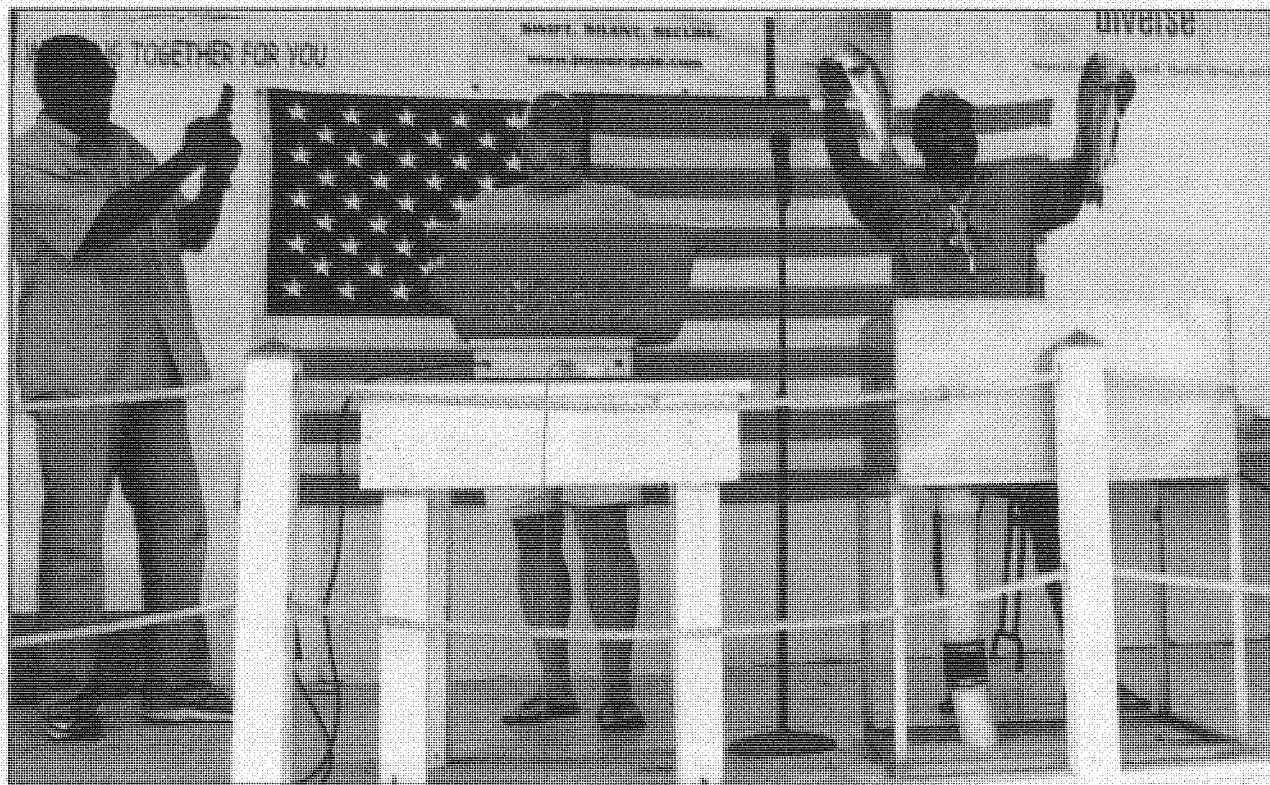
was able to take his daughter with him on the boat. He told me with tears in eyes, that with his deployment, his injuries, and his stay in the hospital, he had never had the chance to be able to spend time with his daughter. And that is why these events are so important."

Without the support of the great people in Troup County this event could never have happened. Highland Marina not only donated their facility, but they also donated food and helped pull the event together. Ranger Fink from the Army Corps of Engineers coordinated with all the agencies to insure this event happened.

Thanks to these types of events many soldiers get to leave their problems behind and enjoy a normal day.

Owens spoke to the warriors just before the raffle began "Please know that the American public has not forgotten. You may think sometimes that they are not paying attention to what's going on with those that serve. They do know, you may not hear it from all of them, but they do."

Patrick Harmon was injured during his service and spent 18 months as a wounded warrior at Fort Benning and began volunteering in the community. He was looking for some-



Rodney Barnes showing his two largest fish weighing over 10 pounds.

thing he could attach himself to and the Corp of Engineers offered him an opportunity to find soldiers who may be interested in participating in the first Take A Warrior Fishing Tournament.

Harmon stated "We had 18 the first year and we have grown every year since. We hope to keep growing."

Greg Olsen took some of the warriors out in his boat. He stated "This is just a day to take these guys out and fellowship, a day they can leave some of the things

they are dealing with behind."

"It was great to see local people like Charlie Williams, Joey Mines, and Ken Bear den taking the warriors fishing again this year."

President of the Wounded Warriors Association of Fort Benning, Nate Coakley stated "some of the soldiers have never fished before. This gives them the opportunity to try something new. A lot of the guys have begun fishing more and more. I get asked 'when is the next event' all the time. It really

boost the soldiers morale, it lets them know that someone cares. Troup County cares about the welfare of a soldier." He continued to say "These events help soldiers to know they are not going through this stuff alone."

Smallest catch was a six ounce Bass caught by Ted Arnold. Largest Bass was caught by a father and son team, Donavon and Elton Brown.

Sponsors of the event: US Army Corp of Engineers, Patrick Harmon, B&E Happy

Hoppers, Highland Marina, Herndon Engraving, US Coast Guard, Chanel 81, Benning Bass Club, LaGrange Troup County Bureau of Tourism, LaGrange Academy, LaGrange Banking Company, Callaway Blue, Family Bass, F&J Armory, Zebco, Cast For Kids, and Jim Owens. The boaters who donated their time and their boats.

It was a pleasure and an honor to share Saturday with all the wonderful people who were at Saturday's event.

See More Photos on Page 10



Father and Son Team - 10lb 6 oz Bass- Donavon and Elton Brown.



Nathaniel Coakley with his raffle prize.

