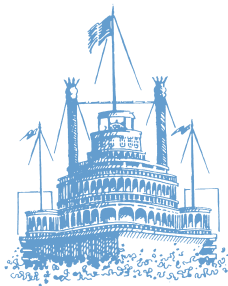


THURSDAY

DECEMBER 27, 2007

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 19, No. 310



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



Cleaning up Christmas

Waste Management urges residents to recycle holiday garbage

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NATION

Tiger tragedy

Police investigate deadly incident at San Francisco Zoo

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SPORTS



Keep on railin'

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JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

Steamboat Springs High School 2007 graduate A.J. Carmack, now a trigger private first class in the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division, returned home for a couple of weeks from Fort Lewis, Wash., for the first time since leaving for military service this summer. He used the opportunity to visit his family Michelle, from left, Katy, Eric and Ty Jones. Carmack is anticipating he will be deployed to Iraq later this year.

Holiday homecoming

Steamboat troops recoup with some welcome R&R

Dave Shively
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Since Michelle Jones got the word that her son A.J. Carmack would be coming home for two weeks during the holidays, the apple pies and honey-baked hams have come streaming in.

The return marked the first

time Carmack has been home since he left for service in the U.S. Army, just weeks after graduating from Steamboat Springs High School in June.

Carmack, a stand-out four-year letterman and senior captain for the Sailors' wrestling and lacrosse teams, didn't take long to show his ability to lead in the military, quickly being selected

as a platoon guide of his infantry training group in Fort Benning, Ga.

Since graduating from basic training in October, Pfc. Carmack has been stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash. His desire to climb the ranks to sergeant has grown as he awaits his first combat action with the rest of his company, the 2nd Infantry Division of the

Army's 3rd Brigade.

"It's like practicing for a game over and over but never playing," Carmack said, rubbing the empty Velcro arm of his fatigues, where his combat patch will one day be affixed.

But Carmack has reservations and knows his inevitable deploy-

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SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	3 in.	Total snow†	142 in.
New snow — Summit	.5 in.	Trails open	147/165
Base — Mid-mountain	48 in.	Lifts open	17/18
Base — Summit	48 in.	Conditions	Powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 18 as measured at mid-mountain



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