

The Carbon Valley Herald

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Covering the Carbon Valley area, including Frederick, Firestone, Dacono, Platteville and Mead

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Red Ribbon Week off to flying start



Photo by JoAnn Knutson

Amber Dukes receives a big hug from Miss Colorado Patrice Williams during the Red Ribbon Week kick-off held Oct. 23 at Carbon Valley Academy. See page 3 for more about the event.

Buyer's market offers opportunity

By Andrew Gloor
 andrewg@carbonvalleyherald.com

TRI-TOWNS – While the Tri-Towns have been hit by the rash of foreclosures that afflicted the rest of the country, home prices have created an opportunity for area home buyers.

“We’re seeing fewer foreclosures

than a year ago,” said Greg Zadel, owner of Zadel Realty in Firestone. “We’re also seeing the houses the banks are selling sell quicker, and often times there’s more than one offer.”

Zadel believes that some repossessed homes receive multiple offers because the worst of the housing problems are behind the

nation, and he anticipates rising home prices within the next few years.

The price fluctuations are part of a price swing that’s taken place for decades, Zadel said. In the ’70s, there was a run on housing prices followed by a pull back in the ’80s, followed by a similar cycle in the

(Loans, page 4)

Firestone resident returns to Iraq

By Jen Reeder
 jenr@carbonvalleyherald.com

Two weeks before he came home to Firestone on leave from Iraq, Army Private Tommy Jaussi and his platoon were headed out on a night patrol. Just outside the gate to the base at Camp Taji, their convoy was hit by an IED, or improvised explosive device.

“Luckily, it was an anti-personnel explosive and not anti-armor ... no one was hurt,” Jaussi, 19, said in an interview during his 18-day leave. “We responded pretty well. Obvi-

ously there’s that first initial shock, and then it’s like, ‘OK, I’m here. This is my job, now we’ve got to do it.’”

The Frederick High School graduate joined the Army on Aug. 27, 2007, and was deployed to Iraq on Feb. 29, 2008.

“I just wanted to serve my country,” Jaussi said. “Just wanted to go over there and do my part.”

Military service runs in his family. His mother, Patricia Newton, was an “Army brat” whose father served in World War II and the Korean War. She admires her youngest son’s

(Soldier, page 7)



Courtesy photo

Frederick High School graduate Tommy Jaussi is on his second tour in Iraq.

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Soldier honored to serve country

(*Soldier, from page 1*)
courage.

"He wanted to give relief to the other men. He said, 'Mom, who else is going to help out?' He just felt it was his duty," she said.

In Iraq, Jaussi said one of his main duties is to "make sure the AO (area of operation) is secure and basically hunt down all the terrorists that we can."

"We'd go to villages whenever we'd get reports of activities against us or against the people of Iraq," he said.

Jaussi is in the scout platoon of about 30 men who are in the "initial assault."

"You wait for the call and then you go," he said. "We enter the house in teams, and clear the entire premises – we go in and start yelling at everyone to get down on the floor and put everyone in zip cuffs, every single person we find until we find out the exact individual. We're busy all the time. We're always going out on missions."

His unit, 114, has detained almost 500 Iraqis, he said. After they are detained and processed, they turn the person over to the Iraqi government.

"It's always blood pumping and adrenaline rushing when you go in," Jaussi said.

Those intense experiences create a bond between the soldiers in his platoon.

"Our guys – we're all really tight. We're like brothers out there. We live together, we eat together, we're together all the time," he said.

The work is constant.

"It's pretty much all the time – you try to catch a few hours of sleep here, a few hours of sleep there," Jaussi said. "You're either always pulling security in a con-

crete tower on guard or out on patrols all the time. It's nonstop. You get used to it after awhile. Everything becomes muscle memory – you do it so much, it just becomes second nature to you and you don't even have to think when you do it."

His platoon's other main objective is training Iraqis.

"That's our main thing is trying to train them up and trying to get them used to the way of the military so they can eventually take over when we pull out," he said.

Jaussi said there is a discrepancy between the situation on the ground and news stories about the Iraq War that claim "we're not making headway there." He said there is a positive reaction to the U.S. military's efforts; in his area, the locals are grateful for the schools and the fire/police station they are building near the base.

"They like us over there. We're helping them out, building up their community," he said.

Children often approach the soldiers and ask for candy and talk to them, he said.

"The people don't really shun us anymore. You used to walk down the street and be all tensed up waiting for someone to pop out and do something, but now everyone's always smiling and saying hello. It's definitely a good feeling to know that you're making a difference over there," he said.

Still, there is crime and gang activity in Iraq "like anywhere," he said, and there are questions as to how it was possible for insurgents to launch the IED at Jaussi's convoy so close to the base. Because the Iraqi Army is responsible for securing the base's perimeter, he said, "Either they weren't paying attention, or someone was in there that shouldn't be.



Courtesy photo

Frederick High School graduate Tommy Jaussi is on his second tour of duty in Iraq. Jaussi serves in the Army infantry at a base north of Baghdad called Camp Taji.

"It wouldn't surprise me at all," he added.

He strongly believes that the Iraq War is helping keep Americans safe.

"I know for a fact that if we weren't over there fighting, we'd be fighting here on our own soil," he said.

Jaussi returned to Iraq on Oct. 30, where he will serve for another four to five months before returning to the U.S. He enlisted for three years of active duty, and can then be redeployed any time in the five subsequent years of service as an inactive ready reserve. But he doesn't plan to wait to be redeployed.

"As soon as I get back, I am going to talk to my chain of commander to see if I can get transferred over to Fort Carson so I can deploy with them in June to Afghanistan," Jaussi said. "That's where the fight's at right now, where they need the most help. They say all the terrorist groups are converging on Afghanistan."

When he gets out of active duty in January 2011, Jaussi wants to go on a mission through the Highland Lake Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, preferably to Spain, Germany or Italy, he said.

His mother credits their faith with keeping her strong while he is serving overseas.

"It's hard, but it's my faith," Newton said. "I believe he has a mission to fulfill here on earth besides his mission with the military, and so we just have it in the Lord's hands to protect him."

Naturally, she is very proud of him.

"You just have to admire these young men and women. They go and they could die," she said. "I can see he has really grown spiritually, emotionally, maturity ... he's a wonderful young man."

For his part, Jaussi is humble.

"I just want to fight to protect the ones I love back home," he said. "It's an honor and a pleasure to serve."

Bond rally promotes the need for school funds

(*Bond rally, from page 3*)

to get the programs we need or to staff the school adequately," Entrekin said. "All the schools need repairs. We will all benefit."

The rally, led by Dugan and Stischer, made two trips around Roosevelt Park and then headed to Main Street where participants received numerous honks from passing motorists.

"If the people want competitive schools in this district they are going to have to pay for it themselves," said John Poynton, communications manager for the district.

If ballot question 3A doesn't pass, the result could be a transportation fee for students who ride the bus, according to Don Haddad, deputy superintendent of schools.

"It would probably cost more per month to pay the transportation fee than the mill levy override,"

Haddad said.

Passing the bonds would cost taxpayers approximately \$67 more per month per \$100,000 of property value.

Haddad said the failure of 3A would most likely mean more program and staff cuts.

If 3B fails, Haddad said space would have to be found for more portables or the high school might have to go to split schedules or extended hours.

"All of the renovations for repair and safety would have to be put on hold," Haddad said, citing leaky roofs, outdated plumbing and heating and cooling systems.

"If people will take the time to really study the impact on property values and the community they will realize this is probably one of the best choices they will make, with or without kids in school," Haddad said.

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