



Soldier sends merry Christmas from Iraq

By Star Courier staff

TAJI, Iraq -- Sgt. Josh Newman, of Kewanee, sent greetings and a photo to friends and family back home about how he and members of the Galva National Guard unit are spending Christmas in Iraq and shared here by his parents, Jerry and Pat Newman:

Merry Christmas!

Well, another holiday is approaching and I of course have to work. I am currently guarding an Iraqi police station north of my camp. We are working 24 hours on and 24 hours off between two platoons. It is a fairly easy assignment, although the drive there is the worst. We have had three roadside bombs and a car bomb go off on us since we started the assignment. We haven't had any serious injuries though, thank God.

I will also be at the station when the New Year rolls in. Yippee!!!

I did hear a rumor that somehow we are going to get a hot meal on Christmas, that would be real nice. I do have to say that I will be happy to see 2005 because then it is only a couple short months before I come home.

A fellow soldier with us, Sgt. Dan Brokaw, has been drawing cartoons from over here. He got contacted by someone from back home who places cartoons on the web. He wrote a letter and sent in around nine cartoons and the guy posted some of them online. (See story on page 3)

I also enclosed a photo of myself perched on top of the police station manning the MK-19 automatic grenade launcher as my little way to say Merry Christmas to all of you back home.

Hope this finds everyone in good health and I hope you all have a good New Year.

God Bless!

Joshua Newman

[Friends reunited by 'Home for the Holidays'](#)

KEWANEE -- The philosophy to "live each day to the fullest" has become a daily routine for Kewanee resident Misty Bruno and her best friend,

Aundria Colgrove of Dallas, Texas.

[Unemployment increases locally](#)

Unemployment increased in November in the Tri-Counties, as all three counties saw increases in the unemployment rates reported by the state jobs office.

[Police blotter](#)

William L. Stevenson, 34, of Lake Village Apartments, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 48 mph in a 30 mph zone. He posted his driver's license as bond.

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[Fireman delivers baby in ambulance](#)

KEWANEE -- Thanks to the efforts of two Kewanee Fire Rescue Squad personnel, a new baby was literally delivered at the doorstep of the ER at Kewanee Hospital early Thursday morning.

[Kewanee woman wins chamber drawing](#)

KEWANEE -- Winners were drawn in the seventh annual Downtown Kewa-nee Christmas Giveaway Thursday afternoon.

[Students send gifts, cards to soldiers](#)

Far from Windmont Park's colored lights and the giant tree at the downtown intersection of Tremont and Second Streets, a hometown soldier stationed overseas receives a box with the familiar Kewanee postmark. He checks the return address; it's not his family's name. Curious, he opens the package to find candy, toiletries, socks, clothing, snacks -- all carefully boxed up with the Star Courier and other local newspapers.

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