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Guard turns computers over to school

By DAVE CLARKE Regional Coordinator

GALVA -- The Galva Lions Club and the Illinois National Guard have officially turned computers and other equipment used the past 10 months by the families of local soldiers serving in Iraq and other overseas posts over to GalFEE, an education boosters organization providing support for Galva schools.

The Lions Club raised \$2,300 to set up two computers equipped with monitors, keyboards, printers and webcams last May in the conference room at the National Guard Armory in Galva.

Lions members John and Sue Goodale and Frank Prosser spearheaded the project to help families who did not have home computers stay in touch with their loved ones in Iraq and elsewhere. The system was set up by IDC Tech Center, in Geneseo, which provided technical assistance whenever needed.

SSG Martin Gibson, the Galva unit's rear detachment officer who was stationed at the armory around the clock every day as a local contact for officers in Baghdad, also monitored the equipment and assisted users.

"Many families who already had computers got their own webcams and the center wasn't used as much as we initially had hoped," John Goodale said, "but there were quite a few people who didn't have access to a computer who used it to send and receive e-mails from their service member."

It is believed the project was the first community-based conference center for military families in the state.

The Galva unit was deployed Nov 1, 2004, and returned March 19.

Chuck Linscott, director of technology for the Galva School District, said one computer station will be shared by the speech therapist and school psychologist, who do not currently have access to their own computer.

The other will be used to produce the elementary and junior high yearbook.

The equipment will remain in the armory for at least the next 90 days for use by returning soldiers.

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[Henry County Sheriff](#)

Christopher Cooper, 20, of Cambridge, had a rollover accident at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday on Route 82 just south of County Hwy. 14 near Hillcrest Home when he lost control of the 1988 Mercury Cougar he was driving due to a large amount of snow and slush on the highway.

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