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KEWANEE
ILLINOIS



News from the front icon

By Star Courier staff

KEWANEE -- The family of a rural Kewanee soldier who recently arrived for duty in Iraq is raising funds to support the troops.

The family of Randy VanDeGenachte, a sergeant in Headquarters Battery, Kewanee National Guard, who volunteered to join Galva's F Battery on its mission in Iraq, is selling T-shirts and planning a poker run. The proceeds will go to the Galva Family Readiness Group to pay for items and postage to send care packages and supplies to the members of the unit, now stationed near Baghdad, according to VanDeGenachte's sister, Janette Senteney of Kewanee.

The poker run will be held Sunday, May 30 (Memorial Day weekend), and begin at Mary's Family Dining in Galva, proceed to the nearby hometowns of those serving with Battery F, and conclude at Cerno's in Kewanee. Details will be announced in the near future.

The shirts are available for a \$10 donation and are blue with Battery F's red, white and blue knife patch on the front. Artwork highlighting the three units, Galva, Kewanee and Dixon, which now are represented, and the 1st Cavalry, of which the unit is now part, is imprinted on the back.

VanDeGenachte, a 10-year member of the Kewanee National Guard, is a 1995 graduate of Annawan High School. He is the son of Richard and Cindy VanDeGenachte, rural Kewanee. Before deployment he was a union carpenter working in the Sterling-Rock Falls area.

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To purchase a shirt, or for information on the poker run, call Janette Senteney at (309) 854-9304, or Cindy VanDeGenachte at (309) 852-3914.

- KEWANEE -- Senior Airman (SRA) Jonathan Occhi of Kewanee is en route to Iraq where he will provide ground convoy security.

SRA Occhi is assigned to the Air Force's 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

He is a 1996 graduate of Kewanee High School and enlisted in the Air Force the same year.

He is the son of Gene and Debora Nanninga of Kewanee.

Send news and/or photos of area men and women on their way to, currently serving in, or home from Operation Iraqi Freedom to: "News from the Front," c/o Star Courier, P.O. Box A, Kewanee, Ill., 61443, or e-mail to: editor@starcourier.com.

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