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Chowan Guardsmen bid families, friends farewell

Company readies for deployment to war in Iraq

BY MELISSA DENTON
The Enterprise

WILLIAMSTON—Families and loved ones greeted 170 North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers from the 725th Quartermaster Company with cheers and applause as patriotic tunes sounded in the background on Thursday.

The deployment ceremony was held at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agriculture Center in Williamston.

The 725th Quartermaster Company, headquartered in Edenton with detachments in Elizabeth City (Det. 1), Scotland Neck (Det. 2) and a Storage Army in Windsor, is mobilizing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and held a farewell ceremony honoring their soldiers and their

families.

Bertie, Chowan, Halifax, Martin and Pasquotank county commissioners and other leaders were at the ceremony to bid the soldiers farewell.

James Deans, an Elizabeth City resident based out of the Edenton headquarters said, "I'm nervous (about going overseas). I hate to leave my family, but I'm ready to get it done and come home."

Echoing those same words was Reggie Aycock of the Edenton division. Aycock said, "It's my duty. It's just hard leaving your family." Aycock also resides in Elizabeth City.

The voyagers will attend training in: soldier operations, the current threats in Iraq, force protection and customs and culture in Iraq. All the soldiers will be trained as truck drivers.

After successfully completing training, they will deploy to Iraq.

Tim Asbell an active guardsman for four years said, "I've been ready to go ever since I got the call. My family's a little nervous, but I'm just ready to

get the mission done and bring everybody home." Asbell is a resident of Windsor based out of Edenton.

The unit will use the 915 Model Military Transport Tractor-Trailer, similar to the civilian 18-wheeler.

Fuel, lubricants and all classes of material will be transported by the unit's trucks.

The 725th continues the Guard and Reserve component commitment to Operation Iraqi Freedom by replacing the 125th Transportation Company, a Kentucky Army Reserve Unit.

Guard and Reserve units now account for 45 to 48 percent of U.S. ground forces in Iraq as of February.

This is the unit's first deployment to Iraq, though approximately 30 of the soldiers are going on their second Iraq deployment.

After the ceremony, the Martin County Red Cross, along with the help of Roanoke High School's Culinary Arts Class, fed the soldiers cake, sandwiches, vegetables and other refreshments.



Photo by Melissa Denton/The Enterprise/Williamston, NC

Reggie Aycock of the Edenton division gives his son, Tommy, 2, a bracelet to wear every day while he's gone. Tommy immediately put the bracelet on and gave his dad a big hug.

'Nip Joint' owner faces charges

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

An Edenton woman was arrested April 1 on charges of illegally selling alcohol from her East Albemarle Street resident.

Erma White, of 209 E. Albemarle St., was arrested after police found 13 liters of alcohol in her home, Edenton Police Chief Gregg Bonner said last week.

In addition, police discovered a number of plastic "shot" glasses, and a "large amount of money," the chief added.

It was not the first time police had raided White's home.

"She has been raided a few times in the past for illegal sales of alcohol," Bonner said.

Checks planned

To make sure parents are in compliance with the new regulations on car safety seats, free car seat checks will be held at Edenton Motors this Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

The Chowan SAFE KIDS Coalition is joining local law enforcement in sponsoring the event. Everyone is welcome.

Pilgrimage Days



Staff photo by Earline White

As this year's Pilgrimage weekend approaches, April 22 & 23, even the flowers are doing their part to get ready. Tickets for the Pilgrimage may be purchased at the Historic Edenton Visitor's Center, Barker House and Chowan Arts Council. The historic homes will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

BOE meetings to get earlier start

Edenton-Chowan Schools' Board of Education voted unanimously at its April meeting to begin meetings an hour earlier for the 2005-2006 school year.

Board member Ricky Browder amended the motion setting next year's meeting calendar to reflect the time change.

Browder said the change might make for greater efficiency for Central Office per-

sonnel who set up and attend the meetings.

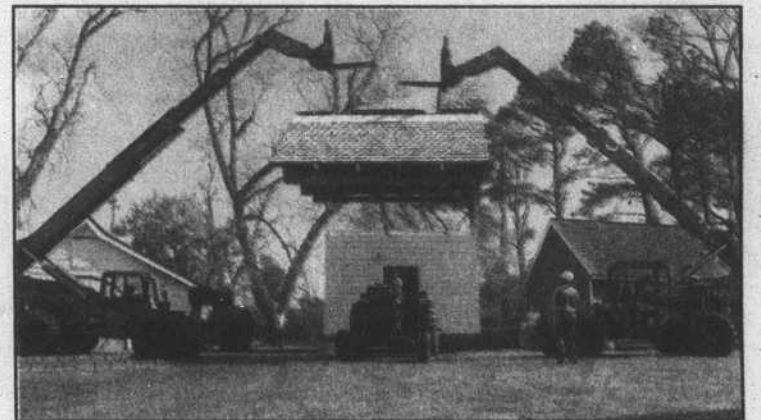
"They work all day on those Mondays," Browder said. "It makes sense that they would prefer to start the meetings earlier, rather than going home for a few hours and then having to turn around and come back for the meetings."

Assistant superintendent Rob Boyce echoed the feelings of many school system Central

Office employees with his reaction after the vote was taken: "Ricky Browder for president!" Boyce said.

The April board meeting followed a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners, where the two boards narrowed down issues on which they hope to concentrate when deciding the future direction

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Staff photo by Earline White

Worth Hare Jr. drives the restored Bandon Plantation smokehouse back to its roof for final placement at the James Iredell House Historic Site. Onsite crane operators were provided by Paul Waff Construction.

Bandon smokehouse relocates to Iredell historic site

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

A project long on the minds of Chowan County residents came to fruition last week as the Bandon Plantation Smokehouse was moved to its new resting place at the James Iredell State Historic Site on Church Street.

Members of the James Iredell Historical Association, Historic Edenton State Historic Site and the Edenton Historical Commission were on site as the one room smokehouse was moved carefully down Broad Street, slowing traffic at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

Built in 1828-29 and destroyed by fire in 1963, the Bandon Plantation was once home to Inglis Fletcher, renowned author of historical Carolina-based novels. At the Plantation, located 12 miles north of town, many dependent buildings of the main house remained including the kitchen (plans are in the works to salvage, restore, and relocate it in the future as well). Already restored and located at the State Historic Site are the office/schoolhouse and dairy of Bandon Plantation.

As with most historic locales, Edenton has always

been interested in preserving its history. The Bandon Smokehouse was no exception. The smokehouse was acquired by the Edenton Historical Commission and James Iredell Association from owners Karen Hollowell Turner and her husband Robert Turner in 2004. Plans were to restore it and move it to a designated site where everyone could enjoy the history offered by its weather worn walls.

But restoring the smokehouse was not a fresh interest for some NC residents. Reports by A. L. Honeycutt, Jr, Restoration Supervisor of the Division of Historic Sites and the State Department of Archives and History clearly stated in documents from 1967 that the smokehouse as well as the kitchen of Bandon Plantation "are significant and should be preserved." Honeycutt collaborated with Miss Elizabeth Vann Moore, local historian, and Mr. B. Warner Evans for the study.

The smokehouse measures 14'6" x 16'6" x 18" according to Honeycutt's report and shows great similarities to the other plantation structures. The overhanging roof is the same of the smokehouse, schoolhouse and kitchen as well as

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The Chowan Herald
is sponsoring a
Dressed to Thrill
prom picture contest.

Rocky Hook Youth Baptist Church
April 16, 2005
11am - 1pm 5pm - 7pm
Rescue Squad Building - Rocky Hook

6 per plate **Eat in or take out** **YOUTH FISH Fry**