Civil Air Patrol is organizing in Colorado County

By Captain Al Woods, Public Information Officer

The first question that likely comes to mind: "What's Civil Air Patrol?" If that's your response, you're not alone. Civil Air Patrol – or CAP for short – is a volunteer service organization with an aerospace theme. It has been characterized as one of America's best-kept secrets. But in fact, CAP is the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

CAP was originally organized and founded on the First of December 1941, a mere six days before the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. It was the brainchild of several of America's aviation leaders, and CAP was commanded by the Army Air Corps' General Hap Arnold.

One of America's greatest resources at the time – the entire civil air fleet – was destined to be grounded should the U.S. be attacked. (As was the case immediately following the attack on September 11th.) To make that resource a viable asset, private pilots and their airplanes were recruited in this civilian endeavor. Planes could be used for any number of tasks, from transporting critical war material, to pulling tow-targets, to patrolling the nation's coastlines. In the case of September 11th, a day later on September 12th, there were only two kinds of aircraft flying in the US; military (AF fighters) and CAP (damage assessment).

CAP has continued to grow and prosper since 1941. In 1948, the U.S. Congress incorporated Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent corporation, and made it the Air Force civilian auxiliary.

Today, CAP is active in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, with over 55,000 active members. Membership is open to everyone 12 years old and up, who are American citizens or legally admitted aliens. Those in the age range of 12 to 20 are cadet members, while all others are Senior Members. CAP is a federally sponsored program and is therefore subject to non-discrimination based on race, gender, country of origin, religion, or disability.

CAP promotes aviation and aerospace. CAP has the largest inventory of light aircraft of any U.S. corporation. CAP has three primary goals:

Search and Rescue. It is the primary agency in this country for the search for missing or overdue aircraft over land.

Aerospace Education. CAP is tasked to raise the level of awareness within the general public of the critically important role the aviation and aerospace industry plays in our economy and defense.

Cadet Program. To educate and involve our nation's youth in the aerospace environment, improve their physical fitness, and reinforce their moral and leadership qualities and abilities.

To give everyone a first hand explanation of how CAP works, and how it might benefit you, I invite you to visit us at Robert R. Wells Jr. Airport on Saturday, November 16th at any time between 8 AM and noon. The initial thrust of the meeting will be to recruit new senior members, with the goal of accepting cadets by the beginning of the next school year. There is no requirement for being a licensed pilot to join. We merely want adults who are interested in helping to make the organization run smoothly. There is a need for teachers, medical personnel, communicators, clerks, financial officers – CAP can use just about any skill.

For younger people who are interested in joining immediately, the Lone Star Composite Squadron in Bellville will take your application now. We meet every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at Grawunder Airport in Bellville.

Cadets can earn rich rewards in CAP. One of the more sought after events is the cadet Orientation flight. All cadets are authorized ten Orientation flights during their "careers." Five of these are in sailplanes – or gliders – and five in powered aircraft. Orientation flights are without cost to the cadets, the expenses being borne by the USAF.

Since the CAP has a military orientation, it teaches drill, customs and courtesies, and patriotism, along with aviation and aerospace subjects. Cadets wear military uniforms, identical to the Air Force uniform. But I want to assure you, there is no military obligation to the cadets as a result of enrollment. However, if cadets rise to a particular grade during their enrollment, and should they later decide to join the USAF, they will be rewarded by enlisting at an advanced pay grade. (E-3 instead of E-1)

Some cadets have gone on to learn to fly in CAP aircraft. CAP Texas Wing schedules a "Solo Encampment" each summer. Cadets at least 16 years old can apply. Unlike the Orientation Flights, the Solo Encampments are not free, but are significantly less expensive than comparable flight schools. Lone Star has had two graduates from the encampments in the last two years.

If this sounds like something that you – or someone you know – might be interested in, please join us at the Wells Airport on the 16th. There will be no cost or obligation for your attendance.

Some people aren't aware that Colorado County has a fine, general use public airport. But it does, just south of Columbus, on State Highway 71. Wells Airport is three miles south of IH-10. Come out and see the airport, its 3800 foot paved runway and some of the locally owned aircraft.

If you would like additional information about the CAP before the November 16th event, you can call me at 979-865-2141, email me captal@pdq.net or write to Lone Star Composite Squadron P.O. Box 1162 Bellville, TX 77418. You can also view the CAP website at www. capnhq.gov.

A group of Lone Star Squadron cadets relax after a day of glider orientation flights. *CAP Photo*

Chamber reports meeting

The regular business meeting of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce was held Monday, Sept. 16, at Taco Tony's Restaurant.

Directors present were President Mary Ann Kaluza, Vice President Denis Hentzell, Treasurer Denice Janow, Tom Kelley, Beverly Duddleston, Pat Matula, Margie Schuenemann, Gary Tise and Jane Lou Meldahl. Others present were Kara Supak, Rev. Stephen Whitfield, Len Matula and Joe Herbert McCreary. Missed were Doreen Disparti and Candy McCreary.

Kaluza called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Minutes of the Aug. 19 Chamber board meeting were reviewed and approved. The treasurer's report through Sept. 16 was reviewed and approved.

Kaluza welcomed all present and stated that Main Street would not have an Oct. Fall Festival, however, it may be rescheduled for Nov. Therefore, Kaluza opened discussion regarding the Chamber's Chili Cook Off scheduled in conjunction with the Oct. Festival. Following discussion, Tise moved the Chili Cook Off be canceled. Motion was seconded by Hentzell and carried.

Supak shared photos of pageant winners riding in the County Fair Parade. Kaluza shared newspaper photos with the Board also. The kids and float won "Best Overall Entry". Supak added that no Chamber Board Member or City Representative attended the Pageant and suggested the Chamber Board, membership, our city officials and community be more supportive of the Pageant and endeavors of the winners as they go out and represent our community.

Discussion followed on having Pageant winners present at other events and changing the "Spirit of Christmas" parade awards to entirely rosette ribbon awards, no trophies. Matula moved that the Chamber not purchase trophy awards for the "2002 Spirit of Christmas Parade", but instead should present winners rosette ribbons. The motion was seconded by Duddleston and carried.

Supak announced the winners and float would travel to Flatonia on Oct. 26 then appear in the Christmas parade. Discussion followed on pageant winner requirements and standards. Kaluza asked Supak and Schuenemann to bring information and recommendations back to the Board of Directors.

Janow gave a report on the Chamber's "Grande Goose Contest" including information on the shotgun and sign.

Dulany informed the Board regarding an offer from Duck's Unlimited to include the Chamber's web site and e-mail address linked onto the DU web site for a cost of $360. Kelley moved that the Chamber subscribe. Motion was seconded by Wiese and carried.

Kaluza opened discussion on the Chamber's tentative Nov. 10 "Salute To Veterans". Following much discussion, a motion was made by Matula, and seconded by Duddleston, the Chamber proceeds with hosting the event as a fundraiser, have a meal and program. Motion carried. Len & Pat Matula, Joe H. and Candy McCreary will work on the event.

Kaluza stated the Nominating Committee needed to seek replacements for Kaluza, Meldahl, Janow and Tise whose terms expire in Dec. Candidates must meet requirements set forth in the bylaws.

Wiese reported on the 2002 harvest, second crop status and hunting forecast.

Kaluza congratulated Main Street for the successful Tire Cleanup.

Meldahl announced that the RMC Golf Classic was to be held Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center Golf Course.

Duddleston opened discussion on the City's mosquito control.

Kelley discussed parade entries.

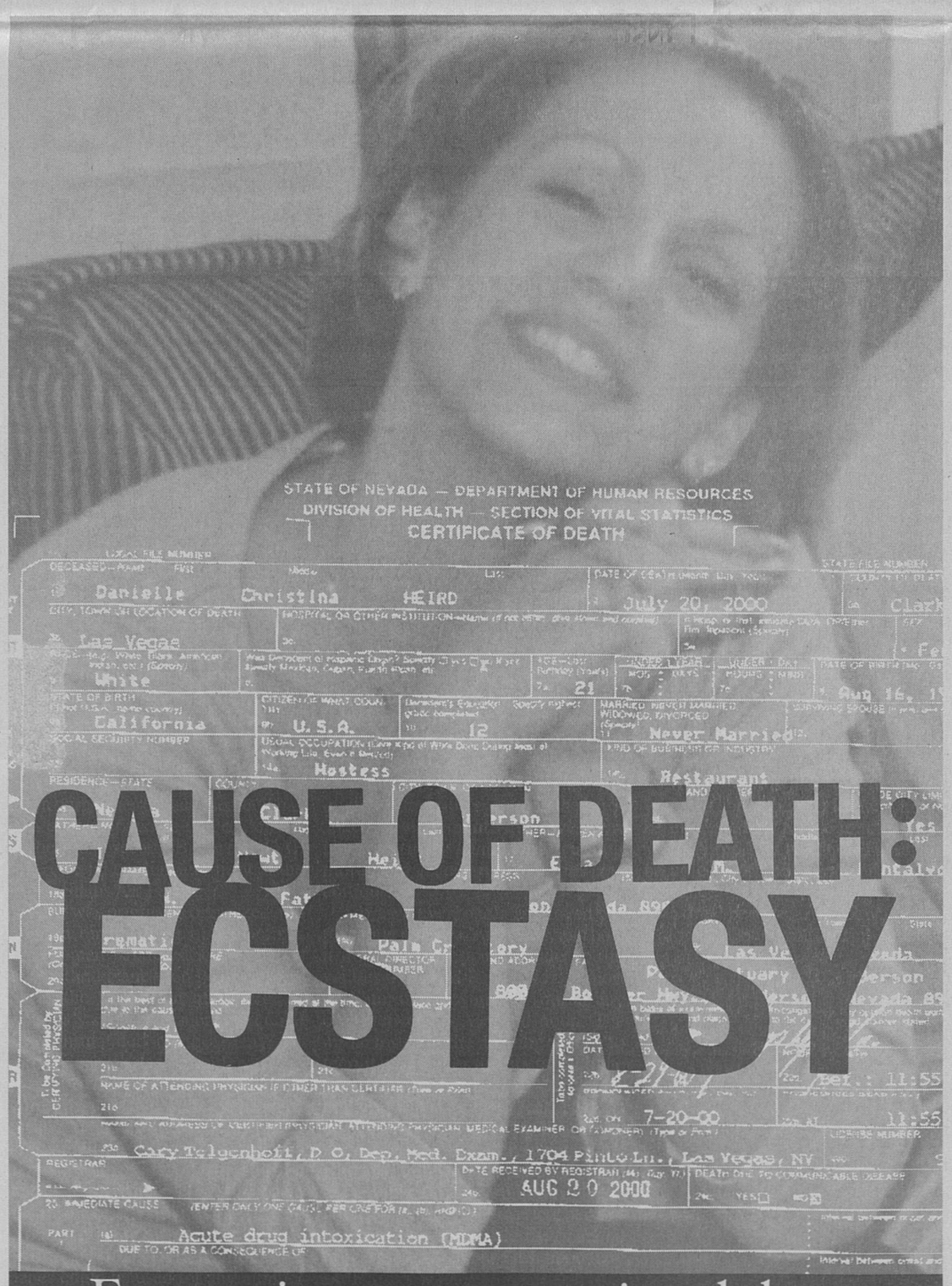
Kaluza announced next meeting was scheduled for noon Monday, Oct. 21, at Sportsman's Restaurant.

With there being no further business, Kaluza adjourned the meeting a 12:50 p.m.

Did You Know…

•The triathlon-1.5 kilometer swim, 40 kilometer bike ride and 10 kilometer run-became an Olympic event with the 2000 games in Sydney.

•The U.S. is the world's leading exporter of wheat and corn.



Ecstasy is not a recreational drug.
It killed Danielle.

Partnership for a Drug-Free Texas and America
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE
1-877-9 NO DRUG

Newsbriefs

Continued from Page 1

heart to all the gifts the universe has for you, while releasing the fear and anger in your life. Allow your spiritual light to shine Thursday, Nov. 7, 14, and 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. Please call 979-234-5936 for registration and/or information. Beverages will be served during the discussion period.

Senior Friends casino trip is Nov. 13

On Nov. 13, Senior Friends will travel to Harrah's Casino in Lake Charles, LA. Cost is $10 per person and you will receive a $10 food coupon at the casino. Please reserve your space by calling Robin at 979-282-6808.

Rising Star Cemetery Assoc. to hold fundraiser

The Rising Star Cemetery Association will be selling BBQ chicken dinners Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost of the dinners is $5.50 and includes barbecue chicken, green beans and potato salad. To place your order, call Pat Marshall at 234-7262 or Ruth Carter at 234-3042. Plates can be picked up at 237 Beard St. or delivered. All proceeds will benefit the community cemetery. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Junior Ushers Annual Day Service is Nov. 17

Please join and worship with Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 709 N. Lake Ave. on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. for their Junior Usher's Annual Day Service. Guest speaker will be Obie Rhodes, Pastor of White Cloud Missionary Baptist Church and Moderator of 20th Century District Association of Texas.

Variety shoot, youth fall festival is Nov. 17

St. Mary's Youth of Nada will hold their annual Variety Shoot & Youth Fall Festival Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Nada Community Center. The Variety Shoot will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., and will include a wide variety of prizes and rounds for women and children. The Festival will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Hamburgers, chili, pastries and other refreshments will be available. Activities include bingo, cake walk, silent auction, kid games, craft booths and conclude with a raffle drawing at 7 p.m.

WCJC registration underway

Wharton County Jr. College (WCJC) registration schedule for Spring 2003 Credit Classes will be held through Nov. 27. Students registering at the Wharton Campus may go directly to the Registrar's Office. Other who may need more information call the following campuses and numbers: 979-532-6303; Ft. Bend Technical Center & Richmond Campus, 281-239-1544; or Sugar Land Campus, 281-243-8410. Classes begin Jan. 13. 2003.

Masonic turkey fry fundraiser underway

The Second Annual Masonic Lodge Turkey Fry is set for Wednesday, Nov. 27. Purchase a ticket for a plain, Italian or Cajun turkey from any Mason or by calling Gary or Lisa Tise at 234-3698 by Nov. 20. Dressing and giblet gravy is available by calling Annie's Catering at 234-3220. Turkeys may be picked up at McCreary Auction House on Nov. 27.

Spirit of Christmas 2002 set for Dec. 7

The Eagle Lake 2002 "Spirit of Christmas" Parade sponsored by the City of Eagle Lake will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6:45 p.m. **Deadline for entries is Monday, Dec. 2.** Contact the Chamber Office for an entry form by calling 979-234-2780. You also should return your entry form to the Chamber Office, 121 N. McCarty or fax it to 979-234-2780.

RMC fundraiser is underway

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary (better known as the Pink Ladies) is selling tickets for a remote control truck. The truck has headlights, coil springs, low and high gears, and oversized tires. Tickets are $1 each for 6 for $5. The drawing will be held Monday, Dec. 9, just in time for Christmas. This remote controlled truck is ideal for boys (and girls and big boys also). Tickets are available in the gift shop at the hospital or call Barbara Pidgeon, 234-2897.

Legion to distribute toys at Christmas

American Legion Post #108 will again distribute toys to needy children in Eagle Lake. Parents or guardians may come to the Prairie Edge Museum from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday, Dec. 21, to receive toys for their children. Donations of both toys and money are needed by the Legion. New or very gently used toys and monetary donations may be left at Struss Auto Supply, Wallis State Bank or the Furniture Shoppe.

"Lone Star Tree" drawing to benefit Y&FS

In addition to the Holiday Homes Tour Dec. 1, the Columbus Christian Women's Organization is selling tickets for a drawing for a 7-foot decorated Christmas tree. The "Lone Star Tree" is on display at the Columbus Health & Fitness Center on Milam St. in Columbus. The tree has many hand crafted ornaments as well as a complete collection of the official State of Texas collectible ornaments. Two-dollar tickets for the drawing can be purchased at Corner Drug Store and The Style Shop in Columbus, The Collection and Creative Expressions in Weimar, Heinsohn's in Frelsburg and Schultz's in New Ulm. This fundraiser benefits Youth and Family Services (Y&FS).

Volunteer firemen attend fire school

Jason Neuendorff, Volunteer Fireman with the Frelsburg Fire Department attended the 73rd Annual Municipal Firemen's Training School July 21-26 attended by nearly 2,000 students, representing about 750 cities from more than 25 states, at Texas A&M University campus.

Colorado County Farm Bureau and Texas Farm Insurance Companies who contributed toward the cost of the school sponsored Neuendorff. Since volunteer firemen are interested in attending this school to help do a better job for fire fighting and fire prevention, 125 county Farm Bureau and Texas Farm Insurance Companies in the statewide program has sponsored 125 firemen at the school.

Presenting a check to Neuendorff, in the center, and Fire Chief Marvin Becker, left, is Dean Venghaus, CCFB director. *CCFB Photo*