



Katie Dunn The Paper

Chris Schramm (front right), cadet commander, and Andrew Patterson (front left), cadet squadron commander, address fellow cadets in the Barrow-Jackson Civil Air Patrol Squadron-GA 156 during a recent meeting

CAP is building leaders

By KATIE DUNN
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WINDER — An uneasy silence settled outside the Winder Cultural Arts Center last Thursday.

Standing at attention, nine cadets from the Barrow-Jackson Civil Air Patrol Squadron-GA 156 watched as two of their comrades grunted out several push-ups, a self-imposed punishment.

With the sun just beginning to dip below the horizon, the two cadets, both first lieutenants, finished and rose to address the group.

Chris Schramm, cadet commander, a wiry teen with a fresh buzz cut, appeared well beyond his 19 years as he explained to the steadfast group the reason for the push-ups. Beside him, Andrew Patterson, cadet squadron commander, stood silently.

During a previous meeting, the group failed to secure seven radios before leaving for the night; the squadron meets Thursday evenings at the center. If a radio had disappeared, replacing it would have been expensive, said Capt. Marc Lacrimosa, the squadron's adult co-commander.

Schramm and Patterson, the squadron's highest ranking cadets, accepted responsibility for the misstep.

"I don't know how you're going to make it up to these guys, but you're going to explain what happened and make it up to them," Lacrimosa told them.

And that was that. No other punishment followed, just enough guts to accept the blame and the humility to spend a couple of minutes with their noses to the ground.

With an easy laugh and "Yes, ma'am," following each reply, Schramm said he joined Civil Air Patrol (CAP) five and a half years ago, another step toward answering his military calling. Before graduating earlier this year, Schramm also served as lieutenant colonel in Winder-Barrow High School's Junior ROTC program.

Military life runs in his blood. Both his father and grandfather served in the U.S. Navy and his father also spent time in the National Guard.

Schramm still hopes to follow in their footsteps, but the fact that he is colorblind may sideline his quest permanently. Still, the college freshman assertively professes that the military remains "a big part of my life."

CAP can open the door to a military career, but it also cultivates other real world worthy attributes.

The volunteer organization is the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, though it is not an operating reserve component for the military branch or federal government.

Instead, CAP members provide emergency services, including search and rescue (air and ground), disaster relief operations, aerospace education and cadet programs for teens.

Patterson, a reserved home-schooled high school senior, joined Jackson County's cadet program his freshman year. Four years later, the 17-year-old can recite the organization's major tenets with impressive ease. Among the skills he's learned, discipline and aerospace training have had the most impact.

Nationwide, CAP operates single-engine general aviation aircraft that it uses for various missions, including orientation flights for cadets and emergency services. As a result of this in-flight training, some cadets go on to receive their pilot's license.

Patterson has completed three flights so far; he hopes soon to go on a glider flight.

"It's a lot of fun to learn

about planes," he said. "Once you learn what's keeping you off the ground, it adds a whole new dimension."

Patterson said he doesn't yet know if he will pursue a pilot's license. It all depends on where he goes to college, he explained. Long-term, he hopes to achieve a doctorate in molecular biology.

One pending achievement, the General Billy Mitchell Award, will likely expand the list of potential colleges where he can begin this pursuit.

The honor is one that only 15 percent of CAP cadets achieve. With it, Patterson will be promoted to cadet second lieutenant. Cadets vying for this award must pass a series of leadership, aerospace and physical fitness tests as well as attend a military-style encampment. Patterson said he completed his encampment at Fort Gordon where he had the chance to shoot M-16 rifles, ride in Black Hawk helicopters, rappel and complete orientation courses.

The squadron's adult commanders, Lacrimosa and Capt. MJ Bridges, agree that CAP instills a sense of leadership, community service and discipline in its members.

"The leadership that they're doing in these drills, it's the leadership of tomorrow and I think it's going to be a good leadership because they've got a lot of positive things going on for them," said Bridges.

Until recently, Bridges was commander of Jackson County Squadron-GA 148 and Lacrimosa commander of Barrow County Squadron-GA 156.

With both groups located a short drive from each other and with the chance to foster more cohesiveness, both commanders decided to merge the squadrons.

"We just started talking about it and it seemed like a good thing to do," said Bridges.

Currently, 14 adults volunteer with the squadron and 46 cadets are listed on its roster. With the merger, though, Lacrimosa expects that figure to grow to 65.

The group recently snagged a new member, too, one with a famous face. Bridges coerced former President Jimmy Carter into joining their charter. The paperwork to officially recognize him is in progress, she said.

Bridges' involvement with CAP began when her daughter, Haley Kiser, now

18, joined Barrow County's squadron five and a half years ago. Though her daughter doesn't attend anymore, Bridges still drives from Comer, almost an hour one way, each Thursday.

For many cadets, CAP provides a positive influence and second home, she said.

"I think it gives them a sense of belonging," she said. "It gives them a place to go; it gives them another extended family."

It even helped her daughter, who lost her father early in life, find a father figure with Lacrimosa. "Marc is a good leader," she said. "He mentors the kids, he actually cares about them."

In 2003, fresh back from a deployment to Cuba with the National Guard, Lacrimosa began helping with Barrow County's squadron. He took a break when he was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, but faithfully resumed the helm when he returned.

Overall, Lacrimosa spent 12 years with the U.S. Army and served in the National Guard from 1999-2005. He now works as a School Resource Officer in Barrow County and owns a small knife business.

For Schramm, CAP helped him move away from bad choices in his life. Now, as a mentor to the squadron's younger members, he hopes to share those same lessons.

"It helped me grow as a person," he said. "I'd like to teach them (younger cadets) not to make the same mistakes that I did and also to be proud of themselves, that's what I try to instill in everybody."

Barrow-Jackson Civil Air Patrol Squadron 156

What: Open to youth ages 12-21 and senior members 18 and older
Where: Winder Cultural Arts Center, 105 E. Athens St., Winder
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursdays
More: <http://capga156.hosenose.net>

Upcoming Events:
5th annual Autumn Fly-In & Aviation Day, Nov. 13, Jackson County Airport, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Hoschton Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 13, downtown Hoschton, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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New Music Leaders
New Liberty UMC is pleased to announce a new Music & Worship Director, Mr. Greg Gray. Greg is a UGA graduate now completing a second B.S. degree in voice music. Greg is a skilled soloist, musician and leader.
Contemporary music is led by Mr. Rick Hutcheson, a layman who recently joined the New Liberty Church team.

Sunday School	9:45
Coffee & Fellowship	10:30
Worship	11:00

New Liberty United Methodist
www.Newlibertyumc.org

Veterans to be honored

By KATIE DUNN
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Ralph Waldo Emerson might best have summed up why we are forever indebted to our military servicemen and women.

In his poem, "Concord Hymn," Emerson wrote: "Spirit, that made those heroes dare To die, and leave their children free, Bid Time and Nature gently spare The shaft we raise to them and thee."

Though Emerson's tribute hails those who fought more than 200 years ago in the American Revolution, its message still holds true for today's soldiers.

Today, more than 765,000 Georgia residents are military veterans, with 566,000 of them considered to be war veterans, according to Veterans Affairs. Nationwide, the VA reports that more than 23 million Americans are military veterans.

In honor of Veterans Day, celebrated each year on Nov. 11, several local events have been planned to honor area veterans and their families.

Jefferson High School will hold a Veterans Day assembly at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Nov. 11. Harvie Lance, commander of the American Legion Albert Gordon Post No. 56, said members from the post will attend that ceremony.

West Jackson Middle School will hold its annual Veterans Day Celebration at 9 a.m. on Nov. 12 in the school gym. Lance will speak at this event. Students are also creating a "Wall of Honor" in the school's atrium that will feature names of area military veterans. For more information on the event or to submit a name for the "Wall of Honor," visit <http://www.jackson.k12.ga.us/wjm/>.

Hoschton will hold a Veterans Day Celebration starting at 11 a.m. on Nov. 13 in

City Square. Activities will include patriotic music, presentations and recognition of all veterans.

Veterans, their families and the community are encouraged to attend. Festivities will begin with a presentation by the American Legion Albert Gordon Post No. 56's color guard and Jackson County Comprehensive High School's Junior ROTC. At noon, Hoschton Mayor Erma Denney and city council members will display a 50-foot American flag.

Other entertainment will be provided by the Jackson County Comprehensive High School band and Center Stage Bluegrass Band. All veterans will be recognized and presented with an American flag. Those who have been awarded a Purple Heart will receive special recognition.

Additionally, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a nationwide motorcyclist organization that attends funerals for fallen servicemen and women, will attend.

For more information, call organizer Charles Ford at 770-656-9841.

In Barrow County, the annual Veterans Day commemoration at Barrow Memorial Gardens will be led by retired Air Force Col. John O. Mobley, who has been involved with the event on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour for 35 years. Longtime chaplain of American Legion Post 53, Mobley said the Legion post is in peril of closing without active involvement from other area veterans who want to have a strong post.

The names of those Barrow Countians who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving overseas on active duty during wartime will be read during the short commemoration in the veterans area of Barrow Memorial Gardens on Atlanta Highway in Winder.

FLY-IN from page 1A

Car show, activities, ball drop set

Hilary Swank, Richard Gere and Ewan McGregor.

Additionally, a replica — one of just three — of the Air Force One that former President Ronald Reagan used during his presidency (1981-89) will be on display inside one of the airport's hangars.

Botts said the first 50 feet of the plane's fuselage is featured.

"The cabin area is decked out exactly as it was when he (Reagan) flew it and you can go on it," he explained. "It's a 727 that's been made to look like a 707, which was the president's airplane back in those days."

A car show will also be featured with an estimated 100 vehicles expected to enter. Vendors selling food, from barbecue to popcorn, and other merchandise, from T-shirts to hats, will also attend.

Bouncy inflatables for children will

be brought in, and Botts said a helicopter candy drop and golf ball drop will also take place.

People can purchase numbered golf balls and then a helicopter will drop them. The person's golf ball that lands closest to a designated target will win a prize.

All proceeds from this year's event will go to support the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County.

5th annual Autumn Fly-In & Aviation Day

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 13
Where: Jackson County Airport, 500 Sky Harbor Way, Jefferson
Cost: Free
More Info: <http://www.jcaviation.org/>

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