

U.M. Army marches into Freestone county . . .

Students reach out to assist elderly

Participants in the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth began work in Fairfield and Teague last week completing home repairs and maintenance needs for area residents unable to help themselves.

The group, also known as U.M. Army, included 26 adult leaders and 43 high school students from Dickinson Center, Dickinson, Houston, Missouri City, Mont Belvieu, Mount Vernon, Santa Fe and The Woodlands.

After arriving last Sunday, the students were divided into nine teams and assigned to residences in and around Fairfield and Teague.

Work included completing carpentry work, interior and exterior painting, hanging sheet rock, completing minor roofing repairs and fixing porches, screen doors, handrails and ramps.

The sites were selected by referrals made through First United Methodist Church of Fairfield, Saint James United Methodist Church of Teague, and Fairfield home health care agencies.

While they completed their work, the students and their leaders were housed in classrooms at Fairfield's FUMC.

Every morning they ate breakfast at the church and made sack lunches before heading off to their work sites.

In the field the students worked as a team assessing the needed repairs and determining how best to correct them.

They would assign each other tasks, take measurements, break out the paint brushes and even use a power tool or two.



U.M. ARMY students John Rankin and Tim Burton replace a screen door for a resident in Wildwood.

For many homeowners the service provided by U.M. Army was a lifeline.

At one residence students repaired a wheelchair ramp and hand rail, making the home safer and more accessible to its owner.

Teague ladies receive free tests

Several Teague ladies were treated to a day in Waco last week that included free mammograms, courtesy of Texas Breast Cancer Awareness and the EOAC community service center.

The ladies left Teague in a van provided by Pleasant

Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and were met in Bellmead by a limousine.

First stop was the Hillcrest Breast Center in Waco, where each woman was screened.

After tests, the ladies were taken, again by limousine, to lunch at Sironia Austin Avenue, and then escorted back to the van in Bellmead. Each guest also received shirts, bracelets, pins and other gifts.

"It was a day of being treated like royalty," one of the attendees remarked.

Next screening trip is set Aug. 27. Criteria for selection is: not insured, under-insured, at risk of breast cancer, or 40 years of age and have not had a mammogram.

Ladies who meet the criteria and would like to attend should call case manager Mary Daniels at 254-739-5355 or Doris Nealy at 254-739-2167.



MAKING REPAIRS for an elderly resident in Freestone county are, l-r, John Rankin, Tiffany Ruizo, Seth Grant, Ryan Carr, Will Radican, Tim Burton and Whitney Schoening.

For more than 30 years, U.M. Army has been completing mission work around the nation in Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Hampshire and Pennsylvania. The organization has over 4,000 participants and working on 1,700 projects this summer.

At DOXA Center . . .

Juneteenth celebrated

Truevine DOXA Center hosted its first Juneteenth celebration June 19.

An official reading of the Juneteenth Proclamation was read by Freestone county judge Linda Grant to kickoff the outdoor event.

The festival included a kids' zone, with moon-walk, water balloons and various games, a concession stand with hot dogs, popcorn, sausage on a stick, root beer floats and beverages.

A traditional cake walk netted 10 winners, and the stage was the location of the talent showcase, featuring poetry readings, singers and dancers. Jazz trio "Natural Sounds" provided entertainment throughout the day.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers,



"STILL I RISE", a poem by Maya Angelou, was recited by Erica Lyle at the Fairfield Juneteenth event.

led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston with the news that the war had ended and the slaves had been freed.

Some are hidden . . .

ADA covers all disabilities

People sometimes have impairments that are not obvious, such as Epilepsy,

Dyslexia, and Depression. Under the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment (Section 2.2).

When a person has a hidden disability, this does not necessarily mean an accommodation is needed. For instance, a sales representative who has a learning disability might have excellent customer service skills and exceed the employer's sales expectation. The EEOC manual also states, "If a job applicant or employee has a hidden disability, it is up to that individual to make the need for an accommodation known" (Section 3.6). However, if the need for accommodation does arise, disability awareness and reasonable medical documentation can help facilitate the process. When the employer and the employee with a disability agree to seek an effective accommo-

dation, making a good faith effort to work together can foster understanding and dispel misperceptions about hidden disabilities.

Information is provided by Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living.



Thanks to **Davis Group #1** for buying my hog for \$1,900 at the Freestone County Fair. Thanks also to **Marathon Oil** for the ad-on to bring the total to \$2,000.

Eli Pratt
Fairfield FFA

4th of July Rodeo July 2-4

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Thank You
to Noelle Glass and Daniels' Exxon for buying my pig at the Freestone County Fair.

Kalyn Caffey