

Operation Round Up . . .

Electric Coop supports food pantry

River of Life Community Food Pantry in Fairfield received a helping hand last week in a donation from the Operation Round Up program of Navarro County Electric Cooperative.

Operation Round Up board member Kelly Black presented a \$2,000 check to food pantry director of operations Roger Wilson to assist in the organization's work.

The pantry was opened in 2004 to provide food to any Freestone county resident in need.

Last year the organization distributed 75,053 pounds of food to individuals and families.

A breakdown shows that 926 families and 3,039 individuals received assistance.

The pantry operates two food programs, The Regulars and The Hope Program. The Regulars program is for individuals and families under the age

of 60 who meet pantry requirements, and the Hope program is for senior citizens aged 60 and over.

The two programs provide enough food for approximately 4-7 days and participants can receive food once per month.

On average, the Hope program helps 250 senior citizens a month and the Regular program helps 75 families and 265 individuals each month.

Operation Round Up gathers and disburses funds to individuals and organizations for food shelter, health needs and clothing.

Funds are distributed in the Navarro Electric service area of Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

Disbursements are limited annually to \$2,500 for an individual and \$10,000 to an organization, but may be increased by a two-third vote by the board of direc-



ACCEPTING A \$2,000 CHECK from the Navarro County Electric Coop Operation Round Up program is River of Life Food Pantry representative Roger Wilson, left. Presenting the check is Round Up member Kelly Black of Fairfield.

tors.

The program is funded through voluntary contributions from co-op members, its electric customers.

Operation Round Up derives its name from a "rounding up" of monthly electric bills by customers, with the rounded up portion going to the program. For example, a monthly bill of \$32.73 would be rounded up to \$33, with the additional 27 cents going to the Round Up fund.

Navarro Electric sees the program as an extension of the concept of neighbor helping neighbor that built the electric cooperative.

In 2009, Operation Round Up distributed \$41,875 to 13 charitable organizations.

The Operation Round Up board meets quarterly to consider applications for assistance.

Serving on the board are chairman Eddie Ross of Corsicana, Dr. Kent Rogers of Corsicana, Lynn Pike of Waxahachie, Gail Moran of Corsicana and Mrs. Black of Fairfield.

Bob Bowman's East Texas . . .

Column features county sheriff

Laughs with a Lawman

I suspect that the best-read column in **The Fairfield Recorder**, a weekly newspaper in East Texas, is Sheriff Ralph Billings' report on criminal activity in Freestone County.

When the local 911 dis-

patcher received a call from a young caller, she told her that her five-year-old brother had shot their Dad with a BB gun, killed him "graveyard dead," and had buried the father in the back yard. The caller wanted someone to come to the home, arrest the five-year-old and dig up Dad.

The 911 dispatcher finally located the boys' mother and found that Dad didn't even live in Texas, and there was no homicide.

Billings reported that seven dead hogs were found on U.S. Highway 84 between the Country Club and the Boyd prison unit. He said a Texas Department of Transportation employee was enroute "to perform graveside services."

Billings also wrote that a young lady reported that her ex-boyfriend called her and wanted to come over. She explained she had company. The ex boyfriend broke her window and fled on his bicycle.

In another report, Billings commented that

Oakwood had a goat problem, but noted that it had been alleviated when six or seven goats were found loose in the downtown area and had been arrested by the chief of police.

In the community of Wortham, a driver took a spin around the local nursing home, ended up crashing through a fence, and was apprehended by the Wortham police department. The man, it turned out, was wanted on a parole violation from Austin.

A police officer told 911 he was trying to pull over a woman motorist, but she said she would pull over only when she got to a street light at Streetman. Stopped by another policeman, the woman said she would pull over when she got to a service station. "Heard no more on this," wrote Billings, "and assumed she eventually stopped somewhere . . . further assume it was where she wanted to."

Billings also reported that a lady from Wortham

said a possum had gotten into her deep freeze, and wanted to know what to do. Billings advised her to "keep him cold, serve him with potatoes and carrots and onions, cook him at 325 degrees, and serve with cornbread on the side and Blue Bell for dessert."

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 40 books about East Texas. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

MLK Day proclaimed in county

A proclamation naming Jan. 18 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Freestone county was signed last week by county judge Linda Grant. Also participating were Fred Blair, Billy Burns, Joycie Burns, Fay Thomas, Gloria Dixon and Paula Lott.

Several activities are planned Monday including a parade and a program on the courthouse lawn at noon.

IN APPRECIATION

We, the Cox family, wish to thank all of our family and friends for your kind words of sympathy, florals, and most of all your prayers. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much for whatever part.

The Family of J. C. Cox

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