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 Lourdine Florek, owner

Historian takes part in Alamo's 175th anniversary events

When Rossville's Kevin Young was only four years old, his family went to see John Wayne's "The Alamo" at the old Dixie Drive-In north of Danville. While his parents, along with his older brother and sister enjoyed the movie, "The Alamo" made a lasting impact on Young's life.

Last week, in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the siege of the Alamo, Young returned to Texas, where he spent over 25 years working in historical site management, interpretation and historical research.

During those years working in Texas history, Young spent countless hours doing research at the Alamo li-



Photo contributed
 Rossville historian Kevin Young
 from the IMAX movie "Alamo:
 Price of Freedom."

brary, as well as serving as consultant for the Alamo's Wall of History project. He also worked for eight years with the San Antonio IMAX, having been the historical consultant for the film, "Alamo: The Price of Freedom."

Inside the quiet solitude of the church at the former Spanish Mission turned Texan fort, Young was part of a special ceremony honoring the defenders of the Alamo, 175 years to the day of the battle that sparked the cry of "Remember the Alamo," and led to the independence of Texas from Mexico. He read the touching letter written by Alamo Commander William Barret Travis only days before the men inside, including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie were killed by the troops of President General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

Lee Spencer White, seventh generation Texan and founder of the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association, said the Travis letter is significant to American history because it is addressed not only to the people of the Republic of Texas, but to "all Americans of the world." She said the letter "stretches across time and stirs passion for the cause of liberty." Travis asks for aid in fighting for "all that is dear" and ends the letter with "Victory or Death!" Looking back, we know it ended with the latter for Travis and his men. The number of men varies depending on the source, from 182 to 257.

See ALAMO on other side

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Alamo continued from other side

White predicted many tears, including her own, will be shed during the letter's reading because of its emotional content.

She chose Young to read "one of the most famous letters of the 19th century, not only because he does it well, but because he read it at the group's first candlelight remembrance ceremony in 1994." Young is also the only person she knows who can recite the entire letter by memory, and that when she called to ask him to participate that "he started reciting it straight away."

Membership in the Descendants organization is around 250 direct and lateral descendants. Young is an honorary member. White's ancestor was a 56-year old Artillery non-commissioned officer, Gordon C. Jennings, whose father and grandfather from Connecticut fought in the Revolutionary War. Jennings moved to

Police News



A 41-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 4:26 p.m. Monday that her vehicle had been scratched several times.

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Monday: Taco Salad, Meat Loaf
Tuesday: Beef/Chicken & Noodles
SPECIAL COSMIC BOWLING
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Wednesday: Ribeye Sandwiches, Spaghetti
Open Bowling all evening \$2.50
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Saturday: Open Bowling
Open Bowling 1-close
COSMIC BOWLING 6-close
Sunday: Swiss Steak 11-1:30
Open Bowling 12-4

**Coming March 19 - Bar Stool Golf
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Texas from Missouri a few years before the Texas Revolution.

Asked to comment on being part of this event, the usually talkative Young, who can spend half an hour describing in great detail the military uniforms of any particular era in American history, down to the number, style and placement of buttons, simply said, "I just feel honored." You could hear that same emotion in his voice that Lee Spencer White had talked about, and you could tell that his mind had drifted back to Sunday, March 6, 1836.

The candlelight ceremony inside the Alamo will be the culmination of a weeklong observance. Young said one Illinoisan, Jonathan Lindley was in the Alamo at the time of the siege, and Ben Moore of Attica, Ind., claimed to be a survivor of the Alamo.

Young is co-founder of the recently revived Ward Hill

Obituaries

LaBOUNTY - Dale M. LaBounty, 90, of Rossville, died at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. He will be cremated. There will be no visitation. Private family service will be held at a later date. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston, was in charge of arrangements.

VILLALOBOS - Maria Guadalupe "Cona" (Gomez) Villalobos, 50, of Dunnington, Ind., formerly of La Grulla, Tex., died March 6, 2011, at Clarian Arnett Hospital, Lafayette, Ind. Funeral Mass was at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Mary Catholic Church, Dunnington. Visitation was 4-7:30 p.m. at the church. Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, Dunnington. Memorials are suggested to the family. Shoemaker Funeral Home, Otterbein, Ind., was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Villalobos is survived by a sister, Sally Gomez Colunga, of Hoopeston

Weather



Rain likely today, rain/snow tonight. High 52, low 31. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 40, low 27.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Lamon Civil War Roundtable, a professional historian, author of two books, and contributor to publications and television shows about the Old West and the Alamo. He has also been technical advisor and actor in movies including "North and South," "Glory," and the "Rough Riders."

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HOOPESTON - COZY 2-Bedroom 1-Bath Unit. Full basement. Walk to shopping, quiet area. NO PETS. \$475 + deposit. 624 S. 8th. Available April 1, 2011. 4 plex across from the park. Do not disturb the tenant. Call for more info. 217-260-2546.

HELP WANTED

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is taking applications for Teacher Qualified Applicants. Stop in to fill out an application and bring your college transcripts with a resume. Mustard Seed is located in the Rossville High School Building. Call 217-748-6370 for more information.

Hoopeston Area Community Unit School District #11 is seeking applications for Payroll Clerk. This is a 12 month position. Background in payroll/accounting is required. Application is available online only—www.hoopeston.k12.il.us, click on Vacancies/ Application. Deadline for application is March 31, 2011. Tentative start date is May 2, 2011.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom duplex for rent. two story, central air, garage, stove & fridge included. \$425 per month, \$425 security deposit. No pets, No smoking, references required. For application, call (217) 304-6547.

2 BR duplex. Water, trash included. \$350/mo. (217) 304-2145

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Blue Mustang Power Wheels—excellent condition. \$75. Call (217) 283-4726.

NOTICES

The Vermilion County Housing Authority is looking for mowing bids for Parkview Ct in Hoopeston. Must include in bid fee for weekly mowing, Trimming, Blow-off Stoops, and fall leaf clean up. Starting Aprx April 15, 2011 until the end of mowing season. Must be insured. Bids will be accepted Until Friday March 11 at the Rossville office. Contact 217-748-6812

RUMMAGE SALES

CISSNA PARK: 113 Tracy Dr. Thurs., 4-7 p.m., Fri., 7-11 a.m. 3 family indoor sale. For more information call (815) 867-0161.

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