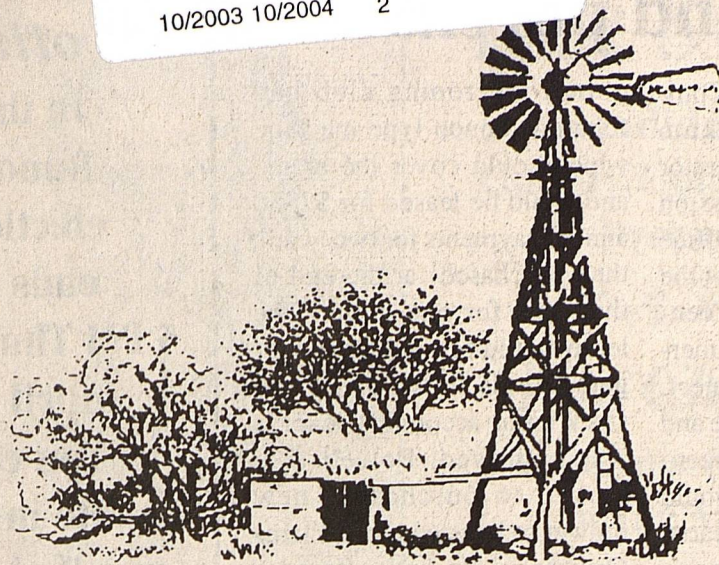


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume X, Issue 30, April 7, 2004



BAZE, BOOKBINDING
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Runoff election results less than week away

Four Plains and Yoakum County residents, their families and friends, are rapidly approaching the big 'ER' day, which will occur fairly early the evening of April 13 - the tallying of ELECTION RETURNS in the hotly contested races for the Precinct 3 Commissioner job, and for the County Tax Assessor-Collector position. When results are posted in the courthouse next Tuesday, one male and one female candidate will be free to celebrate and thank supporters. The other two competitors will probably congratulate the winners, and spend considerable time wondering what else they could have done for more support. All four have spent countless hours, and considerable dollars, the last few months in the two campaigns.

Karen Bearden and Jan Parrish, both running as Republicans, have worked long and hard for the top spot in the County Tax office. Ty Earl Powell, the incumbent Pct. 3 Commissioner and challenger Rex Swann, both Democrat candidates, will learn who is to be the runoff victor and will face Republican candidate Tim Willis in the November General Election.

Early voting for the runoff election continues until 7 PM Thursday, April 8. Plains voters should cast ballots at the courthouse, and the Denver City polls are at the Tax Office. The regular election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13.

If you have not cast your ballot for these two very important positions, we urge you to do so before the final polls close.

Winners named in Lea County Electric Youth Tour Contest



Winners of the 2004 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest sponsored by Lea County Electric Cooperative were announced recently by Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services for the Cooperative.

The high school students whose essays and subsequent interviews qualified them for an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. are LaShonda Diamond and Bridgette Gonzales. Diamond, 18, is the daughter of Charles and Donna Diamond of Plains, and is a senior at Plains High where she is captain of the cheerleading squad, drum major for the band and member of the student council. She also plays basketball and volleyball. LaShonda plans to study marine biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Gonzales, 17, is the daughter of Ruben and Mari Gonzalez of Lovington and is a junior at Lovington High, where she is a member of the Key Club, Big Blue Band and the Junior Ambassadors. She also plays volleyball, basketball and track.

The Youth Tour winners were chosen from among a field of five finalists after a round of interviews by a three judge independent panel. The finalists had been previously selected by

another panel of independent judges from among a group of area high school students who submitted responses to several essay questions.

The third place prize of \$200 was awarded to Melissa Augustine, a sophomore at Tatum High; Kymbre Hayes, a sophomore from Lovington High was selected for the \$125 fourth prize; and Trey Groesbeck, a junior from Tatum High was awarded the \$75 fifth prize.

Diamond and Gonzales will join approximately 100 other students from New Mexico and Texas who have been selected as representatives of rural electric cooperatives through contests similar to the one sponsored by Lea County Electric. During the nine day trip to the nation's capital, the winners will visit with their congressmen and senators, and four sites of historical significance including the Smithsonian, Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. Around 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives in 38 states will meet in Washington for the 41st National Rural Electric Youth Tour as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

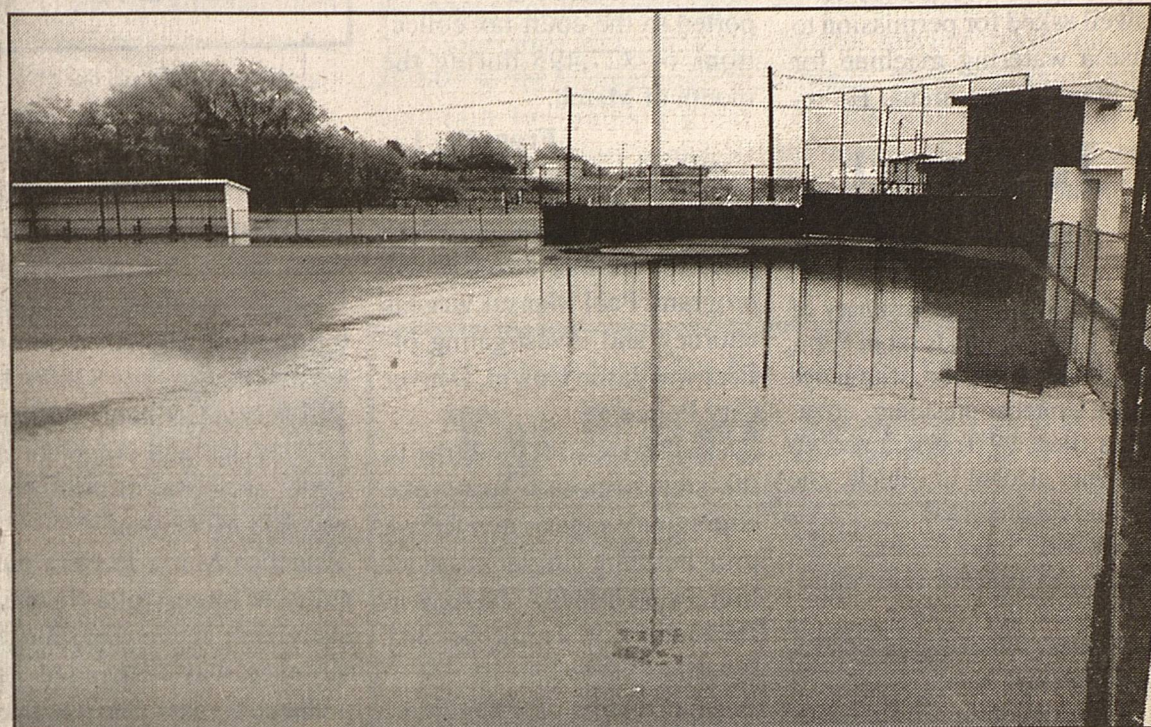
Criminal cases in District Court

Six criminal cases were heard in the March 30 session of 121st District Court, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Greg Perez Madrid pled guilty to possession of cocaine. His two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$248 court costs, \$25 time payment fee, \$149 restitution to DPS and \$300 court appointed attorney fees. An endangering a child cause was adjudicated. He must serve 120 hours community service,

Turn to Pg. 2
'District Court'

It wasn't for 'Forty Days and Forty Nights,' but was great rain!



The Cowboy baseball field was mostly under water following weekend rains

A visit to City Hall Monday morning revealed their official gauge had recorded 2.95 inches of rain over the weekend, pushing the total precipitation recorded at that station this year reached 7.69 inches, already surpassing the 7.2 inches recorded in the year 2003. A number of residents in Denver City reported from 5 to 7 inches of rain, with very little hail. A bit further south in Gaines County, several reports of 10 to 12 inches of rain, and up to a foot of small hail were reported, along with a number of confirmed tornados in the vicinity, which apparently caused no damage. The following article, submitted by SOAR meteorologists Duncan Axisa and Caleb Midgeley, explains details of the rather freakish weather system producing all the badly needed precipitation:

A PARKED LOW PRESSURE TO OUR WEST PRODUCES EXCESSIVE RAIN

"It is not unusual for large, slow moving cut off lows to produce excessive rainfalls over Texas. What is particularly anomalous about the system that has affected the South Plains over the past week is its nearly stationary movement during a time of year when systems tend to be progressive. Another abnormal characteristic of this particular system is its position so far south with respect to West Texas. This is due to a weather pattern called an omega block. During an omega block, an expansive region of high pressure in the upper atmosphere is flanked on each side by large cut off low pressure systems. Such a pattern is very resistant to change and will produce the same weather over a particular region for an extended period of time. For the last week, West Texas has been to the west of the upper level ridge and to the east of the cut off low. This has caused winds in the lower atmosphere to ascend the higher terrain of eastern New Mexico, and with the aid Gulf moisture has produced copious precipitation over the South Plains. Fortunately, it looks like the pattern is beginning to break down so all this water we've received can soak in. The upper level low should exit the region by Wednesday.

"Many prayers have gone up for rain in this region, and it looks like we're getting an answer. From reports at the SOAR weather station at the

Yoakum County airport, the January total rainfall which is 0.40 inches. February rainfall was 1.91 inches (average is 0.70 inches) and March rainfall was 1.14 inches (average is 0.60 inches). So far this year, the SOAR weather station reports a total of 6.29 inches. These rainfall rain gauge measurements are quite significant since winter and early spring rains are more representative of the area rainfall than late spring

and summer rains. Summer rainfall in the southern plains is convective and more localized in its spatial and temporal distribution and rain gauge measurements are not representative of rainfall in the area. At any rate, the rainfall amount so far this year at 6.29 inches is an above average rainfall since the total average rainfall from January through April is 2.70 inches."

Take Me Out To The Ballgame



Friday afternoon was a great time for baseball, and the Cowboys beat New Home 11-0. Shortly after the game, the Cowboy Relays were called off because of stormy weather. More baseball inside

Court approves bid notices and purchases

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor sought permission to advertise for bids on office furniture and equipment for the ongoing hospital dialysis center, therapy center and emergency room expansion project, as well as medical furniture and equipment for the therapy center. Office furniture items would include benches, tables, carts, and medical equipment included vital sign monitors, traction and therapy tables. Taylor said the purchases would be paid for with funds already budgeted under the recent bond passage. The court approved both requests.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Ty Earl Powell asked for permission to lease a watering machine for the Plains rodeo arena. He re-

ported the roping club had found a cannon type machine which could cover the arena, and could be leased for \$2830 annual payments for two years, then purchased at the end of that time for one dollar. The lease would be paid from budgeted funds in the arena and stock barns account. The lease was approved. Powell also moved to purchase a new mower to be used at the Plains Cemetery. He had offered a trade-in of the 1991 mower now being used on a new John Deere mower from BE Implement in Brownfield, for \$7860. The purchase was approved, and will be paid for from budgeted funds.

Tax Assessor Betty Rivas reported to the court tax collections of \$27,495 during the month of March.

JP Court Review

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases filed; 99 Traffic, oneopen container alcohol in vehicle, one forcible detainer case

Bonds Set:
Injury to disabled individual- \$5000

Prohibited substance in correctional facility- \$5000

4 cases, motion to revoke probation- no bond

7 cases, building burglary, theft of property- \$3000 each

Interfere with emergency call- \$2000

4 cases, abandoning a child, \$2500 each

DWI with child under 15 in vehicle- \$2500

2 cases, first DWI- \$1000

2 cases evading arrest/detention- \$500

Criminal mischief- \$1000

Theft, over \$50, under \$500, \$500 bond.

False report to police officer- \$500

Possession marijuana, less than two ounces- \$500

Display fictitious license plates- \$500

Display fictitious inspection certificate- \$500

No drivers license- \$500

No Liability Insurance- \$500

Tampering with government record, resident alien card- held for Border Patrol

Tampering with government record, S.S. card- held for Border Patrol

Criminal trespass in habitation- \$2000

Driving suspended license- \$500

complete the drug offender education program and complete the Palmer Drug Abuse program. Paul Mansur was his attorney and investigating officer was Jason Cowin, Denver City Police

David Ray Carter pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior building burglary conviction. He will spend 365 days in state jail with credit for 341 days time served.

Michael Lopez pled to adjudication of guilt deferred in a criminal mischief cause, more than \$1500, less than \$20,000.

He will be under community supervision five years, was fined \$1000, must pay \$218 court costs, \$300 appointed attorney fees, \$777 restitution, with joint and several liability for \$3,886, must serve 120 hours community service, pay \$50 supervision fees and complete the TAIP program. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell was investigating officer.

Jose Antonio Avila Jr. pled guilty to the same criminal

Early voting in the Runoff election ends at 5 PM Thursday, April 8. You can vote in the runoff election even if you did NOT vote in the Primary Election

'District Court'

mischief cause. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$218 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, \$420 attorney fees, restitution of \$777 with joint and several liability for \$3886. He will serve 120 hours community service and complete the TAIP program. His attorney was Bill McGowan.

Angelica Maria Herrera pled guilty to forgery of a financial instrument. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated 5 years. She was fined \$750, must pay \$218 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, and restitution to the CDA Trust Fund, and \$300 appointed attorney fees. Investigating officer was Deputy Nancy Baize, and Warren New was her attorney.

Larry Escobar pled to adjudication of guilt deferred on the same criminal mischief cause, more than \$1000, less than \$20,000. His fine, court costs and restitution payments were the same, and he will serve the same community service and complete the TAIP program. His attorney was Paul Mansur.

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FOR
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION
APRIL 13, 2004
(Denver City—Tax Office • Plains—Community Building)
EARLY VOTING—APRIL 5-8, 2004
(Denver City—Tax Office • Plains—County Clerk's Office)



- Life-long resident of Yoakum County
- Committed to serving citizens of Yoakum County
- 7 years county service experience
- Understand responsibilities of office
- Qualified to carry out duties of Tax Assessor
- Ready to serve the citizens efficiently in this office

To the Citizens of Yoakum County:

Thank you so much for the votes of confidence in the Republican primary election. I would ask each of you to get out and vote in the Republican runoff election. Early voting for the runoff election begins Monday, April 5 and ends Thursday, April 8. The runoff election will be held Tuesday, April 13. If you did not vote in the primary election you are still eligible to vote in the runoff election. Your vote and support in the runoff election would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Karen Bearden

Vote for qualified, experienced leadership—
 VOTE FOR KAREN BEARDEN.

PAID POLITICAL AD BY KAREN BEARDEN, P.O. BOX 935, PLAINS, TEXAS 79365

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West Texas Medical Center
415 North Avenue F
Denver City
806-592-9501

Plains Family Health Clinic
703 Avenue G
Plains
806-456 6365



Jill Durham, Director of Radiology
I treat my patients as I would want to be treated. I always consider my family when I'm working with my patients. What if this were my grandparents, my parents, sister, brother, or child. How would I treat them? What quality of care would I give them? How far would I go out of my way to make sure they were comfortable?

Providing Quality Healthcare For Life

Plains Little League Parents Meeting, Monday, April 19, 7:00 P.M. At the Community Building



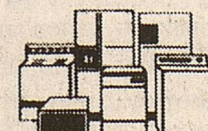
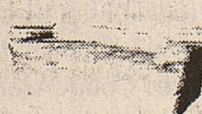
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Thank you,

This campaign has been a lot of hard work, but it has been a lot of fun and a great experience. The best part of it all is that I have met so many nice people. It is really good to see our residents take such an interest in the election process. I was amazed at the number of questions you had about the Tax Office responsibilities and how many people had stories that related to your experiences with that office.

The Tax Assessor job includes:

- The calculation and collection of property taxes
- Licensing and registration of motor vehicles and boats
- Voter registration

The Tax Office is one that we all have to do business with at one time or another. I would like the opportunity to make your future experiences at the Tax Office a pleasant one...or at least as pleasant as paying taxes can be. I would like to be able to return all the wonderful smiles that I received during this campaign.

Thank you to my many supporters in Plains who asked to put my campaign signs in their yards. Out of respect for you and my opponent's family, I declined. In our hometown, everyone needs to live together, do business together and attend our churches together. Each of us has good friends in both families. I chose not to put you in the position of publicly taking sides.

I am asking for your vote in the Runoff Election. You may vote in this election, even if you didn't vote in the Primary. Every vote counts!

Your neighbor,

Jan Parrish

Early voting NOW through Thursday April 8th

Early voting is at the Courthouse and Election Day Voting is at the Community Building
Election Day Tuesday April 13, 2004

Political ad paid for by Jan Parrish, Candidate for Tax Assessor-Collector

YOU can elect JAN to manage

YOUR TAX OFFICE

Please VOTE

JAN PARRISH

**Early Voting NOW Through Thursday April 8th
Election Tuesday April 13th**

**EARLY VOTING WILL BE AT THE COURTHOUSE
ELECTION DAY VOTING AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**QUALIFIED, CONSERVATIVE WITH YOUR TAX DOLLARS
CUSTOMER FRIENDLY SERVICE**

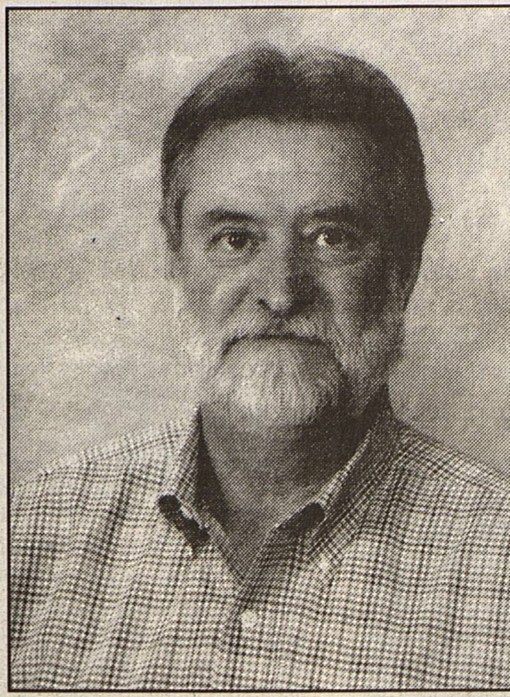
Political ad paid for by Jan Parrish, candidate for Tax Assessor-Collector

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Rex Swann

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Your Vote & Support In The April 13 Democrat Runoff Appreciated**

Spears resigns from Lea County Electric Board

In a surprise move long-time trustee and former secretary J.W. 'Lefty' Spears submitted his letter of resignation from his position on the Board of Trustees for Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. to its President, Billy Royce Medlin. The retirement of Spears is effective immediately.

In his letter of resignation, Spears noted he was proud of the strong financial position of the cooperative and called the ability of the cooperative to maintain low rates a great achievement. Spears is resigning after thirty-five years of service on the board of Trustees. He was secretary from

1990 to 2002. Medlin thanked Spears for his long-time service to the members. "Lefty is the longest serving trustee on the Board," Medlin pointed out, "He has been instrumental in the success of this cooperative and he will be sorely missed."

Capitol Comment

By U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison



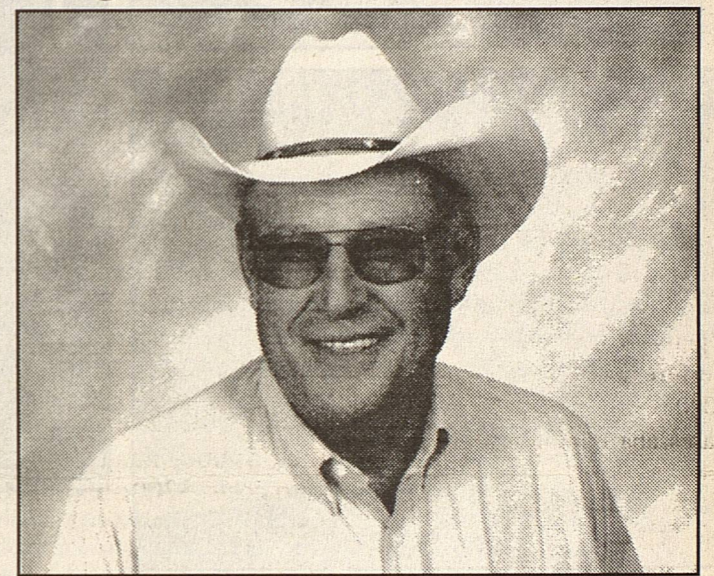
This weekend the excitement and glamour of Hollywood shone on San Antonio as the yellow carpet was rolled out for the world premiere of Disney's newest film, The Alamo. Yes, the movie premiered with a 1,500 foot yellow carpet, instead of the traditional red one, paying homage to the famed yellow rose of Texas. Actor Dennis Quaid, touched by the outpouring of people who lined the streets to welcome the Hollywood visitors said, "This is like the Beatles came to Town." I was privileged to join in the festivities and pay tribute to the storied stone edifice that so defines the fight for freedom waged by Texas in 1835-36.

This isn't the first movie made about the Alamo, but it is the grandest. With a budget of more than \$100 million, six months of shooting, Hollywood stars like Mr. Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton, and a movie set believed to be one of the largest ever built, the film goes to great visual, cinematic and theatrical lengths to recall the mystique of the legendary battle.

The fact that, after nearly two hundred years, this story is still being retold is testament to the significance of our state's heritage. We Texans know the importance the Alamo played in shaping that history. From our earliest years we are taught the legacy of bravery, heroism and sacrifice that is held within the hallowed walls of the old mission. In fact, Texas history is a requirement for all 7th grade students in our public schools. Our children grow up learning the tales of their ancestors and understanding the challenges and sacrifices they overcame to pave the way for the Lone Star state we know and love today.

For me as a youngster, Texas history was something personal since my

Por favor Someta Su Voto Para Reelegir Ty Earl Powell



Commisionado de el Precincto Numero 3

Quiero tener esta oportunidad para anunciar mi re-election de Precinct 3. Las responsabilidades de esta trabajo son importantes y las tomo seriamente. La confianza que ustedes tienen en mi es muy agradecido. Y me gustaria serviles a todos otra vez

Pol. ad pagado departe de Ty Earl Powell, Box 605, Plains TX 79355

family helped to form it. My great grandfather, Charles S. Taylor, signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, for which the battle at the Alamo paved the way. I hope to pass on that love of history to my children and keep the stories of our past alive for generations to come.

Though Historians are always wary of any attempt to breathe life back into ancient stories, and Texans don't like the idea of anyone messing with our history, Disney's take on the saga is engrossing, adding color, flair and personality for entertainment value as seen in the official plot synopsis:

"Where myth meets history, where legend meets reality, the roads cross at San Antonio de Bexar and the small, ruined mission there: The Alamo. In the spring of 1836, nearly 200 Texans, men of all races who believed in the future of Texas, held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of

its forces. Led by three men, the young, Brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger than life legend David Crockett, the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance."

To many, the character of Davy Crockett will forever be recalled with the image of John Wayne complete with a raccoon skin cap and a rifle slung over his shoulder in the 1960 version of The Alamo. But perhaps the 2004 version of the film with all of its special effects and modern technology will bring this tale to a new generation. In my unprofessional opinion, it is an absorbing movie, very interesting. It is my hope that all Americans who see this film will appreciate the deep history that inspired it, and be encouraged to preserve and pass down their own stories.

New Program!
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Cowboys Down New Home

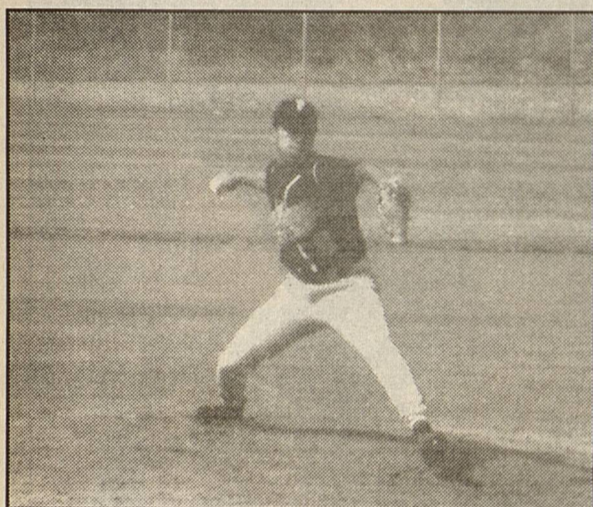
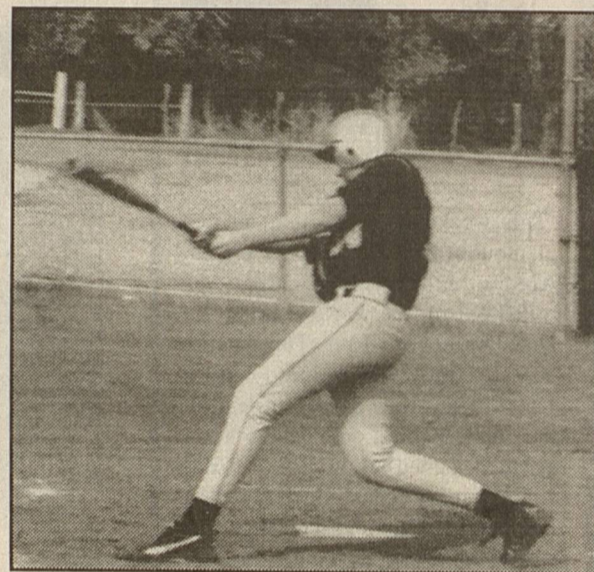
The Cowboys defeated New Home 11-0 last Friday. Richard Diaz was the winning pitcher going 4 innings, striking out 7 batters, walking 1, and giving up 3 hits. Armando Ramirez closed the game giving up 1 hit, 1 walking, and striking out 3 batters.

The Cowboys had a decent day of hitting at the plate. Landon Craft was 1 for 1 with a double, Arnold Cordova 2 for 2 with 2 doubles, Armando Ramirez 2 for 3 with 2 doubles, T.J. Cordova 1-2 with a triple, Abel Ramos 1-3 with a double, and Scott Addison 1-1 with a home run. Adam McCravey went 1-1 with a sacrifice fly and 2 runs batted in. The Cowboys are 8-3 overall, and 3-0 in district. Coach Bartley said, "We are tied for 1st with Morton and are scheduled to play them on Friday, in Plains at 10:00 a.m."

Student of the Week



Student of the week is Breck Hamm, a junior and the son of Ace and Dana Hamm. Breck was nominated by Michell Lusk, who said, "Breck is always willing to do his best. He is a very talented student and a pleasure to teach. I believe that he can accomplish anything he sets his mind to with God's guidance and his hard work and dedication."



Lea County Electric Cooperative

"Owned By Those We Serve"

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Friday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. (MDT)

at Pannell Auditorium Lovington, NM

Over 40 Great Door Prizes to be given away.

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author of

'A More Elite Soldier'

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Send us your comments and questions to: lcec@leacountyelectric.coop

PISD U.I.L. Update

UIL District Meet results:

Number Sense Team 2nd- Brandon Hise, Kerry Sisson, David Alldredge, Blake O'Quinn.*Calculator Team 1st, Hise, BJ Lester, Allison Friesen, Evan Cain.*Computer Science Team 1stm Hise, Cain,Adam McCravey, Nolan Newsom.*Math Team 1st, Hise, Friesen, Newsom, Breck Hamm.*Editorial writing- Joe Luis Gallegos 3rd, Araceli Mendoza 5th..*News writing Cody Flores 2nd, *Headline writing Flores 1st, Cain 5th, Blake O'Quinn 6th.* Journalism team, Friesen, McCravey, O'Quinn, Cain, Flores, Mendoza, Gallegos, Erika Loewen 1st.* Current events Gallegos 5th, Reagan Haynes 6th. *Informative speaking, Stacie Alldredge 4th,*spelling and vocabularyly Skylar Keese 4th *Computer applications Cain 5th, Hamm 6th.

Jr. High Track

Whiteface Meet Results: GIRLS: 400 Relay 3rd- Heather Parrott, Katie Winn, Reyna Gallegos, Brianna Conway 1600 Relay 3rd, Brianna Conway, Lauren Davis, Lydia Whitzel, Reyna Gallegos 800 Run- 3rd, Reyna Gallegos 200 Dash - 2nd, Katie Winn 100 Hurdles- 5th Mari Ruiz 2400 Run- 3rd Lydia Whitzel 300 Hurdles- 3rd Mari Ruiz 800 Relay- 4th, Lauren Davis,

Heather Parrott, Mari Ruiz, Brianna Conway.

Discus- 1st, M'Leah Mckinzie Triple Jump- 2nd, Katie Winn Shot Put- 4th <Leah McKinzie

7th BOYS: Zach Ramon- 1st 800, 1600, Shot Put, 2nd 200 run Landon Earnest- 1st Pole vault, 5th 110 hurdles, 4th 300 hurdles Chris Addison- 2nd 110 hurdles, 3rd 300 hurdles, 4thtriple jump Derek Garza- 3rd discus 800 Relay- 4th, Addison, Earnest, Hunter, Chris Gonzales Dylan Hunter- 5th High Jump 8th BOYS:

400 Relay, 1st, Zach Ramos, Chris Loya, Juan Lara, Cody Mayes 800 Relay 1st, Mario Sigala, Rudy Gonzales, Chase Guetersloh, Doug Conway 1600 Relay 1st, Lara, Mayes, Sigala, Loya 800 & 1600 run-- John Tyson 4th Cody Mayes- 1st Long jump, 300 hurdles, 5th triple jump Sergio Olivas 1st Shot, 3rd 110 hurdles, 4th 300 hurdles, 6th discus Zach Ramos- 3rd 1600 & 2400 run Doug Conway- 3rd 200 Ryan Crump- 4th 2400, 6th 1600 Rudy Gonzales 4th high jump John Lara 5th 100 Curtis Arteaga 6th Shot Mario Sigala 6th 200 The 8th boys won the meet with wins in all relays and totaling 172 points



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