

LETTERS

We should all be more like Tommy V.

To the community of Crested Butte,

Hello, I am writing from Southern California in regard to recently hearing of the tragic and untimely death of my good friend Tommy V. I just cannot seem to take this news as real. There are so many things that I remember I can't organize my head. I remember Tommy laughing mostly. Always laughing that infectious laughter. I am glad that in the years that I lived in Crested Butte, I always took up any chance to hang around with any of the V's. I remember that they would always joke around with me about it too, saying I was so *lucky* to get to hang around them! Tommy had such a sweet smile and dis-

position, always positive even when things weren't perfect and always giving you time no matter what was going on. I always felt special when I was with him; he genuinely loved people, and I am so glad that I knew him.

I have learned so much about life in the past year, as many of you know, and one of the most important things in life for me now is to be generous with your time and your love! Unfortunately a lot of times we are in such a hurry to keep up with life that we lose sight of what is really important. Even when we live in such majestic places and are surrounded by people we love, we do not see what is right in

front of us. I think that we all can say that Tommy really was an amazing role model in generosity and also keeping it real. We could all stand to be a little more like Tommy was. Maybe that is the lesson.

I hope you are all well and really utilize each other in this time of need. I send everyone all my love, especially the Villanuevas. Crested Butte is one place that I know will not soon or ever forget our biggest V, Tommy. I love you, rest in peace.

Kellie Abel

Thank you for your gift of giving

To the Town and Friends of Crested Butte,

Here is a special THANK YOU from a warm heart. My family and I were deeply touched by your generosity and kindness. We will never forget my cousin TOMMY or the beautiful town in which he loved so much! Thank you for being his extended family and loving him the way that you do! Again, a big hug from our home to this wonderful town. You all have a special gift of giving. We will always cherish you guys. God bless you today, tomorrow, and always. Take Care of you.

Love, the Van Alst Family

(Eric, Norah, my mijo Earle, & mija Madison)

P.S. If you ever need us and you're in Trabuco Canyon, California, call we are listed, and we'll come a running!

It's all about love, family and friends

Dear Community,

Last week was the saddest time of my life and one of the more spiritual at the same time....

For the last twenty years I'd heard of this little town in Colorado, Crested Butte, "you've got to go" my family would tell me year after year. I would make every excuse not to have to make the drive from L.A., or take a ride in the little plane. Well last week I had no choice, I had to be there for my nephew Tommy V., and I didn't care about the little plane, but I was ashamed of myself that it took this tragedy to get me there. The stories I'd heard over the years about Sancho's, Kochevars, The Idle Spur, the mountains the snow, etc... There's only one thing they forgot to tell me about, the spirit & the warmth

of the people of Crested Butte. I have never experienced such caring, love and unselfishness from so many people, the way this town pulled together and gave of themselves to the Villanueva family was incredible, all the while grieving in your own hearts, you were his family as much as we were.

I fell in love with this town & it's people, I'm just really sorry I wasn't there to enjoy it with Tommy V., but his spirit lives on and I will be back to visit him and the family he left behind.

Thank you all for everything and reminding me that it's all about love, family & friends!!!!
Tommy's tia,
Melissa V.

IN MEMORY

~ Elsie Mae Graham ~

Elsie Mae Graham, 88, passed away peacefully, April 26, 2002. Born October 23, 1913, in Goehner, Nebraska, to Chandler Jefferson Stephens and May Hitch, Mrs. Graham enjoyed a close family.

Her husband, Gene, a daughter, Joan, three brothers and two sisters preceded her in death.

Mrs. Graham graduated in 1932 from Hemingford High School. She was also a Dale Carnegie graduate.

Mrs. Graham was married to Eugene S. Graham on January 10, 1933, at St. Bridgett Catholic Church in Hemingford, NE. With Gene's parents and brother, Jim, Mr. and Mrs. Graham moved the ranch in Nebraska to a ranch in Gunnison in 1947.

After the Graham Co. sold the ranch south of Gunnison Airport, Gene and Elsie managed the Spann Ranch south of Crested Butte. Later moved to Montana. The couple also ranched in Great Falls, Montana, for 10 years. In 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Graham retired to Colorado Springs.

Hobbies of Mrs. Graham included sewing, cooking, flower arranging and fishing. Always known as a "doer," Mrs. Graham was a member of the Gunnison Women's Club, Gunnison Women's Chorus, Cowbells, Elks Ladies, St. Peter's Church, Austin Bluffs Garden Club, Holy Apostle Church and the Golden Agers.

Anything she chose to do she did well. She will be best remembered for the love, inspiration and encouragement

she gave her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Phyllis Jean Nicks and her son, Samuel D. Graham. She has 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Her sister-in-law, Zeta Graham (Jim) sons Don, of Gunnison, and Kevin and wife, Julie; and daughter Caroline, of Jericho, Vermont, also survive her.

Mass of the Resurrection was held at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Colorado Springs on Thursday, May 2, at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Holy Apostles Church Outreach Programs, 4925 N. Carefree Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80917.

THIS WEEK

Thursday 23

- * 4 - 7 p.m. Community School students art show opening reception at the Paragon Gallery.
- * 5:30 p.m. Aikido in the Old School Gym. Call 349-5216 for info.
- * 5:30 p.m. Mass at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.
- * 6 p.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 6 - 7:30 p.m. Nutrition lessons for young moms. Call Karen at 641-1260.
- * 7:30 p.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.

Friday 24

- * 9 a.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 3:30 - 5 p.m. Karate in the Town Hall studio.
- * 4 p.m. Itinerant Locals play the Brick Oven for Happy Hour.
- * 4 p.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Pilates Mat Class at Mountain Medicinals. Call 349-5171.
- * 5:30 p.m. Communion Service at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.
- * 7:30 p.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.
- * 9:30 p.m. Bill Dowell plays at the Princess Wine Bar.

Saturday 25

- * 7:30 a.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.
- * 9 a.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 10 a.m. Farris Creek fun run sponsored by Crested Butte Mountain Runners. Call 349-1201 for info.
- * 2 p.m. Crested Butte Community School graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2002.
- * 9:30 p.m. Jason Valcourt plays at the Princess Wine Bar.

Sunday 26

- * 8 - 11 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church Parish Hall.
- * 9 a.m. Service at UCC.
- * 9 a.m. Oh Be Joyful service.
- * 9 a.m. Service at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.
- * 9 a.m. Crested Butte South Community Church service at Cement Creek Tavern.
- * 5 p.m. Episcopal services at Queen of All Saints Church.
- * 5 - 7:30 p.m. Open gym basketball at CBCS. Bring clean court shoes in hand.
- * 7:30 p.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.

Monday 27

- * Happy Memorial Day!
- * 9 a.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day Parade procession from 4-way to town cemetery.
- * 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteer Dirt Day at Round Mountain Organics.
- * 12 p.m. Pete Dunda Band plays polka at the Eldo.
- * 4 p.m. Bill Crank retirement gala in front of the Town Hall.
- * 4 p.m. Bikram yoga classes.
- * 5:30 p.m. Communion Service at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.
- * 7:30 p.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.

Tuesday 28

- * 7:30 a.m. AA at UCC. Call 349-9294.
- * 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Gunnison County Branch Office is open at the Crested Butte Town Offices, 507 Maroon Ave.
- * 5:15 p.m. Gentle Anusara Yoga class at Mountain Medicinal Studio above Resort Video. Call MJ at 349-9371.
- * 6 p.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 7 p.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 7 p.m. Crested Butte Music Festival Opera Chorus meeting at the Crested Butte Academy.
- * 7-8 p.m. Alzheimer's support group meeting. Contact Karin at 641-0704.

Wednesday 29

- * 7:30 a.m. Crested Butte Rotary Club meets at Queen of All Saints Parish Hall.
- * 9 a.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 9:30 a.m. Tumblebugs in the Town Hall Gym.
- * 4 p.m. Bikram yoga classes. Call 349-2800 for more info.
- * 5 p.m. Bible Quest for adults at UCC.
- * 5:30 p.m. Communion Service at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.
- * 7 p.m. Community School's final band concert of the year. Fifth grade, middle school, and high school will all perform with a reception following the show.
- * 7:30 p.m. Alanon at UCC in pre-school room. Call 349-9294 for info.



COMMUNITY BANKS OF COLORADO

503 Sixth Street • Crested Butte • 349-1000

If you would like your event listed in our calendar This Week of events please fax 349-9876, mail to PO Box 369, Crested Butte, CO 81224 or email cbnews@crestedbuttenews.com

The Crested Butte Old Rock Library hours

M/W/F: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tu/Th: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m./Sunday-closed