



IN MEMORY

Editor's note:

This week we recognize the passage of several members of Crested Butte's community past and present. The Crested Butte News offers its condolences to the families of Louis Sedmak, Raymond Newman, Edward Shull and Tommy Villanueva. The following words were written by friends of Tommy Villanueva, beginning with long-time friend Joe Garcia. Memories of Tommy continue on page 22.

Adios Amigo

It is impossible for me to put into words what Tommy's friendship has meant to me over the years. We've been friends for so long now, I can't remember my world without Tommy in it. I think back to high school and all my memories are filled with Tommy: from hitchhiking to school at 7 in the morning (being that we always managed to get kicked off the bus) to playing baseball, skiing, and everything in between. Our friendship never wavered. Even after high school, when Tommy went to San Pedro to be with his family and learn how to be a plumber and I went to Boulder to go to school, our bond remained. Despite the fact that we only talked occasionally, it was as though we had never been apart. Tommy was that kind of person; good-natured, good hearted, and incredibly easy going. His amazing sense of humor and wit make him the most fun person to be around that I had ever encountered.

I moved back to Crested Butte after school and as luck would have it, Tommy decided he'd had enough of the city and he chose to make this beautiful place his home as well.

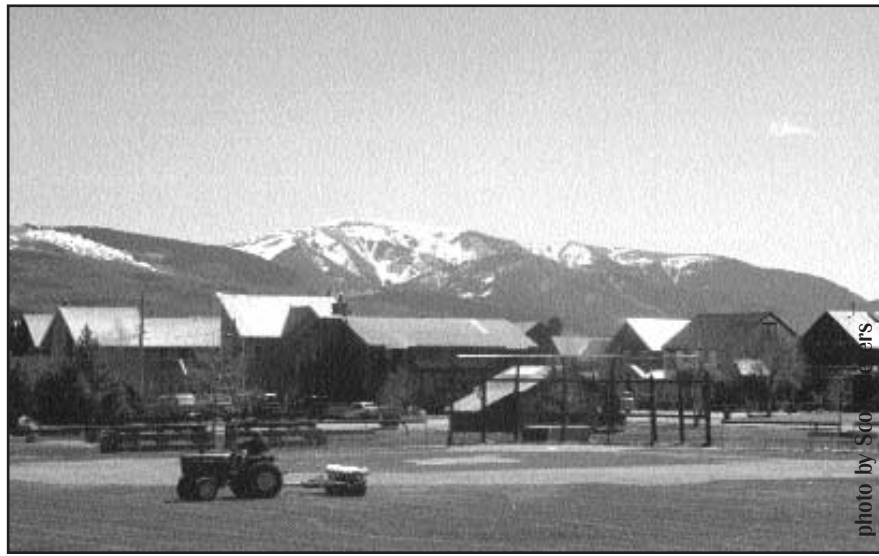


photo by Scott Adams

I've been able to spend the last decade of my life with one of the best people on the earth. Tommy was the guy I counted on to pull me through the bad times and the guy made all the good times that much better. He was an uncle to my kids and a brother to me and my wife.

This week we celebrate the life of Tommy and all that he meant to each of us. We'll all get a chance to see his family and it's easy to see that like Tommy they too have that spark. They're a wonderful family that I'm honored and proud to be a part of. I have a lifetime of memories with Tommy. In fact I think we might have shared a brain. Only time will tell, but I know I can't imagine a day when I won't think of Tommy and smile. We'll all miss you Tommy, the baby, the booboo.

—Joe

The Best

Dear Edgar & Jennie:

Words cannot express the sorrow we feel at the loss of Tommy, for he was the best of all of us. Today God himself grieves, for he too knows the pain of losing a son. There can be no greater sacrifice in this life.

But know this, in his short stay, Tommy, with his steady positive attitude made this a better world for all of us. Just to see him was to feel better.

We as a community feel your pain and suffer your loss.

Steve Church

Knowing Tommy was to laugh

Knowing Tommy was to laugh. To laugh was to know everything was ok. To be ok was to know your troubles were not near as important as to knowing the comfort of Tommy's friendship, of Tommy's person.

A void will exist if we do not laugh, if we do not cry, if we cannot

perpetuate Tommy's spirit and Tommy's life, in our own life. Tommy V. the person is now Tommy V. the angel. Fly with us Tommy Villanueva. Guide us in our journey so we can be better. So we all can be better. Thank you for sharing your life with us.

Chris Mintz

In Memory of Tommy

Tommy was a great person. He was so likeable. Not liking Tommy was like turning down chocolate or ice cream. I think Tommy and my dad were sharing the same brain. If you sat down and talked to Tommy you would say, Wow, this guy is really confident and proud. I, Taylor Garcia, am proud to be so close to him and you

should be too. He was so funny, it was hard not to laugh at his jokes. Sometimes I had to excuse myself to go laugh. I hope all of you got to know Tommy because it would change you. Now he is up in heaven with my grandfather and they watch over me.

by Taylor Garcia

Celebrate the life of Tommy Villanueva

A memorial service for Tommy Villanueva will be held at the Queen of All Saints Church on Friday, May 10 at 10 a.m. The service will be followed by a funeral service at the Crested Butte Cemetery.

After the funeral, friends, co-workers and teammates are then invited to join the family for a potluck (bring side dish or desert), some slowpitch softball and the opportunity to share stories at the Crested Butte Town Park.

Mountain Express will provide two buses to help transport people from the church to the cemetery and back.

In Loving Memory of Tommy V.

Do not stand at my grave and weep:

I am not there.

I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond's gilt on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush.

I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds
in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there.

I did not die

FROM THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL

Bethlehem standoff near settlement

After nearly five weeks, a military standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity is reportedly close to settlement pending a decision on what to do with several Palestinians considered to be terrorists. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is adamant that no more than six senior terrorists be exiled to a European country while Israel has asked that 13 be exiled. This week, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is expected to present U.S. President George Bush with a "serious plan" for peace in the region. —information compiled from cnn.com

Taliban said to be regrouping in Pakistan

Operating under the direction of leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban is hiding out in the mountains of Pakistan waiting for the interim Afghani regime to falter, according to one senior Taliban official named Obeidullah. "We are not unhappy, afraid or finished. We are just waiting, gathering our strength," says Obeidullah. "We will give this government time to show the people how they aren't able to govern, then we will show our face more and more." —information compiled from cnn.com

THE NATION

Postal Service issues pipe bomb alert

First it was anthrax following the attacks of September 11, and now the U.S. Postal Service is dealing with a pipe bomb scare. As of Tuesday, 18 pipe bombs had been found in five states including one in Salida, Colorado. Six people were injured by explosions. On Tuesday, authorities arrested 21-year-old Wisconsin student Luke Helder after a 100 MPH chase in Nevada in connection with the bombings. Officials believe Helder is responsible for all 18 bombs. —information compiled from the *Associated Press*

Arthur Andersen jury selection begins

Accounting giant Arthur Andersen LLP, which is accused of obstructing justice by shredding Enron-related documents, is set to go to trial soon. Jury selection began Monday. "Andersen has to win this case if they have any hope of surviving," says Robert Mintz, a former U.S. prosecutor. Andersen is expected to stick with its "rogue employee" defense, and the U.S. government is expected to emphasize that the shredding spread to many departments of the company and was not the work of a few rogue employees. —information compiled from cnn.com

COLORADO

Citizens march for workers' rights

Approximately 1,000 people gathered in downtown Denver Monday to rally for workers' rights in a global economy becoming increasingly unified. Those in attendance wanted to be noticed by members of the International Chamber of Commerce in Denver this week for a meeting. The people, many of whom are part of labor unions, were targeting sweatshops, child labor, substandard wages, forced unpaid overtime. "We are not anti-globalization. We are merely asking for fair rules in the global economy," said Ellen Golombek, Colorado president of the AFL-CIO. —information compiled from rockymountainnews.com

La Plata County fights seclusion with lobbyist

In an effort to gain more clout in the state legislature, La Plata County (Durango and the surrounding area) has hired a lobbyist to look after the county's interests. County officials say that Micki Hackenberger's employment does not mean that state Rep. Mark Larson and state Sen. Jim Isgar aren't doing an adequate job representing the county. "It never hurts to have another set of eyes and ears looking out specifically for La Plata County's interests," said Larson. —information compiled from durangoherald.com

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Editor:
Edward Stern

Associate Editor:
Melissa Ruch

Staff Photographers:
Scott Meyers
Tiffany Wardman

Town News & Sports:
Than Acuff

Production Manager:
Jill Hickey

Production Team:
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Claire Ayraud
Lisa Sacco

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Town of Crested Butte

Lisa Sacco
Mt. Crested Butte
& Gunnison

Staff Writer:
Pete Sharp

**Contributing Writers
and Photographers:**

Denis B. Hall
Lee H. Ervin
Jill Hickey

Steve Church
Laura Martineau
Claire Ayraud
George Sibley
Beth Edwards

Rob Breznsy
Katherine Darrow
Sandy Fails

Staff College Graduate:
Aleesha Towns

432 Elk Ave. • PO Box 369
Crested Butte, CO 81224

www.crestedbuttenews.com

phone: 970-349-0500

fax: 970-349-9876

cbnews@crestedbuttenews.com

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MEMBER

COLORADO
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

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