

## Carlos Diaz in tragic accident in Mexico

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Ten days after saying goodbye to his family in Holyoke, Carlos Diaz, 48, was in a tragic accident in Mexico and he died May 7.

When he flew out of DIA in Denver April 25, it was Diaz's plan to go to Mexico to work for a time and then to hopefully return to his family in Holyoke.

He was riding with a friend in an Expedition Sunday, May 5, when they were involved in a tragic accident. His daughter Yazmin Diaz of Holyoke said the accident happened around 5:30-6 p.m., but they're not sure what occurred. The Expedition apparently had a flat tire while they were driving on the highway, and Yazmin said the vehicle might have rolled as a result.

Carlos was taken to a hospital in Chihuahua in critical condition. The driver in the accident was also critically injured and remains hospitalized.

By Tuesday, Yazmin said, doctors had determined that her dad had no brain activity. At that point, they decided to remove him from life support.

While it wasn't Yazmin's desire at first, all of the family surrounding Carlos wanted to have his organs donated. Yazmin said she eventually agreed. As a result, she was told, 46 people will benefit from her dad's organs, tissue, etc.

A funeral service was held in the Diaz family's hometown of Ignacio-Zargoza, Mexico on May 9, and a memorial was held at the same time at First Baptist Church of Holyoke, conducted by Ismael Lopez.

Yazmin said her two preschool-aged children, Brendan and Sujey, will dearly miss their

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grandpa, as they had a very close relationship. Yazmin describes her dad as a very pleasant man to all he met and a very, very hard worker.

In addition to Yazmin and her husband Salvador Bustillos and their children, other Holyoke family members include Carlos' wife Margarita, who works at Holyoke Marketplace; and his son, Carlos Jr., who is a junior at HHS and has qualified to compete in the state track meet this weekend.

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### **Memorial account set up at Holyoke Credit Union**

An account to help the Diaz family has been set up at Holyoke Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Carlos Diaz Erives.

Staff at Holyoke JR/SR High organized a benefit dinner for the family Tuesday night, May 14 as well. The plan was for 100 percent of the proceeds to go to the Diaz family. It was the staff's desire to help Carlos Jr.'s family be able to attend the state track meet to celebrate his success and also to help with expenses they have now and down the road.

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