Aundre Chavez: The Toughest Match



In June 2019, thirteen year Lold Aundre Chavez was diagnosed with Acute Lymphosparked a movement, bringing each separate town of the San who are traditionally viewed as

The cause and drive to ALL, targets adolescents whenever bone marrow cells develop errors within its DNA.

for a single cause.

ipating in Cross Country, Base-such as Aundre's. ball, and Wrestling.

on his way to being a straight A found strength." middle school student, that has a him smile.

rent condition Aundre must it through difficult times." leave the San Luis Valley to reblastic Leukemia. The diagnosis ment called CAR T-Cell Thera-predominantly selfish.

Luis Valley together. Those the process of using the bodies' rivals, became bonded together infections, being used to kill off done, it really humbled me.' the cancer cells.

cure Aundre Chavez, a deter- cess is expected to take at the multiple fund raisers to support mined mind set that everyone very least three years. Three will make it through this battle years in which, Aundre will have together. This strand of Leuke- to undergo a series of therapy mia, commonly referred to as processes, blood transfusions, along with multiple surgeries.

While the most common treatment for Leukemia is Che-Aundre spent the majority motherapy, it does not work in of his childhood within South all cases. Chemo is rather inef-Conejos School District. Partic- fective in severe cases of cancer

For the Chavez family it While juggling the pres- has, "tested our faith," saying sure of being a prospering ath- how it is a "season in our lives lete, Aundre managed to not only that we didn't see coming," yet keep up in school, but to thrive through it all he says, "we have

The Chavez family gives how "it's because of communi- ily member of the Mean Moose

The family has been ceive treatment in Philadelphia, moved by the fact that many Pennsylvania. Leaving behind have reached out with support, his comfort zone in order to re-donated, and so much more ceive a newly discovered treat- when today's society has been

Joe Chavez Sr. is especial-CAR T Cell Treatment is ly amazed by our communities youth, "to see the kids in our own immune cells, which fight community do what they have

Throughout the various Aundre's treatment pro- communities, there have been Aundre. Fund raisers have included a wrestling clinic at Alamosa High School, a 5k walk and run, as well as his GoFundMe account. All of these fundraisers have created a sense of unity and a showing of communal strength in thought of Aundre and his

> Meanwhile, in the City of Brotherly Love, Aundre is largely supported by his family at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Those present include Aundre's older brother former Mean Moose Publication member Joe Chavez.

Joe's connection to MMP knack for making those around thanks to the community, and means Aundre Chavez is a fam-

However, due to his cur- ties like ours, families can make Publications Program. To support the Chavez family, MMP Aundre, he wants our readers to has donated \$200 to Aundre's know that, "everyone should be GoFundMe account.

> about halfway of their goal of for everything that they do for \$30,000. The money needed to them." cover the cost of Aundre's extensive treatment.

> about by Mean Moose Publica- The Chavez family is also very even beat our donation.

> diagnosis This has changed his outlook by, "mak- FundMe Account visit GoFunding me thankful for everything Me.com and search for Aundre I have." Aundre refuses to quit Chavez Fights Leukemia, or visfighting, because "my family it the link, https://www.gofundand friends keep me positive and me.com/f/aundre-fight039s-leuthis isn't going to last forever."

thankful for all the opportunities Aundre's GoFundMe is they have and thank their parents

The Chavez family is thankful for all donations re-As a proposal brought ceived, no matter the amount. tions, we urge every individual grateful for those who have supthat reads this story to match, or ported them during this difficult time.

To donate to Aundre's Go



FAMILY TIME—Aundre and his family put their worries aside and enjoy a day together at a Colorado Rockies Baseball game.

Volleyball Sat. Oct. 26 IML JV TOURN.

Soccer Fri. Oct. 25 Vs. Cortez Sat. Oct. 26 Vs. Bayfield

Football Sat. Nov. 9 Vs. TBA

Cross Country Sat. Oct. 26 State @Penrose

Gymnastics Sat. Nov. 2 Regionals Fri. Nov. 8 State @Thornton



Upcoming Events Community

Joshua Medina

munity tradition. Every year, hundreds of people attend the of a Sweet Sixteen.

valued member of the communi- lar annual screening, they detectty who lost her 4 year long battle against breast cancer. The walk was started to fund the construction of the Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center at S.L.V.R.M.C. Since then, the money raised by the walk have went to funding the purchases of new machines and equipment for the center.

This year, the money raised from the event was used to fund the purchase of a brandnew, state-of-the-art 3-D mammography unit. Since this unit nity. was added in November 2018,

breast cancer screenings have increased by over 40% at the Imaging Center. With over 3,500 Mammograms being done each The Stephanie L. Miner Walk year, the new unit will increase ▲ and Run has become a com- the accuracy and speed of re-

A current patient of the walk at Cole park. On September center, only had positive things 21st, the local walk celebrated to say about the new machine, it's 16th year of operation. The stating, "I'm so glad the S.L.V. walk was justly given the theme now has 3-D mammography. I have a history of breast cancer in Stephanie L. Miner was a my family, and during my regued cancer. Due to the early detection, I am receiving treatment and I will be a survivor, unlike my mother, who died of breast cancer. I am so thankful for this new technology!"

The new unit has already brought many good things along with it, including the increased safety and health of women living in the valley. However, the purchase of this unit would not be possible without the ever increasing support of the commu-

Continued on page 3.



Gymnastics Bailee Del Tondo

"Gymnastics is what I have always known and what I associate myself with. It is who I am and my identity."

