

buggin' OUT

Owen Grimes (7) raises caterpillars as a hobby.

Story by Kayla Pavlich

Some people would see a caterpillar and just walk by, but Owen Grimes (7) enjoyed the company of the little creature, instead. In fact, Owen actually took care of them. Why caterpillars? Owen said, "When I was little, I always loved catching and watching bugs, and I thought it would be cool to watch over them! Originally I had a big passion for grasshoppers, and then I didn't catch bugs for a long time, and I kind of grew up, but then I still find caterpillars intriguing," said Grimes. Grimes caught his caterpillars in his backyard, and kept them in a bug enclosure. That's when the work really began. If you want to keep them alive, it takes a strong responsibility," Grimes said. "It's really stressful to watch them because you have to constantly check them daily to make sure they're fine." This could be challenging, but it was also a great way of seeing life grow right in front of his eyes.

"The science behind how they change from a caterpillar to a butterfly is pretty cool," said Grimes. To ensure their health, Grimes took many steps. "I have to replace what they eat every few days, which are just pansy flowers, which are in the backyard. Then I have to give them water every day, and I have to make sure that if it rains outside or it's really windy, that they don't get hurt or anything," Grimes said. So far, Owen has raised more than fifty caterpillars, and he continues to raise between fifteen to thirty caterpillars each year. Once he watches the metamorphosis process, he releases the butterflies into the wild.



KEEP THEM CRAWLING. The caterpillars that Owen Grimes (7) raises need to eat. One way Owen feeds them is with pansy flowers. "Pansy flowers are the caterpillars main food source," said Grimes.



FLY AWAY. After a caterpillar transitions, it turns into a butterfly. "I use this bug kit, and it has web netting to let the cocoons hang, and it has just enough room for pansy flowers," said Grimes. Once the caterpillars hatch into butterflies, Owen releases the creatures into the wild.

MILE-HIGH-STONE!

Carter meets the Broncos after chemo. As Bronco's fan, meeting them in person put a smile on Carter's face even after having chemo that day.



HELLO! Carter and his cousin Ben, are hanging out in the hospital. Cancer is hard to handle, especially when you're young, but sometimes having a friend and a supportive family member can help make it easier.

winning the GOOD FIGHT

Carter Calabrese (8) fought cancer at age 11 and survived.

Story by Rebecca Mundell

Diagnosed with cancer at the age of 11, Carter Calabrese (8) still stood tall two years later. "When I found out I had cancer, I thought I was going to die," Calabrese said. His parents were also worried. "We were so scared not knowing what was happening," Angie Calabrese said. Cancer also greatly impacted his home life. "It was a game changer because I couldn't really do many hobbies, and I always had to be at the hospital," Carter said. Although it was challenging to be in the hospital, his mom said it wasn't all bad. "Being in the hospital was tough, but he was happy because it was football season, and he could watch the games all weekend from the hospital bed. The volunteers would come in to invite him to the craft room, and he would be appalled that they wanted him to miss a game," Angie said. With his parents at his side, he was ready to fight. This included surgery and chemotherapy. "I was very, very nervous but also happy that I was going to get maybe the hardest part of cancer done,"

said Carter about going under the knife. Although this was a very hard time for everyone, his mom said that "He rolled up his sleeves and did what he had to do with a smile and never complained once. It was amazing to watch." He endured four rounds of chemotherapy. "When my chemo started, I felt relieved because it was working for me," but it wasn't easy. "It made me sick sometimes, and I would have no appetite." During this experience, he struggled to maintain the normal parts of his childhood. School was difficult when he felt so unwell, and he also had friends whom he couldn't see often. After this devastating experience, nothing could be exactly the same. "I think about it almost every day, but I didn't let it change me," said Calabrese. The most important lesson for his parents was about their son. "One of the biggest things we learned from Carter was he was so incredibly resilient," Angie said.

