



By JEREMIAH WILSON

• Leader & Times

Mario Muñoz is a quiet, soft-spoken individual. But don't be fooled by his mild-mannered demeanor. Put this man in a cage and he becomes a beast.

Muñoz is one of Liberal's professional cage fighters. He has been fighting for four years and has a professional record of 2-1.

Having a deep passion for fighting, Muñoz trains every day. He is always pushing himself to become the best fighter possible. Muñoz also pushes the other fighters at Rine's American Freestyle Karate to improve overall as a team.

Muñoz's preferred fighting style is to stand up and bang, but he is not afraid to go to the ground. He is well-versed in jujitsu and feels he has improved his ground game considerably since he began fighting.

Before a fight Muñoz likes to put on his headphones and listen to some music to psych himself up. He prefers oldies and Beethoven, or just something to relax his mind.

When he is not training, Muñoz coaches a kids traveling soccer team. He describes the experience of coaching the team as being amazing.

Muñoz is dedicating this fight to his brother Emmanuel Hatch, who is currently serving his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, and former fighter and friend Noe Quezed, who passed away in 2012.

Muñoz will be fighting Saturday at the Summer Heat Revolution Cage Warrior Challenge, which will take place at the Armory in Liberal. The doors open at 4 p.m. and the fights begin with the junior division at 5:30 p.m. The adults will begin at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance and are available at RAFK located at 2281 N. Grant. Tickets at the door will be \$25. For more information, call 626-KICK.