

# Cancer didn't stop him... A pandemic didn't stop his family

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Submitted  
LEFT: Trinisha, Macana, Brandyn and Rod Wyatt show their appreciation for Payton Williams on the fifth anniversary of his last chemo treatment. ABOVE: Payton with other well-wishers.

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Submitted  
Payton Williams with his family during a surprise celebration of his last chemo treatment.

On April 15, McNary High School alum Payton Williams celebrated five years since his last chemotherapy treatment and his family wasn't about to let the milestone pass unmarked, pandemic or not.

Payton's family arranged for friends to celebrate with him in the parking lot at Whiteaker Middle School. They drove Payton to the school blindfolded and, when unmasked, he found himself surrounded by friends, family and well-wishers.

Williams was diagnosed with soft-tissue sarcoma between his junior and senior years at McNary.

Payton always projected a happy-go-lucky around

the school even as he battled the disease. When a local non-profit that supports families whose children are fighting cancer asked him if there was anything he wanted, Williams replied he had everything he wanted – good friends and a great family.

It was only much later he

decided "a giraffe would be nice."

Now 23, Payton hoping to return to school at Oregon State University after some treatment for severe back pain sidelined him during his junior year. Hopefully, the pandemic doesn't get in the way of that, too.

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