

Wauneta native faces long battle with cancer

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 12 March 2014 20:29 -



Former Wauneta woman Taya Northrup, far right, began the battle with NET cancer a year ago. Her family includes, from back left, husband Scott, Sy, Shay and Page, front. (Courtesy Photo)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

Diagnosed with cancer last year, Taya (Gockley) Northrup will spend the rest of her life battling cancer. Northrup, daughter of Denny and Donna Gockley, grew up in Wauneta and graduated from Wauneta-Palisade High School in 1991. She was diagnosed last March with Neuroendocrine (NET) Cancer.

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This rare form of cancer can take many forms. Northrup's cancer is gastrinoma. She underwent surgery in April 2013 to remove multiple tumors from her duodenum (first part of the small intestine) and liver. Doctors also had to remove 40 percent of her pancreas.

Because this type of cancer is not treatable with chemotherapy or radiation, nor can it be fully removed or killed, Northrup will take daily medication and monthly shots for the rest of her life. She will also continue to undergo many doctor visits, scans and blood work to monitor her cancer.

Northrup lives in the country between Stoneham and New Raymer, Colo., with her husband, Scott, and three children—Shay (16), Page (13) and Sy (10). Northrup's brother, Joel Gockley, lives in Imperial. Her sister, Stacy Cutinella lives in Minneapolis, Minn.

Benefit March 29

Although Northrup has medical insurance, many of her expenses are not covered and she will continue to battle the cancer and related expenses for the rest of her life.

Her friends and neighbors are organizing a fundraiser to help Northrup and her family offset medical bills incurred. The benefit will take place on Saturday, March 29 at the New Raymer Community Building in New Raymer, Colo. The cajun boil dinner and auction begin at 5 p.m. MT. There will be a dance immediately following the dinner and auction.

Monetary or auction item donations for the event are welcomed by benefit organizers. Monetary donations are being accepted by the Prairie Lions Club, c/o Northrup Benefit, P.O. Box 160, New Raymer, Colo. 80742. Organizers ask that checks be made out to Prairie Lions Club with "Northrup benefit" in the memo line.

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Contact Elisa at 970-380-7042 or Kelly at 970-370-0117 with questions or for more information about the benefit.