AUDRAIN: Sisters woman has aggressive kidney disease

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pneumonia. This time, she experienced significant swelling in her legs.

"My mom took me to the emergency room," she said.

That trip is a familiar one to Audrain, and she didn't take it too hard — at first.

"I was taking goofy selfies with the new Christmas filters," she said. "And the doctor came in and told me, 'We're going to AirLife you.'"

Her kidney function had deteriorated to a level that was beyond the Redmond St. Charles Hospital's capacity to manage, so Audrain was airlifted to Portland for treatment.

She's back home now, but facing a scary set of circumstances.

"When you get to 20 percent, that's when you're eligible to screen your family and friends for a kidney transplant. So that would literally be the next step," she said. "When you get down to 15 percent, you go on dialysis."

However, her circumstances present complications. Audrain told *The Nugget* that she asked her doctor whether her body would do the same thing to a donated kidney that it's doing to her own kidneys now. The answer was that it would. That means that she will likely need a pancreas transplant along with a kidney, requiring a matched cadaver donor.

"So that's what we're looking at, and it could be three years from now, or it could be three months from now," she said.

Audrain hopes to be able to return to work at The Porch as soon as she is able — she yearns for as much normalcy as she can get. But it is not at all clear when and if she'll be able to do that. Her mother, Lynn, set up a personal emergency fundraiser on Facebook (www.facebook.com/lynn.audrain) to help defray day-to-day living expenses and bills. The community response has been exceptional.

Audrain expressed how much she has cherished the community of Sisters.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Jamie Audrain is a well-known and well-loved figure in the Sisters community.

"We moved here in '94 from the valley and I got my first taste of small town community working at the photo lab. I quickly learned how you could get to know your town by first name basis, sharing with them their lives through photos.... It seemed so special to me getting to know so many people. Then when we applied for a Habitat house, so many caring people got to know my family and our story.... I've worked at the Porch restaurant since we opened 7 years ago, and many of our customers have become dear friends. When my mom set up the fundraiser and news broke about my health, people from every stage of my life here rushed to help. My mom had set a goal for the fund and posted it only to Facebook one evening. The amount was raised in 12 hours! People continue to donate as they find out, some publicly, and some privately. Some don't have the means to donate, but have shared the post, or offered emotional support. It all has meant so much to me."

STARS: Mid-month is perfect for stargazing if clouds allow

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miles. Although the earth is closest to the sun at this time, it isn't warm in the Northern Hemisphere. This is because in winter the rays from the sun hit Earth at a shallow angle, diminishing the energy they bring to heat the earth.

The planets Venus, Neptune (in Aquarius) and Uranus (in Aries) are in the evening sky all month, though the two outer-most planets will require optical aid to see them. Venus can't be missed. Mercury emerges very low in the western sky late in January. Jupiter and Mars are predawn objects while Saturn can't be seen because it is in conjunction with the sun.

The month opens with a waxing (brightening) moon until January 10, when the full Wolf Moon arrives. After this date the moon goes on the wane (dimming down) before going dark on January 24 at new moon, providing perfect conditions for stargazing!

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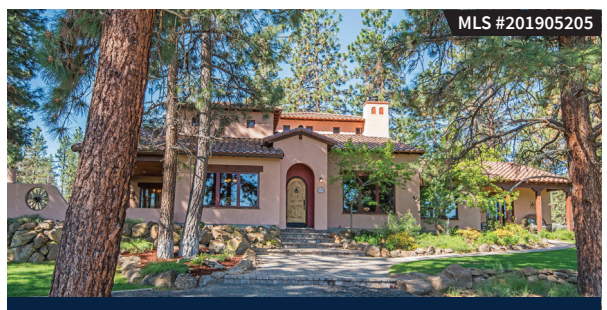

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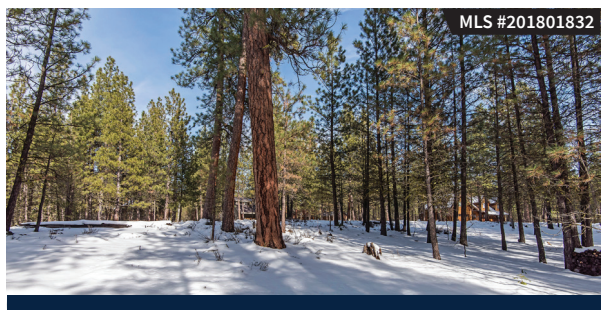

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