

Highway 395 to close for 10 days in November

Plans in place to keep 16 Road open

By Kyle Spurr
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Highway 395 South will close in November for about 10 days while crews work to improve two culverts at Sheep Gulch and Vance Creek.

The closure — beginning Nov. 4 until Nov. 14 — will span between milepost 2.5 and 17, near where the two culverts are located.

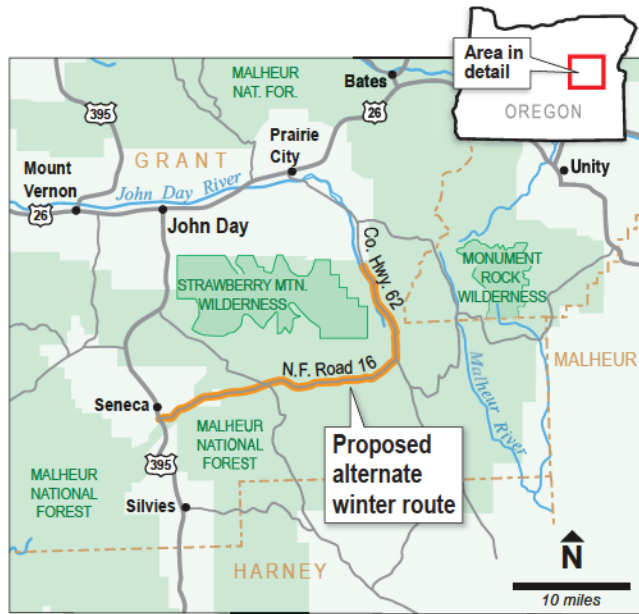
No local detours will be made available. The Oregon Department of Transportation will work to accommodate nearby property owners and emergency services.

Travelers will need to use alternative routes during the closure, and are advised to

stay on main highways due to potential winter weather.

ODOT spokesman Tom Strandberg said crews will replace the existing culverts with larger and wider box culverts that will more easily handle a flooding event. Because of the widespread damage caused by the 110,000-acre Canyon Creek Complex fire, there is concern that a mudslide or flooding could result in Highway 395 being closed temporarily.

“The Forest Service is expecting some potential major flooding issues because of the erosion due to the fires and all of the trees and brush that were burned out there,” Strandberg said. “The culverts are considered to be



Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

insufficient for water flow.” If the culverts are not replaced, Strandberg said,

storms and floods could possibly close Highway 395 S for much longer than 10 days.

“It’s unfortunate, but the bigger concern is if we don’t take care of this now, it could be closed for a month or more,” he said.

ODOT officials will discuss the closure plan with residents at the Grant County Court meeting Wednesday.

Grant County and state transportation officials are working on an agreement that would keep the county’s 16 Road open through the winter in case Highway 395 South is closed.

The 16 Road is a low priority road for the county and is often closed during the winter due to high snowfall.

Grant County Road Department Supervisor Alan Hickerson is working with ODOT officials on an agree-

ment that would allow the state to ensure 16 Road remains open if Highway 395 is closed this winter for any reason.

“We are planning on trying to keep 16 open just in case a mudslide or something like that happens and 395 south is closed,” Hickerson said. “It was the state’s idea and I think it’s a great idea.”

The agreement would call for ODOT to maintain 16 Road from Seneca to Summit Prairie Road until Highway 395 is reopened, which would allow motorists to use the county’s 62 Road to reach Prairie City and John Day.

Reporter Sean Ellis contributed to this report.

RUTHIE

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Although she had no symptoms alerting her anything might be wrong — and in fact said she had never felt better, healthwise — she felt she was prepared mentally for such a diagnosis. Still, the doctor’s words left her numb — a word she says “best describes my state of being that first week.”

“It was a matter of going through each day, trying to act normal, yet knowing that my life was about to become anything but normal,” Moore said.

There were a few meltdowns, but Moore said for the most part, “I had things to do and some cancer butt to kick, so that’s what I set out to do!”

One of the most difficult decisions she said she’s ever had to make was choosing between a mastectomy or lumpectomy and radiation. She researched and sought out information from others who’ve been in the same situation. And she prayed.

She opted for the lumpectomy, which was done under the care of Dr. Keith Thomas at Blue Mountain Hospital. That was followed by 33 radiation treatments at St. Charles Cancer Center in Bend, and hormone therapy, which she is still undergoing.

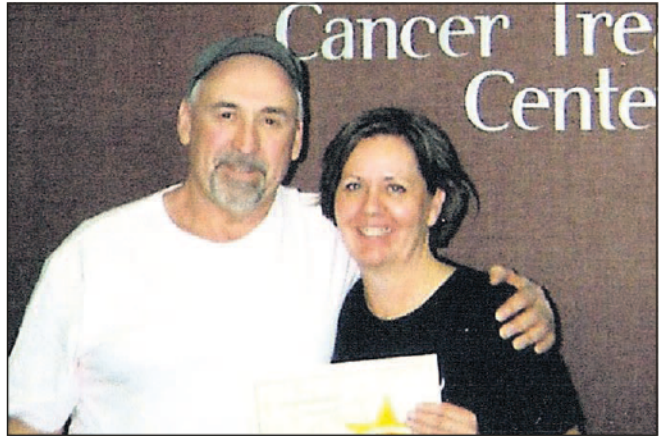
Moore kept a journal, logging appointments and milestones, thoughts and emotions.

Her denial rings loudly in the early journal entries.

When she went in for her first radiation treatment, she questioned the techs to make sure it was indeed her they were supposed to be treating. After their assurance they had the correct patient, she wrote in her journal that evening, “Okay, it’s a done deal — I had breast cancer!”

Her initial strength waned the following year as anniversary days neared. She became emotional, and said that’s when everything really hit.

Through it all, she had the love and support of many family members, including her “amazing co-survivor” husband, Chuck, and her children and grandchildren who were



Contributed photo

Ruthie and Chuck Moore celebrate the last day of Ruthie’s radiation treatments at St. Charles Cancer Center.

her “daily dose of inspiration.”

Moore surmises her family is no different from what most others go through when hearing a loved one has cancer. Her family members’ reactions varied from choking up to being positive and strong — “at least while on the phone with me,” she said — to not being able to contain their fear and sadness at all.

Moore’s daughter, Kalli, wrote a letter to her mother’s cancer, which reveals some of her reactions. An excerpt: “I took it personal that you had the nerve to mess with someone that I care so much about,” and later, “I want to thank you for bringing my family closer together ... Because of you, I am stronger. Because of you I cherish each day. You made me realize that the person most dear to me in my life, can be taken from me in the blink of an eye.”

From the beginning, Moore chose to be open about her cancer, and for that, she is glad.

“It was the support and love that I received from so many that helped me deal with my entire cancer journey, along with the knowledge that I could “trust in the Lord with all my heart, and know that he would direct my path,” Moore said.

“My faith provided me with such peace, courage, and hope throughout my journey,” she added.

Moore said she doesn’t believe a person could go through such a serious health ordeal, with themselves or a loved one, and not be affected

for his health and the health of others because he has a common cold, and I watch a lady — a wonderful, exuberant, beautiful bald lady as she jokes with everyone, making others smile and bringing such a light into that small room, and I quickly determine that this is not your ordinary doctor’s office.”

“In this office everyone is facing death right square in the face!” the entry concludes.

According to Moore, it was right then and there she decided she would more fully enjoy each and every day of her life, and make it a goal to approach life with a new sense of wonderment and delight.

It was also important to Moore, from the start, to “pay it forward.” She is a “support sister” for St. Charles Cancer Center, where she is teamed up with a newly diagnosed breast cancer patient.

“This has been so rewarding; I would love to get something like this started here in Grant

County,” she said. “It helps to be able to talk to others who have been there, done that.”

Moore said the medical people at the Cancer Center became like family to her — closer in some ways.

“Mere words cannot even begin to describe how attached I became to them, and to this day, I love going to the Cancer Treatment Center and seeing these people,” she said.

While Moore remembers vividly that “dreaded phone call,” she also feels as if breast cancer has been part of her life forever.

“Because of this cancer

journey I’ve been on, I am a much better person than I was five years ago,” she said. “I have come to accept the fact that I will deal with cancer for the rest of my life, and that I will never feel completely safe from it again.”

She said she can live with that because it renews her faith, keeps her spirit humble, reminds her to be vigilant in the fight, and keeps her focused on what really matters in life.

“I am now, and forever will be, grateful for my dance with cancer,” Moore said.

in other aspects on life.

For her, it was life changing — even just sitting in the oncologist’s office the first time was a “surreal” experience, she said.

Her journal entry that day: “As I wait my turn, I hear a woman crying in the back. I watch as a patient is concerned

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Heather Hansen, MD St. Charles Rheumatology

St. Charles Medical Group is pleased to welcome Heather Hansen, MD, to our team of providers.

Board certified in both rheumatology and internal medicine, Dr. Hansen attended medical school at Wake Forest University and the University of New Mexico. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico and her rheumatology fellowship at the University of Arizona. In addition to general rheumatology, Dr. Hansen’s interests include rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren’s syndrome and lupus. Dr. Hansen and her active family love to ski, cycle, play soccer and paddle board with their dog, Summit. She is also fluent in Spanish.

The St. Charles Rheumatology clinic offers comprehensive services for patients with a variety of rheumatology-related diagnoses. To schedule an appointment, call **541-706-7735**.



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