

Work continues on the blasting site near the end of the work zone in Blowing Rock, with the road open after an extended closure yesterday. The DOT closed Valley Blvd, U.S. 321 in Blowing Rock as contractors had to set off additional blasts in the area of Cliff Dwellers Inn at Westview Drive near the intersection of U.S. 321 and U.S. 221/U.S. 321 Business. Yesterday's blasting operation began on time, just after 11 a.m. but instead of bringing down rock, it created a foot-wide crack in the blasting area, which raised concerns of the possibility of debris falling in the roadway. Contractors then had to plan for additional blasts to loosen hanging rock. The rock was still being moved to a site south of Blowing Rock early today as road repairs took place. The DOT says more blasting is scheduled for Thursday.