Immune-deficient toddler goes home after operation

HOUSTON — An 11-monthold boy whose body lacked an immune system and was facing imminent death before undergoing a bone marrow transplant earlier this year left the hospital Monday with doctors optimistic of a com-

plete recovery.

Terrance Allen "T.J." Davis Jr.
was released from Texas Children's Hospital Monday afternoon. He was admitted to the hospital in February "on death's door," Dr. William T. Shearer said, and underwent a bone marrow transplant to treat his Severe Combined Immune Deficiency, a disorder which prevented his body from fighting disease.

"T.J. will have to remain indoors for a few months, but he will not be isolated in his house. We naturally don't want him unnecessarily exposed to infection but if we did not think he was out of the woods, we wouldn't be letting him go home," said Shearer, T.J.'s primary physician.

Shearer appeared at a news conference with T.J.'s parents, Terry and Linda Davis.

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hip, treated to remove harmful cells and transplanted into T.J. Without the surgery last February, T.J. would likely have died within two weeks, Shearer said.

A similar process was used last fall in attempt to free "bubble boy" David from the sterile isolators he had lived in since a few minutes old. David, 12, died in February a few weeks after doctors had to remove him from the

isolator to treat an infection. Shearer said that tests show that the disease-fighting blood cells from Davis' marrow are now spreading through T.J.'s system. The life-threatening infection that was around the boy's eye and in his jaw when he was admitted has cleared.

'Almost all the antibiotics he was on have been discontinued," Shearer said.

The most positive proof of T.J.'s recovery was a bout of an intestinal virus he suffered a few weeks ago which his body success-

The Davis', formerly of Caldwell, Idaho, have moved to Houston to be near the physicians who will continue to moniter T.J.'s progress weekly. Shearer said it would take about two years of regular check-ups before T.J. could be declared cured of the

'We have cautious optimism for the future," he said. "There remains some risk of rejection to the transplant by T.J.'s body. But we feel very good about the pro-gress he is making."

T.J. will also have to have some plastic surgery at some point later to repair damage to his jaw caused by the infection.

While she remains nervous infection could still attack her son, Mrs. Davis said she was looking forward to putting her family together again.

"I'm just glad he's getting out of the hospital and can come home. It's been a long time," she

"We're grateful for everything everyone has done for T.J.," Davis said. "We're very excited. Instead of seeing our son deteriorate, he is getting better and

Experts offer ideas to 'summerize' utilities

By RENEE HARRELL

If your summer utility bills are skyrocketing, then you'll be interested in some of the money saving ideas available from the Public Utilities Commission and the local mu-

The Public Utilities Commission is sponsoring a state-wide public service campaign called Texas Tune-Up. The 90-day campaign, which kicked off this month, will help increase consumer awareness of cost-saving techniques.

"Texas Tune-Up will help consumers control energy costs by controlling energy use," Jane Anae-jionu, a spokesman for the Public Utilities Commission, says.

A toll-free hotline to the Center for Energy and General Resources at Texas A&M can be called by any-one in Texas. Call 1-800-643-SAVE for general tips on how to conserve electricity and save money. Pamphlets on energy conservation also are

available upon request. "When people call in we tell them ways to reduce air conditioning costs," Nancy Hawkins, extension instructor for the Energy Resources Public Service Program, says. "We tell them to make sure it (the air conditioner) is working properly and to check the compressor regularly. We also try to answer any questions they

Hawkins says they haven't had many calls because Texas Tune-Up

is just beginning.
Bryan and College Station utility departments also are giving out summerizing" tips for consumers.

Pamphlets such as "How to Conserve Energy at Home" and "Cooling Your Home" are available from Amy Godfrey, Bryan's citizen information coordinator.

"Keeping your air conditioner on 78 is good," Godfrey says. "Also, if you have any warm activities such as laundry, baking or ironing, do them in the early morning hours.

Godfrey says statement stuffers with more conservation tips also will be coming out in this month's bills. College Station's energy specialist, Valerie Bauer, also has energy con-

servation brochures and money-sav-Bauer says it costs about \$1.68 to run a 3000 watt air conditioner for eight hours and only 5.6 cents to run

'We are also offering free home energy audits for single family dwellings this summer," Bauer says.

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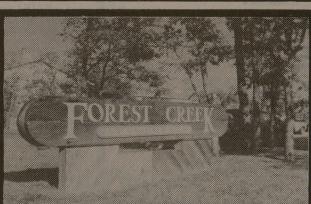
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