

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"When I'm driving, it looks like I'm wearing a seatbeat."

More Pacific storms aimed at California

Associated Press

Flooded rivers receded slowly Sunday in saturated Northern California as crews worked to restore electricity and clear away mudslides, but more rain was on the way on the heels of the worst weather in three years.

More heavy snow fell over the mountains of the West, where avalanche danger was high, and freezing rain and sleet iced highways from Nebraska into Ohio.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for more snow and high wind for the northern Sierra Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area along the Nevada-California border and for Colorado's mountains and Gunnison Val-

ley. Travelers' advisories were posted from Washington state down to northern Arizona, where 13 inches of snow fell overnight south of Flagstaff.

Sonoma County, northwest of San Francisco, was the hardest hit. Small boats and city buses were used to evacuate residents of some 400 homes when the Petaluma River overflowed Friday. One woman was missing after her home at Boulder Creek, north of Santa Cruz, slid 150 feet down a hillside and into a creek.

But in Texas, the rain receded. The state had unseasonably warm temperatures with windy conditions Sunday, and forecasters predicted the warming trend would continue through the beginning of the week.

Heart recipient celebrates one-year mark

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Consuming only liquids, dependent on a respirator but grinning at his nurses, retired autoworker Murray Haydon marks his first year of life on an artificial heart Monday.

Donna Hazle, Audubon's director of public relations, said family and hospital staff will gather in the Humana Hospital Audubon auditorium to cheer Haydon, 59, one of two permanent implant recipients still alive.

During the first year, Haydon escaped brain-damaging strokes that have troubled William Schroeder, the longest-surviving artificial heart patient.

But except for a few weeks in June, he has never been free of a respirator, first because of what doctors called psychological dependence and later because of chest and lung infections.

Haydon is unable to speak or eat solid food because of the respirator tubes in an incision in his throat, she said.

Haydon writes notes and uses hand signals to converse with his wife, Juanita, who is at the hospital every day, his children and grandchildren, who are frequent visitors, and doctors and hospital staff members.

"He communicates a lot, but not verbally," Hazle said.

Haydon, who consumes some liquids by mouth and is fed intravenously, engages in occupational therapy, such as brushing his teeth, combing his hair and dressing himself. His physical therapy includes the use of weights to strengthen his arms and legs, she said.

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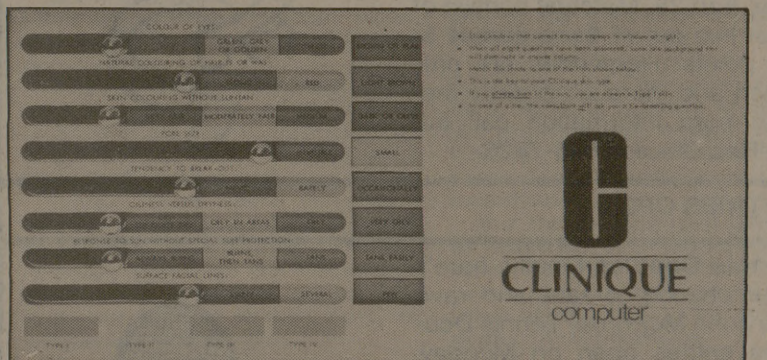
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