

Headlee improves after heart surgery

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THE TRANSPLANT surgery began at 10:55 p.m. Wednesday. When it was completed about 3 a.m., Headlee was taken to intensive care, where his wife was waiting. "She is

obviously aware this is not a painless operation," McMaster said. "I get some widely concern over the pain he is experiencing. But as far as the overall results, she is exuberant."

Little agreed. "They (the Headlee family) are very, especially Mary,

very upbeat, positive and feel very thankful how this is progressing. Mary is like a rock. She's exuberant."

LDS physicians consider the surgery a success and "everyone is absolutely delighted with how every-

thing is going," McMaster said. "All systems are working normally." As of Friday morning, physicians who are keeping a close watch reported none of the usual infection that accompanies transplants, and are monitoring for rejection, which is controlled with drugs. Headlee began receiving anti-rejection drugs about two weeks before surgery, McMaster said.

Headlee will spend about 2-3 weeks in LDS Hospital and then move back to his Salt Lake City condominium for another 2-3 months. Every week, however, Headlee is required to return to the hospital for biopsies to determine the rate of rejection and receive adjustments in his anti-rejection drugs, McMaster said.

JUST AS news of his heart ailment didn't slow him down in August, the heart transplant isn't expected to pose anymore of a stumbling block for Headlee. At his condo, which is about 10 minutes from LDS Hospital, telephone lines, a telefax machine and word processor have been installed for his arrival and return to

work, McMaster said. "He's not on medical leave," McMaster said. "One condition of being accepted into the heart transplant program at LDS is that you have to maintain an active interest in your work and you have to return to work once you get your donor heart."

Headlee has been in constant contact with his offices in Farmington Hills since he was hospitalized in late August. The insurance company is being run by a senior management team, which meets weekly and is in contact with Headlee.

"He set up a small office in the condo and he's in frequent daily contact — I mean frequent daily contact — calling 3-5 times a day," Ritter said. "The business activity was still on his desk daily, thanks to Federal Express."

Headlee also is keeping pace with his continuing defense of the 1978 (Headlee) Tax Limitation Amendment, a change in the Michigan Constitution aimed at keeping taxes from rising faster than general inflation. He chaired the committee that won voter approval of the amendment.

ON SEPT. 9, Headlee said he would continue fighting to protect the tax amendment because "it is obvious that if I don't, state government will accelerate its practice of trying to ignore the Michigan Constitution while depriving K-12 education of adequate funding guaranteed under the tax limitation amendment to the constitution."

Headlee was first hospitalized for congestive heart failure Aug. 31 while visiting two of his children in Salt Lake City. He was released from the hospital Sept. 5 after being placed at the top of a list of heart transplant candidates with Type A blood.

Cardiologists said that without a new heart, Headlee — who at some time in his life contracted an infection that weakened his heart — would have had only a 50-50 chance of living for a year.

LDS Hospital, which is part of the Utah Transplantation Affiliated Hospital cardiac transplant program, has had 119 heart transplants performed by its physicians since 1985. The survival rate is 92 percent.

Holiday preparations begin

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decorating of windows, doors or building facades.

Judging will be done during the early afternoon of the "Christmas Walk" and first prizes of \$1,000 worth of advertising on WQMC-FM radio will be awarded in each of the two award categories, including retail and service businesses.

THE DDA is selling cedar roping and plaid ribbon for businesses, people who wish to order it as part of their decorating scheme. Orders must be received in the DDA office no later than Oct. 20 for mid-November delivery.

Judging will be based on originality, creativity and overall appearance, according to Frank Clappison, local businessman, DDA member and chairman of the Christmas Lighting Subcommittee. He said plans were "on target" for the entire holiday season.

Plans for the second annual "Christmas Walk" are just getting under way, said organizers from the Downtown Farmington Business Association. Sara Beckman of the Rocking Horse is chairing the event, and said the area covered by the walk will include most of the retail business area along Grand River and Farmington roads. The walk is scheduled to run from noon to 5 p.m.

Besides visiting stores, those attending will also be entertained by Farmington High School band and choral members and refreshments will be served at a variety of businesses. A deejay and van from WQMC-FM radio will also be on hand throughout the day. Strip Sittsamer said.

Later that day, the Farmington Area Jaycees have planned their annual tree lighting ceremonies at the Farmington Historical Museum grounds, on Grand River just west of downtown. According to Jaycees spokeswoman Karen Kuhl, the 7 p.m. event will also include a candlelight ceremony, caroling and refreshments at the museum carriage house.

BEGUN IN 1985, the DDA lighting program has traditionally encompassed the entire central business district. This year, the program will be expanded to include lights in the city's mini parks, Strip Sittsamer said.

The lights will be installed in early November, but not lit until shortly before the "Christmas Walk" on Nov. 22, she added.

The DDA board is also taking an extra step to ensure the holiday season is bright. This month, the board approved the purchase of 22 red canvas banners with a snowflake pattern to be clustered throughout the

downtown area on utility poles. Strip Sittsamer said the banners have been ordered, and she hopes to see them installed before the Nov. 22 festivities.

"We're trying to introduce a little color — a little brightness," Clappison added.

These banners will be hung on metal brackets and will be changed with the seasons, she added.

DDA member Larry Lechner called the banners "very festive." He added that most of the downtown retail businesses do 80-90 percent of their annual business in the month of December, during the holiday season.

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