

Watchful Eyes Cast Skyward

By JOHN McNICHOLAS
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Storm-battered residents are casting watchful eyes skyward for a storm which is predicted to hit the Monterey Bay Area this afternoon.

A frontal band was moving through Oregon on Saturday, and is expected to drop "maybe a half-inch, maybe a

little more" of rain when it reaches here, said Ron Wagner, lead weather service forecaster in Redwood City. The storm is the first of several expected this week, and "the later ones may be wetter," Wagner said.

It's feared heavy rain could trigger more slides here, especially in the Love Creek area, where two more

bodies were discovered late last week. Thirty-five persons fled their homes as a potential new slide was discovered. The death toll at Love Creek stands at six, with five more victims believed still buried in the slide.

The bodies of John and Lynda McCluskey, both 32, were found

Thursday. The slide which killed the McCluskeys Jan. 4 also is presumed to have buried their children, Trevor, 7, and Kelly, 5, and a house guest, Mark Andrew Nelson, 19.

(Due to an editing error, the McCluskeys' names were inadvertently omitted from Friday's Sentinel.)

Also presumed buried in the area

are Hazel McGraw, 79, and Raymond Stanley, 41.

The county's confirmed death toll from the storm stands at 17.

An estimated 150 roads are still closed in the county, and 800 households remain isolated from emergency services, according to

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Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Let The Phones Ring Out

Some 28,500 feet of cable and 85 million feet of conductor wire now spans the San Lorenzo River adjacent to the collapsed Soquel Avenue Bridge as worker Rosendo Alvarez continues to repair telephone lines in the area.

Some 90 percent of the estimated 10,000 customers still without phones should get back service by late today, according to Pacific Telephone spokesmen. More photos and story on page 8.

WATCHFUL EYES CAST SKYWARD

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George Newell, acting county administrator.

The Red Cross is stockpiling supplies of food, clothing, bedding and water in the San Lorenzo Valley, should the need to use them arise.

The shelter at St. John's Catholic Church in Felton, though no longer housing people, is a feeding station for food and supplies, as is the Lompico shelter.

Urgently needed in Felton are canned food, sugar and salt, personal hygiene items, tampons, Pampers and other paper products, firewood, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel and firewood.

San Lorenzo Valley High School also may serve as a shelter in the future.

Boulder Creek Elementary School will serve as a shelter in that town, if necessary, and food will be available at St. Michael's Church. Clothing will be available at Mount Cap at the intersection of Highway 9 and Big Basin Way.

Needed in Boulder Creek are warm clothes, canned food, personal hygiene and paper products.

The Lompico community center also is being prepared for use as a shelter.

If shelters are needed and opened, the Red Cross urges victims to bring their own bedding, warm clothes, toothbrushes and toothpaste with

them, if possible.

Sandbags are in short supply throughout the county.

The county emergency office ran out of bags last week, and the county has been unable to secure more, according to Fred Keeley, administrative aide to Supervisor Joe Cucchiara.

"The state Office of Emergency Services has told us they will sell the county as many sandbags as we want," Keeley said. "They can't give us any. All we have to do is pay, and we don't have any money to buy sandbags."

The county is \$5½ million in debt now because of the disaster, Keeley said, "and we're going to go deeper."

Free sandbags are being distributed by the Santa Cruz Jaycees today in the parking lot of the Presbyterian Church on Highway 9 in Felton.

The Jaycees have donated 15,000 bags, according to Jaycee Tom Chacon. The fire stations in Felton, Ben Lomond, Zayante, Boulder Creek and Scotts Valley each have 1,000 bags.

The bags will be distributed to fire district residents "if we have more rain and the need arises," according to Felton Fire Chief Mac McDonnell.

Donations of sandbags are needed in Felton, according to the Santa Cruz Volunteer Bureau. Also needed are shovels, wheelbarrows, dump trucks

and other construction-related tools.

County emergency crews are on standby alert, according to Newell.

The county still is in a state of emergency, he said, and "may be in better shape" because state and federal disaster relief workers are already here and working.

At the Federal Emergency Management Agency center on Front Street, 1,466 storm victims had registered by Friday.

So far 477 persons have applied for temporary housing, 933 for Small Business Administration loans and 682 for Individual and Family Grants.

Income tax assistance was sought by 592 people, and other federal agencies including the Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, Employment Development Department and the Department of Agriculture saw 519 people.

State and county agencies saw 311 people, and volunteer agencies such as the Salvation Army and Red Cross took 830 applications for aid.

SBA loan officer J.H. Cornell, at the FEMA center, said "10 or 15" applications for SBA loans had been sent in for processing by Saturday.

Many applications have been given out, he said, but people are "still busy cleaning up," and haven't brought them back yet.

"This is a major, major disaster," he said. "Wholesale tragedy, wholesale misery is what I'd call it."