

Mandatory 10-digit Dialing Delayed Eight Months

9-21-99 (Salem-AP) — Oregonians will have an extra eight months to get ready for having to use area codes in all phone numbers.

The state Public Utility Commission today delayed until October of 2000 a requirement that phone users dial ten digits - including the area code - for even local calls.

Ten-digit dialing was to have started next January 30th. But some Portland area burglar alarm companies said they could not convert all their customers' systems by that date.

Ten-digit dialing is needed because a new nine-seven-one area code will take effect for new phone customers in the current five-oh-

three code area. The area includes Portland, Salem and most of the rest of northwestern Oregon.

Commissioners said they reluctantly approved the area code delay because phone companies already have spent money to tell customers about the original date of the change.

FDA Approves New Breast Cancer Drug

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
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WASHINGTON (AP) - Breast cancer patients whose tumors have spread to the lymph nodes won a new drug today that promises to improve their chances of survival over one common chemotherapy.

The Food and Drug Administration today approved Ellence, known chemically as epirubicin, for treatment of node-positive, early-stage breast cancer.

Some 180,000 American women

are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. About 75,000 of them need "adjuvant chemotherapy" after surgery for a tumor that has spread to the nearby lymph nodes under the arm, said Ellence manufacturer Pharmacia & Upjohn.

Typically, doctors choose between two types of chemotherapy. One is called AC, containing the drugs Adriamycin and cyclophosphamide. The other is called CMF, for cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and fluorouracil.

For patients and doctors, all this means is more choice in picking the

chemotherapy best for each individual case.

The more lymph nodes where cancer has spread, the more Bramwell encourages trying Ellence. For women with fewer cancerous lymph nodes, she lays out all the differences and lets them choose.

"Many feel the short-term toxicity is worthwhile even if it's a small absolute benefit," she said.

Ellence will be available in mid-October, and will cost about \$12,000 for a six-month course, the company said.

Cemetery To Move Grave Markers & Caskets

Some Have Been Misplaced Since 1996

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - A national cemetery will relocate 68 grave markers and eight caskets that were mistakenly moved by groundskeepers in 1996.

Workers were renovating the Willamette National Cemetery when grave markers in four rows were inadvertently placed on one grave site removed from their correct location. The mistake was discovered last month when cemetery employees opened a veteran's grave to bury a family member. They found a second casket where only one should have been.

Because of the misplaced markers, eight spouses who have died since the original mistake occurred were placed in the wrong graves.

The markers will be relocated to their correct positions on Thursday. "We immediately sent all 68 families a letter apologizing and notifying them of the error," said cemetery director Lucy Devenney who, so far, has met with four families. "The families have been wonderful and supportive of us," she said. "They understand that people make errors. But we're not making light of this; it should never have happened. Our employees feel a lot of remorse and grief for these families."

Michael Evans, whose father, Harry J. Evans, is in one of the misplaced graves, said the mistake had deeply upset his family.

"I feel horrible about it," he said. "When I found out that there's 68

total grave sites involved in this ... well, it's an absolute mess. My mother is very distraught over this. My one outstanding question is: Why did it take them three years to discover the problem?"

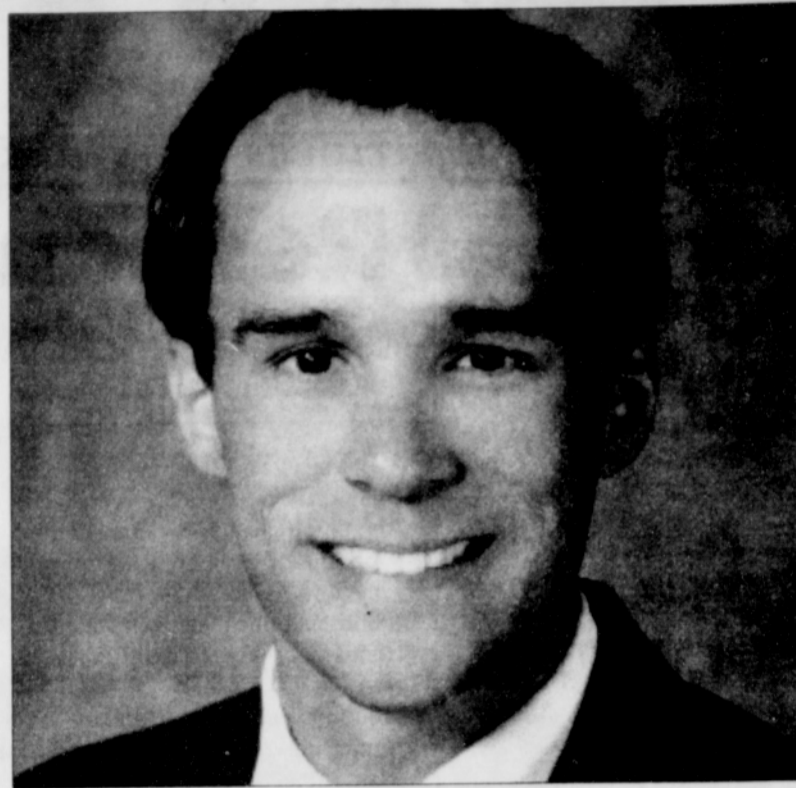
Evans said Devenney told him that such a mistake has never happened before at any of the 115 cemeteries in the national system.

Devenney said the error occurred after heavy rains during the 1995-96 winter when crews went into Section Y of the cemetery to repair weather damage. Cemetery crews routinely make such repairs during drier summer weather.

Devenney said no decision on possible disciplinary action regarding the incident has been made.

Robert Gassner Joins United Way

Robert Gassner recently joined United Way of the Columbia-Willamette as a campaign manager. He will coordinate fundraising campaigns in insurance and investment companies and labor organizations. Previously, Gassner worked as a special project manager, focusing on education issues, for two successive governors of West Virginia. He recently earned a master's degree in public administration with concentration in non-profit management, from Portland State University. Gassner lives in Northeast Portland. United Way funds 150 health and human service programs that strengthens families, invest in positive experiences for children and youth, enhance senior independence and meet emergency needs in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.



Secondhand Smoke Threatens Children

Oregon Children Exposed Unnecessarily to this Toxin

A killer lurks in our own backyard and its name is secondhand smoke, according to an international health organization's warning to parents. Secondhand smoke seriously damages the health of almost half the world's children, according to the World Health Organization (W.H.O.)

Seven hundred million children breath secondhand smoke produced by the 1.2 billion adults who smoke near them, according to a report presented by the W.H.O. at a recent conference on health and the environment in London. The report de-

tailed the impact of secondhand smoke on so many children that it "constitutes a substantial public health threat."

In Oregon, 19% of women use tobacco during pregnancy, exposing the developing fetus to a mix of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. Among children in Oregon, 24% live in homes where they breathe secondhand smoke. As a result of inhaling secondhand smoke, these children suffer from increased asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome just like children in the rest of the world.

Evidence shows that secondhand smoke alters brain development in children and accelerates their onset of heart disease. Parents who don't stop smoking should protect their children from secondhand smoke by never smoking around them in enclosed spaces like the home or the car, according to Patron.

The Oregon Quit line, a toll-free telephone call, is cessation-counseling service available to Oregonians. To quit tobacco for good, call: 1-877-270-STOP (English), 1-877-2NO FUME (Spanish), or 1-877-777-6534 (TTY).

Feds May Fine Oregon for High Food-Stamp Error Rate

SALEM, Ore. (AP) - Federal officials have threatened to fine Oregon for mistakenly giving some people too many food stamps and shortchanging others last year. In a letter to state officials, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman estimated that Oregon made overpayments of \$22.6 million to some food-stamp recipients and underpayments of nearly \$4 million.

That gave Oregon an error rate of 13.4 percent in fiscal 1998, exceeding the 10.6 percent national average.

Glickman said that if steps aren't taken to fix the problem, the state would be fined \$1.4 million.

Jim Neely, deputy director of the state Adult and Family Services Di-

vision, said Tuesday that the errors occurred partly because of the state's aggressive efforts to move people off welfare and into paying jobs.

Many of those people remain eligible for food stamps after becoming employed, and it's more difficult to calculate how much they are entitled to, he said.

Neely said his agency expected to hear back from the USDA later this month, and he hoped it would allow Oregon to spend the \$1.4 million on improving its system tracking food-stamp benefits, instead of paying a fine.

A key lawmaker said Tuesday he was concerned that it was the third consecutive year in which Oregon's

food-stamp error rate has exceeded the national average.

Neely said the state's welfare agency was seeking to recoup the money.

"Some of that already has been recouped, and we will continue to pursue those collections," he said.

"Where most of the food-stamp errors tend to get made is with working families that have fluctuating income and resources, and therefore the food-stamp benefit changes," he said.

Still, he was hopeful the state's welfare agency will come in below the national food-stamp error rate this year.

"We are putting substantial resources into improving payment accuracy," he said.

ODOT Conducts Vehicle Weighing Operation in Malheur County

On September 8 and 9, the Oregon Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Enforcement Division held a joint Saturation Weighing operation in Malheur County. Working with the Federal Internal Revenue Service Diesel inspection team, the two departments weighed 401 commercial vehicles and performed 23 safety inspections.

After weighing 401 trucks, Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers issued 80 citations, which amounted to a 20% violation rate. Included in the 80 citations, 16 were weight violations, 41 were ODOT authority violations, 12 were size violations, 7 safety violations, and 4 other infringements.

As a result of the 23 safety inspections, enforcement officers put 7 drivers and 8 vehicles out of service. The two-day event produced an overall violation rate of 20%, a 30% driver violation rate, and 35% vehicle violation rate.

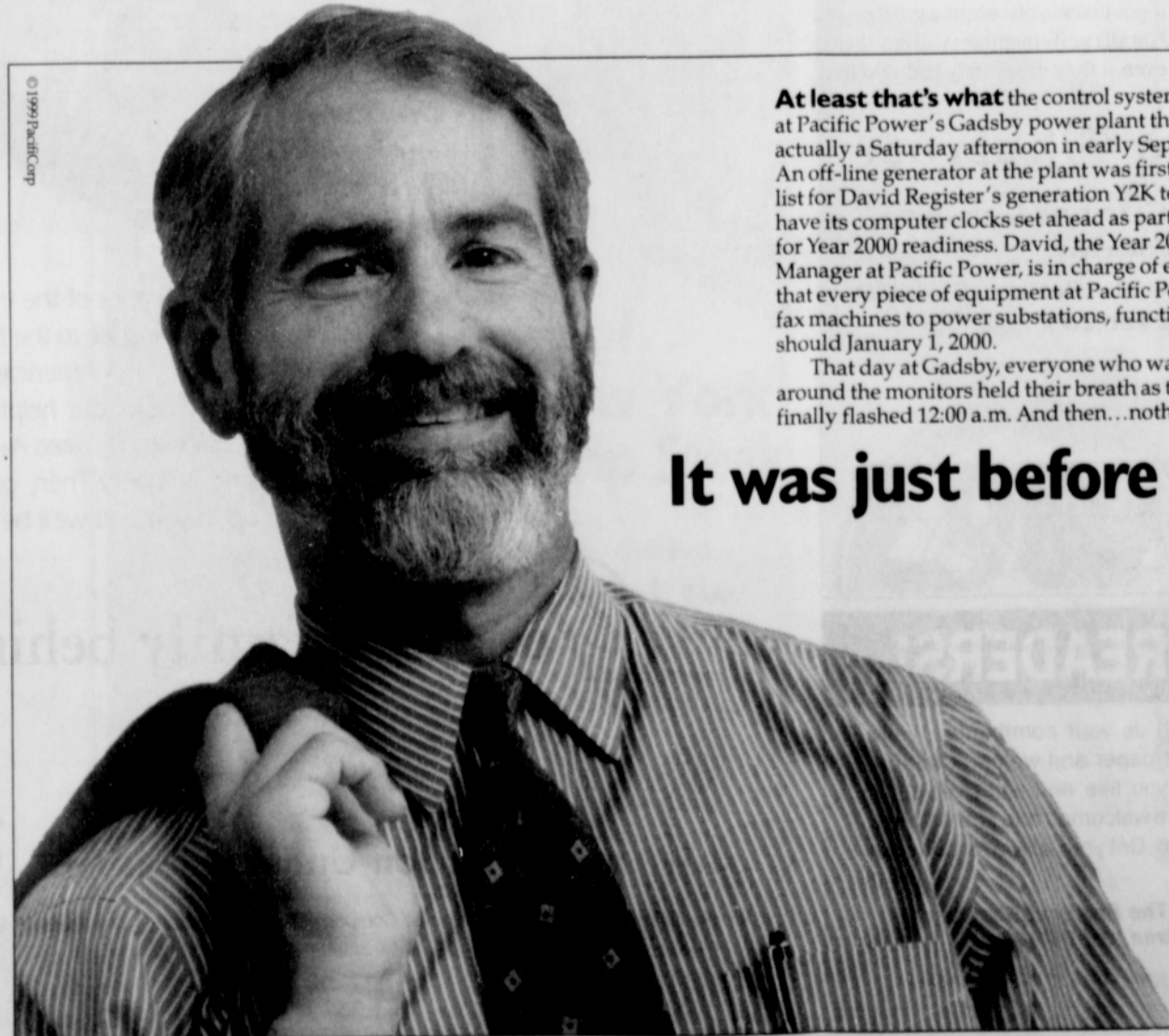
Inspection and weighing operations took place along Highway 201 north of interstate 84, and south of I-84, along Highway 95 between Jordan Valley and the Burns Junction, and in the cities of Ontario Nyssa. Another team was dedicated towards moving between various locations in Malheur County.

Most of the enforcement officers' time is dedicated to the interstate system, where a less than one-percent violation rate is achieved.

The goal of this operation was to be more visible to commercial vehicles that travel the secondary roads in eastern Oregon.

"What is positive about this operation is that even though we found a 20% violation rate, that still means that 80% of the drivers are abiding

by the rules," said Dick Carter, Motor Carrier Enforcement management at the Farewell Bend Point of entry.



At least that's what the control system computers at Pacific Power's Gadsby power plant thought. It was actually a Saturday afternoon in early September 1998. An off-line generator at the plant was first on the list for David Register's generation Y2K team to have its computer clocks set ahead as part of testing for Year 2000 readiness. David, the Year 2000 Project Manager at Pacific Power, is in charge of ensuring that every piece of equipment at Pacific Power, from fax machines to power substations, functions as it should January 1, 2000.

That day at Gadsby, everyone who was gathered around the monitors held their breath as the hour finally flashed 12:00 a.m. And then...nothing

happened. The unit was working exactly as it should. Smiles quickly replaced the serious expressions of the test team.

In the weeks that followed, the generator continued to operate without a hitch, even as its clock was set to other year 2000 test dates. So there was no need to test the other identical power units at Gadsby, right? Wrong, the team decided. They continued to test everything. Minor problems were found on the other two generators, but they were quickly corrected, as retesting verified. All systems passed the tests with flying colors.

"Here is a success story in two folds," says David. "First, we verified that systems will perform as

It was just before midnight, Dec. 31, 1999.

expected in the year 2000 and second, by finding small glitches, we confirmed that our testing strategy is the right one."

"Because of work like this, our customers can feel confident that we will be conducting business as usual on January 1, 2000." And beyond.

David Register and Pacific Power's Y2K team. Taking the mystery out of the millennium.

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