

TRANSITIONS

DEATH NOTICE POLICY

The Tulsa World publishes free death notices. Funeral homes may submit death notices from 4 to 10:30 p.m. by faxing information to 581-8353 or by calling 581-8347. For information about news obituaries, call 581-8325.

☎ — organ/tissue donor

DEATHS

TULSA

Anthamatten, Dorothy Clara, 89, homemaker, died Friday. Services pending. Fitzgerald's Ivy.

Cooley, Tressie L., 69, Victory Christian Center greeter and child-care worker, died Friday. Services pending. Moore's Eastlawn.

Durst, Elenora, 85, retired secretary, died Friday. Services pending. Moore's Memory.

Ellenburg, Michelle Jeanette, infant daughter of Melissa and John Ellenburg, died Tuesday. Private family service. Floral Haven, Broken Arrow.

Ellis, Calvin, 72, died Friday. Services pending. Bixby Funeral Service, Bixby.

Glidewell, Wendell Ray, 74, auto assembler, died Tuesday in Dallas. Service 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel, Broken Arrow.

Harvey, Inadoll C., 76, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Episcopal Church, Stanleys.

Martin, Cecil G. "C.G.," 78, C.G. Martin Co. Inc. founder, died Thursday. Visitation 5-7 p.m. Monday, Ninde Garden Funeral Home, and service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Winnetka Heights Baptist Church, Ninde Garden.

Mitchell, Edna, 78, social worker, died Friday. Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, Bowen Indian Baptist Church. Reed-Culver, Tahlequah.

Raska, Frances W., 91, homemaker, died Thursday. Services pending. Ninde Garden.

Royal, Randal J. "R.J.," 51, Sun Oil Co. petroleum products coordinator, died Wednesday. Rosary 7 p.m. Sunday and funeral Mass 1 p.m. Monday, both at Christ the King Catholic Church. Fitzgerald's Ivy.

Ruskoski, Richard L., 73, retired Flight Safety International production planner, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Monday, Grace Church, Broken Arrow. Fitzgerald's Southwood Colonial.

Simmons, Marie, 95, restaurant owner, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Saturday, Green Hill Funeral Home Chapel, Sapulpa.

Simpson, Larry Wayne, 53, auto mechanic, died Wednesday. Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, Moore's Funeral Home Chapel, Owasso.

Taylor, Paul Leroy, 60, truck driver, died Wednesday. Graveside service 11:30 a.m. Monday, Floral Haven Memorial Gardens, Broken Arrow. Floral Haven, Broken Arrow.

Taybulko, Vladimir, 78, died Wednesday. Service 11 a.m. Saturday, Green Hill Funeral Home Chapel, Sapulpa.

Walker, David L., 66, laborer, died Dec. 17. Memorial service 11 a.m. Tuesday, New Dyer Funeral Home Chapel.

STATE/AREA

Funeral home, church and cemetery locations are in the city under which the death notice is listed unless otherwise noted.

Bartlesville — Janet Vignovich, 76, homemaker, died Wednesday. Visitation 6-8 p.m. Monday, Neeckamp-Luginbuel Funeral Home. Private family service.

Bixby — John Andrews, 61, chef, died Wednesday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Thursday, Hobart City Cemetery, Hobart. Bixby Funeral Service.

Broken Arrow — Beverly E. Smith, 98, teacher, died Thursday. Memorial service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Grace Church, Hayhurst.

— Thomas Ray West, 70, mechanical engineer, died Wednesday. Service 3 p.m. Saturday, Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel.

Checotah — Audust Leroy Gibson, 79, farmer, died Thursday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Greenlawn Cemetery. Hampton.

Claremore — William Fred Phillips, 81, former state senator and retired Dresser Industries mechanical engineer, died Friday. Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, Paul Thomas Funeral Home, Miami, Okla.

— Irene Hill Rogers, 86, homemaker, died Thursday. Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

Coffeyville, Kan. — Janet Folk, 54, homemaker, died Thursday. Memorial service 2 p.m. Wednesday, Penwell-Gabel Ford-Wulf-Bruns Funeral Home Chapel.

Colcord — Robert "Bob" Makey, 50, died Dec. 30. Service 2 p.m. Friday, Faith Alive Church, West Siloam Springs. Wasson, Siloam Springs, Ark.

— Thomas Wesley Morgan, farmer, died Thursday. Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, Wasson Funeral Home Chapel, Siloam Springs, Ark.

Coweta — Sandra Kaye Childers, 64, Internal Revenue Service employee, died Thursday. Services pending. Wright.

Cushing — William Woods, 62, roofer and carpenter, died Friday. Memorial service 10 a.m. Monday, Council Valley Baptist Church, Davis.

Disney — George Mitchell Moore, 78, retired machinist, died Friday. Services pending. Moore's Eastlawn, Tulsa.

Eucha — Marshall Loren Mason, 25, American Red Cross lab technician, died Thursday. Memorial service 4 p.m. Sunday, Mason family home. Turner, Grove.

— Audra Louise (Nolen) Webber, 94, homemaker, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Banner Baptist Church, Horntown. Hudson-Phillips.

Jenks — Avis Bohannon, 93, homemaker, died Thursday. No service planned. Alderwoods-Heath, Tulsa.

— Paul Dean Lewis, 68, Transit Services truck driver, died Thursday. Services pending. Schaudt's, Glenpool.

Jennings — Ester Ellis, 88, homemaker, died Friday. Service 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, First Baptist Church, Hallett. Poteet, Pawnee.

Krebs — Martha Dyer, 77, homemaker, died Thursday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Saturday, Benge Cemetery, Greenbrier. Chaney-Harkins, McAlester.

Langley — Creed Young Trout, 56, Gentry Public Schools maintenance worker, died Friday. Services pending. Luginbuel.

McAlester — Joy Zinn Brumley, 80, health-care provider, died Friday. Service 10 a.m. Monday, First Baptist Church, Pittsburg. Bishop.

Meeker — Adrian Orell Ward, 82, retired from Tinker Air Force Base, died Thursday. Service 2 p.m. Monday, First Christian Church, Parks Brothers.

Miami — Charles Randolph Allton, 86, retired B.F. Goodrich band builder, died Thursday. Visitation 3-4 p.m. Monday, Cooper-Altouche Funeral Home, and service 10 a.m. Tuesday, Northwest Baptist Church.

— Trey Logan Huffman, infant son of Shannon and Steven Huffman, died Wednesday. Graveside service 10 a.m. Saturday, GAR Cemetery. Paul Thomas.

— Grace Layton, 93, teacher and social worker, died Thursday. Service 3:30 p.m. Monday, First Baptist Church, Fairland. Cooper-Altouche.

— Holland B. Smith, 87, grocery store clerk, died Wednesday in Joplin, Mo. Visitation 7-8 p.m. Monday, Cooper-Altouche Funeral Home, and graveside service 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, GAR Cemetery.

Muskogee — Lily Taylor Boyd, infant daughter of Emily (Ridenour) and William Boyd, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Saturday, Bradley Funeral Service Chapel.

— Walter "Wayne" Hanson, 63, rodeo rider, died Thursday. Service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Christian Chapel. Lescher-Millsap.

Owasso — John R. Groth, 85, retired American Airlines mechanic, died Thursday. Services pending. Mowery.

— Delores Ann "Dee" Robison, 63, registered nurse, died Wednesday. Services pending. Mowery.

Pryor — Aubrey A. Freeman, 86, retired from Seismograph Service Corp., died Thursday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Graham Memorial Cemetery, Stephens.

Sallisaw — Nina Velma Griffin, 92, homemaker, died Thursday. Graveside service 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Garden of Memories, Vian. Malloy-Martin.

Sapulpa — Doris L. Cindie, 76, retired from Liberty Glass, died Thursday. Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

Spiro — Ophelia Louise Craig, 82, Sparks Regional Medical Center insurance clerk, died Wednesday. Service 2 p.m. Monday, Birch Chapel Assembly of God, Malloy-Martin.

Stillwater — Charles Norman Voyles, 77, agricultural journalist, died Thursday. Service 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, University Heights Baptist Church, Strode.

Tahlequah — Thomas Richard Dominguez, 53, cook, died Dec. 24. Service 1 p.m. Thursday, Millsap Funeral Service Chapel, Fort Gibson.

Tonkawa — Edna H. Whitworth, 87, died Thursday in McKinney, Texas. Services pending. Dugger.

Vinita — George O. White, 88, retired Vinita Fire Department fire chief, died Thursday. Visitation 3-4 p.m. Sunday, Luginbuel Funeral Home, and service 2 p.m. Monday, New Life Foursquare Church.

Wister — Charlene Elouise Keifer, 85, farmer, formerly of Wister, died Dec. 19. In Modesto, Calif. Service 10:30 a.m. Monday, Bethel Baptist Church. Evans & Miller, Poteau.

Yeager — Kelly Tiger Sr., 68, clergyman, died Wednesday. Service 1 p.m. Saturday, Barnard Memorial United Methodist Church. Hudson-Phillips, Holdenville.

U.S.-WORLD

Dr. Bradford Cannon, a plastic surgeon who helped pioneer a new treatment for burns and used it on victims of the deadly Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire of 1942, died Dec. 20 in Lincoln, Mass. He was 98.

Cannon was the first chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was credited with saving the lives of soldiers maimed during World War II.

As a young doctor, he used a new method he developed with another surgeon to treat survivors of the fire that killed nearly 500 patrons of Boston's Cocoanut Grove.

He wrapped victims' burns with petroleum-coated gauze containing boric acid, which preserved skin. The technique eventually became a standard treatment for burns.

Joseph "Patrick" Cranshaw, an Oklahoma native and veteran character actor who unexpectedly attained pop-culture status playing "Blue," the elderly fraternity brother in the hit comedy "Old School," died of natural causes Wednesday at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. He was 86.

After launching his screen career in 1955 playing a bartender at a dance in the western "Texas Lady," Cranshaw played everything from a bank teller in "Bonnie and Clyde" to a hobo in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" to the demolition derby owner in "Herbie: Fully Loaded."

But Cranshaw was well into his 80s when he was cast as white-haired and bearded Joseph "Blue" Palasky in "Old School," directed by Todd Phillips and starring Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn.

After the movie's release, Cranshaw frequently was recognized by fans, who couldn't resist calling out Ferrell's signature line, "You're my boy, Blue."

Born in Bartlesville in 1919, Cranshaw became interested in acting while entertaining the troops with the Army Air Forces during World War II.

In addition to small parts in films such as "Bandolero," "Best in Show" and "The Hudsucker Proxy," Cranshaw appeared frequently on television and had recurring roles on "Alice," "Mork & Mindy," "The Ted Knight Show," "Dukes of Hazzard" and other series.

John Druze, the last surviving member and captain of Fordham's famed "Seven Blocks of Granite," died Tuesday in Scottsdale, Ariz., of natural causes, Fordham said Thursday. He was 91.

Druze, an end and kicker, was the captain of Fordham's 1937 team that went 7-0-1, the school's last undefeated season.

In 1936 and 1937, Druze teamed with Al Babartsky, Vince Lombardi, Alex Wojciechowicz, Nat Pierce, Ed Franco and Leo Paquin to form the second version of Fordham's famed "Seven

Blocks of Granite" under coach Jim Crowley. The line coach on those teams was Frank Leahy, later the head coach at Notre Dame.

Druze played briefly for the NFL's Brooklyn Dodgers before starting his coaching career in 1939 on Leahy's staff at Boston College. In 1941, Druze moved to Notre Dame when Leahy took over the Fighting Irish.

After serving in the Navy in World War II, Druze returned to Notre Dame. He left the Irish to become Marquette's head coach in 1956 and stayed at the school until it dropped football following the 1960 season. He then became a salesman for the Denver-Chicago Trucking Company, a position he held until his retirement at 62.

Lewis Hanson, a pilot for four presidents who co-piloted the flight that brought John F. Kennedy's body back from Dallas aboard Air Force One, died Tuesday in Meredith, N.H. He was 81.

Hanson, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, flew everyone from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the Shah of Iran.

His presidential passengers included Presidents Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson and General (and later President) Dwight Eisenhower.

No flight was sadder for him than bringing Kennedy's body back to Washington from Dallas. On Nov. 22, 1963, he had watched Kennedy step from the plane at Love Field, then went to visit his mother-in-law. He saw news of the assassination on television.

"My mind rejected the idea, as though it was some kind of bad dream," said Hanson, who flew as pilot or back-up pilot on every trip during Kennedy's presidential years.

Later that day, he stood in the doorway of Air Force One while Johnson, with Jackie Kennedy by his side, took the oath of office.

"We knew we were witnessing an historic event," he said. "There was a new president. And there was sadness."

Hanson retired in 1969 to Center Harbor, where he raised cattle and chickens and produced maple syrup. He became a selectman in 1970, a position he held for more than 35 years until his death.

Clint Sampson, a former wide receiver for the Denver Broncos in the 1980s who played an important role in John Elway's first fourth-quarter NFL comeback, died Sunday in a car accident in Los Angeles. He was 44.

Sampson was a third-round pick in the 1983 draft, appearing in 59 games and starting in 10 for the Broncos between 1983 and 1986. He finished his career with 66 catches for 1,014 yards and eight touchdowns.

He was a member of the 1986 team that advanced to Super Bowl XXI.

On Dec. 11, 1983, Sampson caught the first of three fourth-quarter touchdown passes as Elway led the Broncos to victory after trailing 19-0 at the start of the quarter.

After his NFL career, Sampson worked with underprivileged children at places that included the Roundup Fellowship home in Denver and the Compton School District in Los Angeles.

BIRTHS

Babies were born to these parents, who live in Tulsa unless indicated:

Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center
Deanna and John Bellinger, Skiatook, girl.
Patricia Sidebottom and Zach Ber, girl.
Britney Craven, girl.
Monica Browne-Hagans and William Hagans, boy.
Brandy and Justin Harris, Skiatook, girl.
Tammy and Carlyon Jones Jr., boy.
Lacey Wynn and Eric Labbe, Sapulpa, boy.
Nelly and Jimmy Sanders, boy.
Rebecca Clark and Brandon Thompson, girl.

St. Francis Hospital
Kristi Edwards, Coweta, boy.
Stephanie and Joshua Ewart, Muskogee, boy.
Amanda and Josh Goodman, Broken Arrow, girl.
Heather and J.D. Hoover, girl.
Crista and Paul Hutchison, Broken Arrow, girl.
Christina and Geoffrey Jones, Oologah, boy.
Shannon Sherman and Michael Pippin, Broken Arrow, girl.
Jody Robbins and Kalon Pyles, Sand Springs, girl.
April and Marcus Rodrigues, Broken Arrow, girl.
Renee and Doug Simpson, Bartlesville, boy.
Abbie Conkling and Brett Willmon, girl.

St. John Medical Center
Jamie Decker, boy.
Marsha Harrison, girl.
Elizabeth and Thomas Lambert, Bixby, girl.
Carrie and Johnny Martin Jr., Krebs, girl.
Uyen Le and Toan Nguyen, Broken Arrow, girl.
Rachel and Bret Reed, girl.
Angela and Thomas Seibal, girl.
Tara and Seliciano Trevino, girl.
Alisha Chumley-Walker and Joe Walker, Poteau, girl.
Nancy and Charles Wantland, girl.
Abbey and William Wild, Broken Arrow, boy.

Tulsa Regional
Guaneka Williams and Charles Wooten Jr., girl.

SouthCrest Hospital
Leslie and Gerald Banks, Broken Arrow, boy.
Heather and Dean Bradley, Claremore, girl.
Alisa and Mark Green, boy.
Pamela Bryan and Willie Hamm, boy.
Beth and Chad Hance, Braggs, twin boys.
Kelley and Douglas Lay, boy.
Sarah and Rich Michel, Pryor, girl.

MARRIAGE LICENSES
(Tulsans unless otherwise noted)
Sandra Alba, 43; Loyd McDaniel Jr., 44. Melissa Ballew, 36; Nicholas Henderson, 49; both of Broken Arrow.
Martha Brambila, 46; Saul Gomez, 38.

OBITUARIES

SUBMITTING INFORMATION

Obituaries are available to funeral homes and the public for a charge. To submit a paid obituary or for information about paid obituaries with online tributes, call the Tulsa World Classified Advertising Department at 583-2121 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 581-8503 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. E-mail photos or text for paid obituaries to tributes@tulsaworld.com. Fax paid obituaries to 583-3550.

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☎ — organ/tissue donor



Marshall Loren Mason

MASON — Marshall Loren, 25-year-old area resident, passed away Thursday, December 29, 2005, at his home, following an extended illness. Marshall was born May 5, 1980, in Kennesaw, GA, to Loren Brent Mason and Glenda Cheryl (Tyre) Mason. He was a graduate of Edison High School in Tulsa and attended TCC College. Marshall worked as a Lab Technician for the Red Cross. He was a member of the Waycross Primitive Baptist Church in Waycross, GA. Marshall was united in marriage to Nicole Bruce, on May 17, 2003, in Eucha, OK. Surviving family members include his wife, Nicole of the home; his parents, Loren and stepmother, Charlotte Mason of Glenpool, OK; mother and stepfather, Glenda and Scott Hall of Beggs, OK; mother and father-in-law, Noel and Marion Bruce; 2 sisters, Mandi Mason of Sapulpa, OK, Sierra Mason of Glenpool; paternal grandparents, Tom and Claudine Mason of Glenpool; step-grandparents, Greta Huygen of Fountain Inn, SC, and Willis and Greta Hall of Winchester, OK; great-grandmother, Willie Pounds of Fort Cobb, OK; 1 niece, Mariah Filing of Sapulpa; 1 nephew, Lane Marshall Filing of Sapulpa; and numerous cousins. A Memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 1, 2006, at the family's home, in Eucha, OK. Rev. Curtis Mason will officiate. Service entrusted to Turner Funeral Chapel of Grove, OK. (918) 787-2444.

Burial Parks Cremation-Lots
FLORAL HAVEN, 1 lot in the Last Supper Garden. \$1500 OBO. 918-772-2824

Lauri Gillis-Henry, 35; Shane Brown, 30. Connie Key, 41; Cole Froeschle, 39; both of Glenpool.
Tegan Lindsay, 21; Anthony Sinor, 29. Melissa Maddux, 23; Cody Renner, 23, of Oklahoma City.
Sloan Martin, 37; Stephen Taylor, 36. Trina McDonald, 21; Dustin Hill, 21.
Candice Richmond, 23, of Norman; Jason Hobbs, 22, of Broken Arrow.
Kathryn Roush, 19; Anden Benton, 23. Jacqueline Sitzman, 41; Michael Robertson, 42.
Wendy Snyder, 20, of Chouteau; Jurel Bart, 20, of Broken Arrow.
Renda Toney, 27; Nathaniel Rapp, 27; both of Coweta.
Kristen Unger, 21; Jermaine Hooks, 23. April Vaughn, 26; Jason Lord, 30; both of Sapulpa.
Treachon Wilborn, 38; David Gray, 44; both of Skiatook.
Hope Williams, 31; Ellis Frazier, 40. Rigel Wymore, 30; Michael Bmore, 31. Pa Xiong, 19; Neng Yang, 22; both of Collinsville.
Cadence Zwitz, 18; Zachary Potts, 21; both of Coweta.

DIVORCES
ASKED
Arnold, David v. Nancy.
Berkshire, Scott v. Ronna.
Burns, Earl v. Mary.
Christian, Darrell v. Paige.
Condrey, Lesley v. Stephanie.
Cumpton, Diane v. Robert.
Douglas, Jennae v. Phillip.
Evans-Goggans, Laura v. Keith Goggans.
Fisher, Alois v. Tonia Endres-Fisher.
McCaulley, Ken v. Dovie.
Miller, H. v. D.
Mitchell, Christopher v. Shayna.
Moss, Michael v. Jamie.
Myers, Dannie Jr. v. Janet.
Perez, Gustavo v. Cadye Watson.
Samuels, Carol v. Brad.
Taylor, Gherry v. Sonya.
Wisdom, Jodi v. Lovern.
Wykoft, Jennifer v. Brandon.

GRANTED
Cutright, Karla from Michael.
Daramus, Sarah from Steven.
Godwin, Jennifer from Leyston.
Hassell, Elizabeth from Michael.
McCoy, James from Deanna.
Moore, Stefanie from Christopher.
Norris, Keith from Katrina.
Pettus, Janice from William.
Runk, William from Katherine.
Taylor, Johnny from Beth.

Flu widespread out West, CDC reports

► Influenza infections are predicted to rise with the end of the holiday season.

By Jacques Billeaud

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Four Western states are the nation's hot spots for flu, and an epidemiologist predicts that infections will grow after the holidays as children return to school and adults go back to work.

Arizona, Utah, California and New Mexico report widespread flu infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly flu report. "Widespread" is the CDC's highest designation for flu activity.

"We think the worst is still yet to come," said David Engelthaler, an epidemiologist for the Arizona Department of Health Services. The nation's flu season typically peaks in January, February or March.

The number of flu cases is not known. Many patients do not report cases to doctors, and doctors might not test specifically for flu in people who do seek treatment, officials said.

Wait times at some emergency rooms in metropolitan Phoenix are getting longer as flu patients seek treatment, leading some hospitals to rearrange their staffing plans.

Melissa Voll, 26, said she thinks she caught the bug at a halfway house where she works with recovering drug addicts.

But she did not plan to approach flu season any differently in the future.

"If it's free, I'll get a flu shot," Voll said Friday while waiting at an emergency room in Phoenix. "Other than that, no."

She said she does not have health insurance and went to the hospital after over-the-counter drugs failed to help her.

Deborah Busemeyer, a spokeswoman for the New Mexico Department of Health, said her state is on par with a typical flu season.

A spot check of a few hospitals in New Mexico found none inundated by patients.

But doctors' offices, urgent care centers and some emergency rooms in Albuquerque reported an increase.

In Los Angeles, about 6 percent of visitors to clinics and hospitals reported influenza-type symptoms.

That figure was nearly 12 percent in the San Francisco area.

Susan Mottice, a state epidemiologist in Utah, said recent reports indicate the rate of flu activity there is rising.

"That means we haven't yet peaked, and we don't know when we'll peak," Mottice said.

Glen Nowak, a spokesman for the CDC, said it's not clear whether the outbreaks in the West reflect what other states can expect.

"There is no data to indicate it's any different from previous seasons, but we are at the beginning," Nowak said.

Other states still have time to catch up, he said.

Drug better at fighting breast cancer recurrence

By Marilynn Marchione

Associated Press

Women now have another drug they can take to prevent breast cancer from returning after surgery to remove the tumor.

The federal Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a new use for Femara, a medication that already was licensed for treating advanced breast cancer.

It now can be given as initial therapy to women who are past menopause who have early breast cancer, the FDA said.

In Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, a study reports that Femara was more effective at preventing recurrences than the current gold standard, tamoxifen.

Femara and Arimidex, a similar drug already licensed for early breast cancer, are aromatase inhibitors, which block production of estrogen, a hormone that fuels the growth of most tumors that develop after menopause.

Tamoxifen works differently, by blunting the ability of estrogen to enter cells.

The published study, reported earlier this year in Europe, estimated that 84 percent of women given Femara versus 81 percent of those on tamoxifen would be alive without any signs of cancer five years after starting treatment.

The estimates were based on roughly two years of information on relapses among the 8,000 women in the study, conducted by researchers in the United States, Europe and Australia.

It was financed by Femara's maker, Novartis. Many of the researchers own stock in or are consultants for Novartis or com-

panies with rival drugs.

Several other studies have shown Femara or Arimidex to be better either as an initial treatment or after a couple years of tamoxifen.

"These trials, with close to 30,000 participants, consistently demonstrate that treatment with an aromatase inhibitor alone or after tamoxifen treatment is beneficial," Dr. Sandra Swain of the National Cancer Institute wrote in an editorial in the journal.

The challenge now is figuring out how long women should take these drugs, which drug is best, and whether switching drugs at some point is helpful, she wrote.

Tamoxifen remains the top choice for women who get breast cancer before menopause because aromatase inhibitors aren't thought to be effective then.

Aromatase inhibitors do not raise the risk of blood clots or endometrial cancer as tamoxifen does, but they do increase the chances of bone problems such as osteoporosis.

Women often are advised to take supplements or other medications to maintain bone density.

A third aromatase inhibitor, Pfizer Inc.'s Aromasin, also has shown promise for preventing recurrence when given after several years of tamoxifen. But it has not yet been tested against tamoxifen as initial therapy the way Femara and AstraZeneca PLC's Arimidex have been.

Each year, about 800,000 women around the world are diagnosed with early breast cancer and about three-fourths are of the type that might benefit from these drugs.

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Visit tulsaworld.com and select 'obituaries' under the Transitions menu. Select the name of the person and click on their guest book.

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