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National Report

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Newton Journal

With Loss of Maytag, Town Faces the Loss of Its Identity

By MONICA DAVEY

NEWTON, Iowa, June 2 — In the cool, echoey halls

of the history museum in this company town, the display cases are full of washing machines.

Here sits the Maytag Pastime, the 1907 wooden model. Over there, a later model that also served as an ice cream maker, a meat grinder and a butter churn. From 1982, the 25-millionth washer that Maytag made, still gleaming and pristine, and on and on.

In many ways, said Leland Smith, who guided a visitor through the exhibit halls, the story of the Maytag Company is the story of Newton.

And so when word came last month from the Whirlpool Corporation, which bought Maytag on March 31, that the company would leave town, Newton, a carefully scrubbed community of about 15,000, was left trying to sort out not just what would be left of its economy, but also what would become of its identity.

"Directly or indirectly, everything that has happened here has depended on Maytag," said Mr. Smith, 75, who, long before he began showing people around the museum, worked for some 40 years as an industrial engineer — at Maytag, of course.

Since 1893, when F. L. Maytag founded the company here, about 35 miles east of Des Moines, most residents have worked at Maytag at one time or another, married someone who worked at Maytag or, at the very least, had a lot of friends who worked at Maytag.

Employed there, too, over the years, were many of the town's political leaders, school leaders and social leaders.

Nearly everyone along the streets here has a Maytag memory: the Maytag Queen being crowned in the Maytag Bowl amphitheater at Maytag Park; the arrival of the stackable washer and dryer; the way the company's "suits" from headquarters once prided themselves on knowing the names of all of their workers at the plant on the other side of town

"That's when it was more of a family business," said Craig Miller Sr., who retired as an electrician from the Maytag plant, whose wife still works there in sheet metal and whose father worked there briefly in 1946. "But as things progressed, like everything else, I guess, they went



Beverly Cross, director of the Jasper County Historical Society in Newton, Iowa, with a display case showing old Maytag washing machines. Whirlpool, which bought Maytag, is shutting down operations in Newton.

mately eliminating about 3,000 jobs.

people now work) will close by the

end of 2007, said Jody Lau, a Whirl-

pool spokeswoman, as will the old

Maytag headquarters (with 800 em-

ployees). Several hundred salaried

workers will be offered other jobs

sion about the Newton plant had

very deliberative" analysis.

come only after a "very thoughtful,

Holmes, who worked at Maytag, as

are willing to move.

did his grandfather.

with Whirlpool, Ms. Lau said, if they

Ms. Lau said the company's deci-

"At least we know now," said Rick

Mr. Holmes said he and his family

were likely to move away, perhaps to

somewhere in the South, depending

signs on them, and as Mr. Miller, the

But others are more hopeful. They

Maytag retiree, lamented, "Who is

say real estate sales are doing just

fine, and point to a biodiesel plant un-

on where he found work. Plenty of

houses in town now have for-sale

going to buy any of them?'

In Newton, the plant (where 1,000

A company will leave the place where it began.

corporate and you were no more than just a number, period. That's when it started going downhill."

Mr. Miller said people in Newton had quietly fretted about what might become of Maytag as times got hard and competition was stiff. Suddenly, the company that had driven the town's stability and spared it from forces, like the farm crisis, that every town nearby wrestled with seemed to have trouble of its own.

"When it comes down to it, this possibility has been on people's minds ever since I've been here,' said Chaz Allen, the mayor of Newton, who moved here six years ago.

Still, that did not diminish the sense of disappointment and worry that Mr. Allen felt when he received a call from company officials on May 9 at 10:23 p.m. — a time that he says is etched in his memory

The next day, Whirlpool, which is

based in Benton Harbor, Mich., ander construction and Iowa Speedway, an auto racing track, which is nounced that it would close Maytag washer and dryer plants in Herrin, expected to open this year. Ill.; Searcy, Ark.; and Newton, ulti-"It's all part of a strategy to diver-

sify," said Kim Didier, executive director of the Newton Development Corporation. "I think there are a lot of great things that are already starting in Newton.'

One of the appeals of Newton, Ms. Didier said, may be the very thing that Maytag leaves behind: a steady, available work force.

For now, Newton is "sorting through the rubble and wondering what the aftershocks may be," said Peter Hussmann, the editor of The Newton Daily News.

The signs are mixed in recent days: a new bank said it would come to town, Mr. Hussmann said, but a local printer, which had long done business with Maytag, announced that it would close. And if new companies do come, in a diversified economy, will any of them mean what Maytag meant?

"I think that's what Newton is trying to find out — what its identity will be," Mr. Hussmann said. "I don't think our identity is formed yet. I think we're looking for one.'

MISSISSIPPI

ALA.

Racial Component Is Found In a Lethal Breast Cancer

Young Black Women Are Likely Victims

By DENISE GRADY

Young black women with breast cancer are more prone than whites or older blacks to develop a type of tumor with genetic traits that make it especially deadly and hard to treat, a study has found.

Among premenopausal black women with breast cancer, 39 percent had the more dangerous kind, called a "basal like" subtype, compared with only 14 percent of older black women and 16 percent of nonblack women of any age. Researchers are not sure why.

The study, being published today in The Journal of the American Medical Association, is the first to measure how common the different genetic subtypes of breast tumors are in American women, and to sort the subtypes by race. The authors said more research was needed to test their conclusions.

The finding has no immediate effect on treatment, because there is no treatment that specifically concentrates on basal-like cancer. But scientists are trying to create drugs that will zero in on it.

The study helps explain something that was already known: although breast cancer is less common in blacks than whites, when black women do develop the disease, they are more likely to die from it, especially if they are under 50. Among those younger women, the breast cancer death rate in blacks is 11 per 100,000, compared with only 6.3 in whites.

The new data about tumor types is not the whole story, researchers say, because some of the disparity may also result from a lack of access to health care among blacks or differences in nutrition, personal habits or environmental exposures.

The genetic discovery is "somewhat alarming," but also a "good thing," because it exposes details about the cancer that should help doctors identify specific drugs to fight it, said the study's main author, Dr. Lisa A. Carey, the medical director of the University of North Carolina-Lineberger breast center.

Several research groups including her own have already begun testing new drugs against this type of breast cancer, Dr. Carey said. The work involves finding drugs to block specific molecules that these tumors need to grow. If the trials succeed, new treatients could be available within a

needed to start screening for it well before age 40, to seek genetic counseling and to consider preventive drugs and perhaps preventive surgery if they proved to be at high risk. Basal-like tumors tend to grow fast and spread quickly, and they are more likely than other types to be fatal. They are not fed by the hormone estrogen, and so cannot be treated or prevented with estrogen-blocking drugs like tamoxifen or raloxifene. Herceptin, another breast cancer drug, is also useless against these tumors. The tumors are not stimulated by the hormone progesterone, either. For that reason, cancer specialists call them "triple negative."

Standard chemotherapy does help, and women with basal-like tumors benefit more from it than women with other breast cancers. But even with treatment, those with basal-like tumors are less likely to survive.

Women with mutations in a gene called Brca1 tend to develop this kind of aggressive breast tumor. In the past, researchers thought Brcal mutations did not occur in black women, but Dr. Olopade dismissed that notion as a myth, saying the mutations were found just as often in black women as in other populations. She and Dr. Carey said other mutations, not yet discovered, might also predispose black women to the basallike tumors.

Dr. Carey's research was based on

Findings may help in identifying new drugs for deadly cancers.

stored tissue samples from 496 women who had breast cancer diagnoses from 1993 to 1996 and who were included in a project called the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. Their average age was 50, and 40 percent identified their race as African-American.

The researchers used new techniques of molecular biology to find patterns of gene activity in the cancer cells, to classify the tumors accordingly and then to sort the genetic subtypes by race, menopausal sta-

tus, other tumor traits and survival. "The same technology that identi-

Reports Reveal Hurricanes' Impact on Human Landscape

By RICK LYMAN

After the twin barrages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, the City of New Orleans emerged nearly 64 percent smaller, having lost an estimated 278,833 residents, according to the Census Bureau's first study of the area since the storms.

Those who remained in the city were significantly more likely to be white, slightly older and a bit more well-off, the bureau concluded in two reports that were its first effort to measure the social, financial and demographic impact of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

The bureau found that while New Orleans lost about two-thirds of its population, adjacent St. Bernard Parish dropped a full 95 percent, falling to just 3,361 residents by Jan. 1. The surveys do not include the influx in both areas that has occurred this year as more residents begin to rebuild.

While the New Orleans area lost population, the Houston metropolitan area emerged with more than 130,000 new residents, many of them hurricane evacuees. Whites made up a slightly smaller percentage of Houston's population — 62.8 percent of the city in January compared with 64.8 percent last July, a month before Hurricane Katrina hit.

In Harris County, which includes Houston, median household income fell to \$43,044 from \$44,517, while New Orleans area's actually rose, to \$43,447 from \$39,793.

The physical impact of the hurricanes is well documented. Now, with these reports, bureau officials said they hoped to begin drawing into sharper focus the human landscape, showing in stark statistics how the storm's impact was felt most keenly by the poor, members of minorities and renters.

'One of the keys for me is that the data we are seeing really supports the anecdotal stories we've been hearing for months," said Lisa Blumerman, deputy chief of the bureau's American Community Survey. "We now have quantitative data that supports the stories from the storm.'

One of the reports looked solely at population gains and losses, while the second studied demographic shifts before and after the storm.

The reports' findings had been expected, said William H. Frey, a de-

A Changed Population

An evaluation by the Census Bureau showed that the total population of 117 counties and parishes affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita fell by 2 percent and that the demographic makeup of some areas changed significantly.

PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION , 2005 to JAN. 1, 2006 JULY 1



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES



Largest pct. increase

	New Orleans area			Coastal counties, Miss.			Metropolitan Lake Charles, La.		
	BEFORE*	AFTER*	CHANGE	BEFORE*	AFTER*	CHANGE	BEFORE*	AFTER*	CHANGE
Population Pct. white [†] Pct. black [†] Pct. Hispanic	1,190,615 54% 36% 6%	723,830 68% 21% 6%	-39 %	363,255 78% 17% 2%	303,089 69% 27% 2%	-17 %	173,890 76% 21% 1%	200,732 77% 20% 2%	+15%
Housing units Pct. occupied	552,454 89%	418,171 68%	-24 %	160,645 89%	130,851 83%	-19 %	85,645 85	84,133 91%	-2 %
Pct. unemployed	9%	13%		7%	16%		9%	11%	
Pct. in poverty	14%	9%		16%	17%		16%	20%	
Median household income	\$39,793	\$43,447	+ 9%	\$40,090	\$44,569	+11%	\$35,525	\$36,687	+3 %

*'Before' covers Jan. through Aug. 2005; 'After' covers Sept. through Dec. 2005 [†]Non-Hispanic James Bronzan/The New York Times

vidual households and failing to

count people living in hotels, shelters

"I can tell you that I learned noth-

ing new about Texas," Mr. Murdock

said. "These are very limited data.

The truth is, nobody knows how good

searcher at Louisiana Tech Univer-

sity, said she had been trying to rec-

oncile some conflicting data in the

two reports and came away con-

fused. The underlying trends may be

valid, Ms. Leung said, "but I would

not rely too much on those population

Census officials emphasized that

the special reports used a somewhat

different methodology than typical

Caroline Leung, an economic re-

and other group environments.

this data really is.³

numbers.

mographer for the Brookings Institution. Still, he said, there were some small surprises

It was not only New Orleans but also the entire metropolitan region that became whiter, less poor and more mobile, Mr. Frey said. At the same time, he said, assumptions that the evacuees who went to nearby Baton Rouge, where the population grew by nearly 15,000, were disproportionately poor and black were proven incorrect. A more middleclass group settled there, while the poorer and more vulnerable, who had less choice about where they landed, went to more distant cities.

Demographers in the affected states said yesterday that they were skeptical of some of the methodology in the studies, wary of the results and unsure how helpful the reports would be in measuring the human impact of the storms. Steve Murdock, the

state demographer of Texas, said the bureau studies, saying some of the studies underestimated the number numbers might be slightly less conof hurricane evacuees in Houston by crete than normal. limiting their measurements to indi-

"But we felt the need to do this quickly, because the impact of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast population is really without precedent,' said Enrique Lamas, chief of the bureau's population division.

Of the 117 counties and parishes used in the studies - those identified by the Federal Emergency Manage ment Agency as eligible for disaster assistance — only 40 lost population in the four months after the storm, and 99 percent of the losses came in the top 10 parishes and counties, comprising New Orleans and Lake Charles in Louisiana and Gulfport and Biloxi in Mississippi.

The black population of the New Orleans metropolitan area fell to 21 percent from 36 percent, the bureau found.

few years, perhaps even as soon as a vear from now, she predicted.

These tumors are identified not by looking through a microscope, but by special tests that measure patterns of genetic activity.

"Things that to my eye and a pathologist's eye look similar turn out to be biologically very different," Dr. Carey said, adding that the tests were now strictly a research tool and were not done routinely in women with breast cancer.

Dr. Larry Norton, a breast cancer expert at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York who was not part of the study, said the research was extremely well done and important. He said there was preliminary evidence from other studies that basal-like tumors were the most common kind found in Africa, and that understanding what caused them could help point the way toward better treatments and methods of prevention.

Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade, director of the center for clinical cancer genetics at the University of Chicago, said she had found high rates of basal-like tumors in young women in Nigeria and Senegal, most of whom died. In many, the disease ran in their families.

The work has not yet been published, but Dr. Olopade said the message to black women, and to women of all races, was that if their mothers, sisters or daughters developed breast cancer at an early age, they

fied the subtypes also tells us about the biology of the subtypes," Dr. Carey said. "Once you know what makes it tick, you can figure out how to stop the ticking. It's opened up a window on it."

The goal is to find particular molecules in a cell that drive proliferation or tumor survival, and to block them. "If it looks like a particular cancer cell is dependent on a certain pathway to live or grow, and if you can shut it down preferentially in that cancer cell, you can stop it," Dr. Carey said.

Newer cancer drugs like herceptin and Gleevec, which is used for certain types of leukemia and gastrointestinal tumors, work in this socalled targeted fashion, and so does Tykerb, a new breast cancer drug described last weekend at a meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncology. For certain cancers, targeted treatments are far more effective than standard chemotherapy, more of a buckshot approach.

Breast cancer experts hope to find better treatments than chemotherapy for many types of the cancer, and Dr. Carey said, "That's the challenge, getting away from chemo for this subtype.

The next step in the research is to look for risk factors for the basal-like subtype, in hopes of finding ways to prevent it, she said.

"There's a lot of smart people working very hard on this," Dr. Carey said. "I'm very optimistic."

A 6-Man Asks, What Sign of the Beast?

Paul Porter, World War II buff from Manchester, N.H., says he has alequated his ways birthday, June 6, with D-Day. But this year was different.

Mr. Porter, who is 6-foot-6, turned 66 yesterday — 6/6/06 and curious neighbors and reporters kept Dick Morin/The New Hampshire Union Leader calling to ask how the day was going after Paul Porter an article about him turned 66 yesappeared in the local terday, 6/6/06. paper, The New Hampshire Union Leader.



the number while a high school basketball play-"I can't get away

from the sixes," he said. "I'm going to buy six Megabucks and six Powerballs tonight." The numerals 666 are

called "the number of the beast" in the Book of Revelation. But Mr. Porter was not worried. As of vesterday afternoon, he said the only bad thing that had happened was being attacked by mosquitoes while working in the

backyard.

"I'm flabbergasted," he said. 'Apparently there are people who took this 666 seriously. I've had people drive by and point at the house. Maybe I should be worried.3