

Number of the day

31

Consecutive weeks of average 30-year mortgage rates under 7.0%, the longest stretch in Freddie Mac's 28-year survey.

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Business

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1999

↓	-228.63	Gainers	903	↓	-22.21	↓	-4.76	↓	-39.99	↓	-1.23	↓	-0.08
	Dow Jones	Same	483	S&P 500	Russell 2000	Nasdaq	Amex	30-yr. T-bond					5.05%
	9120.93	Losers	2,161	1212.19	420.10	2276.82	698.16						



Luxury car sales wars

Unusually big December numbers allow Cadillac to edge out Lincoln.

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On the Internet

Get an update on today's Chicago business news at 4:30 p.m. at chicagotribune.com/go/business

Death toll at 12 from meat traced to Sara Lee Michigan plant

By Jon Bigness
 TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The number of deaths traced to contaminated meat from a Sara Lee Corp. processing plant in Michigan has climbed to 12, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

The outbreak of Listeria monocytogenes has been identified in 62 people in 12 states

since early August, with five new cases confirmed in Arizona, health officials said.

Nine adults have died and three women suffered miscarriages after eating hot dogs and possibly deli meats containing Listeria bacteria, the federal health agency said. The death toll has tripled from four cases announced by the CDC on Dec. 22, the day Sara Lee said it

would recall more than 300 vari-

eties of meat products processed at its giant Bil Mar Foods facility in Zeeland, Mich.

The CDC has identified two different strains of Listeria from open and unopened packages of franks and deli meats made at the plant. The strain found in deli meats hasn't yet been linked to human illness, said CDC epidemiologist Paul Mead.

A spokesman for the Arizona Department of Health Services

said the agency is investigating a half dozen other cases of listeriosis that might match the rare strain linked to Bil Mar Foods. The one death in Arizona was an unborn child. Those sickened were a 9-year-old child and three elderly people.

It's likely there will be more deaths and illnesses linked to this Listeria outbreak, health officials said. Listeria has an incubation period of up to six

weeks, and many people may still have recalled products in their freezers.

In addition, more than half the states aren't required to report listeriosis to the federal government. Only 22 states require such reporting, according to a CDC survey in 1989, the last time states were surveyed. They include Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Kenneth Moll, a lawyer who is
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Meat

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suing Sara Lee on behalf of anyone who has gotten ill from the meat products, said he has been contacted by people in seven states not reported by the CDC.

He said that he has learned of 15 deaths and 325 illnesses in 12 states—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Florida, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Colorado.

The affected Sara Lee products include Ball Park, Bil Mar, Bryan Buns, and Bryan 3-pound Club Pack hot dogs; Grillmaster, Hygrade, Mr. Turkey and Sara Lee Deli Meat; and Sara Lee Home Roast brands.

Only products with establishment numbers P261 or 6911 are affected.