



World beat

International

Vatican takes position

VATICAN CITY (AP)— The Vatican warned against "unforeseeable and damaging" consequences of artificial procreation Tuesday, condemning surrogate motherhood, test-tube births, cloning and experiments on living embryos.

In setting out the Roman Catholic church's position on rapidly developing techniques of fertilization, the Vatican also called for laws against embryo banks, attempts to fashion animal-human hybrids and the planting of human embryos in artificial and animal uteruses.

It left the door open to research on helping sterile couples conceive and withheld judgment on fertilization techniques in use or development that neither substitute for marital intercourse nor result in deaths of "spare" embryos.

National

Efforts strengthened

WASHINGTON (AP)— The resignation of Contra leader Arturo Cruz is strengthening House Democrats' efforts to cut off aid to the Nicaraguan rebels until Congress gets an accounting of past aid, including funds diverted from Iran arms sales, supporters of the aid moratorium say.

"This is clearly the death note of the Contras," said Rep. Sam Gejdenson, D-Conn., following the announcement of Cruz' resignation Monday. "This should add opposition to what is clearly now a failed and dying policy of the administration."

Cruz, a former Sandinista ambassador to the United States who defected to the U.S.-backed rebels against his government, has been known as a moderate and the key to some Contra support on Capitol Hill.

Ruling helps aliens

WASHINGTON (AP)— Thousands of illegal aliens facing possible persecution in their homelands will be helped by a new Supreme Court ruling to win political asylum in the United States, civil rights groups and immigration lawyers predict.

"It's a very significant decision," Ira Kurzban of Miami, president-elect of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said of Monday's high court decision. "Hopefully, the previous ideological biases in the selection of applicants for asylum now will be open to challenge."

Kurzban said refugees from such countries as Haiti, El Salvador and Guatemala stand to benefit from the ruling.

Regional

Callers claim lottery

SALEM (AP)— Lottery officials have gotten phone calls from people who say they think they may have won half the \$2.5 million prize in Saturday's Megabucks drawing but can't locate their tickets.

"Two said they had lost their tickets and that theirs may be the winner," Lottery spokeswoman Marta Monetti said Tuesday. "Two other people claimed their tickets had been stolen."

However, she said, the lottery's rule in such a case is simple— no ticket, no prize.

"You have to have a ticket," Monetti said. "That is your only proof of purchase."

Whale 'invaluable'

WARRENTON (AP)— A Portland State University official says the discovery of a young killer whale's carcass stuck in the wreckage of the Peter Iredale at Fort Stevens State Park is an invaluable find for marine animal researchers.

"It's an amazing specimen,"

Debra Duffield, director of the Northwest Mammal Stranding Recovery Network's Portland State University office, said Tuesday.

The whale, which was first reported to park rangers at about 11 a.m. Saturday, was a suckling male, probably about six months old, Duffield said. She estimated the whale's length at 12 feet. Adult male killer whales reach a length of 25 to 31 feet.

Study funds requested

HERMISTON (AP)— Three groups have asked for Army funds to conduct an independent study of the proposal to destroy nerve gas weapons being stored at the Umatilla Army Depot.

The Umatilla Depot Assessment Group of Hermiston, the Grande Ronde Resource Council of La Grande and the Umatilla County Soil Conservation District want to conduct the test.

One of the three will be selected by the Army.

Cancellations target

SALEM (AP)— Policyholders should no longer be subject to insurance companies' unwarranted cancellations, the House Consumer and Business Affairs Committee was told Tuesday.

Rep. Mike Kopetski, D-Keizer, said he's pushing for a bill to ban such cancellations because of the many complaints he gets from constituents about unfair treatment by insurance companies.

"Through no fault of the insured, their insurance company will cancel their policy or substantially raise their premium. That's wrong," he told the committee.



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