We're not alone in weather rut

By United Press International

Snow was welcome across much of the nation Monday and residents of upstate New York were especially grateful for an unexpected break from the cold that has gripped the area for days. Forecasters warned much of the nation except in some Sunbelt areas. Record lows were reported in a number of Missouri and Kansas hardest hit. The wintery blast that hit the Midwest Monday and Tuesday also produced icy rain that coated numerous Oregon roads. In Southern Illinois, many schools remained closed after nearly inches of snow built up in the region. The laying storms were to have taken effect Monday, and residents for predicted flooding. Morning traffic was snarled to a crawl and there was snow, then freezing rain and then more snow. It was breaking trees off and knocking power lines down.

Large-scale operation

A team of scientists from the United States and Mexico begins a dissection of one of the 50 stranded sperm whales to find out why they beach themselves, a phenomenon of great curiosity. The scientists said usually the beach whales are all of one sex, but this group in Baja California is integrated, UPI said.

State bailout of Cleveland 'treason'

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Mayor Dennis K. Kucinich said Monday any attempt by the state to take over Cleveland finances to avoid bankruptcy for the city amounted to "treason" by those involved. A three-person panel of City Council Monday night was expected to approve a plan to sell some city-owned land in an attempt to secure enough cash to avert the layoffs of 400 city employees, including 25 police officers.

The layoffs were to have taken effect Jan. 5, but Cuyahoga County Probate Judge Richard M. Marcus granted a temporary restraining order against the layoffs until at least noon Tuesday. The move was designed to give the council sufficient time to consider the land sales proposal.

"Any Cleveland public official who would agree to a state seizure would be guilty of treason against the people of Cleveland," Kucinich said. "The state council's passage of a resolution opponents to such a thing."

In the name of trying to save the city, "they are prepared to destroy the city," the mayor added. "This is being prepared by Ohio Republicans and being promoted by their wealthy masters. It violates the people's vested right to determine their own destiny.

Former Mayor Ralph J. Perk has granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting any police officers.

Asbestos a danger in schools

WASHINGTON — Environmentalists warned Monday that unless something is done about asbestos in schools, millions of children run higher risk of cancer from the fibers. The charge was made — and the state is being held by a subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee, which is examining what schools are doing about asbestos.

"It is a moral imperative," said Leslie Tuch of the Environmental Defense Fund. "If we don't act now it is widespread in the country."

The Environmental Defense Fund has created a task force on asbestos materials and asbestos problems. But a representative of the teachers' union that makes asbestos materials said there is no proof of its harm in schools.

The environmentalists have asked federal officials to test out asbestos materials and to take steps to keep fibers from being released into the air the children breathe.

"If the release of asbestos from asbestos-milled material into the air of school buildings poses a severe and grave risk to the health of our nation's school children and the teachers, custodians, secretaries, who work in those buildings, the statement by Back was surprising but the statement by Back was surprising but was surprising but was surprising, but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising was surprising but was surprising was surprising was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising but was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was surprising was 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