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WORLD'S NEWEST OLDEST MAN IS 114

The world's oldest man, Japanese citizen Jiroemon Kimura, turned 114 yesterday, celebrating the day away from the public spotlight with his family near Kyoto.

According to the Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group, Kimura is the world's oldest man since Walter Bruening, a retired railworker, died of natural causes last week in Montana at the age of 114.

The world's oldest person is an American, 114-year-old Besse Cooper, according to the group. — *Carmel Melouney*

Ratty jet-setters get heave-ho

Health inspectors found rodent droppings "too numerous to count" near a Delta jet's food and drink storage area, according to documents released yesterday.

The droppings and urine were found in inspections from Jan. 26 to Feb. 2 at a hangar in Atlanta, the Food and Drug Administration wrote.

The airline has taken the issue "very seriously" and solved it by "humanely catching the animal," a Delta spokeswoman said. The FDA said it found rodent droppings above the front galleys, where food and drink are stored, and urine traces on six galley ceiling areas. — NewsCore



Boy, 4, a victim of 'wrong eye' surgery

A 4-year-old boy who underwent eye surgery ended up in worse shape than ever when the doctor allegedly performed the procedure on the wrong eye.

Dale Matlock and Tasha Gaul of Vancouver, Wash., claim their son, Jesse Matlock, was scheduled for surgery on his wandering right eye, but the Oregon doctor mistakenly operated on his left eye before performing a second operation on the other eye. The boy's parents said that now, his left eye wanders. — Carmel Melouney