

# March came in like a lamb



**Jan Zwetzig**

• goodland gazette

February is gone and March came in like a lamb for just a few days. Thursday, Friday and Saturday were certainly lovely days for which a lot of people are most thankful for. The comment I heard over and over at the senior center was that folks were glad the ice was melting and they could wear coats of a lighter weight. Spring is always a welcome relief after the long winter, especially one like we've had this year.

I would like to thank all for the kind words and calls I got about the item in the newspaper on the Goodland Senior Center and the printing of the weekly meal menu. This is a great service and the folks at the center hope it will make it more meaningful to others within the community.

I'm happy to report that many in the community who have been ill are feeling much better and are out and about, but some on a limited basis due to the weather. Hopefully that will keep improving as time goes on.

I really don't have much news as I've kept busy and tried to stay away from the ice and cold at nights.

Vernon and Iris Irvin are back home from their trip to Florida. The report is that the travel to and from the state was one of mixed weather, mostly rain, snow and ice.

Iris said they enjoyed their visits with their late daughter Becky's children and their trip to Disney World and a couple of other side trips. As we all know, we remain kids at heart all our lives.

I'm glad they are home safe and sound, but Iris said they really are missing the 80 degree weather, wearing light sweaters in the evening and lows in the 60s during the night.

A comment was made that no U-turn signs have been posted on Main. Hopefully this will prevent some serious accidents and I do thank the city for this consideration for the well-being of the community.

Birthdays on my calendar, which by the way is not totally up-to-date, include a couple of my relatives, my brother-in-law Bob on Mar. 2, and grandniece Natasha on Mar. 5, along with Antoinette Kashka on Mar. 7, Margaret Golden Bowker on Mar. 8, Denise Hilty on Mar. 9, Emily Warren on Mar. 10 and Katie Acuff on Mar. 12. Happy birthday wishes to

these people, plus any others I don't know about. I have no anniversaries to announce, but send best wishes to those who may be having one.

The church's annual pancake feed was canceled due to the storm. As it turned out the storm didn't get as bad as predicted, but it was terribly icy and cold by evening. I'm sorry to disappoint you folks, but maybe better luck next year, God willing.

A couple of ladies announced at the center that their families who are living in the Seattle area came through the recent earthquake with no injuries or property damage.

We never know where those things are going to hit, but we're all thankful that family members of your friends and neighbors who live there survive those few terrifying seconds. Remember those who did suffer losses in your prayers.

Guess I will close for now as I see no additional notes to use. Take care. Hope you enjoyed the lovely weekend weather and I'll see you all next week.

If you have news you want to share, give me a call as most people in the community seem to like to read this column. 'Till next week.

# Japanese prime minister survives vote in Parliament

**INTERNATIONAL**  
TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori survived his second no-confidence vote in Parliament on today, but the win was unlikely to ease the pressure on him to go, with his popularity crushed by scandals and a stumbling economy.

The lower house of Parliament voted 274-192 to defeat the no-confidence motion submitted earlier in the day by four opposition parties. Mori, whose Liberal Democrats hold a majority in the chamber, defeated a similar measure in November.

The vote gave Mori's enfeebled government a reprieve, but it was expected to be brief. Speculation was rife that he could step down as soon as this week as the LDP readies for its annual party convention March 13 and searches for a successor.

The sharply worded debate on the motion in Parliament was further humiliation for a prime minister whose support ratings have fallen to under 10 percent.

Since he took office in April 2000, Mori has been embroiled in several scandals, ranging from allegations of personal misconduct to comments recalling the militarism of pre-1945 Japan.

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian in an overnight shootout, and Israeli police went on high alert today, setting aside other duties to concentrate on preventing Palestinian militant attacks after the latest deadly bombing.

Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon stood poised to assume power this week with the pledge to restore security to Israel after more than five months of fighting with the Palestinians.

Sharon reached agreement with the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party on Sunday and now has enough support for a majority coalition government. He was expected to present his government to parliament this week, possibly on Wednesday, and would take office if the coalition wins approval.

A Palestinian bomber blew himself up and killed three Israelis on Sunday in the coastal town of Netanya. It was

the second lethal bomb attack in four days inside Israel. Also, seven Palestinians died in violence Friday and Saturday.

Another Palestinian, Osama Nagnhaghia, 21, was shot dead Sunday night when a group of gunmen battled an Israeli army patrol near the West Bank town of Jenin, according to the Israeli military and an official with the Palestinian Tanzim militia.

**NATIONAL**  
UNADILLA, Ga. — Military crews pulled the data and voice recorders from the wreckage of a National Guard cargo plane but slick, muddy conditions hampered the recovery of the 21 victims' remains.

Rescue teams have waded through 3 feet of slippery mud caused by a 4-inch deluge of rain Saturday, when the C-23 Sherpa crashed in a field in south-central Georgia, killing everyone on board.

"It's a quagmire," said Lt. Col. Deborah Bertrand, a spokeswoman at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins that had tracked the plane. "Recovery operations are going to be difficult and protracted."

Defense officials have sent about 150 soldiers and Air Force personnel to the site. Maj. Randy Noller, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, said aviation investigators "will require a significant amount of time" to sift through the charred wreckage and determine a cause.

The passengers included 18 Virginia Air Guard members. The plane's pilot

and two other crew members were from the Florida Army National Guard's 171st Aviation Battalion.

The C-23 Sherpa was assigned to the Florida battalion, based at Lakeland, Fla. It took off Saturday from Hurlburt Field near Fort Walton Beach and was headed to Oceana Naval Air Station, Va.

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** — The threat of Robert Philip Hanssen bolting and spilling more secrets to Moscow is so great that he should remain in prison, government prosecutors plan to tell a judge.

Hanssen, an FBI counterintelligence agent accused of passing top-secret information to the Soviets, and later Russians, for 15 years, was appearing in U.S. District Court on today for his detention hearing.

The government was expected to ask the court to keep Hanssen jailed, arguing that its case against him is so strong and the risks of freeing him too great for him to be released.

The conditions of Hanssen's detention, such as when his lawyers can see him, also could come up.

Hanssen, a 25-year veteran FBI agent, has been held at an undisclosed detention facility since shortly after his arrest Feb. 18. Investigators apprehended him at a Virginia park just minutes after he left a package under a wooden foot bridge, which investigators say was a "dead drop" site for delivering secret documents.

# Accident 'result of many factors'

SUBMARINE, from Page 1

"As a commanding officer of a Naval warship, Cmdr. Waddle is ultimately responsible for everything the ship does and fails to do," Gittins said. "However, this accident was the result of a number of factors. Good people sometimes make honest mistakes; responsibility does not necessarily equate to criminal liability."

In a brief e-mail exchange with USA Today, Waddle asked people to "please pray for those lost at sea." He added, "Pray for me."

The Navy's hearing will examine the actions of Waddle, his second-in-com-

mand, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer, and the officer of the deck, Lt. j.g. Michael Coen.

Three Navy admirals are presiding over the court and will recommend whether the officers should face disciplinary action ranging from a reprimand to court-martial. Their findings will be forwarded to Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, for final action. The admirals also could suggest changes to Navy policies on civilian participation in military operations.

A Japanese maritime official was named an adviser to the court but cannot vote on recommendations.

"We really need to be told what hap-

pened in the submarine," said Hirohisa Ishibashi, mayor of Uwajima, the boat's hometown. "We have to do everything we can to prevent anything like this from happening again."

Ishibashi, along with relatives of five of the missing, traveled to Hawaii to attend the hearing, which is expected to last at least a week.

"This is not as you know a natural disaster. This is a man-made disaster," Shunji Yanai, Japanese ambassador to the United States, said Monday on CBS' "The Early Show." "We cannot believe how it could happen. So the bereaved families and the public are very angry at it."

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