

# Opinion



## Tuesday's Salute

### Thumbs Up

✓**To All Candidates** — good luck today, and thanks for going that extra mile to help our area to be even better.

✓**To Betty Wolfe** — director of the Brewster Heritage Center Library & Museum, for sharing time with our reporter Michelle Hawkins.

✓**To Colby Community College** — on your impressive enrollment numbers.

✓**To Prairie Museum of Art & History** — for winning a GEMMY award, the details of which will soon appear in the *Free Press*.

✓**To Rosalie Bussen** — for your many years as a reporter for the Winona area happenings. Thanks!

✓**To Jean Lowe** — the new Winona correspondent. Welcome aboard!

✓**To Terrel Harrison** — Colby elementary school principal, for your innovative approach to kindergarten education.

✓**To Amy Rice & Sarah Pippenger** — members of the Colby Community College horse show team for earning the right to compete in zone competition, with an eye on the nationals. Good luck!

✓**To Our Troops** — you have our support.

(Call TD at 462-3963 or e-mail [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com) to have a name of names included in this weekly salute.)

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com).

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## Goats never close their eyes to sleep

After last week's column about *Uncle Johns' 4-Ply Bathroom Reader* by the Bathroom Readers' Institute, I had many people comment about interesting reading material.

I found some more interesting facts to share with the readers.

Did you know . . .

- In 1977, a 13-year-old boy discovered a tooth growing on his left foot.

- In Switzerland, it is against the law to slam your car door.

- The geographical center of the North American continent is Rugby, North Dakota.

- The greyhound has the best eyesight of all breeds of dogs.

- About 1 million Americans say they drink Coca-Cola for breakfast.

- Water is heavier than ice.

- The life-span of a butterfly is about six months.

- About 96 percent of all American children can recognize Ronald McDonald.

- An average person laughs 15 times a day.

- The longest any high jumper can stay in the air is one second.

- Everytime Beethoven sat down to write music, he poured ice water over his head.

- More Hollywood films have been made about boxing than about any other sport.

- Ice cream was invented in 1620.

- There is no sunlight at the North Pole for 186 days each year.

- John Wayne appeared in 153 movies, he was the star in all of them but 11.

- The only manmade structure you can see from outer space is the Great Wall of China.

- The Carpenters won more Grammy awards for "Best Pop Group" than the Beatles.



### Michelle L. Hawkins

#### •Pursuit of a Richer Life

- Plywood emits formaldehyde — it is one of the home's biggest indoor pollutants.

- The first baseball team to put numbers on their uniforms were the New York Yankees, in 1929.

- Men are 10 times more likely to be color-blind than women.

- An average person has about six quarts of blood.

- For some reason, redheads have less hair than other people. A normal head of hair has about 100,000 hair, while redheads usually have about 90,000. Blondes usually have more.

- At birth, an infant has 350 bones. As the child grows, they fuse with other bones so by the time a person is grown, they have 206.

- Your eye weighs a quarter of an ounce.

- The first state to allow women to vote was Wyoming.

- Jellyfish have no blood.

- In the movie, *Wizard of Oz*, Toto's real name was Terry.

- The number one use of gold in the United State is for class rings.

- Only one carat in every 23 tons of ore mined is a diamond.

- A major league baseball team can break \$150,000 worth of bats in one year.

- Dan Quayle's favorite movie is *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

- Pigs killed off the dodo bird.

- Flies can get athlete's foot.

- Sleepwalking is hereditary.

- The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.

- Eskimos have over 100 words for ice.

- An ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire that is 50 miles long.

- Moose are very nearsighted. Some try to mate with cars.

- Every year, Mexico City sinks about 10 inches.

- Mosquitoes prefer biting you if you've just eaten a banana.

- All continents have deserts — except for Europe.

- About 91 percent of Americans surveyed have bought their pets holiday gifts.

- Mr. Green Jean's nickname in real life was "Lumpy."

- The song sung most often in America is "Happy Birthday."

- Salt Lake City citizens consume more Cracker Jacks than any other Americans.

- The fourth most common language in the United State is sign language.

- Forty percent of Americans have never visited a dentist.

- Goats rest, but never close their eyes to sleep.

Now — don't you feel more intelligent?!? Just a little something to share around the water-cooler tomorrow.

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*Hawkins is Family Page and Religion Page editor, and also a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Colby Free Press. Her column appears on Tuesdays.*

## The sky isn't falling



### Jay Kelley

#### • Speaking MyMind

fantry, one our most powerful divisions? Possibly, but had the powers-that-be waited who knows where we would be right now?

I've also noted the pundits who said we went in too light have ignored the British, who have nearly an armored division in the arena, plus the Royal Marines, a pretty tough group all by themselves.

Another setback came from our supply lines, but that problem was as much the fault of moving too fast as it was the sniping and ambushes along the road being used. Hindsight, which is never 20/20 regardless of what others might say, might tell us the biggest mistake was in the logistics sector.

We just didn't plan on our troops moving farther and faster than any unit of comparable size in history. In other words, things were going too good and we had to stop to catch a breather!

There is also the matter of the Republican Guard, whose plan is to stop us from driving to Iraq. Maybe I just don't get it, but when one group (us) plans to go to Baghdad and another group (them) plans to stop them, doesn't that make for some friction at some point?

The second axiom is that, if things are going too well, you're probably being ambushed! This is perhaps what happened with the Fedayeem Saddam, the thugs who are sniping at our troops

After much hand-wringing among the media elite, our troops seem to be on the road to Baghdad again, albeit at a little slower pace.

I have to admit, I got caught up in the "what went wrong" mindset as well, but I quickly got over it when it occurred to me that there might be a reason why the guys in charge are generals and admirals.

Perhaps some of our reporters, especially those who get on Iraqi television and wax eloquent about the failure of our war plans should remember that they aren't omniscient in the area of strategy and tactics, either.

Some say it's Donald Rumsfeld's fault. I'd like to believe that. In my opinion, he's the weak link in an otherwise stellar cabinet. But, if the snafus are his fault, doesn't that mean he gets the credit when the plan comes together?

There are a couple of axioms of which the Marines are fond which might shed some light on what is happening in Iraq and why reporters and some of our politicians are going ballistic while the professionals seem almost unconcerned.

The first axiom is that no plan survives first contact. In other words, the other guy is not going to let you do what you want just because it's in your plan. Our plan was to drive to Baghdad with the First Marines and Third Infantry from the south and the Fourth Infantry from the north, but the first setback came from our allies, the Turks, who didn't want an invasion of an Arab neighbor happening in their country.

I suppose it's hard to blame them for that. I suspect there are a lot of countries in the region who will breathe more freely once Sadism is gone, but still fervently wish the reason for his demise was anyone but the Americans.

Was it a mistake to go without the Fourth In-

## Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

