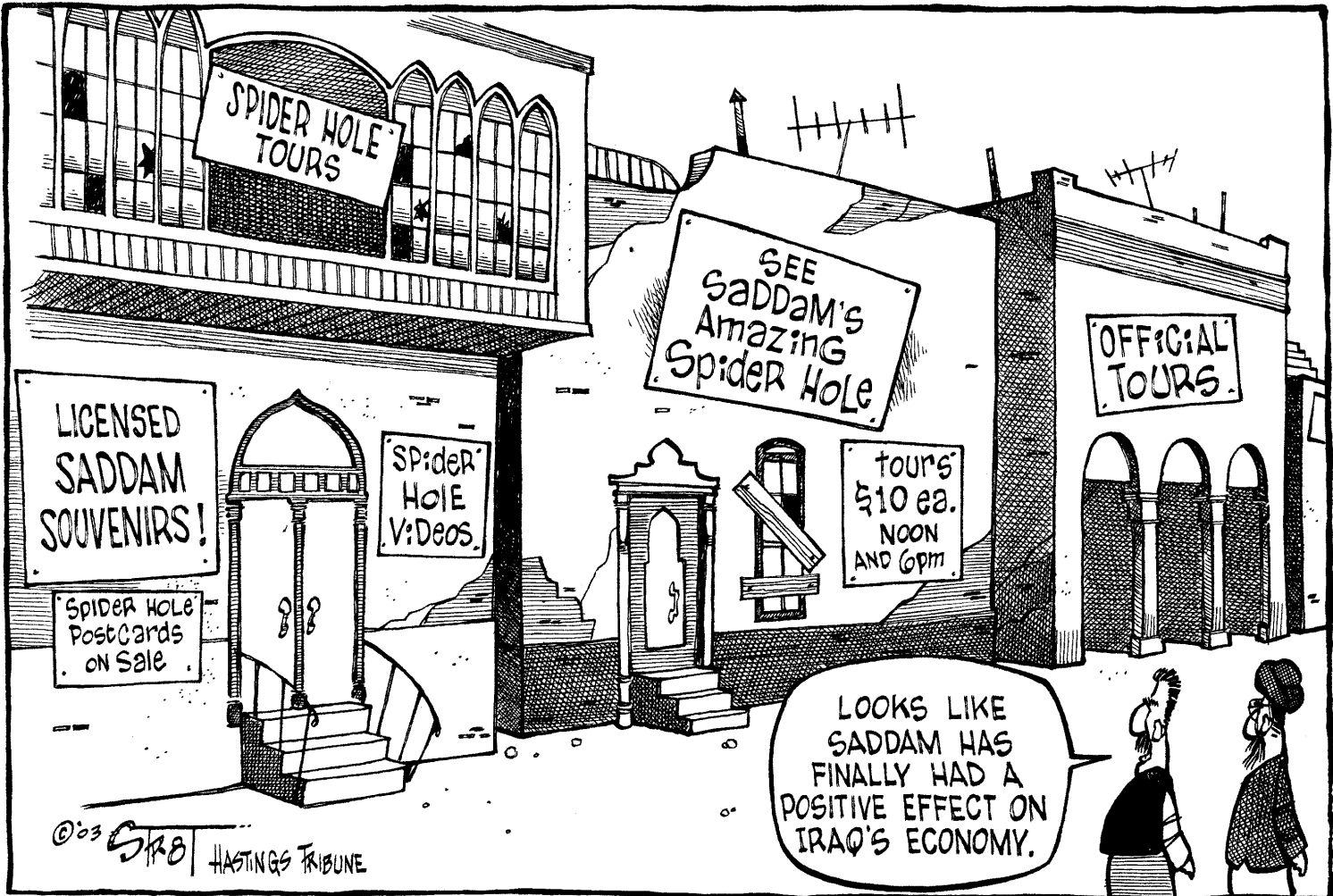


from our viewpoint...

# Saddam capture opens last chapter

One more down.  
U.S. troops caught up with Saddam Hussein over the weekend, opening the last chapter in a sorry history of murder, deceit and brutality.  
Dragged out into the light and given a quick physical at U.S. headquarters, Saddam did not seem all that fierce. He had few friends, no command, no forces. His last two bodyguards tried to run when U.S. troops approached.  
He was spirited out of the country, taken to an undisclosed location where American military experts will interrogate him.  
The one-time dictator appeared in film clips to be confused and disoriented, but his defiant nature reportedly came to the surface later, when Iraqi leaders were taken to see him in person.  
The ex-despot said he had been “firm but fair” and dismissed the thousands found in mass graves as “nothing but thieves.”  
Though his camp was armed and the dictator wore a side-arm, not a shot was fired as American troops swooped down on the huts of a sheep farm. They found the mighty Saddam in a hole under one of the huts. He had a quarter of a million American dollars, but few friends.  
There was dancing in the streets of Baghdad, and more than a few smiles even in his nearby hometown of Tikrit, but Saddam’s capture will not end the violence in Iraq.  
That will take, as President Bush pointed out, months, perhaps years, as the country develops a new government and outside forces are hunted down and eliminated.  
American troops are going to be there for a while, and yes, American blood will be shed.  
Regardless of what Democratic partisans say, the U.S. is in this for the long haul. We are winning. Casualties have been light by any standard, both during the campaign to take Iraq and during the occupation.  
No loss of life is good, but we have to accept when fighting a war that there will be some casualties. Opponents who crow happily at every American setback are not doing this country a service.  
Sen. Jay Rockefeller was quick to pronounce Sunday that the fighting will continue because the terrorists “are not fighting for Saddam, but against the United States.”  
Of course they are. Some of these people are sworn enemies of this country and everything that we stand for. They hate the West, they hate democracy, they hate the idea of freedom for their countrymen.  
But the U.S. has and will prevail.  
We will win the war on terrorism.  
Eventually, we’ll find Osama bin Laden as well. Others will take his place.  
We will defeat them as well.  
But for now, there’s cause to celebrate.  
We got him. — *Steve Haynes*



# Snow brings moisture, smiles to farmers

I don’t know about you, but where I live, the ground is covered with snow.  
It’s a little early for so much snow, but farmers are thrilled to have the moisture for next year’s wheat crop.  
For a day or so, quite a few people were inconvenienced, some activities were cancelled, some parents and grandparents worried. Shopkeepers bemoaned their holiday sales losses, but, truth be told, the world really didn’t stop turning.  
This was a beautiful snow — exceptional for Kansas — as there was no wind with it.  
I wanted to pretend that I was snowed in, absolutely unable to get out to interact with the world. I thought a good book and some popcorn would make the winter scene just perfect — from the warmth of my easy chair. The electricity didn’t go off; the world seemed somehow hushed. A good time to commune with the Creator of it all.



**lorna  
gt**  
● commentary

because we always had to build a new one every winter). Then adults and kids alike would pile on the sled, and we would be pulled behind the car through the streets of our little town. My dad always insisted on driving; he knew he would not be reckless.  
A good time was had by all, and there was no fear of auto insurance claims or government restrictions. Those things happen when people don’t act responsibly and/or want to blame others for their inattention or immaturity.  
One year in Colorado Springs, I was discouraged by the numerous snowfalls. I was working out of the home, so had to get out and join the crazies on the slick roads.  
I commented to a chaplain friend of mine: “Wouldn’t it be great if God could arrange it so that snow only fell where they weren’t roads and streets?”  
He merely smiled and replied: “He did.” Think about it.

But of course there are other people — the ambitious, the snow-lovers, who can’t wait to get outside and prove their mastery of nature. They get cabin fever at just the suggestion they can’t hop in their vehicles and leave home. So they are out shoveling, being the first to make a track in the beautiful snow God provided. Too many are just wanting to escape the house, not necessarily get out to enjoy the snow with their children.  
I remember enjoying snow when I was small. My dad and uncles would build a sled about six-feet long (evidently never saved,

# A thank you for telling it ‘like it is’

To the Editor:  
I want to tell you how much I appreciate getting and reading *The Star-News*!  
I’m a former Sherman Countian, having lived there for the first part of my married life. Now, it’s like getting a letter from home with each issue!  
I especially like your “open session” and “along the sappa” You do such a good job of telling it like it is!  
I love hearing about your experiences with your family and of your life with your pets.  
I especially like cats. Have had many of them as house guests (I have never *owned* a cat!) in the past and can relate to your stories.  
Keep up the good work.  
Nancy Laughlin



**from our  
readers**  
● to the editor

our schools and communities.  
To keep our military personnel a bit safer, we created projects that meet the need of military requests, established special projects for holidays and assigns individual morale-lifting mail support to soldiers around the world.  
Right now, we desperately need Americans who will step forward to support a U.S. service member deployed overseas. If you are ready to count yourself as one who defends the freedoms of our country, visit our website at [www.adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org) or contact me directly for more information.  
Platoon Mom Terri Corl  
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Hoisington Kan. 67544  
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Sun City West, Ariz.

To the Editor:  
The AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort is a nonprofit 501 C-3 organization managed nationwide by volunteer moms and dads to ensure that U.S. service members deployed around the world in all branches of the military are not forgotten, and to promote patriotism in

# Holidays a good time to stop and be thankful

As the Holiday Season descends upon us and we begin our annual battle with long lines, cold temperatures and sick children I wanted to take a moment and reflect over the past year, say thank you, and remind everyone about the many great things we can be thankful for in our lives.  
Growing up on the farm, I always enjoyed the holiday season because of the time spent with family and friends. It was also wonderful to see how our neighbors came together as a community to support and celebrate those around us in need.  
Have found as I travel throughout this state that this sentiment is not just alive in Holton, but it is a Kansas value and one that sets our state apart from the rest.  
I would also like to express my appreciation for allowing me to serve as your State Treasurer. Serving as State Treasurer is a great responsibility and one that I take very seriously.  
However, I also wanted to take a moment and send a special thanks to those Kansans and their families who are serving or have loved ones serving in our armed forces.  
These brave men and women risk their lives



**lynn  
jenkins**  
● state treasurer

family stands united behind you.  
If I can ever be of assistance or you would like more information about the many programs we offer, please do not hesitate to go online at [www.KansasStateTreasurer.com](http://www.KansasStateTreasurer.com) or email me at <mailto:lynn@treasurer.state.ks.us>.  
It is an honor to serve as your State Treasurer. I thank you for the opportunity and for all of your help and support as I travel throughout the state. On behalf of my husband Scott, and our two children, I would like to wish you a very safe and enjoyable holiday season and I hope the New Year brings you joy and happiness.

# where to write

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**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail — [brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me](mailto:brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me)

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**Nor’West Newspapers**  
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