# Family

#### **Babies**

#### **Marcy Elizabeth Marie Moberly**

Amy Miller-Hackney and Mat in length. Moberly of Bird City announce the birth of their daughter Marcy Elizabeth Marie on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 5 pounds

Grandparents are Karen and Byron Moberly of St. Francis and Gordon and Debbie Miller of Bird

Marcy is welcomed home by 15 ounces and measured 18 inches sister Miah and brother Myron.

### Clubs

#### Three of Clubs

Sorosis/Pi Gamma/ Shakespeare luncheon at Pioneer Memorial Library.

The Sorosis Club was hostess. nations to be given to a charity was placed at the table. Fritz Ostmeyer said the blessing. The food was delicious.

Sharon Kriss brought her keymet Dec. 14, for their Christmas board and passed out booklets with Christmas songs. A sing-a-long was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be at The table were decorated for the 1:30p.m. on Jan. 11, 2008, at Pio-Christmas season. A bowl for do-neer Memorial Library. The hostess club will be Pi Gamma. Sharon Kriss will be in charge of the program which will be Mr. Alphabatrix and His Magic Words.

## **Meadow Lake Bridge Winners**

The Meadow Lake bridge win- for second, Mary Kersenbrock for ners for Tuesday, Dec. 18, were: third and Cookie Koenig. Gayle Vacca for first, Elaine Ptacek

### Son's of The American Legion

Presented Flags to the Colby of the American Legion purchased a Honor Guard to use in their ceremonies. They have been using the Flags

set of Flags for the Honor Guard.

The flag presentation was held at from the Colby Armory for several the American Legion post. Memyears and have not had their own. In bers of the Colby Honors Guard appreciation for all they do the Son's were present for the ceremony.

## Energy answers for savers

or Not to Close Heat Registers in than two out of every 10 registers Unused Rooms

Q: If I close the heat registers in some unused rooms to save energy, is it possible to close too many?

A: Yes. To keep cool, furnaces need air flowing through and out of the unit. Closing off too many registers will restrict a furnace's air flow and thus reduce its cooling action. This can make the furnace overheat or cause other problems.

Fortunately, furnaces come equipped with a safety device that closes the main gas valve when the unit overheats.

an everyday controller isn't a good

1) Energy Answers: To Close idea. So, you should close no more

As a check, after closing a couple of registers, let the furnace go through a long heating period. Then turn the thermostat up and check for anything unusual, such as the gas valve's cycling off and on. If things don't seem right, open the registers again.

More information about saving energy is available on Kansas State University's Energy Extension Service Web site: http://www.engext. ksu.edu/ees/.

- Source: Bruce Snead, Kansas Still, using that safety switch as State University Energy Extension

## Gift baskets are food, not decorations

filled with fruits, nuts and sometimes other products are a long-time winter holiday tradition.

Nowadays, they're often wrapped in colorful cellophane with a bow. They may arrive as a to-your-door shipment, rather than a present in their giver's hands.

"They can be so pretty that you're tempted to use them for awhile as a centerpiece or other decoration. But that can be the worst idea for maintaining the quality of the baskets contents. The fruits, in particular,

MANHATTAN - Gift baskets often need cool storage. Nuts can oranges and grapefruit can go in keep them frozen in a tight container," said Ward Upham horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

> Upham recommends that gift basket recipients immediately unpack their present.

"Tropical fruits, including bananas, can rapidly lose quality in the refrigerator," he said. "So, just store them in a cool part of your kitchen, pantry or utility room."

Tree fruits such as apples, pears,

last for up to a year, but only if you the refrigerator, although they'll soon begin to lose moisture unless they're in a drawer the manufacturer designed for fruit storage. They can even stay in the basket elsewhere if

it's a fairly cool place. "Around 40 degrees is the storage temperature that brings best results," Upham said. "That's actually a little warmer than regular refrigerator space will be. But, you may achieve it near something that's even colder, such as a base-

"Unfortunately, most fruits prefer storage conditions with 85 to 95 percent relative humidity, and you can't hope to achieve anything close to that. Because we're heating our homes with furnaces now, even running a humidifier near the fruit won't get the air moisture that high."

Upham recommends that basket receivers use up any berries first. Apples typically are the longestlasting fruit, retaining quality two to three weeks or even longer.

## Tips on easy make ahead dishes for breakfast

(AP) It's Christmas morning and of ingredients can be scattered beyour family's got one thing on their minds - presents.

But all that tearing and mayhem is bound to make people hungry. So rather than tear yourself away from the fun to create an elaborate breakfast, rely on some easy makeahead dishes that can be assembled the night before and popped in the oven when you turn on the coffee maker.

"You don't want to be in the kitchen when your family is opening presents in the morning, or if you have a long day of people coming in and out of your house," says Peter Degnan, culinary director for Williams-Sonoma. "You want something really quick and easy, but it also has to be really good and something special."

Here are a few ideas for egg dishes, yeast breads and even hot cereals so good — and fuss-free your family and friends will think they've been left by food savvy

-Strata and French toast

Think of these custard-soaked bread dishes as cousins, one savory,

For strata, start with a good baguette or Italian peasant loaf. The night before, saturate the slices with a milk-and-egg mixture, then layer them with your favorite ingredients (all meat should be fully cooked) in a buttered baking dish.

For a basic formula, try a standard baguette, a half-dozen eggs and 1 cup of milk. A total of 3 or 4 cups try one of Degnan's favorite tricks:

tween the layers. Pour any remaining custard over the top.

Ham, bacon, sausage, cheese, spinach, broccoli and other omelet staples make perfect fillings. Try pairing cooked Italian sausage with thinly sliced apples and Grana Padano cheese for a hearty, salty-sweet sensation.

For Janis McLean, executive chef at the Morrison-Clark Historic Hotel and Restaurant in Washington, a Christmas morning strata is part of the family tradition and she loads it up with intense ingredients, such as wild mushrooms, sauteed chard, smoky bacon and caramelized onions.

For the family sweet tooths, nothing beats a creamy French toast. McLean starts with slices of egg bread, such as challah or brioche, and uses heavy cream in the custard with a touch of orange zest, vanilla and salt.

As with the strata, for French toast, soak the slices very well, then layer them with the ingredients in a buttered shallow baking dish the night before. Slices of cream cheese, bits of cooked bacon or even good quality preserves can make tasty fillings. Pour any remaining custard over the top. Cover tightly and let it all soak in.

Both dishes should bake at 325 F for about an hour, or until a knife inserted at the center comes out

When serving the French toast,

and use a cook's torch to create a crunchy creme brulee effect. Voila. Very French. Very toasty.

- Oatmeal

Thick, creamy, hot and filling, nothing says comfort like great oatmeal on a cold morning. Start with steel cut oats for maximum flavor and texture (the rolled kind will turn to mush).

Cook them overnight on low in a slow cooker, or for even better texture, pour boiling water over the oats and let them soak overnight. A

sprinkle the top with superfine sugar quick stir over heat in the morning will make them ready to eat.

Either way, have lots of luxurious garnishes on hand: warm, vanillalaced heavy cream, pure maple syrup, gourmet honey, lots of fruits and nuts, and (for a unique holiday

kick) really good egg nog. McLean pairs her oatmeal with a dried fruit compote full of cranberries, cherries and apricots, spiked with a little cinnamon, star anise and Armagnac to make it "just a tiny bit adult." The compote can be made a week in advance.

### Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day **Hi-Plains Co-op** 

| \$9.11  |
|---------|
| \$3.94  |
| \$6.80  |
| \$10.30 |
|         |

## Card Shower!

Card shower to honor Bill Randall. Bill will celebrate his 90th birthday on December 25, 2007. Cards may be sent to him at:



530 Austin Colby, KS 67701

Northwest Kansas Sanitation -Rural Trash Pickup-We would like to wish all our

patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

lf you are interested in being put on the route, contact us at (785) 694-2425.



**FIND THE GIFT** YOU NEED



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERET

John Deere Holiday Merchandise



**Nothing says** happy holidays like a John Deere.



SURPRISE ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY WITH THE PERFECT GIFT.

Come see us for all your John Deere Christmas needs!

Colby Implement, L.L.C

2106 US 24, Colby, KS ~ 785-462-3391 www.colbyimplement.com



FREE RAZR

**NO ACTIVATION FEE!** 

OFFER GOOD DECEMBER 20-24 ONLY

24-month service agreement and \$200 early termination fee apply.

SHOP IN-STORE, ONLINE AT WWW.UNICEL.COM, OR CALL 1-800-GO CELLULAR [462-3558]

UNICEL RETAIL STORE: Colby: 1933 South Range, Suite 1

THE WAY WIRELESS SHOULD BES



Offer subject to terms of wireless service agreement, Data Services Terms and Conditions and calling plan details. Additional charges will be included each month for each line of service to help Unicel defray its costs of complying with federal and state regulatory obligations, as follows: 4.081% USF charge (11.7% USF charge for international calls), 4.34% KS USF charge, additional cost recovery fees of \$1.95 and, if roaming charges are incurred, roaming taxes if passed on by our roaming partners and a \$2.00 roaming administration fee. These charges are not taxes or government-required charges. Service activation requires credit check and may require security deposit. Mail-in rebates must be redeemed within 2 weeks after phone purchase; allow 8-10 weeks for rebate delivery. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges apply. Must be at least 18 years of age with positive ID and must have user address in the Unicel home coverage area. Digital features and service are not available in all areas and may vary due to atmospheric, topographical and other conditions. Phone screen images have been enhanced for clarity. Other restrictions apply. See store or Web site for details. Ks Residents: Unicel is obligated to provide service within its designated ETC service area upon reasonable request. Consumers should direct any complaints regarding service issues to the Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.