

Family

Deaths

Katherine A. Epp

Katherine A. Epp, 95, of Colby, died today in Colby. Services are pending at Harrison Chapel in Colby. Mrs. Epp was born May 13, 1913 in Goessel.

Ruth M. Kersenbrock

Ruth M. Kersenbrock, 83, of Colby, died Sunday, June 1, 2008, at Citizens Medical Center. Services are pending at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

Kay Barnett

Kay Barnett, 53, of Grinnell, died Thursday, May 29, 2008, in an automobile accident in Kit Carson County, Colo.

She was born Dec. 4, 1954 in Oakley to A.M. "Mac" and Mary (Seat) Teeter.

Mrs. Barnett was a lifetime resident of northwest Kansas and a social worker. She was a member of the Oakley Community Church, Oakley VFW Post 2981 Ladies Auxiliary and held a masters degree in social work from Newman University, Wichita, in May 2008.

Survivors include her mother; sons: Shannon Barnett of Topeka; Shane Barnett and wife, Jeanie, of Shell Knob, Mo.; Chad Barnett and wife, Christina, of Grinnell; Shelby Barnett of Colby; and Shaelum Barnett of Oakley;

Marceil A. Mead

Marceil A. Mead, 85, of Colby, died Friday, May 30, 2008, at Lakewood Senior Living Complex in Wichita.

Mrs. Mead was born Sept. 7, 1922 in Thomas County.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Mead in March 2008 and a son, Jerry Mead in 1979.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Mead of Wichita; brothers: Louis Black of Colby and Andrew Black of Rexford; sis-

ters: Eileen Dible of Colby and Joan Hancock of Des Moines, Iowa. Visitation is from 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

A graveside service is planned at 11 a.m., Wednesday, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Association with donations left in care of Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan. 67701.

Expert says to shop now for strawberries

Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in spring, but their season is short — often lasting just three to four weeks.

"If you live in the central United States, you need to be shopping right now to take advantage of the berries grown locally.

Visit a farmers market or a pick-your-own strawberry patch. Or, ask for area-grown berries at your supermarket," said Chelsey Wasem, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Local produce spends almost no time in handling or travel, she explained.

As a result, strawberries grown nearby tend to be sweeter and juicier than those shipped in from out of state.

Although tomatoes and pears can ripen after picking, strawberries don't. So, Wasem provided these guides to help shoppers select and serve the best:

- Look for plump, bright-red

berries that are firm and fresh-looking.

- Make sure the caps are attached, green and also fresh-looking.

• Avoid berries with bruises or mold. If you accidentally get a moldy one, trash it. Don't leave it in contact with your fresh berries, because that mold can spread quickly.

• Do not wash the berries until just before serving. Store them unwashed in the refrigerator.

• Do not remove their leafy caps until you've finished gently washing the berries in a spray of cool water.

"The caps keep the water from breaking down the texture and flavor inside the berries," Wasem added. "You'll have a nice surprise if you've never waited before to remove the caps at the last minute."

Strawberries not only taste good but also are a good source of Vitamin C and fiber, she said.

Study finds teasing even more damaging

Children are more likely to interpret teasing — even teasing intended to be harmless — as negative rather than positive, according to a study at Kansas State University.

The study, which observed fifth- and sixth-grade students, found that when it was unclear whether teasing was friendly or unfriendly, kids tended to interpret the act as unfriendly. Previous research showed that fifth- and sixth-grade students were able to distinguish between antisocial and prosocial teases. However, this study, presented in February at a conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, demonstrates that the same children are not always able to distinguish the intent of teasing that is more ambiguous.

"To evaluate how teases are meant, we usually use contextual cues like the tone of the voice that the teaser uses, their body language and facial features while delivering the tease, and information about our relationship with the tease," said Jennifer Livengood, Wamego, a social psychol-

ogy master's degree graduate student at K-State involved in the study.

"By minimizing the contextual cues, we can assume that the teases are ambiguous in that some people may see them as intentionally hurtful while others may interpret them as being playful or affiliative in nature. The purpose of this study was to see if this interpretation was influenced by their previous experiences and their general attitudes toward teasing."

Researchers found that kids who had been the subject of negative teasing were more likely to interpret ambiguous teasing as negative and were more likely to retaliate.

Markets

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

Wheat	\$7.42
Corn	\$5.57
Milo	\$9.23
Soybeans	\$11.98

Tips offered on homemade prewash spray

Dear Heloise: I am desperately seeking your recipe for making my own prewash spray. Would you reprint it?

— Karen Malone, Coulee City, Wash.

With all of us trying to save money in today's economy, this hint will help cut your grocery bill.

All you do is mix equal parts of tap water, household ammonia (sudsy or plain) and dishwashing (not dishwasher) liquid. This means, as an example, 1/2 cup of each. Put into a clean spray bottle and label it.

Don't let it sit too long on the stain — maybe three to five minutes. Wash the garment. Don't put into the dryer — let the item air-dry, and repeat if needed.

You'll also find a list to help you read clothing-care labels. For example: It's not always what a care label says that matters, but what it doesn't say that is also important. Care labels are required to give at least one satisfactory method of care even though other methods may be used.

— Heloise

Fast facts

Dear Readers: Here are some handy uses for binder clips, large or small:

- Hold outgoing mail together.
- Hold papers when typing.
- Colored clips can be used to ID lunch items in the fridge.
- Hold chip, cookie or frozen-veggie bags closed.
- Keep coupons together when shopping.

Towel tags
Dear Heloise: While folding the towels and washcloths to put away, I looked at those darn tags that always show. It dawned on me: I don't need them to tell me how to wash towels! So, I tore them off, and now when I hang the towels, I don't have to worry about the tags showing.

— Jan, via e-mail

Knitting-needle organization
Dear Heloise: I knit and have accumulated quite a number of needles.

I have found that the best way to keep track of the needles is by using a quart-size zipper bag -- the kind with the label you can write on.

I labeled one bag for each size needle and put all the various lengths in another bag. I store

all the bags in a plastic shoe box in order from largest to smallest.

— Brenda W. Finnegan, Valparaiso, Ind.

Sound off

Dear Heloise: It seems every new household appliance I get is bigger than the old, simple styles of the past.

My kitchen isn't getting any bigger, yet my coffee maker, mixer, electric frying pan, iron and even my new manual can opener are bulkier than the old versions.

Some don't work as well as the slim-and-trim ones, either. Bigger is not always better, especially when I can't fit things where the old ones used to fit.

— Sharon B., Woodbury, Conn.

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