

# I'm in heaven



The 24th annual Tri-State Farm, Toy and Collectible show was held Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Norton. Featuring toys and farm collectibles of all types, buyers and sellers of all ages came from all over the region for the show. Pictured, Garrett Petty, of Hill City, looks over some of the toys at the show and tries to pick out which one he might most like to play with.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

# Planting my first garden with mama

"Don't forget your sunbonnet, garden girl," Mama says as we open the back screen door. "It's cool now but that sun will warm us up in a hurry and we'll be working hard all day."

Making garden is Mama's favorite thing and this year she decided I am old enough to help. She has her claw digger in one hand and brown cotton gloves in the other. I get to carry our seed basket. The garden is already begun. Last fall Daddy started spading while Mama raked the clods. Daddy grumbled about gardening all year 'round and Mama told him the family eats all year 'round, too.

It's April now, warming up, but way back in February when it was still really cold, Mama planted peas. On St. Patrick's Day we planted a big potato patch. Mama says her Irish mama told her you must plant "prathies" on St. Paddy's Day. I put the potato pieces in all the little holes Daddy dug while Mama came last to cover them up.

It rained last weekend so the ground is just right for planting today. Mama shows me how to tell if it is dry enough to crumble in my fingers and feel warm. If it's too cold, the seeds won't sprout and if it's too wet, they spoil. Seeds are persnickety, she says. That makes me

giggle because when I won't eat shredded wheat she calls me persnickety, too.

I get pop-sickle sticks from the basket to poke into the ground and tie grocery string on them to make straight lines clear across the garden. They look like clotheslines for mice. Then Mama takes a hoe and makes ditches beside the lines and we put seeds in the ditches. She does the tiny ones and she shows me how to do beans. I put one seed down, lay my hand beside it with my little finger on the bean and then I put the next seed under my thumb. There are lots and lots of bean rows and I am very careful so it takes almost all morning for me to finish. Mama has planted beets, lettuce, carrots, radishes, turnips and parsnips. "Whew!" she says, "It's getting hot. Let's go have a cool drink and make sandwiches."

After lunch we lie down for forty winks, which is what Mama calls a nap, before we go back out to put in onion sets. There are rows and rows of those, too, and I am sure glad when they're finished. Now we do a box of tomato plants that grew indoors for a few weeks in our sunny

## Child of the '40s

Liza Deines



south window. It takes a long time to plant each one and poke a big nail beside their stems so cut-worms can't bite them. We bring wooden tomato crates from behind the chicken house and put them up to hold the vines as they grow. Tomatoes are a lot of trouble but I like tomatoes best of all.

Next Mama hoes out a dozen hollows with edges. She calls them hills but they don't look like hills to me. Cantaloupe, watermelon, acorn and butter-nut squash, pumpkins and cucumbers go in the hollows, using seeds saved from last year's garden. A handful of seeds go in each hollow and we finish fast. Mama's face lights up and she says, "Now we can plant flowers," and I know she likes flowers best of all.

Did you know bugs don't like marigolds? We plant a lot of

those out around the vines so bugs will stay away. And Mama has seeds saved for zinnias, cosmos, snapdragons and daisies. I get to plant the four o'clocks. They're my favorite because they bring hummingbirds. The fence between the yards gets pink sweet-pea seeds and blue morning glories. Hummingbirds like those, too. Last thing we set up the sprinkler out in the middle of it all.

"Well," Mama says, "won't your father be surprised when he comes home tonight and sees our garden!" We just stand for a spell and admire all the neat rows and hills and sticks with seed packets stuck on top. "A big job for a big five-year-old girl," Mama tells me, "and you were lots of help." And we go off to the kitchen to cook Daddy's supper.

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## Accident Report

On March 9, a red 2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser, driven by Lyndelle S. Linde of Belleville, was west bound on U.S. Highway 36 when a deer ran onto the road from the north ditch. Linde hit the deer causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Rich Wenzl.

On March 14, a silver 2008 Pontiac G6, driven by Preston A. Prett of Oberlin, was east bound on U.S. Highway 36 when a deer entered the roadway striking the passenger side of the vehicle causing over \$1,000 damage. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Adam Wahlmeier.

On March 14, a light gray 1998 Chevrolet, driven by Alberta Slaby of Norton, was east bound on Highway 383 when a deer ran onto the road. Slaby was unable to avoid the collision causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Adam Wahl-

meier. On March 17, a red 2000 Ford F150, driven by Travis P. Williams of Norton, was east bound on Highway K9 when Williams came upon a cow in the roadway. Williams was un-

able to avoid striking and killing the cow which caused over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Rich Wenzl.

## Sudoku Puzzle #2481-M

1		2		3			4	5
			1	6				7
			8		2		9	
	9				1	7		8
		3				5		
6		1	4					2
	1		9		8			
2				1	3			
7	5			4		3		1

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Medium

### Off the Mainland

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17				18						19		
20					21					22		
23				24		25				26		
27	28	29		30		31		32				
33			34			35		36		37	38	39
40			41					42				
43				44						45		
46			47		48					49		
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56			57			58		59		60	61	62
63			64			65						
66			67					68				
69				70					71			

American Profile Hometown Content

3/18/2012

### ACROSS

- Some tuskers
- Mariner's "Halt!"
- GPs et al.
- Turn topsy-turvy
- Track official
- Hamelin casualty
- Doris Day hit, off the mainland?
- Sidewalk stand purchase
- Place for an ace?
- Bull pen stats
- Soccer star Hamm
- Flogging memento
- Patriarch of a tribe of Israel
- Marshall \_\_\_ (Truman implementation)
- Tick off
- Euro forerunner
- Part of RSVP
- Plain to see
- Male: Prefix
- Parting words, off the mainland?
- Cabinet department
- Does a checkout chore
- Often non-PC suffix
- Audiophile's stack
- Proprietary symbols: Abbr.
- Baby-sitter's nightmare
- Sunflower State city
- Stable parent
- Hydrogen's atomic number
- Forever, seemingly
- Digs deeply
- "\_\_\_ Mutual Friend"
- Two shakes of a lamb's tail, off the mainland?

### DOWN

- Tampa Bay team, for short
- Fall birthstone
- "\_\_\_ sow, so shall \_\_\_"
- Mended, in a way
- Mound great Carlton
- \_\_\_ snail's pace
- Carpenter's tool
- "\_\_\_ bagatelle"
- Mariachi's wrap
- "Circular files"
- Soap opera, e.g.
- Pie chart lines
- Propellant for Casey Jones
- Visit through primal therapy
- Snake, to Medusa
- Crosspiece
- Trident-shaped letters
- Pre-discount price
- \_\_\_ breve (2/2 time)
- At attention
- Fido's field of study?
- Shirts and skins, e.g.
- Batik artisan
- Parks in 1955 news
- Boot out
- Work with acid
- Like some jokes or jobs
- "Cheers" perches
- Bible \_\_\_ (certain fundamentalist)
- Wined and dined
- "Ocupado"
- Dwarf planet in the asteroid belt
- Those against
- Flinch, say
- Trig ratio
- Lemming kin
- First name in scat
- Rode the banister
- Kasparov's sixteen

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