

Valentine's Day and the ways of saying 'I love you'

Who do you love? And have you told them you love them today?

And with Valentine's Day just a couple days away and all the hype that goes with it, how will you show your loved ones that they are special to you?

For me it has never been about roses or candy or going out to eat at a nice restaurant for Valentine's Day. For me, it is just being told I am loved.

And that is what I try to make sure and do not only with my husband Larry, but also my mother, my daughters and my siblings.

I will say making sure my mom knows just how much she is loved now that my dad has passed is that much more important for me to do.

Valentine's Day was always one of those holidays that my dad lavished my



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



mom with tangible expressions of love. For them, Valentine's Day was a day to really celebrate as it was commonplace for my dad to buy my mom flowers, jewelry and take her out to their favorite restaurant.

To this day, plastic containers filled with carnation corsages remain in their re-

frigerator, as well as bunches of dried roses hanging in their laundry room from years past.

In looking through her jewelry box which has overflowed and extends across her dresser top there are a range of colors of stones and designs in rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets. I venture to guess my mom could wear a different piece of jewelry every day for a year.

I know there was more to my parents' relationship than tangible items given on Valentine's Day, though. I cannot say I always appreciated their morning ritual of giving each other a bear hug and double kiss in the kitchen. As a teenager I did not want to see my parents show affection that way. However, now, I realize that little ritual for them probably got their day started off

right. It probably reaffirmed in a small symbolic way that their love was strong, and they would be there for each other no matter what.

Their marriage ended abruptly just shy of their 58th wedding anniversary when my dad died from lung cancer on June 16. They would have celebrated their anniversary June 25.

While it is not my responsibility to take the place of my dad in my mom's life, not that that could happen anyway, I do feel the need to more vocally display my love for my mom.

I have worked to email her more often and zoom with her on Sunday afternoons always saying I Love You before signing off.

Thankfully, I have my sister who lives in the same town as my mom and has continued to be that daily

check in person. My sister is also the one who helps my mom with her day to day needs, although I have seen my mom grow in her independence as time has passed.

This year, I also feel the need to send a Valentine's card to each of our daughters as they continue their journeys at their chosen universities. Again, we have never really done much for Valentine's Day with our children, so sending them a card and gift card will hopefully brighten their day in this year of social distancing and lack of traditional college experiences.

In this year where so many activities continue to be cancelled or postponed and hope is that soon things will begin to open up more, I believe we need to take that extra time to show

those around us that we care about them this Valentine's Day. Again, not by lavishing them with tangible gifts, but instead showing our love and appreciation for them with a text, phone call, hand-written note or an old school Valentine sent by the postal service. I challenge each of you this year to take that extra time and make someone's day. You never know, it might just be the first time they have received a note of encouragement or a thank you for some time. Let's show each other that even though we still must be careful about our interactions due to COVID-19, we can still have the emotional connection that can lift someone's spirit and let them know that they are special and important to you.

Arrest made after high speed chase

On Feb. 3, at approximately 6:25 a.m., Marion Police Officer Joseph Biddle was on routine patrol, traveling northbound on State Road 15 (Wabash Avenue) when he noticed a vehicle coming toward him at an extremely high rate of speed. The onboard radar indicated the vehicle was traveling at 85 mph in a 50 mph zone.

Officer Biddle initiated the emergency lights and got behind the vehicle, a 2004 Honda Civic. The vehicle came to a complete stop on State Road 15, just north of the intersection at Chapel Pike. Officer Biddle then attempted to approach the vehicle at which time the vehicle took off.

The vehicle left at a high rate of speed southbound on State Road 15. Officer Biddle notified Grant Central Dispatch that he was in a pursuit and initiated the sirens on his police vehicle.



The suspect vehicle reached speeds of 80 mph on Wabash Avenue, where the speed limit is 45 mph. The vehicle continued southbound on State Road 9 (Baldwin Avenue) The suspect vehicle reached speeds of 75 mph on State Road 9 where the speed limit was 35 mph. The suspect vehicle continued southbound on State Route 9 and turned east onto 38th Street. The vehicle continued east on 38th and turned south on State Road 15 (Adams Street). The vehicle continued southbound on State Road 15 reaching speeds of

80 mph.

The vehicle avoided the stop sticks set out by Gas City Police and continued eastbound on State Road 22 and entered Gas City. The vehicle immediately crossed the concrete barrier center lane and traveled eastbound in the westbound lane, into oncoming traffic. The suspect vehicle ran the red light in the intersection of 3rd Street/State Road 22 (Main Street), striking another vehicle passing through the intersection who had the right of way. The suspect vehicle did not stop as required after an accident and continued eastbound on State Road 22, reaching speeds of 80 mph where the speed limit was 30 mph. There was heavy traffic flow through Gas City. The suspect vehicle narrowly avoided multiple vehicles, disregarded all safety precautions, and put multiple lives in imminent

danger because of her driving.

The driver continued through Gas City, eastbound on State Road 22 reaching speeds of 90 mph where the speed limit is 55 mph.

Malia Blaise Neumann, 25, was preliminarily charged with resisting law enforcement, reckless driving, and leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

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2. James Dean
3. Florence Henderson
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