

# Father’s Day brings to mind a great Dad and his deeds

As a young adult, I was not sure having my own children would be a part of my life. As I focused on my career which did not seem conducive to children, I started believing children were not to be. As a reporter at the Chronicle-Tribune at the time, working second shift, covering the police beat my life pretty much centered around my work.

I did occasionally make the comment that the only way I would consider having children is if my husband were someone who was actively involved in all aspects of parenting.

I did not want a father for my children who was a sideline parent. A father who just participated in the fun things and did not change diapers or play an active role in my children’s daily lives.

I guess God knew I needed someone like that if I were to truly experience children for the gift they are, because when I met Larry, got married and started our family, Larry was, and truly is the all-in father that I needed.

He did not hesitate to change diapers or



share in the middle of the night wake up duties to check on why one of the children was crying or needed something.

Now, disclosing full transparency, with Larry’s job as a golf course superintendent at various golf courses outside Marion, getting the girls ready in the morning for the babysitter and eventually for school, did fall completely on me. Larry was already at work well before me, or the girls needed to get up in the morning.

However, he made up for it in the evenings and weekends. As the girls got older, he took them to work with him on many Saturdays

where they could try their hand at fishing or golfing after work was done.

They each also worked for Larry one summer – pulling weeds and painting – not a job any of them will say they truly enjoyed, but the life lessons they learned of hard work were priceless.

He also rarely, if ever, missed any of their school or extra-curricular activities. There were times an end of the year mid-day school awards ceremony had to be missed, just because logistically it was impossible for him to get to, but that was the exception.

Attending all those events for our daughters was always something Larry vowed he would do, whenever possible, as his dad always made it to all of Larry’s sporting events.

He reminisces fondly about how his dad always told his church members that nothing would keep him from Larry’s sporting events.

As the girls have become adults, Larry’s focus on their needs continues, as he rou-



Laura, Andrea, Larry and Marissa Wilk at Christmas with Larry wearing a tie that Laura had made with head shots of each of the girls on it. **Photo provided.**

tinely checks their vehicles every time they come home to visit. He checks the vehicle’s tires, changes the oil, repairs any minor issue or makes sure and gets the vehicle in to the service station if the problem is more serious.

Most recently when Laura was home for Easter, she unfortunately had her tire slashed. Larry saw it and had a new tire bought and the slashed tire replaced before Laura even got up from bed that morning.

Unbeknownst to us the culprits had actually slashed two of Laura’s vehicle tires. Fortunately, the other

tire did not go flat until Laura was safely back at her apartment in Milwaukee. It was not until the next day when she went to go to the grocery store that she found it flat. Since she parks in a garage, we pretty much knew it gotten slashed in Marion. She was able to get her landlord to put on the spare tire, only to find it also was flat. The landlord put the slashed tire back on her car and told her a repair place to take the tire to for help. That was one of the harder times for Larry, as Laura called upset not knowing what to do after the repair place said they could not find

her a tire to fit her Escape.

Larry actually contemplated driving five hours to Milwaukee to assist. In the end I called one of my cousin’s who lives in the area, and she was able to suggest another mechanic who did get Laura’s vehicle problem resolved.

Now that Laura is heading to Austin, Texas, Larry has checked over her vehicle and gotten the necessary repairs completed, commenting to her that she might want to consider leasing a vehicle, once she gets financially settled in Austin. I think he is suggesting the leasing option, as much as a reassurance for him that Laura will not have to be financially responsible for any car repairs, and that she will have a more reliable vehicle than her 2005 Ford Escape that has served her well.

So, as we celebrate this Father’s Day, I thank God for my wonderful husband who has been a loving, caring and supportive father for our three girls because I would not have wanted to live life without any of them.

## Local schedule

June 17-24

Thursday, June 17

ALL DAY – Grant County 4-H Fair, Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1403 East State Road 18, Marion. Family fun at this annual county fair. Food, rides, and games. Friendly 4-H competition at animal shows and various member projects, and blue ribbons galore! Midway Rides, lots of great free entertainment as well as many exciting events. \$2 parking per day or \$5 for the week. Free parking until 4pm each day.

ALL DAY – Youth Day Camp and Family Overnight, Salamonie Reservoir, 9214 West Lost Bridge West, Andrews. Join us for a youth day camp, and families overnighing at the Salamonie. Registration required; call 260-468-2127 for information and reservations.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, 926 South Washington Street, Marion. Hollis Chatelain: A Retrospective Quilt Journey. Through her work that addresses challenging social and environmental themes, Hollis reflects 12 years’ experience living in West Africa and working with humanitarian organizations, as well as 35 years’ experience as a professional artist. Admission \$4, \$3 for seniors and students, \$1 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6 years of age. Exhibit open Tuesday – Saturday.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakes Presents “The Tempest” and “Richard III,” Tickets are free but pre-registration is required. There is an opportunity to register at the venue, but pre-registration is preferred. So-

cial distancing and masks are requested. June 17 Richard III, June 18 The Tempest, June 19 Richard III, June 20 The Tempest.

Friday, June 18

ALL DAY – Grant County 4-H Fair, see June 17.

ALL DAY – Youth Day Camp and Family Overnight, see June 17.

8 a.m. – Sweetser Town Rummage, Main Street, Sweetser. Search for hidden treasures at this large town-wide rummage in Sweetser.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

4 p.m. – Farmers Market – Upland, Upland Town Depot, Main and Railroads streets. You’ll find amazingly fresh produce and delicious home baked goods at our farmers market, along with

plenty of handcrafted items. Browse our market and enjoy nature’s bounty.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakes Presents “The Tempest,” see June 17.

7:30 p.m. – Gas City I-69 Speedway, 5871 East 500 South, Gas City. Non-wing sprint cars, modifieds, street stocks, hornets. Adult General Admission \$15, Children 12 & Under Free, Pit Pass \$30. Special event night prices range from \$18-\$25 for adult general admission. Pit Gates open 3pm, GA Gates open 5pm, Hot Laps 6:30pm. Racing Starts 7:30pm. Tickets available at the speedway ticket office the day of the event. Concessions available. Free parking. Check our website, social media or call the track for current weather-related updates.

Saturday, June 19

ALL DAY – Grant County 4-H Fair, see June 17.

ALL DAY – Grains & Grill French Market, Grains & Grill Restaurant, 407 West Washington Street, Fairmount. Join Indiana artisans who will have handmade, homemade, recycled, antique, and repurposed items at our market. No admission charge. More than 80 vendors with antiques, hand-crafted items, jewelry, homemade foods, and so much more! Artisans galore, and onsite craft brewery and pizzeria. Children’s activities. Rain or Shine event.

8 a.m. – Sweetser Town Rummage, see June 17.

8 a.m. – Main Street Gas City Farmer’s Market, Hutchins Commons Pavilion, 211 East Main Street, Gas City. Join us at the Hutchins Commons on Main Street in Gas City for this farmer’s market.

Rain or Shine event. Buy fresh produce and create healthy, delicious food for your family to enjoy. Plants, flowers, baked goods, honey, syrups, jams, jellies.

8 a.m. – Van Buren Farmers & Artisan Market, Downtown Van Buren. Join us in Van Buren for this farmers and artisan market. Fresh produce and handmade items from area artists and craftsman.

9 a.m. – Farmers Market, Courthouse Square, Marion. You’ll find the freshest fruits and vegetables at our market. Brown eggs, jams and baked goods available. Food, local honey, arts and crafts each week. See you on the square in downtown Marion!

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

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