



The **Around Town Paper**



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February 12, 2025

A Celebration of Love Around the World

The Origins of Valentine's Day - The origins of Valentine's Day trace back to ancient Rome, where mid-February was marked by Lupercalia, a fertility festival honoring Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture. As Christianity spread, Pope Gelasius I replaced Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day in the 5th century. The day was named after one or more Christian martyrs named Valentine, with the most famous being a priest who performed secret marriages in defiance of Emperor Claudius II's ban on young soldiers marrying. Over time, the holiday evolved into a celebration of love, largely influenced by medieval poets like Geoffrey Chaucer, who romanticized it in his writings.



Who Celebrates Valentine's Day? Valentine's Day is widely celebrated in many countries, though customs and traditions differ:

United States & Canada: Couples exchange flowers, chocolates, and heartfelt cards, while schools host Valentine's card exchanges among children

United Kingdom: Valentine's cards and gifts are common, with couples enjoying romantic dinners and getaways.

France: Considered the 'romantic capital,' France sees an uptick in love letters, poetry, and luxurious dining experiences.

Italy: The festival of lovers, "La Festa degli Innamorati," is celebrated with chocolates, handwritten notes, and romantic outings.

Japan & South Korea: Women give chocolates to men on February 14, with men reciprocating on White Day (March 14). In South Korea, Black Day (April 14) is for singles who didn't receive gifts.

China: Qixi Festival, sometimes called the Chinese Valentine's Day, occurs on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month and is inspired by an ancient love legend.

Brazil: "Dia dos Namorados" (Lovers' Day) on June 12 is the equivalent of Valentine's Day, celebrated with music, parties, and romantic gestures.

Philippines: The day is famous for mass wedding ceremonies where hundreds of couples tie the knot in public gatherings.

Finland & Estonia: Known as "Friendship Day," the focus is on celebrating friendships rather than romantic relationships.

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, whether romantic, platonic, or familial. With its deep historical roots and ever-evolving traditions, it remains a cherished occasion worldwide.



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Valentine's Day

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Friday February 14th
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APPETIZERS
DRINK SPECIALS
KARAOKE
9 pm - 1 am

Not gonna lie, when I was younger I always thought adults were dramatic when they said "if it ain't one thing it's another" but now as an adult myself I can confirm if it ain't one thing it's a other. 😊



"Now I know you're allergic to chocolate, so I ate them first."

Derek JOHNSON
MLA for Interlake-Gimli

February 17, 2025
Louis Riel Day

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SAMPLER



The First Moments of the Day

The moment during the day when we very first open our eyes and come into consciousness is a precious opportunity. It sets the tone for all that comes after it, like the opening scene in a film or novel.

At this moment, our ability to create the day is at its most powerful, and we can offer

ourselves fully to the creative process by filling this moment with whatever inspires us most. It may be that we want to be more generous, or it may be that we want to be more open to beauty in our daily lives. Whatever the case, if we bring this vision into our minds at this very fertile moment, we empower it to be the guiding principle of our day. Sometimes we wake up with a mood already seemingly in place, and it's important to give this feeling its due. It can inform us and deepen our awareness of what's going on inside us, as well as around us.

As long as we are conscious, we can honor this feeling and also introduce our new affirmation or vision — our conscious offering to the day. We may decide before we go to sleep what we want to bring to the next day of our lives. It could be that we simply want to be more open to whatever comes our way, or we may want to summon a particular quality such as confidence. Then again, we may simply call up a feeling that perfectly captures the texture we want our day to have.

We can reaffirm our vision or affirmation as we shower and eat breakfast, as well as recalling it at various times throughout the day. We can write it down and carry it with us on a little slip of paper if this helps. Simply by being aware of those first moments, we set the stage for a more conscious, enlivened experience, and we become active participants in the creation of our lives.

WILDERNESS CAMS
from the
INTERLAKE AREA
www.youtube.com/@InterlakeCritterChronicles



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Mon - Tues - Fri
9 am - 4 pm**

**Call to confirm appt. or availability before arrival.

**Tax office will be closed
May 30th - Sept 1st
(no exceptions)**
Please make time to have your taxes completed Feb - May

Tax office is located at:
#4 - 61 Main Street
TBJ Mall in Ashern
Behind the Eye Doctors office (Dr. Yale)



Strawberry Chocolate Mousse Cups

A rich, velvety chocolate mousse paired with fresh strawberries makes for the perfect romantic Valentine's Day dessert!

Ingredients

For the Chocolate Mousse:

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 oz dark chocolate (semi-sweet or bittersweet), chopped
- 2 tsp sugar

½ tsp vanilla extract

For the Strawberry Layer:

- 1 cup fresh strawberries, diced
- 1 tbsp sugar
- ½ tsp lemon juice

For Garnish:

- Whipped cream
- Chocolate shavings
- Strawberries



Instructions

Prepare the Chocolate Mousse:

Heat ½ cup of the heavy cream in a saucepan over low heat until warm (not boiling).

Remove from heat and add the chopped chocolate. Stir until smooth and melted. Let it cool to room temperature.

In a separate bowl, whip the remaining ½ cup of heavy cream with sugar and vanilla extract until soft peaks form. Gently fold the whipped cream into the cooled chocolate mixture. Chill for at least 1 hour.

Make the Strawberry Layer:

In a small bowl, mix diced strawberries with sugar and lemon juice. Let sit for 15 minutes to release juices.

Assemble the Dessert:

In small serving glasses or cups, layer the macerated strawberries at the bottom. Spoon or pipe the chocolate mousse over the strawberries. Top with whipped cream, chocolate shavings, and heart-shaped strawberry slices. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before serving for the best flavor.



Aries (March 21 - April 19) With Mars fueling your drive, you'll tackle challenges with confidence. Midweek, unexpected news could shift your focus—stay flexible. Take time to recharge; your body needs rest as much as your mind craves action.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) You may feel like things are moving slower than you'd like, but trust the process. Midweek, a financial decision requires careful thought—don't rush. Make time for a meaningful connection.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Whether at work or in personal matters, your words hold weight. Expect an exciting opportunity midweek, but don't overcommit. The weekend calls for socializing—surround yourself with those who inspire you.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) This week nudges you to prioritize emotional well-being. A work situation may feel draining—set boundaries where needed. By Friday, a heart-to-heart conversation brings clarity. Sunday is perfect for self-care or a creative outlet.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) Your charisma is off the charts, Leo! This week, you'll attract attention effortlessly. Midweek, a leadership opportunity arises—step into your power. However, don't neglect loved ones in your pursuit of success. A romantic surprise may be in store by the weekend.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) A project or personal goal requires discipline, but the results will be worth it. By Thursday, a conversation shifts your perspective. The weekend invites relaxation—don't resist it!

Libra (September 23 - October 22) This week, you'll be pulled in multiple directions, but remember to prioritize yourself. A creative breakthrough midweek reignites your passion. Over the weekend, a spontaneous plan leads to unexpected joy.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) Whether in relationships or work, emotions run deep. A long-standing issue may resurface—face it head-on. Financially, a smart move now pays off later. Sunday is ideal for unwinding with someone you trust.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) This week brings opportunities for travel or learning. Be open to new experiences, but don't neglect responsibilities. Midweek, a friend may need your advice. The weekend is perfect for indulging in something spontaneous.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) This week, your dedication gets noticed. Midweek, a financial decision requires careful consideration—trust your instincts. Over the weekend, step away from work and focus on meaningful connections.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) Happy birthday, Aquarius! This week, the spotlight is on you. A personal goal is within reach—stay focused. Midweek, an unexpected conversation sparks a fresh idea. The weekend is perfect for celebrating or reconnecting with old friends.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Your intuition is strong, Pisces. This week, listen to your inner voice when making decisions. A dream or sign midweek provides guidance. Over the weekend, creative energy flows—use it to express yourself in a meaningful way.

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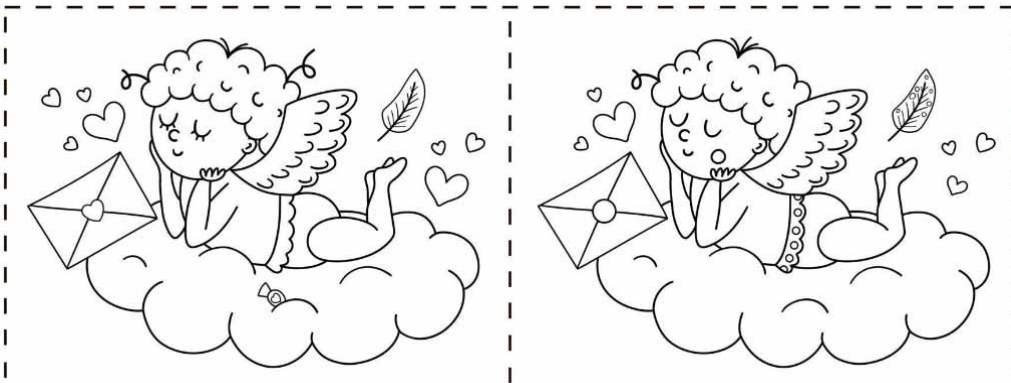
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HOW MANY DIFFERENCES CAN YOU SPOT?



think i just found my new favourite way to ruin someone's day





Valentine's Day

February 14th

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

T	S	E	R	A	E	D	D	I	P	U	C	E	Z	C
S	T	S	S	E	E	B	E	O	M	U	W	V	H	D
T	R	R	S	N	N	N	E	B	S	O	K	O	J	N
F	A	E	E	I	G	M	E	M	R	N	C	L	B	E
I	E	W	C	T	A	S	W	R	I	O	R	H	O	I
G	H	O	N	N	P	A	A	P	L	N	O	R	Y	R
I	H	L	A	E	M	F	L	A	H	N	E	V	F	F
L	U	F	M	L	A	F	T	B	G	D	D	X	R	L
O	G	V	O	A	H	E	C	U	B	Y	A	W	I	R
V	O	G	R	V	C	C	U	R	E	N	R	E	E	I
E	T	R	A	E	H	T	E	E	W	S	L	R	N	G
Y	E	R	R	I	O	I	D	H	F	W	I	O	D	E
O	A	N	I	R	T	O	P	C	K	K	N	D	N	D
U	R	O	S	E	S	N	K	I	S	S	G	A	Q	A
E	C	A	N	D	Y	D	E	V	O	L	E	B	E	R

ADORE

AFFECTION

ARROW

BE MINE

BELOVED

BOYFRIEND

CANDY

CHAMPAGNE

CHERUB

CHOCOLATE

CUPID

DARLING

DEAREST

FLOWERS

GIFTS

GIRLFRIEND

HEARTS

HUG

I LOVE YOU

KISS

LOVE

PINK

POEM

RED

ROMANCE

ROSES

SWEETHEART

VALENTINE

