

My Monday Memo

May 9, 2022

Adventures in the PNW

Issue 102

Today is... May 9th

National Lost Sock Memorial Day

On this day in 1994...

American serial killer John Wayne Gacy—whose murders of 33 boys and young men in the 1970s shocked his suburban Chicago community, where he was known for his performances as a clown at charitable events and children's parties—was executed at age 52.

Quote of the Week

"There's no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one."

- Jill Churchill

MIRA'S PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Aubrey's Adventure

On Friday, May 6th, Aubrey was treated to her first surgery, the removal of a ganglion cyst from her hand. The cyst was on inside of portion of the hand at the crease of her hand and ring finger, to be exact.

What a trooper; she was brave and handled it like a pro. Now, let's hope this is the one and only surgery she ever must go through. She is now sporting a very cool light green cast and already collecting signatures from loved ones.



Did you find it?

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day
May 8th

darling

A *darling* is "a dearly loved person" or "a person who is a favorite."

Tulips, Tulips, Tulips

By Rachel Brandes

On Saturday, May 7th, Rachel finally got her tulip fix. After a long month waiting for the right time to visit, Rachel headed to Mount Vernon, Washington to visit Garden Rosalyn. Garden Rosalyn is new on the scene at the Tulip Festival and the only garden still open after the close of the official Tulip Festival on April 30th. Before heading to Garden Rosalyn, Rachel grabbed a peanut butter protein smoothie from NW Fuel in La Conner and stopped by JF Ranch to visit the miniature donkeys (mentioned in issue 97). She was lucky enough to have a few come over to the fence to say hello.

Rachel was the one and only guest in attendance on Saturday morning when she arrived at Garden Rosalyn and that was just fine by her. The first thing Rachel noticed when she approached the entry booth at Garden Rosalyn was a young Hispanic man and a sign that read "Bienvenida," which means welcome in English. This was a signal to Rachel that she might get to use a bit of her newly learned Spanish. Oh, the excitement she felt in that moment. She greeted the young man in Spanish and told him that she was studying Spanish. She didn't want to be embarrassed and have him think she was fluent and have him say more than she could understand. This worked like a charm. He kept it very simple, and they had a small exchange.

The gardens were beautiful. While some of the flowers showed they were finishing up their lives, there were still plenty of fresh blooms in a variety of bright colors. The gardens were shaped in decorative fashion providing the opportunity to walk in between the different colors and designs.



As Rachel wrapped up her visit, she noticed the young man from the booth had been in the garden snipping a handful of tulips but didn't think much of it. When she was walking towards the exit, he approached her and said "para usted" (for you) and reached out to hand her the tulips. Rachel honestly wasn't sure if he was trying to sell her these flowers or give them to her. She understood what he said but wasn't sure how to clarify. She said "no pagar," which in translation means "not to pay." Close enough, right? She knew pagar meant to pay, so gave it her best. He confirmed with a smile and said "si." Rachel felt like the *darling* of the ball when handed those flowers. She thanked him and said goodbye in Spanish.

Rachel ended her trip to Mount Vernon with a visit to the La Conner's main street for a stroll and some window shopping. She finished up with a stop at the Calico Cupboard Café to pick up a sweet treat for herself, and for her family in Gig Harbor, which she delivered before returning home. There was no better way to end the day than hugs from her extended family and a chance to sign Aubrey's cast.

Until next time, be patient when others speak broken English, it means they are learning a whole new language, and be well.



Alec's Adventures in Asia

For more than a year, possibly longer, Alec and his friends had been making plans for a trip to visit multiple countries within Asia after graduation. The only roadblock, the pandemic. Graduation came and went, and the pandemic persisted. Plans changed multiple times over the course of the months but they finally set the travel date, got everything in order, and set out for their trip.

This will be no little trip; this trip is set to span over four months and will hit several countries. One would think this would require a good amount of luggage, right? Not for four young men. Included in this section is a photo of Alec's backpack contents for the entire trip. Yes, backpack. These young men have it worked out and are bringing the bare minimum.

The four friends took off out of San Francisco on Wednesday, May 4th, landed in Amsterdam, Netherlands and caught another flight to Delhi, India. Travel this week will include travel from Delhi to Agra via train for a day trip, and then back to Delhi. They will then fly from Delhi to Leh, India.

Photos included this week are from Alec's first couple of days in Delhi. We hope to have a new update each week with new photos to share.

