

My Monday Memo

August 22, 2022

Adventures in the PNW

Issue 117

Today is... August 22nd

National Tooth Fairy Day

On this day in 2007...

The most runs scored by any team in modern MLB history as the Texas Rangers thump the Baltimore Orioles 30-3.

Quote of the Week

"Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity."

- Hanlon's Razor

MIRA'S PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Beautiful Beach Day

On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, Mira and Rachel, along with Aubrey and Zach, headed to Owen Beach at Point Defiance Park to enjoy some time together. The day was the epitome of a perfect summer day in the Pacific Northwest. Zach enjoyed the water and Aubrey enjoyed the beach while Mira and Rachel enjoyed watching and catching up on the latest.



Did you find it?

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day
August 21, 2022

Epitome

Epitome means "a typical or ideal example," and is a synonym of embodiment.

Northwest Trek & Child Locks

By Rachel Brandes

On Saturday, August 20th, 2022, Rachel took a drive to the Northwest Trek Park in Eatonville, Washington. Northwest Trek is a 720-acre wildlife park with native Northwest animals, forest, tours, and much more. Rachel hadn't visited the Northwest Trek since prior to the pandemic and thought it was time for a visit. There is a new tram system being installed, which meant she was unable to see the larger free-roam area on this trip, and means she has something to look forward to on a future visit.

Saturday's visit yielded a good viewing of animals. Rachel was excited to spend time viewing the Canada Lynx and Cougar from a safe distance. She was able to see the black bear but only for a moment. She had a close viewing of two raccoons napping under a heat lamp, and even had the opportunity to pet a raccoon pelt. The badger enclosure was an entertaining stop along the tour. While one of the badger sisters was resting peacefully, her sister was running in circles for visitors.

Rachel stopped at the bald eagle enclosure and got to listen to them make their velociraptor-like sounds. She fondly recalls her first visit to the Northwest Trek with Mira when they heard this sound for the first time, and it gave them both quite a startle. This time, although expected, it still sent a few chills up Rachel's back.

With the combined 45-minute drive and subsequent hour plus walk through the park, Rachel was a bit fatigued and new that she would need to lay down before she could make the drive back home. She came across a few benches in the park but realized it would look a bit funny if she were rest in view of others. She decided her backseat would have to do in a pinch. Afterall, she has tinted windows, and nobody would be able to see her there.

The backseat worked out just perfectly for a rest. Rachel was able to relieve the muscle cramping that had begun to pester her and refresh herself prior to the drive back. When she decided she was ready to go, she did her best log roll in the back seat to keep her back straight and attempted to open the door. No luck. Not only did the door not open but she set off the car alarm. She had locked the car when she got in and forgot to unlock it before attempting to get out. She was quickly able to stop the alarm and tried the door again. No luck. Oh no. A shot of panic rushed through her body. The child locks must be on. With the current condition of her spine, Rachel had no possible way to get into the front of the car. She would have wait for another person to come by and to attract their attention to help her get out of her car. How embarrassing.

She sat for a moment and thankfully thought to try the other side of the car. She scooted to the other side, which took longer than one might think, and tried the door. Thank goodness, it opened! Rachel was so relieved that she was unable to get out right away. The situation she had gotten herself into had given her a moment of pause. She crawled out of the car and stretched long, as now the stress of the situation had tensed up her body. She took a moment before getting into the front seat and heading out. That could have gone much differently. The child lock has now been turned off to avoid this sort of thing in the future.

What a day, what an adventure. Until next time, be well.



Alec's Adventures, Washington State

After a lengthy day of travel from Indonesia, and through Japan, Alec arrived at the Seattle-Tacoma airport on Thursday, August 11, 2022. His mother was extremely happy to see him. Her initial thought at seeing him was that he looked taller and older. Maybe it had just been too long in between visits. Alec spent five days with his mother, including her birthday. That was a treat for her.

There was a lot of resting as Alec attempted to readjust to the time change, and a lot of fun stories about his travels. Rachel treated Alec to some of his favorite American food, such as mushroom buffalo pizza from Pizza Hut, Café Rio, and her fresh chocolate chip cookies.

For Rachel's birthday, the two took a trip to the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. When they got home, they received a call from Blake and the three got to talk. Blake had surprised Rachel with a delivery of crumbl cookies. Rachel had never heard of this company and was pleasantly surprised at how delicious the cookie treats were. She was very thankful that Alec was there to help her sample these sweet treats.

Alec is now in Las Vegas visiting his dad and stepmom, meeting his new niece, Janessa, and packing up for a road trip with his best friend, Tati, to North Carolina where his girlfriend, Zahra, awaits his arrival. Alec's adventures are to be continued.

