

# My Monday Memo

September 19, 2022

Adventures in the PNW

Issue 121

Today is... September 19th

National Road Warrior Woman Day

Click the underline link to learn more about this National Day.

On this day in 1970...

The first episode of the sitcom *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* aired on American television; the groundbreaking series starred Mary Tyler Moore as a single independent working woman at a time when female characters were defined as the wife, girlfriend, or widow of a male counterpart.

## Quote of the Week

"She would rather walk alone in darkness than follow anyone else's shadow."

- R.G. Moon

## MIRA'S PHOTO OF THE WEEK



## Belfair State Park, End of Summer Fun

By Rachel Brandes

On Saturday, September 10th, Mira and Rachel, along with Aubrey and Zach, headed out for an end-of-summer day of fun in Belfair, Washington. Mira had found Belfair State Park while scouting for photography locations and invited Rachel to join for a day of fun. Belfair State Park is a 94-acre park with 3,720 feet of saltwater shoreline on the Hood Canal.

The beach was bustling on Saturday with temperatures in the high 80s, but Mira, Rachel and the kids were enjoying their fun at the tucked away Big Mission Creek. The creek is located just off the parking lot through a short trail in the tree line. Essentially a hidden gem. During their time enjoying the creek, only a handful of other park visitors made their way to the creek but didn't stay long.

Mira and Rachel were able to sit in the shade of the trees while Aubrey and Zach enjoyed playing in the shallow water of the creek. They hunted for fish and water bugs, played splashing games, and just enjoyed being kids. Zach was quite successful in catching water bugs. Not only with his bucket, but with his hands. This only grossed out Mira and Rachel a little bit. What a fun day at the beach.



### Where in the world?

Belfair State Park is just 21 miles from Rachel's home in Tacoma (blue dot). As you will see on the map, the journey to Belfair crosses a bridge, passes through Mira's home in Gig Harbor and lands in the top left of the map.



## Jimmy's Journeys

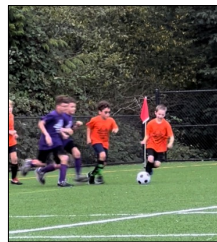
Coming soon to your favorite Monday newsletter is a brand-new section. Jimmy's Journeys is a working title and is scheduled to begin next week. Rachel's cousin Jimmy visits beautiful places and we are lucky that he will begin to share his adventures. Whether he is home in New York, or traveling abroad, his adventurous life will now be spotlighted in the My Monday Memo. This section may be weekly, monthly, or here and there. We will see how it evolves.

For now, enjoy these photos taken earlier this year while Jimmy was visiting the White Mountains in New Hampshire.



## Zach Plays Soccer

On Wednesday, August 31, 2022, Zach played in his first ever soccer game. Zach is a team member of the orange team in a youth soccer league in Gig Harbor. He will have eight weeks of practice and games at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. To date, Zach's team has fared well in competition, and appears to be having a lot of fun in the process.



There is one common theme amongst the included photos of Zach; a huge smile. Rachel has been fortunate to attend the last couple of games and enjoy watching Zach as he lives in the moment. When Zach is on the field, he is excited and energetic. It is a treat to see such a raw form of joy.



Zach (#12) has had the opportunity to try out several positions and has made plenty of contact with the ball. Rachel is excited to watch him grow and learn more of the fundamentals over the years. Will this be Zach's sport of choice as he ages? We will have to wait and see. For now, Zach's family, and honorary Aunt Rachel will enjoy watching him each week.

## Where's Blake Going?

### Goodfellow AFB, Texas

After several months of waiting and receiving *laconic* messages about where he would end up, Blake has finally received his next assignment. As of November, he will be heading to Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. <https://www.goodfellow.af.mil/>

Blake was originally to be heading to another international base, but as fate would have it, he will spend a year in Texas before having the opportunity to apply for another assignment abroad. While this certainly wasn't his first, second, third, or fourth choice, it will do. He now has roughly six weeks to plan a move. Sounds easy, right? He will surely do just fine. His mother is extremely happy that she will get to see him in the next year and may even get to see him in 2022. One can only hope.

For now, Blake will keep busy getting the required paperwork done, planning his travel, housing, transportation, and all of the things that come with reentry to the United States after three years.



Wishing Blake a great last couple of months in South Korea.

Blake pictured with ESPN sports commentator, Stephan A. Smith during a live taking of First Take at Luke Air Force Base.

## Did you find it?

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day  
September 17, 2022

### Laconic

Someone described as *laconic* uses few words in speech or writing. The word often also implies brevity to the point of seeming rude, indifferent, or mysterious.