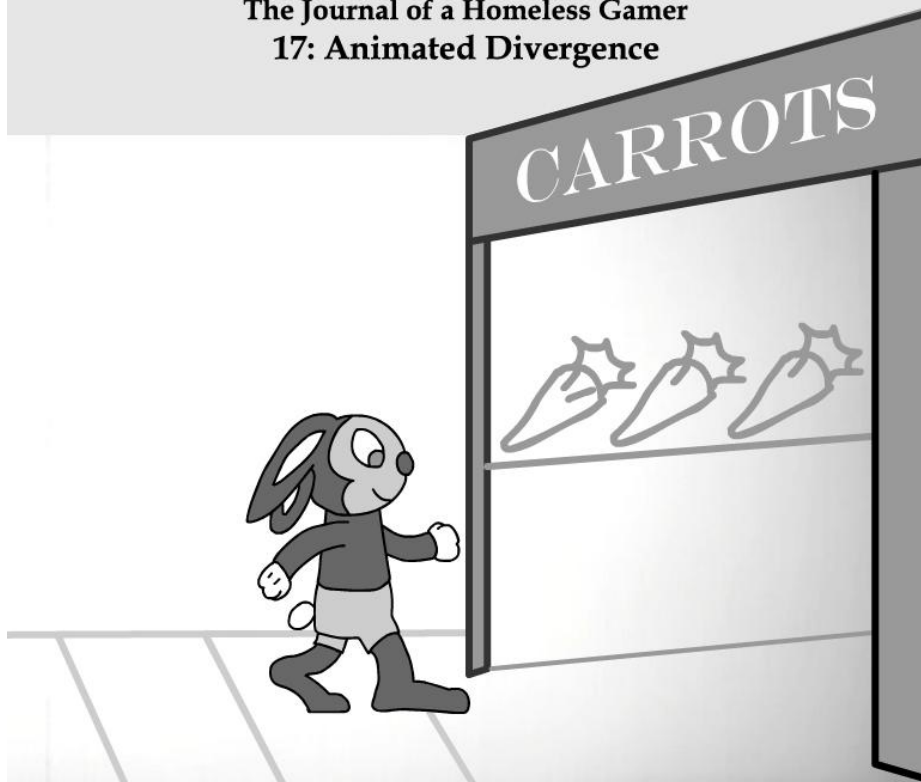


EPIC FAIL

The Journal of a Homeless Gamer

17: Animated Divergence



by rabb1t
aka
Eric Stryker



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Epic Fail
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Book 17
Animated Divergence

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Glossary and Links

Blu-ray - The next-generation format for DVD capable of 1080p video resolution and uncompressed audio.

Elder Scrolls Online or ESO - A MMORPG set in the Elder Scrolls universe created by ZeniMax Online Studios in partnership with Bethesda Softworks.

Hearthstone - A collectable (digital) card game by Blizzard Entertainment.

Live Action Role Playing or LARP - A live action version where players act out what the characters are doing, creating sort of a mix of acting and game playing.

Min/Maxing or Minimizing/Maximizing - The act of selecting talents, skills, abilities, or spells, for your character in a way that gets you the most effect for the smallest (point) cost in order to match your play style and desired build. When I say I am 'tweaking my character' this is most often what I'm doing.

MMOG - Massively multiplayer online game. A game where thousands of players log on at the same time and play together. Typically these have a monthly subscription fee.

MOBA - Multiplayer Online Battle Arena.

monies - lolspeak/leetspeak for "money".

noob, n00b, or newb - Short for "newbie". A person new (and unfamiliar) in a particular field or task.

Theorycrafting - The act of contemplating statistics in a game which are mostly invisible to a player in order to maximize your efficiency (without going beyond to a point where you are gaining too little.) When I say I am 'tweaking my character' only on very rare occasion am I theorycrafting. See related concept: Min/Maxing.

uber - lolspeak/leetspeak for someone who is superior. (Originated from the German language.)

Week 835

Day 5839 - 6/26 **A weird kind of sad**

Today I feel pretty sad. But it's not a normal kind of sad. It's actually a bit tough to describe. I feel like I am in a neutral or maybe slightly happy mood, but someone I care about very much is sad, in a bad spot, and I can't help them or make them feel better. I guess it's like a detached or indirect sadness. Maybe it's just because I know I can't change what is making me sad. Nor do I have money or opportunity to change the symptom or source of sadness.

I guess overall I'm ok. I continue to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5840 - 6/27 **Feel like crying again**

Today started with an early final time for my animation class. It was pretty good and we saw everyone's creative things. I had a good time, but I feel like if it weren't required that a lot of the people wouldn't have cared to be there, which feels sad.

After I got to the library things were pretty much regular. Though I did start to feel like crying again. I think a lot of that is due to these old contacts I'm wearing. I only have 1.5 pair left, and I think what I had was supposed to last me through to the end of the year. So these have been used way faster than expected. Which I guess is not totally surprising. Pushing 1 week contacts to 1 month is already very beyond their lifespan, hoping to get more is maybe asking too much. So overall the money of that makes me very sad and worried, and not being able to see the things I'm trying to enjoy, or when trying to read things like applications, makes me very frustrated and sad.

I think too a lot lately I am missing little things in addition to the big. My tummy wants a few specific foods lately, and I just can't afford them, even if I do have ways to order and get them.

So today was ok, but overall I still feel very sad and hopeless lately. 😞

Day 5841 - 6/28

Feeling sad still

Today I mostly just played my MMO. I'm trying to build up a new resource that just doesn't drop, so I'm working on a dumb workaround that I feel I'm forced to do because it has guaranteed drops.

I guess other than that things are ok. There are still many things wrong with my sad life, but I just try to accept what I can, and will move ahead as best as I can. Because if I don't I would die from sadness and a broken heart. So I try my best to adapt, make due, and adjust what I need, and hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Day 5842 - 6/29

A little mad

Today I am a little mad. I am still trying to get the special resource in my MMO and it still is super hard to get. It's effectively time gated in a way it doesn't need to be, but also in a way that is really outside of the player's control, so it doesn't feel good to try and get. I guess the day was ok other than that.

Day 5843 - 6/30

Oops, didn't notice

Today I noticed it is at the end of this fail year. And now I wonder if that is why I've been feeling so very extremely sad lately. It is just another day, in a long line of days, but completing a cycle of a year reminds me that another year has passed. Another year my health has probably lost permanent recovery. Another year that I have missed so much I would like to have.

I have to try and remember this is a thing that has happened to me. It is not my fault. While I may sometimes be able to slightly influence things, I can't control them. And so all I can really do is continue to try my best to make the best of limited choices. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until things are better.

Year 17
Day 5844 - 7/1
Continuing on

Today I continue on. At least I hope. It will be the first day of the summer break, not knowing if there are any classes left to take to keep loans off of my back when it's over in September. All I can do is hope I am warm enough, hope my food doesn't upset my tummy too much, and that I can continue to hang on.

Day 5845 - 7/2
First summer Tuesday

Today will be the first summer day in a long line of seemingly same days at the library. Yesterday I will hopefully have gotten a shower at school, then have a return to drop off, so it wouldn't have been a 'normal' day. But today will be. And I expect it will really be no different than other countless homeless days at the library.

Week 836

Day 5846 - 7/3 **Super hot**

Today was super hot, as was yesterday. It was over 100F both days. I can be inside for the holiday, so that is good. But it isn't cool, so I've been pretty hot. I did play some, but mostly I just laid flat, tried to stay cool, and watched some junk videos. It also probably was partly the fault of a new game I wanted to play which had their servers unexpectedly offline all day, so I just did my MMO for a bit and that was pretty much it.

Hopefully tomorrow will be cooler, but even if it's a bit too warm it should be a better day than I would have had if I had to be outside all day.

Day 5847 - 7/4 **OK day**

Today was OK. I was pretty hot, but compared to what I originally expected for the day what I got was a lot better. And for how hot it's been it's about as good as I could have expected.

I did see someone in my online game super briefly who I haven't seen in forever. It was nice because I had been a bit worried if they were OK. I sent some messages that were retired a while back (more than 30 days unread) so that had me a bit worried. They sent some in game gifts, so that was super nice.

There is still a bit of the hot time left as it's barely entering early evening now. But hopefully it will cool down soon and I will start to feel better pretty quickly.

Day 5848 - 7/5

Still blind

Today things seem cooler, but just slightly. I was in the library through the bulk of it, as always with winter layers on. Which is actually pretty ridiculous since on my way out on the other side of the library I saw they had some stand up fans running. Really? I'm over on my side, with winter layers on so that I'm barely warm enough, and over there it's too warm and they need to run fans? Maybe fix the heating/cooling system, yeah?

I am still pretty blind. My last pair of contacts is now probably nearing the time where they should be replaced, but even on the first day wearing them they weren't a lot better than the like 2 month old pair. I guess it is time to get super serious and see when my exam time cycles and have a proper eye doctor check it (not a prescription one like mine.) It isn't really fluctuating between good and bad vision now. It's pretty much always that more than about 10' away is blurry, so I really wonder if it is my prescription even though my current doctor insists that it is correct. I mean, maybe, sure, I suppose it could be. If you think about a camera there are two focus parts. There is the one that adjusts distance and the one that adjusts clarity, and it is entirely possible to have one correct and one not, so maybe? But it's confusing because if it is clear when testing, why is it not when I have my contacts in? Could the test be somehow flawed? I don't know. Only time will tell, if my coverage allows for a check soon.

Day 5849 - 7/6

Good, but hot

Today was good. I played my games and had fun. The library was actually very slightly warmer and I only needed to have one of my two hoodies on.

It was pretty hot outside, so there were extra people in the library, but it wasn't too bad. It didn't cool off as quickly as before in the evening, so it's still pretty toasty outside.

But hopefully things will cool down quickly, as it is supposed to be down to a reasonable warm by Monday.

Day 5850 - 7/7

Much cooler

Today it is much cooler. It's around the same time I always write and it's at least 10F cooler, possibly even as much as 15F. So things should be down to 'reasonable summer heat' in the next day or two.

Sadly the connection at the library was a bit wobbly, so things weren't great. And due to the heat there were a lot more around me than I'd have preferred. But all in all it was a pretty good day. I had fun and the connection was stable enough most of the time.

Day 5851 - 7/8

Regular Monday

Today will probably be a pretty regular homeless Monday at the library. There isn't anything new I have to look forward to, so hopefully things will be quiet and calm.

Day 5852 - 7/9

Maybe a shooter thing

Today should be a pretty regular Tuesday. There may be some new content in my shooter I usually play, I'm not sure. I've been doing pretty minimal play there the last couple of weeks since I got through the season pass and so it's been pretty same-same since. If there isn't anything new I have my new free to play game I've been having fun with.

Week 837

Day 5853 - 7/10 **Mostly six**

Today I am very tired. Like 4 out of the last 5 nights I've only gotten about 6 hours of sleep or less, though last night wasn't quite as bad. I think it's mostly due to being imbalanced due to the heat. I'm not sure.

Today I had fun with a new game. There are some things I'm trying to unlock with it which has been frustrating due to low drop rates, but I try to not let it get to me. Really the game is more casual than not, so I'm just doing the things I can and have fun with that. And when the rare unlock happens they happen. Lots to do until then and not worth stressing out over until much later in the game.

Day 5854 - 7/11 **Hot again**

Today was pretty good. I had fun with my games, though I just went through story stuff, nothing super fancy or special I'd been hoping for.

It's super hot again. I don't know the peak, but a few hours ago I noticed the weather notice on the web tab showed 96F. Enough heat had actually come through the library roof that for about the last 1.5 hours I actually got to take off my hoodie and long sleeve shirt. I think that is the first time I've been able to do that in the library in probably the last 6 months.

I'm good, but tired. I slept pretty good last night, but I still haven't caught up from the previous lost sleep. I'd say hopefully I'll sleep better tonight, but if it is going to be super hot again I will probably have more lost sleep.

Day 5855 - 7/12

Disappointing

Today I was mad, sad, upset, and disappointed all day. From the very start of the day at the library the connection was garbage. I was getting disconnected from everything I tried to do every 10 to 15 minutes. I couldn't focus on or achieve any of my goals in my games that I hoped to work on today and it even made me feel like not playing. And when I did take breaks to not play my shows were getting disconnected as well.

I was so upset and sad at the thought that this might be due to my laptop not having great WiFi I looked up a very solid one that would be WiFi 7. The library just recently got changed to 6, so 7 would be total overkill, but if I were going to change the chip it would make sense to see if I could just spend a bit more and get the newest thing instead of doing more of a side step. But I don't have enough in gift money at the online place I shop, and I have no cash to spend. So even if that is the probably solution I can't do it.

I guess there was a tiny movement on my eye and ankle health checks. I have to talk to different people than I talked to today, so that won't happen until probably the middle of the week next week since it's now the weekend.

So today felt very disappointing and like everything is out of my control.

Day 5856 - 7/13

Much better

Today was a much better connection. It was actually strong and stable all day (as it should be) so I played my games and had fun, and while I did get a lot of general progress there was no special progress.

The weather has actually reversed. I'd say at the most it is currently in the low 70s down from the low 80s. And it has actually been gray and looking like rain for a few hours now.

I'm pretty tired from not sleeping well, but hopefully the reduction in temperature and good play day means I'll feel better and be able to rest better tonight.

Day 5857 - 7/14

Some drops

Today was pretty good though there were maybe half a dozen or more network drops during the day that messed up my games, so that was sad.

I had trouble sleeping again last night, so I'm pretty tired and didn't feel like doing the things I'm supposed to in regards to my health stuff. It's probably fine, as things barely move on weekends, so I'll do it in the morning tomorrow.

Day 5858 - 7/15

Cooler Monday

Today will probably be a cooler Monday. The 90s seem to have fully gone, and we seem back down to the mid 70s. I prefer warmer, but I guess it's ok since that has really messed up my sleep. Hopefully I can sleep ok again soon and get rested. With everything terrible in my life even in the best of conditions I can barely function.

Day 5859 - 7/16

Unknown Tuesday

Today I don't really know what to expect. I think my regular shooter that I play may be getting some new stuff, and if so I have that to look forward to. But other than that I don't know what to expect. Hopefully I can continue to be ok and hang on until better days.

Week 838

Day 5860 - 7/17 Double disappointment

Today has been a double disappointment. First was news in the morning about getting my eyes checked. Apparently while regular vision stuff is covered, apparently health related vision stuff is not. (Which is opposite of what the person on the phone told me when I called to ask my insurance if it's covered.) I asked how much it would be to see such a doctor, but it could be days before hearing a reply. They implied I should see my general doctor, but that is why I went for blood pressure back in the day. The tests showed nothing abnormal at the time that might cause it, so I don't see how she would be able to diagnose the issue unless there are other tests.

The second disappointment came kind of throughout the rest of the day, from about 1 on. I was again getting disconnected from the wireless connection for huge portions of time. All totaled I probably lost 1.5 hours of useable time. It would disconnect, I'd then have to wait 10-20 minutes and then I could get back on. Not only is this disappointing in general, but yes, it does appear to specifically be the laptop. I'd heard before that this manufacturer tends to use not great chips, and I wonder if all of the issues in the library were possibly due to this. But today I confirmed, and sort of also on the previous few days, as every time it was more than a minute I'd get my tablet, and that would immediately connect and show effectively double the download speed in tests as the laptop would see. And not only did I not see others around me having issues, but during one outage (where I was on my tablet connected fine) someone sat at my table sideways, so I could see their screen, and in about 3 seconds total they'd opened the connection, connected, and were browsing online fine. So it's definitely my laptop's WiFi chip.

I cashed out some money I had for recycling, which I usually save for gas, but that will probably take a few days to get to me. But the minute I have it available I'll change to effectively a top of the line current generation connection. I would still like to jump ahead to 7 instead of a more horizontal step within 6, but I'm only mostly sure the 7 chip would fit. But the bigger reason is that in checking a few articles it seems mainstream adoption

of 7 is still likely years off due to costs. (And public places using it even further than that.) So I probably would never find anywhere to gain the benefits of being on 7.

So today was very disappointing. I've lost a lot of time I could have used online. And I don't feel any more hopeful about getting my health issues taken care of.

Day 5861 - 7/18

Happy to disappointment

Today had a pretty rapid shift. My library time started out frustrating, as I couldn't connect for the first 15 minutes or so. I really didn't want to need to spend the money on a new WiFi chip, so I continued to hang on and did stuff on my table while I waited. After I got on it seemed to be stable and solid.

I was having a good time and pretty relaxed until the late afternoon when again it dropped. And this time it remained not connected. And again I instantly connected with my table just fine, and everyone around me seemed fine. So after about 30 minutes I gave up and spent the money to order the new chip. That probably won't get installed until Wednesday, so like the past few days I may yet again lose upwards of 2 hours of my possible online time due to not being able to connect just because my laptop WiFi chip is bad and has issues in a few places.

So this overall doesn't seem great. I've gotten two other laptops from this manufacturer before and not had issues. But this time... it's not even 2 years old and two of the most important laptop keyboard keys fail to the point of not being useable in games, and now I'm on an unreliable WiFi chip... it makes me not feel great about my choice in manufacturer.

Day 5862 - 7/19

Interrupted but good

Today was going really good after a rocky start. I thought, 'wow, it's been going good, maybe the connection won't be garbage again today.' Probably less than 5 minutes

later the connection dropped, everyone around me seemed fine, and my tablet was fine. It came back, and dropped, repeatedly every 5 minutes for a bit. I could not continue playing my games at all (online). At that point I gave up and watched a show. At least with that it could mostly buffer over the drops. And mostly it did. Over the next like 1.5 hours there were only about 4 pauses of 5 minutes each. But after that for the last hour or so it seemed ok again.

So overall I had a pretty good day, made some progress with my game stuff and had fun. Someone said they tried to respond back about making an appointment and I didn't get the call, so I tried looking online to make one and couldn't find any available times. I messaged back telling her that, so maybe she can, but I guess we'll see. It seems the possible movement on my ankle health has come to a rapid stop.

Day 5863 - 7/20

No disconnection

Today there surprisingly was no disconnection. I could do what I wanted. Though I did adjust some things because I kept expecting a disconnection.

There were only some people at my table for part of the time, so mostly things were quiet and calm. Though I was happy on the surface to not be disconnected I was still pretty depressed deeper down. I would still have much preferred a regular life. Lately on weekend and holiday times I've thought it would be nice to be in a home, cook stuff outside, have friends over and play games. Or even just to have a restaurant meal with friends and laugh at silly stories. But that is not my life. And as I often wonder, will it ever be? Will I ever get a chance again for it to be?

Day 5864 - 7/21

Stupid laptop WiFi

Today my laptop WiFi is being stupid again. It's the middle of my library time and it's been down for 15 minutes so far, claiming there is no connection, while my tablet

connects immediately and has no issues. I'm glad I got the new chip coming and didn't keep suffering and waiting because every time this happens I'm getting more and more angry.

I guess today so far was ok. I do feel pretty sad and lonely in general, and as always my odd blurry vision issue does not help me feel ok about things, but I did get some chances at special things in my game before the disconnection, so I guess that was something.

I've no idea if the second half of my day will be forced to be offline or limited to the tablet, but I guess things could be worse.

Day 5865 - 7/22 **Mystery Monday**

Today I don't know what to expect. It will likely be a pretty regular homeless summer day. It has become absurdly hot again lately, but hopefully it will be cooling down soon.

Day 5866 - 7/23 **Hopefully new WiFi chip**

Today hopefully I can get my new WiFi chip and have an uninterrupted day. That would at least be something. Often things come in the later afternoon though, so it's possible I'll have to wait until the evening to pick it up, or tomorrow in the morning. But hopefully these connection interruptions will stop happening after the change.

Week 839

Day 5867 - 7/24 Good but hot

Today was pretty good, but very hot. I was somewhere that wasn't the library and it had no cooling. So while I was indoors by myself without anyone around to bug or worry me, I was pretty overheated most of the time.

Last night I got and installed the WiFi chip. I almost immediately regretted trying and was on the verge of tears over the thought of breaking my laptop. First I had no idea the chip was so small. It was literally not much bigger than my thumbnail. But changing it actually wasn't an issue, as that only took a few minutes. It was getting the tiny antenna attached to the new chip that was the issue. They seemed incredibly fragile. Many people say when doing this change be careful not to break them. But getting them back on was the issue and I kept trying to push them on with a small screwdriver and was worried I'd mess up the connection. But I can't even think of how to describe how small they were. I guess imagine a thick pen putting two dots on your thumbnail, then attach a thin wire to each. And the end is like an old school pant's snap. It has to be in exactly the right place, then snapped down onto the chip connection point. By the time I'd finally done it, it was literally two hours later than when I'd started. (For those doing it I'd probably recommend moving the antenna away from the slot, taping them down to something like the laptop battery so they don't 'escape', and then having either a magnifying glass or some kind of super great up close vision to see them.)

So I am living with the fear I somehow messed up the chip, the connection points, or the antenna wires. And while it has been ok today so far, this is only one location. While the speed is good, the thing that seems most improved is it shows super stable during tests. The test normally will have its reading bounce up and down pretty irregularly, but now it is 99% solid unchanging. The most important thing was there were no disconnections today, but I didn't expect to have any (unless I did mess something up.) The real test will be tomorrow in my usual spot in the library, which for the past week has been losing more and more connection time each day.

Day 5868 - 7/25

Feeling better

Today I am feeling better about the WiFi change. When I got to the library I did the connection test and not only did it show double the speed, but the reporting mark was again 99% still compared to the wobbly reading it previously did when doing that test. There were a few odd spots in my game, but I'm pretty sure that was just the game as the video I was running in the background was totally solid.

I had a pretty good day. I am still thrown off greatly by everything being blurry, but the nurse person contacted me again saying there were no appointments for my regular doctor because she is out of town on vacation for a while. So I gave them the ok to set me up with whoever. But I may not hear back on that until Monday.

Day 5869 - 7/26

Ankle appointment

Today I feel better about the WiFi chip. This is now the third day it has been solid and stable. So it seems I probably did do fine and didn't mess anything up. And there has been a huge improvement in connection stability at my usual library spot.

My tummy isn't doing great though. I really do wonder if I have a red meat sensitivity. It seems any time lately I get any that isn't cooked (so, ready to eat or pre-packaged) my tummy gets a little upset by it. When I have cooked stuff I'm always fine. I guess I should continue to eat it less, though the shredded chicken at the food store has about a 40% chance to upset my tummy as well.

The nurse person got back to me about an appointment for my ankle. I guess I can do that next Friday, so that is good. Though I still doubt anything can be done to help since this is a years old issue with what seems to be divergent bone growth.

My eye appointment will have to be done by my general doctor person, so that can't happen until something ridiculous like mid-September, which is super lame. But I guess a far off appointment is more than no appointment.

Day 5870 - 7/27

Good, but blind

Today was pretty good. Things were quiet and calm. There was a pretty terrifying care at the start of my library time. I opened my laptop and it immediately started doing the start up lights. Though that isn't entirely unusual as maybe in the past few months it has done that a few times before. I am not sure if the power button is extremely sensitive and getting bumped, or if when I am wiping the top and screen it is causing some kind of static that triggers it, but it's always been fine before. This time though after the initial lights it just kept the lights on, but didn't actually turn on, then it shut itself off. It showed no lights after that, not even the plugged in charging light and my heart panicked. I held the power button for more than 30 seconds and there was no change. But then I closed the lid and opened it again and it was fine. So hopefully nothing was seriously wrong. It may have not shut down correctly from the night before, or was turned on when in my backpack somehow. I may never know. I should still be covered by the extra insurance either way for another 2 years, but I'd rather not need to RMA it to test the coverage.

After that it was a pretty regular day, though there was extra tooth pain and extra blindness. My blurry vision was so bad I had to move closer to my screen than normal to see it. I even went back out to the car to try to have extra soda, as sometimes eating and having a lot (half a can or more) can get my blurry vision at least a little cleared up, but there was no change. But the rest of my day was pretty ok, and I got some good progression in my new free game I've been spending time with lately.

Day 5871 - 7/28

Almost clear

Today my vision is almost totally clear, for the first time in probably months. In the morning I decided to skip my usual breakfast doughnut, so that means no doughnut and no chocolate today. Is the bad vision related to either of those? I don't know. There was also no red meat and no cheese. So I still wonder if there is some kind of food (sensitivity) connection.

Other than that the day was pretty good. I was freezing in the library, but the weather outside is moderate to chilly. There were people at my table half of the day, but they were pretty calm and super quiet, so that was good.

Day 5872 - 7/29

Unknown Monday

Today I don't know what to expect. It's been pretty chilly lately, and I'd almost rather have the too hot weather back, but I guess it's fine. I don't know what to expect for my day.

Day 5873 - 7/30

Unknown Tuesday

Today I will probably be continuing my no chocolate vision test. Since it was a better day Sunday without, I figure this week I may avoid it to see if there is any difference. I'd expect not, and I'm pretty sure I tried this before, but I really have no other leads.

Week 839

Day 5874 - 7/31 **No (food) connection**

Today I am again at no clue what causes my blurred vision. I've been clear in the morning and it starts to get blurry without having eaten anything, so it doesn't seem food related. And during the past few days I've noticed four or more cycles of more clear and more blurry visibility, so my only possible guess would be stress or some kind of deficiency, again likely not related to specific foods.

I'm a bit anxious about my ankle appointment. I've always been worried it would be some terrible news like cancer or some other thing that will require amputation. But really being 25 years or more to degrade to the point of really just now starting to bother me sometimes it almost feels like just genetic variance (due to flat feet) and both inevitable and unavoidable the older I got. I guess we'll see what the doctor says maybe in two days. (Assuming we don't have to wait longer for some kind of test results.)

Day 5875 - 8/1 **Very tired**

Today I am very super tired. I had a very rough time getting to sleep last night. I think I must be worried about my appointment tomorrow or something.

Today was I guess ok, though my tummy feels very acidic and I have a bit of tooth pain. Other than that it was pretty restful.

Day 5876 - 8/2 **Slip-n-slide ankle**

Today I had my appointment with the doctor to check my ankle. He did indeed barely know anything about ankles and ordered X-rays for me and had that set up to be

forwarded to the podiatrist. Why couldn't he have just looked at the pictures I sent online and then do things from that?

The X-ray visit was annoying because it didn't open until 2 hours later than when I was done. So I went away, then came back around 4 hours later, and did it before they closed. The X-ray tech seemed very puzzled by what is going on. He said a couple of things are happening. First a thing he said he can see with just his eyes, which I don't at all, is that it seems while my leg is straight and correct, the foot itself has shifted to one side of where it should be. And then the other thing he said was that it seems to be slightly rotated. Like if you were sitting with your feet flat on the floor, with the leg straight, and then rotated the knee to the side about 15-20 degrees, that's how the foot is settled. (I have noticed, especially in recent years, when I'm sitting it is much more comfortable set to the side like that than straight on. That might be why.)

He did seem to agree when I told him about the scooter accident where I hyper extended things that if I had broken it at that time the issues wouldn't have slowly appeared after 25 years and they'd have been a lot more immediate.

So he seemed very confused and will have to look at the results and forward them to the podiatrist. He has no clue what could be going on since he's never seen anything like this before. That can take a few days, so I probably won't hear back on any possible conclusion on what's going on until at least Wednesday. I still expect though nothing will be able to be done to help since it's been such a very slow to progress type of damage/deviation.

Day 5877 - 8/3

Odd reminder

Today started with an odd reminder of something I'd forgotten about until the person reminded me. One of the regular librarians came up to say hi to me and she said she wanted to say goodbye because after today she was retiring. She also wanted to say she would always remember me because she thought I was an amazing person for turning in that fat envelope full of cash (with a check on top.) She said she was the person to count it and see how much it was and she was so nervous because of how much it was she

was hiding it under the desk at her station while she counted. Apparently it was almost \$4,000, again in straight cash.

She also mentioned the guy acted as if it were nothing when he got it back and didn't seem to care. I do remember hearing that before. It is completely mindboggling to me, especially now hearing just how much it was. I can't even imagine how much income I'd have to be getting monthly, and at what level my savings would need to be, to just be like, 'meh, whatever' at the loss and return of \$4,000 in cash. I mean, sure, there is a point for sure I could see myself at where I'd be like, 'oops, I lost it. Well, I hope the person who finds it spends it well. I have plenty more.' But I am nowhere even remotely close to that today. In fact, I am worried about probably not having even 400 saved by October to pay the upcoming car insurance (all at once) and get some contacts.

Other than that today was pretty regular. Though I suppose I was extra tired and a bit extra sad, likely both due to worrying about my foot and ankle results. But I had fun with my games, even though it was just slow basic progress and nothing super important. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until better days.

Day 5878 - 8/4

A bit upset tummy

Today I have a little bit of an upset tummy. I don't know why, but when I get roast beef there is about a 60% chance my tummy won't feel super great about it. I wonder if the store keeps it longer than they should. (I get it from the deli.)

Other than that the day was pretty good. I felt like I was in a slightly better mood than usual, but also a bit more sad and worried about my ankle and leg. It was bother me a bit more than it has been lately, and so I think subconsciously my brain was worrying that means it is rapidly degenerating or much worse than I think. Either way, all I can really do is wait for results and the next steps.

Day 5879 - 8/5
Worrying Monday

Today I will probably worrying about my results on my ankle. Hopefully I won't worry or stress out too much and will have an ok day.

Day 5880 - 8/6
Probably worrying Tuesday

Today I will probably still be worried about results. Since I didn't do the x-rays until the center was nearly closed Friday I really don't expect to hear anything back until Wednesday or later. All I can do is wait and hope news isn't too terrible.

Week 841

Day 5881 - 8/7 **Sore and hot**

Today my shoulders are sore. I am still a bit sore from the first immunity poking a week ago on my right shoulder, and this morning they had another they wanted me to do, so now I'm getting a bit sore on the left.

The day was pretty good, but pretty hot. It has been around 75F lately, but I can be inside (the not cooled area) for a few days, and right when I got word of that the temperature has spiked up by about 10F. So lately it's been 80-90F, which is pretty crazy hot when you have no cooling. But I don't have to worry about other people being noisy or gross or whatever, so that is something.

Day 5882 - 8/8 **Still too hot**

Today was pretty good, and while it is only late afternoon it is definitely too hot, and my back has been hurting, so that isn't great. I expect when things cool down later my evening should improve quite a bit and I should feel a bit better.

Day 5883 - 8/9 **Wobbly start**

Today had a wobbly start. I guess the library is finishing some WiFi changes and replaced the connection parts and changed the wireless name (which makes zero sense since it only adds "D" to a 4 letter abbreviation.) So for the first 1.5 hours I didn't have any connection. I guess it passed quickly enough. And outside of a bit of wobbliness at the start it was fine and even had higher peak speeds than previous tests.

I'm super tired though. I slept well, but I'm just exhausted feeling. But I guess it was a pretty ok day other than that.

Day 5884 - 8/10

Not feeling great

Today I am not feeling great. It started last night. I felt like I had a fever, migraine, a bit of dizziness, and maybe a bit of chills. It could be from the poking vaccine, but that doesn't seem super likely since that was Wednesday morning. So maybe someone at the library gave me a cold. I actually threw out part of what I'd gotten to eat and instead got a special cooked food as an early birthday food. A few of the items sounded really good to my tummy which has otherwise been uninterested and upset by foods, so hopefully that will help.

Day 5885 - 8/11

Half way to rain

Today has been pretty gray and much cooler than previous days. I'd say the weather looks half way towards raining.

I'm still pretty sick feeling. I guess I've had a migraine, but only really the behind the eye part. And I still feel maybe a bit feverish, a touch dizzy, and have been sneezing extra. I wasn't hungry for lunch almost at all. I did eat some around 1, but normally I eat at 11. I did enjoy the leftover cooked fast food from yesterday, so I think that helped.

Day 5886 - 8/12

Maybe Monday rain

Today I don't know what the weather says, but I wouldn't be surprised if it rained a bit. Hopefully things will be restful and calm and I can recover from my sick.

Day 5887 - 8/13

Maybe b-day monies

Today I may have some early b-day monies from dad. Thankfully he sent actual money instead of a gift card. And there is extra, so I can worry a bit less about things I need to get soon. It is still not enough to cover everything, but it will be more than I expected, and that is something.

Week 842

Day 5888 - 8/14 **So tired**

Today I am so very tired. I don't know why. Maybe it's that I lost a few hours sleep or maybe because of a cold. I have had extra sneezy and icky phlegm stuff when sneezing. But today a couple of times I almost fell asleep while sitting up. I guess overall it was a pretty calm and restful day, so hopefully tomorrow won't be as bad.

Day 5889 - 8/15 **Not feeling great**

Today I am still not feeling great. I still have a bit of a migraine and my muscle layers feel strained, as if I'm not drinking enough. But I probably have drunk about three times as much water as I normally do, so I can't be dehydrated. I was also very sniffly and pretty sneezy.

I guess overall it was a pretty ok day. I started to peek at a free to play game a bit. It's ok. It has a lot of survival crafting which I'm not into, so I expect I'll only stick around for a week or two until the new season when things get mostly wiped. It's free, so nothing lost if I do or don't stick around. Something new to try for sure.

Day 5890 - 8/16 **A-hole line guy**

Today I've been really mad all day. Today is the second time this guy at the library has upset me. Since I get there early I always put my backpack at the door, maybe one foot away, and I sit about 10 feet to the side with my tablet and look at stuff online. Then at about 3-5 minutes before they open I get up, get my backpack, and stand there.

Today is the second time this a-hole has come up to the door, stood practically against it, and straddled himself over my bag, effectively as if he had come and physically pushed me out of line to be in front. The first time I let it slide. Today I did not. People disrespecting others, especially intentionally, does not fly with me. I yelled something like, 'hey buddy, back the F away from my stuff,' from about one foot behind him. He pretended not to hear me. I felt like slamming his head into the door to get his attention.

Of course I didn't do that. That wouldn't be nice and I'd be at least temporarily banned. But his actions are unacceptable. I'll keep track of what days I see him (he's not there often) and in general pick up my stuff maybe at 10 'till instead of 5. That is the first step. And he needs to stay at least 3 feet from me. It is unacceptable these days to be closer than that to strangers. And if he somehow gets there and I don't notice and he's standing over my stuff, well, it will likely be very difficult to resist yelling louder directly into his face to get my point across at how unacceptable his behavior, and treatment of my stuff is. It's not ok.

Day 5891 - 8/17

Sore baack

Today my back, and sort of my legs in general, is very sore. It could be from yesterday's conflict stress, or it may be a byproduct of the cold I probably still have.

I guess overall today was a pretty good day though. People around me were quiet and calm. I wasn't overly cold at the library, so I could dress a bit more comfortably. Though the weather has been super strange. It was pretty warm out, but there were a lot of black clouds, so that is strange. It looks like now they are gone again. It is very confusing.

Day 5892 - 8/18

Still broken

Today my back is still broken. It's been slow going getting up from sitting, and when I have I have trouble straitening up. I'm still not sure on the initial cause, but hopefully it can relax and be normal soon.

I also guess I blinked at the wrong time when putting in my contacts this morning and one disappeared. I have no clue where it went. A few times it felt like it was rolled up under my eyelid, but only for about 5-10 minutes a couple of times during the day, so that seems unlikely. I now have zero extra contacts. I did order a box, which hopefully can last 4-6 months and that should be here Tuesday, so things should be ok.

There were a lot at the library today for some reason, so a few times there were too many at my table. But they were quiet and calm, so it was ok.

Day 5893 - 8/19

Probably still painful Monday

Today I don't know what to expect other than my back will probably still be too sprained and locked up.

Day 5894 - 8/20

Hopefully not too painful birthday

Today hopefully won't be too painful of a birthday. I suppose if my back is still messed up that would be ironic being a birthday older and effects of age hitting me. But hopefully painful physically or emotionally I can continue to hang on until better days.

Week 843

Day 5895 - 8/21

Odd count

Today I feel old. I'm not sure why. It may be because I'm officially old now, but I've been thinking I was 55 for most of the last year, so my brain had already been thinking I was officially old for nearly a year.

I guess it was a pretty good day. Things were calm and quiet. Though I am extremely tired.

Day 5896 - 8/22

Back pain returns

Today pretty early on my back pain returned. My middle and lower back have been pretty reluctant to move at all. When I've gotten up to pee it has taken about 15-30 seconds to stand fully straight and be able to take steps towards the bathroom. I really don't know what is causing it, but I hope it stops.

Day 5897 - 8/23

Sprinkles

Today was pretty ok. There was some pretty bad back pain still, but it wasn't as bad as yesterday. And when I would get up it would only take 5-10 seconds of pain to start moving.

I was pretty sniffly and sneezy today too. Maybe a tiny bit feverish. And it sprinkled just a little bit. It seems strange to be raining this early. But overall it was a pretty good day.

Day 5898 - 8/24

Stiff, but good

Today my back is still a bit sore. Moving has ranged from almost normal to a bit of complaint after getting up, but calming down after 5-10 seconds. Hopefully at the rate it is going in maybe two days it will be back to normal.

I have been doing something lately that has made me a bit happy. For a while there have been thoughts of a setting for a pen and paper game floating in my head. Ideas about how to change characters, new features, and some spooky Halloween time fun, so I've been working on that, stories, and things that go with it. Yesterday and today I worked on a bit of art for it. I don't know if anything will care to play with the stuff, and it's still got quite a ways to go (though I'm targeting it being 'ready' by early to mid October), but hopefully a few people will have some fun if I do put it out there. It's for a game that isn't actually released yet, so it may not get much attention, or since there isn't any material out for the game yet it may actually get a lot of attention. Either way, for the moment at least, my brain is happy distracted by it and having a good time. Which these days is very rare.

Day 5899 - 8/25

Less than 4 hours

Today I am running on less than 4 hours of sleep. I'm pretty exhausted. I am so tired I even almost left my chicken at the store. Apparently I left it in the cart, and luckily I discovered I'd forgotten it only about two blocks from the store, so it was pretty easy to go back.

My back feels a bit better, but now dealing with an unknown exhaustion from lack of sleep things may get worse again.

Day 5900 - 8/26
Hopefully recovering Monday

Today hopefully I get good sleep and am recovering from losing so much sleep Saturday night. I don't really know what to expect, as it should be a normal day.

Day 5901 - 8/27
Ankle appointment

Today I don't know what to expect other than I finally have my ankle appointment. I really hope there is a reason for me to go and it's not something the doctor could have just messaged me three weeks ago. Either way, the day is finally here and I will know what, if anything, can be done to help my ankle.

Week 844

Day 5902 - 8/28 Seeing a bit better

Today I am seeing a bit better, and yesterday too. I wonder if it is stress related, and the news about my ankle has reduced that some. I still don't see great, certainly not as sharp and clear as when I was younger, and focus still shifts between everything is slightly to fully blurry. But more times in the day I will look up, or go to the bathroom, and things aren't always the worst.

I guess today was pretty ok other than that. The wireless was back up and mostly ok. It dropped yesterday around 1 and never came back up before I left. It still disconnects me a few times a day though. It haven't been playing my old shooter often lately and I was today and after probably more than an hour working on a special mission it disconnected me and all that progress was lost, so that was pretty upsetting. But it was a pretty regular day other than that.

Edit: My ankle appointment went pretty much as expected. He confirmed that this was damage done by my having flat feet, and while I maybe could have slowed it a bit more by wearing inserts all these years, it is basically not preventable. He said he's also seen far worse, and since I have no pain or real restriction of movement it's not really bad. When I asked if he thought maybe it could have been accelerated by a break or sever damage he said he saw no evidence of any previous breaks or bad damage, and did agree with my thought that if it had been it would have been a far more immediate reaction. So, as expected, inevitable, unpreventable, and not realistically treatable, but inserts would help.

Day 5903 - 8/29

New

Today was pretty good. There was some new and different stuff going on, so the time passed very quickly. My tummy was a bit upset at the foods that I got, but sadly that seems to be happening more and more often. Hopefully tomorrow will be better.

Day 5904 - 8/30

Return of the A-hole

Today certainly started out different. At about 20 minutes before the library opened I heard, "Is this ok?" from over near my backpack. I looked over and see it's the A-hole from the past weeks. I respond with something like, 'Yeah, that's my stuff there so just give it some room.' He continues, "You got really upset last time." And I responded with something like, 'Yeah because that's where I am in line and you cut in front and stood on top of my stuff.' He explained that in 'his original country if you aren't in line it doesn't matter what you put there, you aren't in line.' I acknowledge that and say, 'Well, thanks for explaining that, that explains what you did. But here in America stuff like that,' pointing at my stuff, 'implies that's a person in line.' And he cut me off before I could continue saying, 'Oh so you are a ____.' And I said I didn't know what that means, and he explained, very sarcastic sounding, that it meant I'm a person from the U.S. who thinks foreigners should all be kicked out, and follows that up with, 'Sorry, but I'm a U.S. citizen.' So you have a super thick accent, are referring to standards from somewhere not the U.S., ignoring the social norms I just explained that you broke, and claim that I'm some kind of racist?

This view continued for a few more lines in different ways. I explained that my great grandpa on one side is German, and he again interrupted me mid-explanation by asking if I spoke German in German and I responded, 'Just a little bit.' And he again responded using things I didn't know, so I again asked him what that meant, and again he said sarcastically sounding that it was a 'term for someone who doesn't really know a language at all.' And at that point I gave up on this guy. Every single thing I was trying to

say or explain he would interrupt and indirectly accuse me of being a racist. So it's clear this guy, no matter who a person is, is claiming to be a citizen, that people can't kick him out, but "sorry for you, I can't be deported." Clearly this guy is the racist and automatically thinks everyone else is.

He's right in that he doesn't go to my area of the library and so "it's not worth it." But when the library opened he pushed past an older lady who is a regular on his way in and didn't even acknowledge her or that he pushed her to the side. This guy clearly isn't going to do well with how he acts. Thankfully I only have to deal with him once a week or less.

Other than the rough start with the A-hole my day was pretty good. My special hobby thing I have been working on started to get some positive attention. And it seems pretty good and is balancing ok, so I'll likely continue it. I am a bit sad though as I only have 25 year old software to try and work with it. Looking around today there is actually a competitor to the super big fancy subscription software. That one is a single purchase of around \$75 and that would make my thing look super nice and professional. And I could do other graphic design work with it in the future. But honestly I'm not finding work, so that would be a pretty huge cost on no income for, 'I can make fun personal things that look professional.'

As always all I can do is try my best to be happy. And try my best to be restful and as healthy as I can with what I have.

Day 5905 - 8/31

Six months free

Today I don't feel so great. I don't know if it's an issue with the food store deli food being bad, or some kind of cold someone gave me at the library. I guess my tummy and digestive system feel not great, my lungs feel a touch dry and irritated, kind of like someone has been smoking near me, and my throat feels a bit congested. Other than that I guess the day in general was ok.

At the end of my library time I got a big surprise. I was watching a video about the software that I mentioned and the person in the video mentioned a sale. I said, 'Hum. I

didn't look for a sale link when I was at the site. I just went to the purchase page.' And there is no sale now, but their usual 2 week free trial is currently 6 months, and even if you did a free trial before you can use this. I guess they are trying to market the newest version, so I immediately grabbed that deal. I won't have to worry about paying for it if I like it for quite a while. So I'm looking forward to seeing if it does what I want. It would be a way to update my design software to something more recent than 25 years ago, and something that doesn't crash all the time.

Day 5906 - 9/1

New program

Today my brain did a lot of work with the fun hobby thing I've been working on. I played with the free trial software for an hour or so. I'd forgotten how completely time consuming graphic design can be to set up files. But it definitely looks like the software does everything I hope and expect it to. Though there are a couple of differences I'll have to get used to, it should be pretty easy to adopt. And then I'll have access to design software of a type I've not been able to use outside of school subscriptions in the past maybe 15 years. The version of software that I have which is similar is about 25 years old, and about 10-15 years ago it started pretty much crashing so often it wasn't worth trying to use anymore, so I don't even install it anymore.

I'd love to buy this new software, but I'm still going to give it a couple of weeks of trying it out to be sure. And then when I am sure I have to be sure I have 'enough' for contacts and as much car insurance as I can pay up front all at once. The free trial will run out in late February, so hopefully that means if I get a bit extra around Xmas that should cover it. Plenty of time.

Overall the day was pretty good, though every 30 or so minutes I've been sneezing.

Day 5907 - 9/2

Outside day

Today I expect very little. I will likely get only about 4 hours online and then the rest of the time I'll just be in my car probably reading some rules for the hobby thing that I need to become familiar with. On holidays like this my options become very limited.

Day 5908 - 9/3

Hopefully regular Tuesday

Today will hopefully be a pretty regular Tuesday. Though my brain may be obsessed with my hobby project, which would make it different. Hopefully when I finish it people enjoy it and it looks awesome. If it does, I could totally use it for a portfolio piece for job hunting.

Week 845

Day 5909 - 9/4 **Still not great**

Today my tummy is still not feeling great. It's not the worst I suppose, but the only meat I had was a little chicken for lunch. And it was healthy herb roasted, so it shouldn't be upsetting. I just had a bagel after that.

I guess it was a pretty good day other than that. I spent pretty much the whole time editing my hobby thing, which while super fun, is at the very slow moving phase to get it to where it need to be to be considered 'ready'.

Day 5910 - 9/5 **Layout**

Today I basically spent almost all day doing layout. Lots and lots of copy, paste, apply style, tweak for bold or italics, repeat. It didn't seem at all tedious or boring to me, which is good, but I suppose it would drive most others mad. I still have a fair bit to do before my special hobby project is done, but I think it looks super awesome so far.

Day 5911 - 9/6 **More layout**

Today I spent the day doing more layout. I'm almost done with the hardest stuff, then it is on to adding more art and nitpicking at it.

I feel ok I guess. My tummy feels a bit better, but I have been sneezing like crazy. I probably sneezed a couple of times an hour. Hopefully I don't have a cold.

Day 5912 - 9/7

Kinda heartbroken

Today I happily finished the big hobby thing I have been working so hard on. I posted it on the official social page for the game and it immediately got booped off by a moderator saying they aren't allowing home brewed content right now since the game isn't released yet. I was confused because I swear in an official stream they talked about being excited to see everyone's content, and it was ok to do stuff as long as you didn't charge for it. I've watched several live plays which feature home brew content, so I am very confused why that is ok, but my creating something nice for people isn't.

I feel like I'm little, just got a bunch of new friends, decided to make everyone special surprise presents to have fun with for Halloween time, proudly showed it to my parents and was excited for my new friends to get it, and they immediately slammed the box closed, said 'no you can't,' threw the box into my room, and slammed the door shut. 😞

I guess it makes sense legally, as someone in a different social page mentioned they wouldn't be able to prove they didn't copy me if I saw something similar at launch and I had shown my material on the official page prior to that. Which I get it, that makes sense. But I thought they said posting content was ok, and people are doing their own content in live shows, so it seems confusing to me.

As with most things in my life, for the moment I am left feeling unwanted. Which I know is not true. People on a different social page have shown a growing interest as I've worked on it. But now I have to wait 6 months or more before the people can have it.

Day 5913 - 9/8

Ok-ish

Today I feel ok-ish. I guess I'm still a bit sad feeling from my hobby project being shut down for 6 or more months. I guess the day is ok other than that, though the library got pretty crowded.

Day 5914 - 9/9

Bland Monday

Today I expect will be pretty bland. I have several games I can play, but the seasonal content changes for those which have seasons have been out for a while and so things feel same-samey again.

I feel like I've been forgetting something lately. I'm not sure what, but it's made me feel weird at times.

Day 5915 - 9/10

Unknown Tuesday

Today I don't know what to expect. There hasn't been anything new or things to look forward to for a while, so it will probably be a pretty regular day.

Week 846

Day 5916 - 9/11 **Tired**

Today was pretty ok. I felt very extremely tired though. I didn't play a whole lot because of it. I actually spent a lot of time just looking at tips and other type videos.

Day 5917 - 9/12 **Flatish**

Today has not been great, but hopefully will turn out ok. First, in the shower I guess I put my razor against my lip instead of a bit lower on my chin and it's a bit cut. I guess it doesn't hurt much now, but it may have a tough time healing since when I move my lip it stretches the scab.

The more worrisome thing is I heard a weird foop foop noise while driving. I looked around and noticed the right rear tire was pretty flat. I went to a gas station to fill it and it was so low that for a lot of the time while filling the gauge didn't register any pressure. After a while I had it a bit over full showing 40. It's now several hours later and it looks like it's still full, so hopefully the maybe nail I saw near the middle is holding it mostly closed. The library district is having a forced closed day on the 27th, so hopefully the tire will continue to hold until then. Then I can go to the tire place and they should fix and rotate it for free. They do that for tires that you get there, so it should be fine.

I guess it was a pretty ok day other than that. I did feel more like doing pen and paper hobby things today than playing video games, but I have to be careful not to do too much. The more I do, sure the more fun everyone will have with it, but the more I have to potentially adjust post release.

Day 5918 - 9/13

Insane price hike

Today I am feeling pretty sad. I got my bill for my car insurance and it was \$125 more expensive than last year, a 35% increase. I was like what the hell. I've gotten no tickets or been in any accidents. Apparently this is a price increase for all of the California customers. Really? The average person probably pays three times what I do and you increase the fees for everyone by the same amount? This makes no sense. I immediately then had to spend the next 1.5 hours or so looking around at other options. Basically even with the price hike they are still pretty much the cheapest. So, sure I guess overall they have wiggle room to increase the price, but it feels like I'm being punished for something I didn't do.

I guess the day was ok other than that. The flatish tire seems ok, but probably won't last the 2 weeks until the closed library day. I may be forced to try and set an appointment for sooner, or again have to spend \$2 filling it.

I guess, as always, things are out of my control and all I can do is try my best to hang on one day at a time. 😞

Day 5919 - 9/14

Icky tummy

Today my tummy feels a bit icky. I got cheese, which is always risky, but it seems likely no matter what I get to eat if it's ready to eat (not cooked) it will upset my tummy, so that isn't great.

I didn't feel like playing much today. I guess I'm pretty extra sad with all my money worries about contacts and now car insurance. I did spend some time doing art stuff for my pen and paper hobby thing, so that was nice. But overall I guess I feel pretty sad, and pretty hopeless.

Day 5920 - 9/15

Too cold

Today was ok. I was freezing in the library. I really think their temperature is way off. I'm going to have to start wearing full outside winter layers in an attempt to stay warm because it's gotten to the point where I'm gritting my teeth from cold all the time.

Day 5921 - 9/16

Probably cold Monday

Today I don't know what to expect other than the library will likely be far too cold. I guess I'll have to start wearing full winter cloths four months early so I don't feel cold inside the building, which is ridiculous.

Day 5922 - 9/17

Not eye appointment

Today I have an appointment with my general doctor. I doubt she will know what to do about my blurry vision, but maybe she can forward me to a specialist. When I tried to contact one myself I was told my coverage doesn't cover them and they refused to make an appointment for me (since there is no way I was going to offer to pay out of pocket.)

Index

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Podcast 4780

Where did I see it?

Wondering where you may have seen my day subtitles before? Here's a list. 😊

Day 4771 - Movie; Aladdin (1992).