

The Conch Republic

COCONUT TELEGRAPH



FREE
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Entertainment



THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHERNMOST TERRITORIES OF THE CONCH REPUBLIC

101425 Overseas Hwy. • PMB #628 • Key Largo, FL 33037 • 305-304-2837 • www.theconchtelegraph.com • September 2021



Attractions

Artist of the Month:

Carol Ellis

What's Hot & What's Not

Always Something Going On
at Key Largo Library

Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page
Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies
Business in the Keys
Daily OM
Conch Characters
Classifieds



Photographer Carol Ellis writes, "Mangroves line the shoreline of the Florida Keys. Once they surrounded virtually every inch of landmass here. Their existence is in peril as some regard their existence as an obstruction to a their view. I love the mangrove for their contribution to the health of our waters. This image is unique with its exposed weathered coral rocks. As the tourist asks: 'Where's the beach?' " Read more about Carol Ellis on page 5.

REOPENING OCTOBER 1st





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Notice: We now sell subscriptions! See our ad inside the paper for details.

It's available free online: theconchtelegraph.com. For comments please visit The Conch Telegraph on Facebook.

A shredded check for \$12,877.30! Ouch!

We got an inquiry regarding advertising from an agency from Canada. They wanted to run a full page ad for a year and would pay in advance. I did a little dance around my desk. Then I got another email from them saying that they made a mistake and sent us someone else's money included in our check and would we please cash the forthcoming check and mail back the difference. I went from dancing to cursing - it was obviously a scam. A couple of days later I received the check and immediately took it to First State Bank and explained it to Donya, the branch manager. She agreed with me it was a scam and I watched her shred the check.

She said I was lucky, that many older people fall for such scams and wind up losing a ton of money and there is nothing anyone can do about it, even the police! Be careful people!

We recently sponsored a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization. We had an excellent showing for a worthy cause. It was heartwarming to see so many caring people contribute but among all good the good ones, there were a few self-serving people. We explained the rules to everyone. One couple of social climbers ignored the rules and tried to get the prizes and food without a donation as was required. We busted them. They weren't there to help the cause, they were there to see and be seen. In the future we hope they

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Independently Owned Local Newspaper

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33037

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Editorial - Bad People... and Good Things!

will consider singing in another Key... like Marathon or over the rainbow after 3 glasses of wine you midget douche bags!

Another thing that really ticks me off is low life scum suckers who raid a friends home after they die. It happens. One guy I know raced to the home of a widow to get the deceased's tools. We work hard all our lives to provide for our loved ones. Have a plan in place to keep these parasites away.

Romantic Weddings in the Keys Keepsake Edition coming October 2021

Whether you are looking for a large wedding or choosing to elope, this issue is meant to put you in touch with the right professionals who will help you make your dream come true —

whatever your budget. From hotels, restaurants, photographers, music, caterers, you name it, we are here to help.

Our regular loyal advertisers are getting a FREE ad in this issue but we are offering low rates for others who want to be part of this. For info on advertising email me at denisemalefyt@gmail.com or text 305-304-2837.

Locals Helping Locals

The Key Largo Moose Lodge is hosting the Swap Meet again starting in October. Stop by and visit with local artists. Hotdogs \$1 and free coffee.

The Salvation Army is open Mon - Sat and the MARC Thrift shop is open only Saturdays from 9 to 3.

Continued on Page 18

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Wednesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

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Artist of the Month: Carol Ellis: Photographer - Artist - Fashion Designer

We are proud to feature Carol Ellis of Key Largo as Artist of the Month. Ellis is the official photographer for the Ocean Reef Club, and a multi-award-winning artist who is celebrating her recently-launched clothing line. The collection is an extension of her creative artistry and unique talent. Ellis' designs are a reflection of her combined love for the Keys, and her keen eye for vibrant tropical color and detail. Her subjects include the natural environment, the Southern landscape, the Florida Keys and Everglades, and tropical flora and fauna.



The photos she takes from her heart almost never have any evidence of human involvement; rather she is inspired by the interplay of the elements of nature with light, motion, and color.



Carol seeks places that are wild and serene, usually at the water's edge or native woods. She revisits the place at different times of day, and weather conditions, often enough to get a sense of place... to really get to know it. Carol takes about 50 photos each visit, varying the exposure, focus and vantage point.

The magic comes when the mechanical settings of the camera and the environmental conditions come together.

"My photography is a form of photosynthesis: I find my subject, savor the scene, take in the light and the photograph is my interpretation. So equally my ART IS LIFE, produced by my synthesis, my camera and my point of view. Photography has been my passion for my entire life. My mentors have been master printers and accomplished artists.

"I've studied at home and across the globe, at the prestigious Maine Media Workshops, Santa Fe Photography Center, and L'atelier de Saint-Rémy in France. While in residency at Vermont Studio Center I worked beside artists of all persuasions. I continue to be inspired by the time we live it, a modern-day renaissance of new photo materials and processes."

Her vibrant shirts and tunics are made of the softest and lightest 95% polyester and 5% spandex. They are affordable and make a cherished gift.

"While it seems minor now, during November 2018, brain surgery for a subdermal hematoma changed my life. As I recovered, I could not lift objects more than 10 pounds, or for that matter

provide any stress which would cause further bleeding. I wanted to be creative, but to use my camera would require I make two trips with my gear; one to carry the tripod and a second to carry the camera.

"My first effort was the photo of sparkle lights on the lily pond New Years Eve 2019. In planning a shot, I scout at different times of day to get it just right. This shot was no exception. One evening I arrived, the lights were not on.

"Another morning, all is good, I set up, and the timer activates and turns them off just as I was ready to shoot. Third time was the charm. The lights were on



Contact Carol Ellis at 305-451-7778 or carol@carolellis.com. Website for clothing line: www.legaleriste.com/en/carol.ellis. Photography website: www.carolellis.com



LOCAL AWARDS:

Green Living and Environmental Education Individual Award for Monroe County/Florida Keys 2009

Dale Carnegie Award for Highest Achievement

Lipstick and Loaded Top Shot 2014 and 2015

Ocean Reef Art League Best of Show and First Place Awards

Florida 24/7 Finalist

and so were the sprinklers... a bonus... which created a cool misty effect." Private and group instruction in photography is available. Carol has offered hands-on workshops at the Ocean Reef Art League since 2000. Students have learned to make the best use of their cameras' incredible capabilities and to see the photo opportunities that await. Private and group sessions are available.

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from Mrs Mac's Kitchen





CHEF CLARK AT THE ELKS

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Coconut Telegraph's Romantic Weddings in the Keys Keepsake Edition coming October 2021

Whether you are looking for a large wedding or choosing to elope, this issue is meant to put you in touch with the right professionals who will help you make your dream come true — whatever your budget. From hotels, restaurants, photographers, music, caterers, you name it, we are here to help.

Our regular loyal advertisers are getting a FREE ad in this issue but we are offering low rates for others who want to be part of this. For info on advertising email denisemalefyt@gmail.com or text 305-304-2837.

SWAP MEET

HOURS: 9AM - 2PM

Saturday, October 23rd

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Orchids
Fishing &
Dive Gear
Holiday
Items, etc.*



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www.ladiesletsgofishing.com


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There's Always Something Going On at the Key Largo Library!

The Key Largo Branch of the Monroe County Library System is hosting the following programs during the month of September. All library programs are free, and take place in the Community Room unless otherwise indicated. Masks are

required in all county buildings per BOCC. September is Library Card Signup Month. Sign up for a Monroe County Public Library card and find something wonderful at your library! During the month, libraries around the country unite in a national

effort to ensure every child signs-up for their own library card. From Storytime to audiobooks to art and technology classes, there is something for everyone. #LibraryCardSignupMonth! #KeysLibraries

Weekly Programs
Storytime at Friendship Park
(mm101.3) Tuesday & Thursday
10:30am

Creative Tuesdays
1-3 PM

Calling all artists, new and experienced! Bring in items you are working on and help each other during this fun afternoon program. Sometimes a guest artist will have a fun project everyone can participate in.

Tech Tutor
Wednesdays 1-4 PM

Drop in for help downloading library apps to your smart phone or tablet. Learn how to download e-books and e-audiobooks, and learn how to stream movies from Kanopy too. Basic computer help is also available. Bring your device and questions.

Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida
Wednesdays 1-2 PM
hosted by Florida Keys
Area Health Education Center



LEGO® Lab
Wednesdays 4 PM
Elementary-age children can be creative and build with LOTS of LEGOs. Test your skills with the building challenges provided.

Sit + Sew Thursdays
beginning September 2, 12:30-4 PM
Bring your sewing machine and current project!



Other Programs

Tech Savvy Seniors on the Go
3-part series provides technology training for anyone in the Upper Keys, over the age of 50. Technology provided. Tuesdays September 14, 21, 28 3:30-5:00pm. Call 305-451-2396 or drop by the library to register. Presented by Just Older Youth (JOY), Inc. in collaboration with Keys to Peace. Grant funding provided by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys.

Bingo
September 25, 2 PM
Join your neighbors for a fun afternoon of Bingo! Small prizes awarded.

Legal Services of the Florida Keys
Free Legal Help
for qualifying individuals will return October 13, November 17, December 15
Pre-Registration required: Online www.legalservicesmiami.org, Phone 866-686-2760, or secure Kiosk at the Key Largo Library

Online Adult Trivia
September 10, 7 PM
[Facebook.com/KeyWestLibrary/events](https://www.facebook.com/KeyWestLibrary/events)

[KeysLibraries.org/Events](https://www.KeysLibraries.org/Events)
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NEW BOOKS!
There are ALWAYS new books!



September 11, 2001:
The Day that Changed the World,
September 7 - 30

An educational exhibit that presents the history of 9/11, its origins, and its ongoing implications through the personal stories of those who witnessed and survived the attacks.

Told across 14 posters, this exhibition includes archival photographs and images of artifacts from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum's permanent collection.

The posters will be up at the Key Largo Library branch from September 7 - 30. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book and reflect.



Conch Characters



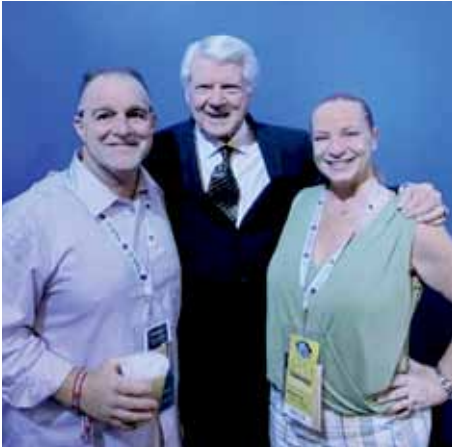
Sweetwater at the Moose.



Amy Nissen, bartender at the Legion.



Mike & Tiffany - Karaoke at the Legion on Tuesdays.



Congrats to Football Hall of Famer Jimmy Johnson, here with Big Chill partners, Larry & Jamie Calvano



Brothers Of Others is a great Miami band playing this month at the Lorelei.



Spotted in line at the Drive-Thru at Arby's.

Back to School - Stories About the Kids

SCHOOL

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

OPINIONS

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents.'

KETCHUP

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. 'Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle.'

MORE NUILITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'

POLICE

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up at my uniform, she asked, 'Are you a cop?' I said yes and continued writing the report. 'My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?' 'That's right,' I told her. 'Well, then,' she said as she pushed her foot toward me, 'would you please tie my shoe?'

MORE POLICE

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. 'Is that a dog you got back there?' he asked. 'It sure is,' I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, 'What'd he do?'

7) ELDERLY

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter along. She was always intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the bar-

rage of questions, she turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

8) DRESS-UP

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, 'Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit.' 'And why not, darling?' 'It always gives you a headache the next morning.'

BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family Bible. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it, an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

Yes, Virginia, Florida has scorpions. However, according to University of Florida Extension Entomologists, none of them are able to produce a fatal sting. Most folks would view these occasional invaders as a nuisance, and want to know how to control them.

In Florida, encounters with life-threatening non-native scorpions are possible only in the movies or as a result of stowaways or released exotic pets. Of 90 US scorpion species, only four occur east of the Mississippi River. And, only one of the 90 domestic scorpions, which usually live in the southwest, can kill people. There are about 1,300 species of scorpions worldwide.



Guiana striped scorpion. Photo by Dr. Rolando Teruel: courtesy of The Scorpion Files

Scorpions vary in size from one to four inches long. These crab-like animals are dark brown, have a broad flattened body, and are compete with ten legs. The front pair of legs is modified into claw-like pincers which are used to hold their prey.

Their most noticeable feature is their curled fleshy tail. It is usually held over their body. It ends in an enlarged upturned tip that ends in a stinger. The sting is used for defense as well as for capturing prey.

Scorpion venom is a nerve poison, but the dose injected usually is not enough to kill adults. While no Florida scorpions are capable of inflicting a lethal sting, those that have had scorpion stings report that it is very painful, probably more so than a wasp sting. Scorpions rarely sting humans except when pinned against the skin, such as under clothes or when trapped in bed sheets. The site of the sting may be sore and swollen for some time. An antivenom is available for severe reac-

Scorpions Among Us!

tions to scorpion stings, so medical attention is a good idea.

According to UF Entomologist Lyle Buss, our office visitor was a Florida bark scorpion, sometimes called the slender brown scorpion (*Centruroides gracilis*). It is the largest of Florida's three scorpion species. The smallest and most common Florida scorpion is the Hentz striped scorpion (*C. hentzi*), which is found statewide except the southernmost Keys. The third Florida species is not found in south central Florida: the Guiana striped scorpion (*C. guianensis*) is intermediate in size between the other Florida Scorpions and crawls only around Collier, Miami-Dade, and Monroe-Dade counties.

Scorpions like to hide outside under boards, rubbish, or other areas that provide shelter and protection. They are a nuisance especially in recently built homes. These predators are active at night, and do their share to reduce pests in and around the home. Another interesting feature about scorpions is that they glow under ultraviolet lights - so get out the black lights to help track them down.



Scorpion UV fluorescence is well known, but we haven't seen many pictures that show this unique quality. Photo by Kenton Elliott. Courtesy of Desert USA/Digital West Media Inc.

In the home, scorpions are most likely to be found where they find their food sources: insects, spiders, or similar small animal life. Termites are suggested as the best food source for captive Florida Bark Scorpions. Be cautious when crawling under a house or up in the attic. And taking care of these other pests will often eliminate scorpions as well.

Scorpions have a long life cycle, lasting three to five years. Males and females go through a courtship ritual prior to mating. Scorpions do not lay eggs and the young are born alive. After

birth the young scorpions climb on the back of the mother and remain there until after their first molt. Scorpions will readily eat their own species and females will often eat their own young.

Here are a few other ideas to make your Florida home less attractive to scorpions and their prey:

- Prune branches so they do not overhand the home, and keep shrubs from touching the outside walls.
- Place trash piles and trash cans on blocks or logs to keep them off the ground.
- Keep firewood outside until it is ready to be used, and use gloves when moving it.
- Maintain screens, and use caulk to seal cracks, and seal door openings with weather-stripping.
- In case of a heavy infestation, perimeter residual pesticide sprays can be used as a last resort.

If you encounter a scorpion, the natural reaction is to kill it. Physical force will do the trick, but be prepared with a quick carefully aimed stomp with a heavy boot. Glue boards may also be helpful in capturing both scorpions and their food sources without pesticides.

However, pesticides may sometimes be needed for scorpion control. Pesticides must come in contact with the animal to work. After applications are made, keep track of how effective the application was. If necessary, reapply according to label directions

Some products effective against scorpions can only be used outside, while others are labeled for indoor use. Many of these materials may only be used by professionals. Be sure to use a pesticide only as instructed on the label.



Hentz striped scorpion. Photo by Kari McWestl. Courtesy of The Scorpion Files



We always have something "Elk-citing" going on!
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Monday: Line Dancing Lessons 5 pm (\$5 cost)
Show me the Money — Fun card game! 6:30 pm

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Life, Explained

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to

live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank us for this valuable information. We're doing it as a public service. If you are looking for us, we'll be on the front porch.



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Living Dockside and Furloughed

Living Dockside No More!

by Ginny Jones

Well that's if the sea trials go well tomorrow. One day I'm happy; the next I don't even leave She Breeze, I just kind of hide and pretend I'm not really selling her. And she is fighting me all the way! Last week it was a five-inch piece of water hose that chose to explode under the galley sink. It was an easy fix. Now the windless is not functioning properly. I can be down inside checking the wiring, but unless I'm two people I can't be up stepping on the foot pedals and down under checking the voltage, scheeeesh!

Yes, life on a boat with a mate is optimal. But the feeling you get from fixing a leaky hose to redoing an electrical system, to learning how to bleed your diesel engine when you run her out of fuel... yes

I've done that just once. My dear friend once said he is only happy when living outside of his comfort zone. I am finally realizing that is a good description of me also. So why, you may ask, am I selling She Breeze? For one reason, we are now into my sixteenth hurricane season where every morning I look at the NOAA hurricane website to see what, if anything, is heading our way. And at this moment there are two items that need monitoring. I keep She Breeze ready to sail at a moment's notice, as staying at the dock during a category one or two storm is not a good plan. Not so much due to the integrity of the dock as much as the danger from the neighboring boats that nobody gives a shit about. Bottom line, I have cowered

in my bunk pleading to the universe to not let the lightning hit She Breeze, blow out a thru hull and sink us, or strike me and render me an idiot, wait, I already am, I chose to live on a sailboat! So the sea trial went flawlessly. The young new owner and I put up the jib and main sail. We cut the engine and were doing four and a half knots. We managed to successfully tack a couple of times under minimal winds, she was just showing off for the new owner I'm sure. So now I'm packing up my meager belongings, which is far less than what I came here with. When I drive out of the Keys over the Jewfish Creek bridge crying all the way, I'll look to the left and see all the sailboats out in the mooring



Ginny Jones aboard She Breeze

field. I will stop crying and say to myself, hey, I'll buy another sailboat, a smaller one I can solo. **Yep, still an idiot!**

The Coconut Telegraph thanks Ginny for her amusing and interesting articles over the past several years.

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ON THE MAP

Letter to the Editor

Dear Coconut Telegraph,

God bless you for the beautiful radio I won at one of your recent fundraisers. I am 85 years old and live at Moose Haven. All of my family has passed away. I am all alone now and it's nice to know that someone is thinking of me. God bless you for your kindness to an old forgotten lady.

My roommate is 95 and has always had her own radio, but before I received one, she would never let me listen to hers, even when she was napping. The other day her radio fell off the night stand and broke into a lot of pieces. It was awful and she was in tears.

Her distress over the broken radio touched me and I knew this was God's way of answering my prayers. She asked me if she could listen to mine, and I told her to kiss my ass.

Thank you for that opportunity.

Sincerely,
Agnes

EDITORIAL, continued from page 2

I live too far from Enrico's Pizza to get the world's best delivered to my door, and I had just spent the day chained to my desk writing articles and doing research and I was craving a pizza but too tired to get ready and make the trip to the Big Chill... so I decided to call Domino's - big mistake! The woman who answered the phone had such a thick accent I couldn't understand her. I've lived in the Keys for 32 years and only speak English, but over the years I've learned to communicate with most non-english speaking people, but not this one. I repeated myself about 7 times and kept saying, "Sorry, I do not understand you." Finally the woman got frustrated and hung up on me! So, I have developed a list on how to communicate with Domino's.

25 Ways to Order a Pizza from Domino's

1. Stutter the letter "p".
2. Terminate the call with, "Remember, we never had this conversation."
3. Ask what the order taker is wearing.
4. Tell the order taker you're depressed. Get him/her to cheer you up.
5. Act like you know the order taker from somewhere. Say "Bedwetters' Camp, right?"
6. Rent a pizza.
7. Ask if you get to keep the pizza box. When they say yes, heave a sigh of relief.
8. Tell them to double check to make sure your pizza is, in fact, dead.
9. Psychoanalyze the order taker.

10. Order two toppings, then say, "No, they'll start fighting".
11. Call to complain about service. Later, call back to say you were drunk and didn't mean it.
12. Tell the order taker to tell the manager to tell his supervisor he's fired.
13. Ask if the pizza is organically grown.
14. State your order and say that's as far as this relationship is going to get.
15. Ask them if they are familiar with the term "spanking a pizza." Make up a description to go with the term. Ask that this be done to your pizza.
16. Put them on hold.

17. Teach the order taker a secret code. Use the code on all subsequent orders.

18. Haggle.

19. Order a one-inch pizza.

20. When they say "Will that be all?", snicker and say "We'll find out, won't we?"

21. Ask how many dolphins were killed to make that pizza.

22. Dance all around the word "pizza". Avoid saying it at all costs. If he/she says it, say "Please don't mention that word."

23. If he/she suggests a side order, ask why he/she is punishing you.

24. Order a steamed pizza.

25. If any of the above practices are rejected by the order taker say, in your best pouty voice, "Last guy let me do it."

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Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home, stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



George



Sunny



Minnie



Bob & Dylan



Yaki



Buddy



Mai Tai



Panda



Bernadette



Opal



Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road?

DONALD TRUMP: I've been told by my many sources, good sources - they're very good sources - that the chicken crossed the road. All the Fake News wants to do is write nasty things about the road, but it's a really good road. It's a beautiful road. Everyone knows how beautiful it is.

JOE BIDEN: Why did the chicken do the...thing in the...you know the rest.

SARAH PALIN: The chicken crossed the road because, gosh-darn it, he's a maverick!

BARACK OBAMA: Let me be perfectly clear, if the chickens like their eggs they can keep their eggs. No chicken will be required to cross the road to surrender her eggs. Period.

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ: Chickens should not be forced to lay eggs! This is because of corporate greed! Eggs should be able to lay themselves.

HILLARY CLINTON: What difference at this point does it make why the chicken crossed the road.

GEORGE W. BUSH: We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road or not. The chicken is either with us or against us. There is no middle ground here.

DICK CHENEY: Where's my gun?

BILL CLINTON: I did not cross the road with that chicken.

AL GORE: I invented the chicken.

JOHN KERRY: Although I voted to let the chicken cross the road, I am now against it! It was the wrong road to cross, and I was misled about the chicken's intentions. I am not for it now, and will remain against it.

AL SHARPTON: Why are all the chickens white?

DR. PHIL: The problem we have here is that this chicken won't realize that he must first deal with the problem on this side of the road before it goes after the problem on the other side of the road. What we need to do is help him realize how stupid he is acting by not taking on his current problems before adding any new problems.

ANDERSON COOPER: We have reason to believe there is a chicken, but we have not yet been allowed to have access to the other side of the road.

NANCY GRACE: That chicken crossed the road because he's guilty! You can see it in his eyes and the way he walks.

PAT BUCHANAN: She crossed the road to steal the job of a decent, hardworking American.

DR SEUSS: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I've not been told.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY: To die in the rain, alone.

GRANDPA: In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?

COLONEL SANDERS: Did I miss one?

Your Special Gift

We all have a genius within us and when one of us doesn't develop or use our special gift, a cosmic void takes place.

"The most sincere compliment we can pay is attention."

- Walter Inglis Anderson



Each of us is born with a specific genius that was bestowed upon us so we can do our part to make this world a better place. All of us have a role that we're uniquely suited for. Imagine our planet without trees, oceans, or clouds. In this same way, when one of us doesn't develop or use our special gift, a cosmic void takes place.

This unique talent or ability may be hidden from your own sight like a golden treasure buried under shifting sands. Often, we spend so much time dazzled by the talents of others that we can overlook our own gifts. It may even be that our unique ability is something we view negatively. Perhaps we find it difficult concentrating on any one subject for long; meanwhile, others are thrilled by our ability to weave various ideas throughout our conversations. Or, you might think of yourself as "frivolous," when it's likely your charming

approach to life casts a light of inspiration that others can't help but follow. It's important for all of us to try to find our special gift and discover how we can best express it. Ask others to name what they think is your most overlooked talent or character trait Their answers may change your life.

Explore these riches that are yours to express, and you may find yourself helping others discover and develop their own blessings. Acknowledge and appreciate the gifts you see in those around you. Tell your neighbor that loves to garden how much her green thumb enlivens the whole block. Thank your coworker for always greeting your days together with a smile. Tell your close friends that their ability to listen makes your world a better place. Our unique gifts are like golden rays of expression that can encircle the world with light.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at www.dailyom.com

Ford Motor Company, Founder of the Weekend BBQ?

On June 16, 1903, the Ford Motor Company was established. Henry Ford was the founder.

This was not his first rodeo, as he had previously operated the Henry Ford Company. He left that company and took his name with him. What became of the Henry Ford Company?

It became known as the Cadillac Motor Company.

What does any of this have to do with anything BBQ related? Hang on... here's the rest of the story

Ford's Model T, which would number in the millions sold, required 100 board feet of wood to build. Ford despised waste. His motto was, "Reduce, reuse, and recycle." He was also a nature lover, an environmentalist of his time.

His escape from the stress of life was camping in the great outdoors.

Frustrated by the mountains of

sawdust his lumber mills created, he and his partners sought a way to utilize the scrap wood and sawdust into a useful (and profitable) product.

An idea came to him one day as he was camped with some friends in the wilds of Michigan. After his party spent a long time collecting sufficient wood for a campfire, an idea spring in Ford's mind. Upon returning back to the lumber mill, he shared the idea with some of his partners and set to



work.

The idea? Lumping a fistful of sawdust and

corn-starch with a bit of tar to

form a briquette. After charring it, it performed exactly as Ford imagined it would. He then built a charcoal briquette factory adjacent to his lumber mill where the waste from one became the fuel for the other.

A new Model T was now frequently sold with a bonus bag of Ford Charcoal Briquettes, so you could drive into the woods to camp and not worry about finding campfire wood.

So now you know. Ford not only created the modern automobile industry which takes millions to work and back each workday, but he also created the weekend grilling and camping industries.

In 1951, the Ford Charcoal Briquette Company was sold. The new company was named after Ford's real estate partner, who had helped him find the land to supply wood for building the early Ford automobiles: E.J. Kingsford.

Kingsford Charcoal is now the largest producer of charcoal briquettes in the world.



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