

FLORIDA. Beaches. Sunsets. Disney World. The location of the monumental second season of the documentary Jersey Shore. Why is Florida the way that it is? Let's try and find out.

So, according to a US News research study, which takes place every year, Florida ranks out at TENTH in the year of our lord 2021. For reference, Washington came in first, Colorado came in 15th, and Hawaii was 25th.

In 2019, Florida topped out at 13th, 2018 they were at 15th, and in 2017 they were 24th. So they've been getting better? I guess?

In this study, each state is placed in a category from 1-50, best to worst. Florida has 25th in health care, 3rd in education, 8th in economy, 20th in infrastructure, 33rd in opportunity, 8th in fiscal stability, 26th in crime and corrections, and 18th in natural environment. So let's talk about some obviously well-educated people and play a little game.

THE FLORIDA MAN GAME

I'm going to give you two scenarios, and you have to tell me which one is an actual thing that happened in Florida and which one is fake.

Round 1

Florida Man Causes Explosion At Crowded Barnes & Noble

OR

Florida Man Runs Himself Over with Own Truck

The Gainesville Sun reports 48-year-old Joseph Carl had been drinking and drove into a vehicle stopped at a red light. He got out of his truck without putting it in park and began banging on the window of a woman's car. When the frightened woman drove away, there was nothing holding his truck in place.

The truck rolled into Carl. A police report says he was taken to the hospital where he was treated for fractures in his hand and foot.

He's charged with DUI and DUI property damage. It isn't known whether he's obtained a lawyer.

Round 2

Florida Man Buys Porsche with Check Printed From Home Computer

OR

Florida Man Tweezes Wife's Eyebrows; Her Body Was Found 4 Days Later

A Wewahitchka man walked into a car dealership in Okaloosa County and left in a Porsche after paying with a check printed from his home computer, authorities say.

Casey William Kelley, 42, was arrested Wednesday for grand theft of a motor vehicle and uttering a false banknote.

He also tried to buy Rolex watches with a bad check, according to an arrest report from the Walton County Sheriff's Office.

During the investigation it was determined Kelley had purchased a Porsche 911 Turbo from a Porsche dealership in Destin by using a fraudulent check written for \$139,203.05 on Monday, July 27.

The Porsche was reported stolen to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The next day, Kelley presented a check in the amount of \$61,521 to a jeweler in Miramar Beach in an attempt to purchase three Rolex watches, the report said.

When arrested Wednesday afternoon, Kelley told investigators he printed out the cashier's checks from his home computer and did not get them from his bank.

Kelley was transported and booked into the Walton County Jail without incident.

Round 3

Florida Man Accidentally Floods House with Paint and Gasoline

OR

Florida Couple Spent Days In Unlocked Closet, Thought They Were Trapped

A Florida man and woman spent two days trapped in what they said they believed to be a locked closet -- until police let them out and discovered that the door was actually never locked.

John Arwood, 31, and Amber Campbell, 25, claimed they were chased into a janitor's closet at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, Fla., by unidentified assailants on Sunday, according to the Daytona Beach Police Department's report.

The pair waited two days in the closet before calling 911.

Police officers found the couple in the Marine and Environmental Science Center on Dec. 30.

After they opened the door for the woman and man, a police officer checked if the door would lock on the inside. An officer went into the closet, closed the door and found it had, in fact, been unlocked the whole time.

Police said they found in the closet human feces and a scouring pad, the latter of which is commonly used to smoke crack cocaine. No drugs were found.

Arwood and Campbell were charged with trespassing. Campbell was also charged with violating her probation.

Arwood's criminal record includes armed burglary and theft of firearms.

Round 4

Florida Man Charged with Stripping in Stranger's Home, Chanting "5, 6, 7, 8... Grandma"

OR

Florida Man Spends Day Pulling All Fire Alarms in Local Middle School without Getting Caught

A man was charged after deputies said he walked into another person's house, removed his clothes and shouted nonsensical phrases before resisting arrest.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office said a man named Conrad Hopper walked through the unlocked door of a home at 9240 Braclet Drive Saturday night in Lake Worth.

Deputies said Hopper was in a state of "excited delirium."

The person inside the home was feeding his aunt's dogs at the time and told deputies Hopper appeared intoxicated, but not from alcohol.

Hopper then began touching the victim's face and tried to take the victim's glasses off, according to deputies. Hopper then started taking all his clothes off while making loud, nonsensical statements, so the victim left the house and called 911.

When authorities arrived, they said they saw Hopper walking around completely naked "in a menacing manner" and breaking objects in the house.

He was shouting statements such as "5,6,7,8.....grandma.....grandma.....girlfriend.....1234," according to deputies.

He eventually walked out through the back door of the house holding a large clock with sharp utensils protruding from its border, deputies said.

Officials told him to lie down on his face and he sat down instead. When officials released canine officers, Hopper started punching them and trying to gouge their eyes out, deputies said. He did the same when he was approached by four deputies.

Finally, Hopper was subdued by a stun gun, but it took six more deputies and fire rescue members to restrain him.

Hopper was taken to Wellington Hospital for evaluation. He was charged with burglary, simple battery, criminal mischief, aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, battery on a K-9 officer and resisting arrest with violence.

Round 5

Florida man arrested for tossing alligator into Wendy's drive-thru window

OR

Florida Man in Hospital For Falling Down 3 Flights of Stairs Trying To Move Grand Piano Alone

According to Palm Beach County officials and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 23-year-old Joshua Douglas James, of Jupiter, Florida, admitted to officials that he picked up an American alligator on the side of a road. He later threw it from his white pickup truck into the Wendy's kitchen after ordering a large soft drink.

The alligator was seized by FWC officers and released into a nearby canal, ABC News reports.

Round 6

Florida Man Holds Up Waffle House with Finger Guns

OR

Florida Man Jumps Off Bridge Naked, Lands Safely in Trash Barge

MADISON, Fla. — A Florida man was put in jail Monday after he decided to improvise during an alleged robbery at a Madison Waffle House, according to deputies.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office said a Waffle House employee called them to the restaurant after a man, identified as 28-year-old Edward William Rodriguez of Madison, tried robbing them.

Sheriff David Harper said witnesses told deputies that Rodriguez entered the Waffle House with a small dog, pointed his hands into finger guns, and yelled "get on the ground, y'all are getting robbed!"

Rodriguez then said he was high and drunk before grabbing some napkins and leaving the store.

Deputies found the would-be "armed" robber at his home, where he admitted to robbing the restaurant of its napkins, according to the sheriff's office.

He now faces charges for unarmed robbery and assault.

Honorable Mentions of Absolutely Batshit Stuff in Florida

1. Nudist Beaches:
 - a. There are quite a few nudist colonies in Florida, including one that offers the American Association for Nude Recreation's official library. If you want to go sit in the nude and read about being nude, that would be the place to go. What is the American Association for Nude Recreation, you might be asking? Their mission is: "To protect, promote, provide and preserve nude recreation by protecting nudists and naturists from policies at the local, state and federal

levels that interfere with the right to enjoy clothing-free recreating in appropriate settings, promoting nude recreation by educating government leaders, employers and the public,etc etc” They have about 213,000 members, with around 180 nudist resorts and affiliates between the US, Canada and Mexico.

2. Mermaids

- a. Weeki Wachee Springs. "Mermaids" have been putting on acrobatic swimming shows here every day since 1947. It's a sight to see them doing their dances in waters that come from one of America's most prolific freshwater springs, pouring some 170 million gallons of 72°F (22°C) water each day into the river. When they started facing declining fortunes, the state bought the place and took it over. So now the mermaids work for the state, which has led to some interesting conversations about the taxpayers footing the bill for things like waterproof lipstick and shell bras.