

DILL PICKLE PIZZA

In August 2018, Rhino's Pizzeria in Rochester, New York, sent internet pizza fans into a frenzy with their unconventional creation. The polarizing pie began unassumingly enough, with a base of white garlic sauce and mozzarella cheese. Rhino's then added sliced dill pickles on top and sprinkled it with dill weed, for good measure. They called it a dill pickle pizza, posted it on Facebook, and thousands of people responded. The two-location eatery received everything from public outcries of pizza defiling to attracting devout fans and recipe inquiries from across the country. The unusual pairing is the brainchild of Kathy Szuba, a Rhino's employee, and her daughter, who suggested it after returning from a pickle festival. They made a test pizza and gave out samples, only to be met with more enthusiasm than they could've possibly anticipated. If the idea tickles your fancy, but you're nowhere near a Rhino's outpost, fear not: You can buy their signature garlic sauce online and put sliced pickles on your very own pie. (Source: Atlas Obscura)

BURNOUT

A number of factors can lead to job burnout: overwhelming workload, emotionally draining job, lack of job control and autonomy, or underdeveloped coping skills. But there is one crucial component of burnout that managers must heed: lack of appreciation for workers. PsychTests research reveals that dismissing the importance of verbal praise and gratitude for a job well done can have a significant impact on employee well-being. Dr. Ilona Jerabek, president of PsychTests, says, "When your staff feels that their efforts, time, and hard work no longer make a difference, things are already critical. This is when things will spiral (or snowball), with absenteeism, sick leaves, and turnover. So without an outlet to release the tension and without social support, employees increase their susceptibility to stress-related problems. However, management may be able to play a major role in offsetting the effects of stress. Showing employees that the company cares, that their hard work is appreciated, and offering praise and gratitude could lessen the psychological burden of a stressful job environment. If we know that symptoms of burnout are more likely to be found in people who feel unappreciated at work, then it stands to reason that showing genuine appreciation could have a positive impact on staff morale."

THEIR CHRISTMAS TREE PICKED THEM

Scott McKellar of Upper Linda Mar writes: "We didn't pick out our Christmas tree; the tree picked us! While strolling among the rows of trees in the lot, one

fell over right in front of us. I think it chose us. There were no other shoppers in that row and there was no breeze.”

GRAMMARJAMMER

A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun, and suggests that they conjugate. The noun declines.

SWAMI SEZ

“Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.” (Swami Umami)

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