

## **GOOD COP**

Buried at the bottom of a recent Pacifica Police press release about a shoplifting arrest is this "Only in Pacifica" angle: One of the officers making the traffic stop bought a fruit cup at a nearby convenience store for the 11-year-old daughter and granddaughter of the two shoplifting suspects who were being arrested. The fruit cup was said to be for "calming down" the little girl.

## **TV SECRETS**

- There is a 37 percent drop in the odds of becoming obese if you never watch TV while eating, compared with those who always eat in front of the TV.
- To make your TV look better, turn down the brightness setting in a dark room, turn up the brightness in a bright room, use cinema mode for movies and quality series, and use motion flow to smooth out jerky action flicks.
- To savor and get the most of quality content, turn off autoplay in Netflix, Hulu, HBO, Showtime, Amazon Prime, et al. Enjoy one episode at a time. Don't binge-watch the whole series all at once. Quality shows are written and created to view one episode at a time. The exception is episodes with cliffhanger endings, which make you want to binge. (Source: Men's Health magazine, September 18)

## **HANGING SNEAKERS**

Old athletic shoes hanging from trees and power lines are gang signs, according to urban legend. The truth is far more complex, says Snopes.com. All across the United States, discarded sneakers hang from wires, poles, and trees. Theories of what these shoes signify abound, but there's no one right answer. Who put the shoes there and why? Here are some possibilities:

- Gangs mark their territory.
- Bullies take them off defenseless kids and hang 'em high as a taunt.
- Gangs create memorials where gang members died.
- Drug dealers advertise their presence in the neighborhood.
- Boys advertise that they have just lost their virginity.
- Graduating seniors advertise their advancement.
- Kids do it just for fun.

In the Southwest, people place old, worn cowboy boots upside down on fence posts. Some say the boots are a way for a homeowner to indicate if he's gone to town; on his way out, he stops where his driveway meets the road and adjusts his boot so its toe points outward. When the toe is pointing toward the house, he's telling the world he's back home. Military service members say that pitching an old pair of army boots over the wires when leaving a post is a possible origin for sneaker slinging. According to some, army boot pitching is a ritual performed upon completing basic training. According to others, the boots are tossed when a soldier leaves one post for another, and a final school of thought holds that boot pitching is properly done only when leaving the service itself. These boots are often painted yellow or orange. (Source: Barbara "Shoefly" Mikkelsen)

### **GRAMMARJAMMER**

A misplaced modifier walks into a bar owned by a man with a glass eye named Ralph.

### **SWAMI SEZ**

"Why do Americans choose from just two people for president but 50 for Miss America?" (Swami Umami)

### **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

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