

# Just when you think you've heard it all...

## Oregon cop battles 12-foot python to save pet store owner

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) -- A pet store owner is calling a police sergeant a hero for saving her from the coils of a 12-foot Burmese python doing its best to turn her into a meal.

Teresa Rossiter had reached into a cage Thursday to show the huge snake to a customer when it bit her right hand and coiled around her left arm to throw her to the floor.

A friend who happened to be at the store kept the snake off her neck and body while police were called. And when Sgt. Ryan Nelson rushed into the store, he was ready to kill the snake with his knife.

But Rossiter asked him to spare the expensive python, so Nelson put on gloves and pried open the snake's mouth to free Rossiter's hand.

Two responders from the Eugene Fire Department helped unwrap the snake, which was eventually returned to its cage.

Rossiter called Nelson a hero.

"He was the bravest guy ever. He went way above and beyond the call of duty," she told *The Oregonian*.

Rossiter suffered dozens of puncture wounds, but she, the sergeant and the python were fine.

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## Beer Burglar's Snoring Leads Police to Him

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) -- A burglar who broke into a small grocery shop in northern Thailand was caught after he hid under the store owner's bed, drank a few beers and started snoring, police said.

The robber broke into the grocery in Uthai Thani province, 125 miles north of Bangkok, in the middle of the night, stole a few beers and quickly sought cover when he heard the owner of the shop stirring, police Capt. Prasert Hiewchawna said Wednesday.

The robber made a bad situation a bit worse by choosing to hide under a bed in the shop -- the same bed that the owner was sleeping on at the time, he said.

While waiting to flee, the robber drank a few of the stolen beers, passed out and started snoring so loudly that he woke up the shop's owner, who quietly called police.

## Alleged drug dealer calls police to report robbery

NORTH NEW HYDE PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- A Long Island man had to know he would be arrested when he called police to report he had just been robbed during a drug deal that went bad.

Nassau County Police said Christopher Canonico, 23, of Seaford, called at 8:19 p.m. Wednesday to say he had just been robbed in North New Hyde Park.

Police said Canonico was set up by two women who agreed to buy heroin at a local gas station. While they were sitting in Canonico's car, a third person with a gun came up to the car and robbed him of \$340, a cell phone and wallet.

Police said Canonico is charged with criminal sale and criminal possession of a controlled substance. The women and man with the gun are charged with robbery and other charges.

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## Man Allegedly Robs Bank, Reads Magazine

ROUND ROCK, Texas (AP) Police in an Austin suburb arrested a man on Thursday who allegedly walked into a bank, demanded money from a teller and then sat down and read a magazine.

Paul Wendell Gunn, 61, surrendered to police about an hour after he went to the bank and demanded an undisclosed amount of money, said Round Rock police spokesman Eric Poteet.

After the teller gave Gunn the money, he sat down on a couch inside the bank and started reading while everyone else evacuated, Poteet said in Thursday's online edition of the Austin American-Statesman.

Authorities closed off the area around the bank, which is only a half-block from the police station, until Gunn surrendered, Austin television station KVUE reported.

Gunn never used a weapon, and no one was injured, police said.

He was being held Thursday in the Williamson County Jail on suspicion of robbery.

## Motorcyclist flipped bird at police, popped wheelie, crashed

COPIAGUE, N.Y. (AP) -- A Long Island man who flipped his finger at a police cruiser and then popped a wheelie on his motorcycle is recovering from injuries after crashing.

Suffolk County Police said Frank Patti, 26, of West Islip, rode by the police car at a service station in Copiague at 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Police say Patti made an obscene gesture to two officers in the car, popped a wheelie and then sped away.

Police gave chase. When the motorcycle turned into a parking lot it crashed into a police car that had joined the chase.

Police said Patti was treated for minor injuries at Southside Hospital. He's charged with fleeing police, resisting arrest and several traffic violations.

He was being held for arraignment Monday. Police did not know if he had an attorney.

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## Mooning cop gets tourist a night in jail

DELAND (AP) -- A visiting Norwegian sky diver was arrested after exposing his buttocks to an officer, police said.

Vegard Svarstad, 24, of Norway, was blocking traffic at an intersection early Saturday morning, according to an arrest report. When DeLand police Lt. David Heinig stopped at the intersection, he told Svarstad to continue across the street, the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* reported.

Instead, the man started to dance around, pulled down his pants and mooned the officer, Heinig said.

Svarstad was charged with disorderly intoxication and taken to the Volusia County Branch Jail on a \$250 bond. At a first-appearance hearing later Saturday, Svarstad said he was preparing to return to Norway.

Prosecutors decided that his night in jail was sufficient punishment, a state attorney's spokeswoman said. They dropped the charge and released him.

## Driver buckles beer in car -- but not child

DARWIN, Australia (AP) -- An Australian driver who secured a carton of beer in his car with a seat belt but left a 5-year-old child unrestrained was fined 750 Australian dollars (\$710), police said Tuesday.

Constable Wayne Burnett said he was "shocked and appalled" when he pulled over the unregistered car on Friday in the central Australian town of Alice Springs.

The 30-can carton was strapped in between the two adults sitting in the back seat of the car. The child was also in back, on the vehicle's floor.

"The child was sitting in the lump in the center, unrestrained," Burnett told reporters Tuesday.

"I haven't ever seen something like this before," he said. "This is the first time that the beer has taken priority over a child."

The driver was fined for driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, and for failing to ensure a child was wearing a seat belt.

Alice Springs Police Superintendent Sean Parnell expressed shock at the incident in a statement released Tuesday.

"This serves as a timely reminder to all drivers to ensure they wear seat belts and ensure as is their responsibility that all passengers in their vehicle are secured in the appropriate manner," he said.

## Hungry Burglars Leave Trail for Police

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) -- A trio of hungry burglars helped their own undoing by leaving a trail of snack wrappers after stealing six packages of instant lottery tickets from a convenience store.

"This was a combination of good police work and a stupid criminal," said Sgt. Tom Connellan, a police spokesman.

The burglars smashed a window early Wednesday at a convenience store and fled with the lottery tickets and some Little Debbie Coffee Cake snacks. Officer James Johnson followed a trail of discarded wrappers to a nearby apartment building, where he arrested the trio.

Charged with burglary, grand larceny and criminal mischief were Curtis Hudgins, 17, Adrian Huddleston, 20, and a 15-year-old boy whose name was withheld because of his age.

## Man Calls 911 to Save Him From Police

LARGO, Fla. (AP) -- A 38-year-old man was arrested after he called 911 and told a dispatcher he was surrounded by police officers and needed help, authorities said.

Police officers met Dana Farrell Shelton after being called to investigate a disturbance at a bar on Sunday but had found no problems and told him to move along.

Shelton, who officers said appeared intoxicated, then called 911 to report he was "surrounded by Largo police," according to an arrest affidavit.

"Our officers were standing there scratching their heads. He called, standing there in their presence," Largo Sgt. Melanie Holley said. "It's one of our 'truth is stranger than fiction' cases."

Shelton was charged with misdemeanor misuse of 911. The charge carries maximum penalties of one year in jail and \$1,000 in fines.

## Man Allegedly Trying Break-In Calls Cops

STEVENS POINT, Wis. (AP) If only all criminals were this helpful. A 24-year-old man called police to tell them he was trying to break into a church, but he wasn't having much luck.

Police said they found the man waiting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The man told them he had hoped to get married in the church and was trying to use a metal shovel to break through the doors. He told them he figured they could help.

Officers searched the man and found marijuana. He then invited them to his home, where he told them they would find more drugs.

They did: He showed them his stash of marijuana and stolen prescription drugs.

The man was arrested on charges of criminal damage to property, possession of drugs and paraphernalia, police said.

Town officials were astounded.

"There aren't many arrests like that," Police Chief Jeff Morris said.

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