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**Monthly News and Commentary from ICJE**

1 message

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**ICJE, Inc.** <jimrechel@icje.org>  
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Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 9:31 AM



## Defund the Dimwits

I interact with local police on a regular basis, fortunately while assisting victims, or conducting financial fraud audits and investigations. The officers I encounter are all good people and police officers dedicated to making their communities a better place to live. Not to say that I haven't encountered some who are bitter, cynical, biased and overall miserable in their job and in life. Fortunately, they do not represent the vast majority of officers in Alabama, or the nation.

Unfortunately, elements in our society seek to portray all officers as biased, power-hungry, control seeking enemies of our society. These elements seek to use the power of the media (all venues) to turn citizens against the police. And sometimes some police officers feed right into

the mantra of Defund the Police movements with activity similar to those in Brookside, Alabama. I don't know all the facts firsthand, but the initial media coverage portrays a city and department drunk on the money ticketing brings in.

And sometimes officers make bad decisions that cost people their lives. But these incidents are few and far between. But they are used to fuel the flames of those whose intentions are to eliminate or minimize the role of law enforcement. There are millions of police-citizen encounters every year, with a tiny fraction involving truly questionable police conduct.

The constant drumbeat attacking police officers has a direct impact on officers and departments. Officers are leaving the profession, and it is becoming next to impossible to recruit new officers to fill the openings. For those remaining on the force, it can be a daily struggle to generate the energy to go to work in a positive frame of mind. It's demoralizing hearing the vitriol aimed at them on a regular basis.

While doing research for a message I am doing this Sunday at our church, I came upon a eulogy delivered by the 18-year-old daughter of slain police officer Richard Houston, a 21-year vet of the Mesquite, Texas Police Department. He was gunned down two months ago after responding to a domestic dispute in a grocery store parking lot.

My message Sunday is on resisting temptation. My "temptation" occurs when I read of all the police shootings and ambushes to internally respond with anger and frustration toward the perpetrator, but also to those who have created this environment in our society that seeks to demonize police. It has real consequences. I get really angry.

But this young lady expressed God's true love in her eulogy. She resisted the temptation to hate her father's killer. Her description of her father is the picture I paint in my mind of police officers. She is what Jesus expects of us to create a better society. She resisted hate and painted a picture of a great Dad and police officer. *(A link is provided below; the eulogy runs about 8 minutes and three to five Kleenexes)*

Maybe it's time to Defund the Dimwits who want to Defund the Police!

Best regards,

Jim Rechel, Newsletter Editor  
ICJE, Inc.  
jimrechel@icje.org

*Please feel free to email comments or suggestions, especially if you think I'm the Dimwit!*



## Daughter of Fallen Officer Delivers Powerful Eulogy

A Mesquite, Texas police officer who was killed in the line of duty was laid to rest in December. Officer Richard Houston was fatally shot outside a Mesquite grocery store.

[View Here](#)

February 22, 2022

## Man on Probation Faces State, Federal Charges after Montgomery Carjacking

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (WSFA) - A Prattville man who was out of prison on probation has been arrested for a similar incident in early February, according to state and federal court documents.

Steven Michael Wehr, 32, faces first-degree robbery and second-degree kidnapping charges following a Feb. 8 Montgomery incident in which the victim was held at gunpoint and abducted in her own vehicle.

According to the filings, the incident happened around 7:30 a.m. that Tuesday in the area of Pine Street near Jackson Hospital. The victim was sitting in her car when she said she was approached by a man with a gun who opened her door and forced her into the passenger seat. The victim said she jumped out of the moving vehicle as it was passing under the bridge at Interstate 85 and Mulberry Street, only to have the man stop the car and demand she hand over her money.

The victim's vehicle was later found in the 2700 block of Greenbriar Road, an area close enough to a school that it **prompted a precautionary lockdown at Bear Elementary.**

Wehr was arrested on Thursday and was transported to the Montgomery County Detention Facility on a \$90,000 bail. Montgomery County Detention Facility listings indicate the arresting agency in Wehr's latest case was the FBI, which, according to federal court filings, has since filed a criminal complaint against Wehr in U.S. District Court for carjacking.

The incident is the latest in a string of legal battles Wehr has found himself in. He was previously convicted and sentenced to prison for **a 2015 incident** in which he fired shots during two attempted carjackings.

-By WSFA 12 News Staff



## Carjacking suspect killed in shootout with east Alabama police after I-20 chase

FEB 14, 2022 From AL.com

An overnight exchange of gunfire in east Alabama left a carjacking suspect dead. The shooting happened about midnight when Oxford police officers were chasing a suspect after a vehicle was stolen at gunpoint, said Chief Bill Partridge. The driver, Partridge said, fired on officers while the pursuit traveled on Interstate 20.

[Read More](#)



## **'I Honestly Believe It's a Game': Why Carjacking Is on the Rise Among Teens**

The crime has made a resurgence across the country over the past two years, and many of those arrested are startlingly young.

[Read More](#)

## **Staying Safe in an Unsafe World**

### **The Triple-A Plan:**

**Action – Hardening the Target: Safer Home Interiors, Travel, & Vehicle Safety**

**Home Interiors – Safe Rooms**



Last month we discussed making your home safer with exterior locks, burglar alarms, and outside lights. As a practical matter, all of these are meant to alert the homeowner to a potential threat and to slow entry if there is an attempt at a hostile intrusion, but for the average home, none of these protective measures will guarantee that all attempted entries will be unsuccessful.

So what can you do if someone is determined to gain entry to your home illegally?

There are a couple of things that should be happening at the outset. Assuming you have an operating alarm system, don't wait for the system detectors to alert the alarm company. If possible, you should have panic buttons that can be activated whether your alarm system is on or off. Panic buttons are inexpensive and can be located throughout your home, on your keychain, or on a smartphone if you have one. Another excellent location for a panic button is in your safe room.

At this point, you may be thinking that you don't have thousands of dollars to invest in a steel or concrete safe room with all of the trappings that are usually associated with them, and that is

understandable, but it doesn't mean that you are excused from having a safe room. In fact, having one is vital in protecting you and your family. So, where do you start?

Take a look at the accessible rooms in your home. A safe room is not necessarily designed to keep out an army of invaders, but it is a room designed to at least temporarily keep those bad guys who have gained entry into your home from reaching you and your family until law enforcement arrives. Safe rooms for normal people are simply interior rooms with solid wood or metal doors (not hollow-core doors) that have substantial locks (preferably deadbolts) on the inside. These are "last-ditch retreat" rooms that your family would use to gather in case of an intrusion into your home. Most designated safe rooms are either closets or bathrooms.

Consideration should be given to installing a panic button if your home has an alarm system, and having a mobile phone with you is a huge plus for protection and communicating with law enforcement. Once your safe room is designated and equipped, your family should be given a code word that will alert them (and you) to immediately enter the room with the appointed items such as mobile phones, keys pepper spray or other defensive weapons. Most newer cars with key fobs have an included panic button, and it's a good idea to have this accessible so that the horn alarm in your vehicle car can be activated.

### **Travel Safety**

Have you ever looked at something that is familiar, but you couldn't quite remember where you saw it or just couldn't place it? That happened to me not long ago when reading about the increase in carjackings throughout the U.S.





Carjacking incidents (forceable taking of cars from an owner or legal driver) have exponentially increased in the last few years with a 500% increase in Minneapolis and Washington D.C., while Chicago reported over 1,400 carjackings last year. Although Alabama apparently doesn't publish detailed statewide carjacking statistics, a quick online search reveals numerous incidents in our state in the last few years.

Carjackings have increased primarily because of the rising value of used cars, but the increase may also be due in part to the appearance of more youthful offenders. It is not unusual to see carjacking offenders today who legally aren't old enough to drive the cars they are stealing. So why the feeling of déjà vu? One tip I learned years ago was never to stop your law enforcement vehicle so close to the car in front of you that you would be unable to drive around the car if the situation called for it.



The same principle holds true for anyone stopping behind any vehicle, whether at a stop sign or stoplight. In order to elude a carjacker, you can't be so close to the car in front that you are unable to pull around it quickly. So the tip here, whether you are driving a law enforcement or private vehicle, is to stop so that you can see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you. That way, you will always have enough room to move either to the left or right if you need to do so. It goes without saying that your doors should always be locked and your windows closed as well. Finally, check your surroundings before entering or leaving your car or anytime you stop in traffic.

### **Hotel Safety**

Long ago, I was advised by a fellow employee never to stay in an apartment or hotel room above the sixth floor. The reason given was that fire trucks with ladders can reach the sixth floor but no higher. I have taken that advice seriously since then. Additionally, I learned that most hotel room break-ins occur on the first through the third floor, as the lower floors provide a quick exit for burglars. This translates to staying on the fourth, fifth, or sixth floors if at all possible.

Other hotel security tips include never to attempt entering your room when strangers are nearby, always using a doorstop or doorstop alarm for extra protection, and reviewing the locations of the exit locations on your floor.

If you leave your vehicle in a hotel parking lot, make sure the doors are locked, all personal items are removed from view, and, if possible, leave your car in a high-traffic area. Hopefully, these tips will help keep you safe from some of the threats in today's world.

**Summary: Every home should have a designated Safe Room, and families need to practice entry with mobile phones, keys, and any other desired protective items. Travel safety includes situational awareness, keeping doors locked, and being prepared to quickly exit a dangerous encounter. Hotel safety should include room location, use of doorstops, and awareness of your surroundings when entering or exiting rooms.**

Next month we will offer suggestions for online cyber protection.

For comments or suggestions, please get in touch with us at [training@icje.org](mailto:training@icje.org).

Thanks, and stay vigilant.  
Bob Thetford  
ICJE, Inc.

## **Training Information from ICJE Website**

March 7-10, 2022 - CDI Comprehensive Cybersecurity Defense Training - Montgomery, Alabama

March 9-11, 2022 - ProFirst New Detective Training - Tuscaloosa, Alabama

March 10, 2022 - US Attorney's Offices - Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force Training - Virtual Training

March 15, 2022 - ICJE Ethical Decision Making for Law Enforcement Officers - Montgomery, Alabama

March 16-17, 2022 - ICJE Thriving in the Fast Lane: Officer Survival During Crisis - Montgomery, Alabama

March 21-25, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Brookside, Alabama

March 31, 2022 - ICJE Psychological Profiling - Baldwin County, Alabama

April 1, 2022 - DUI Training for Law Enforcement & Prosecutors - Robertsdale, Alabama

April 12-15, 2022 - ACPI Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Certification Program- Virtual Training

June 6-10, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute - Huntsville, Alabama

August 1-5, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

August 22-26, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Managing and Conducting Internal Affairs Investigations - Huntsville, Alabama

August 31-September 2, 2022 - 2022 LECC Conference - Orange Beach, Alabama  
Pending DOJ approval. Save the date. More Information and Registration will be posted when available.

September 26-30, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Media and Public Relations - Decatur, Alabama

November 14-18, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

January 9-13, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

February 27-March 3, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

March 13-17, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

May 15-19, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

[Link to Visit the ICJE Website for Registration and More Dates](#)

## Additional Resources



### IAFCI - The PROTECTORS Podcast

#### About the Podcast

Presented by the IAFCI

From ATM Skimming to Human Trafficking, The Protectors Podcast takes you inside the minds of criminals from around the world with leading experts and the investigators who put them behind bars.

Presented by the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI), and hosted by International President, Mike Carroll, and International VP, Mark Solomon.

The Protectors is a bi-weekly podcast that aims to educate consumers on the fraud, financial, and cybercriminal activities that are happening every second of every day. Don't become the next victim.

[Link to Podcasts](#)



### Intl. Assn. of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI)

The IAFCI, a non-profit international organization, will provide services and an environment within which information about financial fraud, fraud investigation and fraud prevention methods can be collected, exchanged and taught for the common good of the financial payment industry and our global society.

[Read More](#)

## Thought of the Month

“There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.” - *Alexander Hamilton*

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