
Tips and Trends

1 message

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January/February | 2024



"In" the Moments

Every New Year ushers in the concept of starting the year with a clean slate, which is then populated with all the items we are going to accomplish for the coming year.

To varying degrees, we all have gone through this exercise, with varying levels of success.

I was recently reminded of how important it is to make the resolutions, but more importantly, follow through on them. A few resolutions you can achieve is much more important than a laundry list of things you "wish" you could change.

"Bud and Judy" are a couple we used to know from church. Not "Bud" or "Judy", it was always "Bud and Judy". I'm sure you know folks as a couple, because we always see them doing everything together.

They switched churches five or six years ago and we didn't see them as often.

In October 2023 Bud, who was outwardly in great physical condition, went in for a physical and had his blood drawn to check cholesterol levels and other ordinary blood tests.

His results for his cholesterol were normal, however, the tests revealed concerning numbers for his liver.

By November and December, further tests and surgery revealed Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, which had also spread to his liver. They said he could live 6 days or 6 months, they just didn't know for sure.

I know all this because my wife and I happened upon them, "Bud and Judy", at a local restaurant. We joined them in the small booth at the local chili parlor.

After Bud shared his story, I asked him if it changed how he looked at life. His answer was simple, but profound..."I live for every moment!

Every moment is precious." he added for emphasis.

We continued talking, but I was struck by the depth of his statement as we finished lunch, and the moment it represented.

I have always said to myself that I live every day as a gift from God, but I fall short. Getting aggravated with my wife over simple things, or becoming frustrated with the state of our country, or overwhelmed by my "To Do" list for the day.

My only resolution this year will be in tribute to Bud, and truly live "in" the moments that life gives me, not "for" the moments.

It's not the resolution that counts but accomplishing the resolution. Time will tell how I do.

May God bless each of you in 2024 and with your resolutions!

Jim Rechel
ICJE Newsletter Editor
jimrechel@icje.org

Please feel free to email comments or suggestions anytime!

Thanks, Jim

PS: For those who have been reading the monthly ICJE Newsletter over the years, you know I have referred a couple of times to my Mom and her 12 year awful journey with Alzheimers.

Unfortunately, but with the blessing that her pain has been released, she passed away January 14th after suffering a fall.

To all of you caring for a loved one with Alzheimers or related issues, we may never fully understand God's purpose, but I am confident my Mom is in Heaven and all the pain and suffering was released, just as it will be for all believers.

**** "Bud" (mentioned above) also passed away, on January 15th.***

Sorry we missed the January deadline, but I have combined January and February into this one newsletter.

Leadership



Ken Sparks...Leadership Principles Based Upon God's Will

My wife and I stumbled upon a documentary the other night. The lead-in for the video was as follows:

For 46 years, Ken Sparks devoted his life, despite the sacrifices it demanded of him, to coach the game of football in such a way that it led players and fans to Jesus and in so doing made the man a legend.

At the end of his career and life, he had ended up being the 5th all-time winningest coach in NCAA, the all-time winningest coach in the NCAA Div II and developed one of the winningest football programs in the history of the sport.

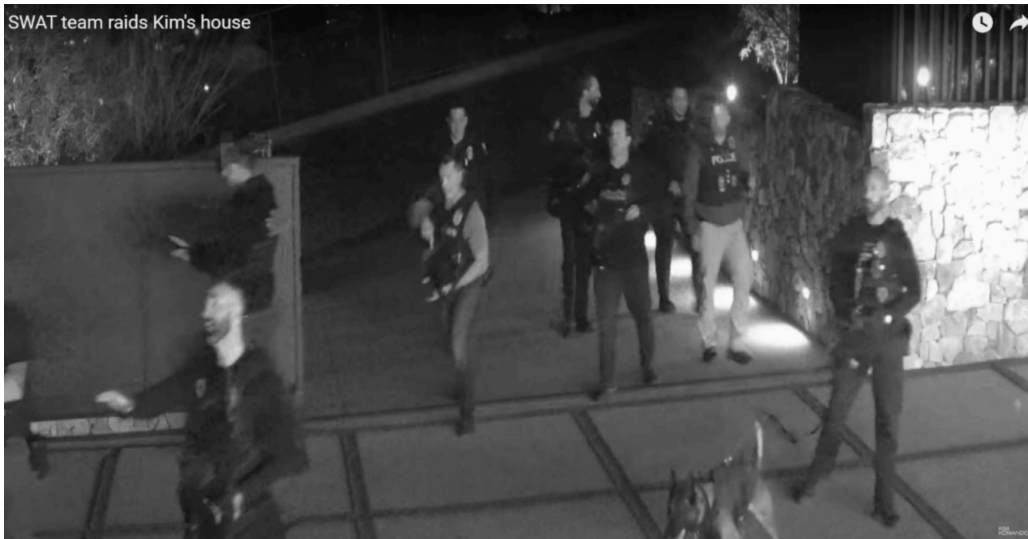
I'm sorry to admit that I had never heard of Ken Sparks, and I am even more sorry that I didn't know of his mission to be successful in football as his call from God to lead young men to a relationship with Jesus.

While the video is about a football coach, it is a story of a man who infused his life with Christian principles, and failures and redemption, that can be related to any profession or vocation you are engaged in.

It was a powerful 90 minute video!

[Video Link to Christian Based Leadership - Ken Sparks](#)

Technology



Thieves Using Cellular and Wi-Fi Jammers to Enter Homes for Robbery - Feb 16, 2024

For those of you who follow Kim Komando for technology updates, she recently was shocked to see Phoenix SWAT officers surrounding her house. Her description of this incident, and information to address this new threat to American homes, is a must read.

As I read it, it struck me that the methods and perpetrators are connected to Chile and other South American criminal gangs.

Illegal immigration has consequences beyond the headline grabbing tragedies, and along with the many other US born criminal actors threatens to destroy the previous trend of decreasing crime over the previous 20 years.

[Read More](#)



Monitoring Modern Vehicle Thefts

With personal convenience comes potential vulnerability. The evolution of vehicle security began with a mechanical lock and key. Then came the shift to a push-button start with an RF fob (remotes that transmit their signals using radio frequency) and coded transponder signal.

Today, some vehicles have a start command when it's detected that a driver is seated.

Despite these security advancements, the US is seeing near-record levels of vehicle thefts.

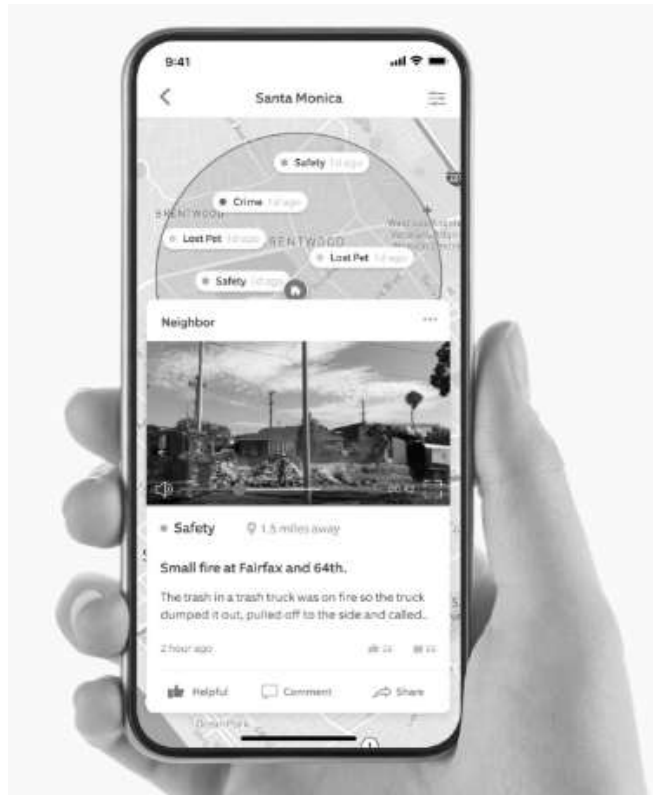
[Link to Article on "Monitoring Car Thefts"](#)



In the Kim Komando article referenced above, she mentioned using a Fake TV as a part of a comprehensive crime prevention technique in a home.

Having not heard of the devices, I looked them up and sure enough there are all types available for use when you are out of the house.

[Link to Amazon Fake TV Devices](#)



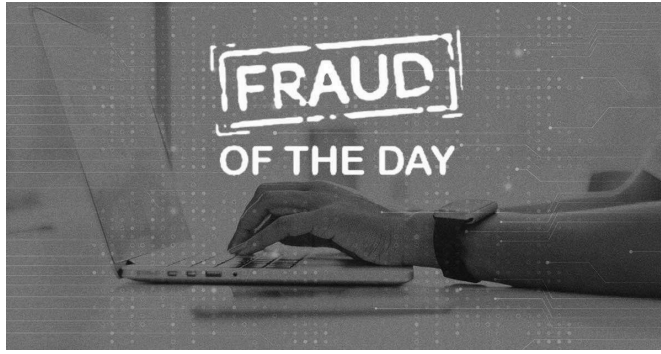
Law enforcement will no longer get Ring videos without a warrant

The Neighbors app allowed officers to use a "Request for Assistance" tool to ask individuals to volunteer footage.

For those departments still engaging with RING I'm curious as to how you are navigating the new guidelines. I can be reached at jimrechel@icje.org

(Note: I took the top photo shown above from the Montgomery County SO page referencing RING Neighbors program.)

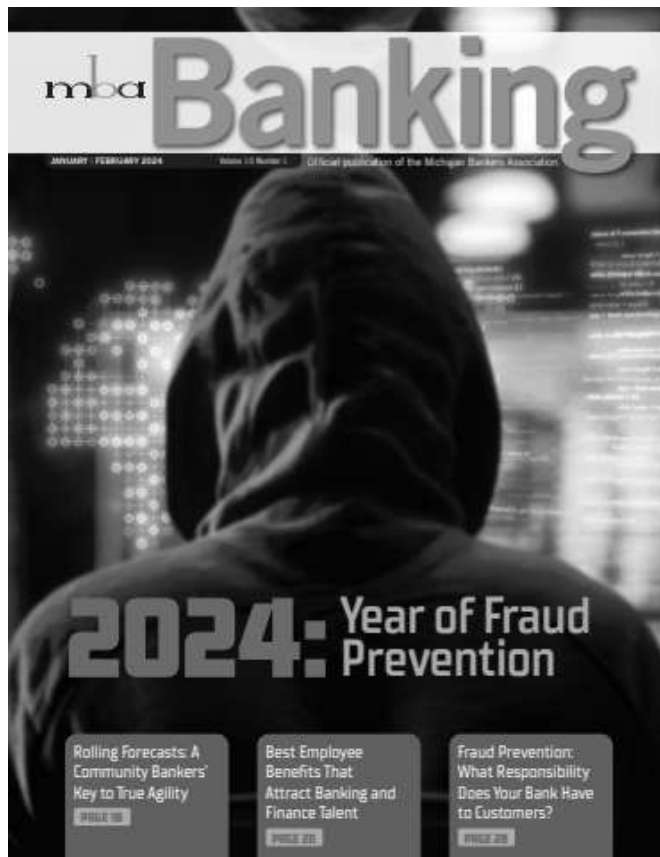
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Fraud Of The Day

Daily articles raising awareness of public assistance fraud and identity theft across the country, 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

[Read More](#)



mba Banking Jan Feb 2024

I recently wrote articles for various state banking associations regarding the fraud landscape and the changing dynamics, to include frustrations by victims and banks abandoning fraud investigations and minimizing their working relationships with Law Enforcement. See page 28 of the magazine linked in the "Read More" link below.

Read More

Society - Shooter Manifestos

Shooter's Words: They Contradict the Media Portrayals

Warning: May Be Too Graphic for Some Reader

"Last thing of the night – The plan

"OH MY GOD THIS IS SO EASY. Seriously, I knew it would be doable but this is ridiculous. Walked in and bought a gun, 4 mags, and 120 rounds for \$700. Got some glasses and earplugs/ Got my letters and social posts tee'd up. Outfit ready- walk in tomorrow around 0830 (time of L'ville team meeting in the boardroom)- dressed a bit casual w/ jeans but I shrug it off. Change into shirt w/ frocket (for IG Live). Text [REDACTED] plan for this notebook. OD, go to work.

It is legitimately unfathomable how easy this all was. I always knew I was A) cunning B) mean as absolute shit and C) a WAY better liar than anyone gave me credit for (the secret is leading with, "Yeah I've always been a bad liar") (never cheated on a girl though), but good heavens I just lied to everyone so easily and none caught on. This is intentional. There is nothing anyone could have done. I'll say it again, there is nothing anyone could have done. It only would have delayed the inevitable. I know how sick I am, and with this, this sickness wins, but on MY TERMS.

But let us not forget the most important player here. The one who made all this possible. Lets give it up for the NRA!! (raucous applause). I couldn't have done this without all of your lobbying dollars! You really brought this whole thing together. This is the world you are building. One without any regard for the value of Human Life'

The next page writes "IM SORRY" written in large lettering taking up half of the page, and the next page writes "I CANT TAKE IT ANYMORE" in large lettering that take up half the page.

There are no further entries into this journal. The next morning is when the shooting of Old National Bank occurs.

As I read the detailed report (portion shown above) I was struck by his comments that contradict the immediate call for gun control by more thorough background checks and waiting periods. The gunman was clearly committed to his act, including the comment that **"there is nothing anyone could have done. It would have only delayed the inevitable."**

In addition, it is impossible to reconcile his comments that the NRA is responsible because they are building a world, he says, that is "without any regard for the value of Human Life."

In his twisted logic of mental illness and /or other issues, he thinks the gun has no value for "Human Life" as he pulls the trigger to take those very lives he portrays as valuable.



Old National Bank Shooting Report Released

LMPD released the report Tuesday afternoon. The gunman kept a detailed journal leading up to the shooting in April 2023.

[Read More](#)

Training and Education



Training Schedule

ICJE - Institute for Criminal Justice Education, Inc.

The Institute for Criminal Justice Education is a nonprofit Alabama corporation that provides law enforcement training, develops courses and distributes research material relating to investigation, management and technology in the criminal justice arena. Our services are furnished to governmental, corporate and security agencies who have a primary law enforcement function or a need for security protection.

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