

**Tips and Trends from ICJE**

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**Date** Thu 11/13/2025 11:20 AM  
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**Monthly News & Updates**

November 2025



## **Highlighting Heroes**

Last month, I received an email from Doug Howard in the US Attorney's Office - Middle District of Alabama, regarding a new initiative led by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The purpose of the initiative is to enhance the public image of local police officers. To support this effort, the DOJ requested submissions of photographs that capture "powerful images of policing."

The images are intended to highlight positive aspects and impactful moments within the law enforcement community.

Below is the text, and the accompanying sample photos that the DOJ provided with the invitation:

## **The 2026 COPS Office Uplifting the Image: Highlighting Heroes PHOTO CONTEST IS NOW OPEN AND ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!**

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) **Uplifting the Image: Highlighting Heroes** Photo Contest is **now open** and accepting submissions.

The contest offers agencies an opportunity to showcase powerful images of policing while also giving well-deserved recognition to our nation's law enforcement heroes.



Prior to submitting your entry, please read the Photo Contest Rules, Terms, and Conditions on our website for detailed entry criteria and complete submission requirements.



But then I thought about the photos we will never see — the ones probably not submitted.

Photos of officers answering calls in the night to visit the homes of feuding neighbors, responding to the same disputes week after week, month after month.

Calls to calm mental health crises they were never fully trained to handle.

Calls to protect family businesses from break-ins and burglars.

Calls to arrest the same suspects again and again.

Calls to revive a life from overdose before paramedics can even arrive.

Calls to ever increasing crime scenes of the shootings of and by a lost generation.

Calls to settle chaos in schools where respect for authority — for anyone, much less the police — has vanished.

We celebrate the photos of officers sharing lighter moments with the public they serve, yet hidden behind those smiles is the picture of a society increasingly unable to police itself — a

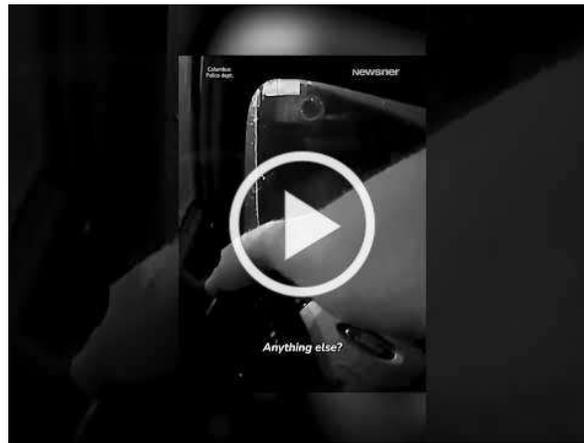
society struggling to maintain honest, respectful, and morally grounded interactions with one another.

Highlighting heroes means truly thanking them — not only for the uplifting images we cherish, but for the unseen labor, the thankless encounters, and the courage to wade into the muddy pit that the rest of us would never choose to enter.

This Thanksgiving, we thank the Lord for those who choose to protect and serve our communities.

From all of us at ICJE, Happy Thanksgiving!

Jim Rechel - ICJE Newsletter Editor  
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## Society News

### Veterans Day

Today, my son and I took my Dad out for lunch in honor of Veterans Day. At 92 years old, he's nearly blind and relies on a walker. We picked a restaurant offering free entrées for veterans, thinking it would be an affordable way to celebrate. (*Not that I'm cheap!*) What surprised us was how many other veterans were there, identified by their hats, shirts, or jackets, all taking advantage of the Veterans Day special.

The atmosphere was incredibly uplifting. My son guided his grandfather from the front of the walker, and I stayed behind, prepared to catch my Dad if he stumbled. During our meal, as we arrived at the table, ate, and left, countless people stopped to thank my Dad for his service. In previous years, he tended to minimize his role in the Korean War, not feeling proud about how it ended.

But this year was different—he wore his US Navy ball cap with pride and accepted every thank you with a smile and returned gratitude to each person. One man approached us, touched by seeing three generations sharing lunch, and told us how he used to do the same with his children and Marine father, who has since passed. Now, his kids don't have as much time to spend together, but we reminded him of how special those times were.

As we ponder the chaos of everyday life, it always is rewarding to recognize those who served to make this country possible.

## Gambling's Shadows



### How Gambling Is Transforming the Experience of Sports

We asked Professor Nathan Novemsky, who has examined the psychology of gambling in multiple studies, how the ubiquity of betting is changing the way we watch sports.

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### Recent NBA and MLB Headlines Preceded by Alabama Gambling's Temptations

The Alabama baseball scandal continues to serve as a stark reminder of the insidious threat posed by insider wagering, which not only jeopardizes the integrity of collegiate sports but also infiltrates the realm of criminal activity, demanding urgent attention from law enforcement.



In April 2023, the sports community was shaken by the fall of University of Alabama head baseball coach, Brad Bohannon, who was embroiled in a scheme that involved leaking confidential information regarding an injury to his starting pitcher to Bert Eugene Neff II, a known gambling associate.

The incriminating text sent via an encrypted app, revealing that the pitcher was sidelined, set off a chain of events that led to Neff's ill-fated

attempt to place a substantial wager at BetMGM Sportsbook in Cincinnati—an act that raised red flags among regulators and ultimately resulted in his conviction for Obstruction of Justice.

This cautionary tale highlights the critical role law enforcement plays in maintaining the sanctity of sports and the vital need for continuous education and training to combat the evolving landscape of public integrity threats.

As we reflect on this scandal, it is imperative for law enforcement professionals to remain vigilant and proactive, fostering collaboration and implementing safeguards to ensure community safety.

The training programs we offer, are structured to empower and educate to navigate the complexities of today's many challenges with confidence and integrity. Integrity so lacking in many aspects of our world today.

Photo Credit: Hilary Scheinuk/The Advocate via AP

## **There Are Consequences... We Just Don't Know When**

Last month, while preparing the ICJE Newsletter, I sought an engaging and motivational short video segment. During my search, I encountered numerous clips featuring motivational speeches or presentations by coaches. After coming across yet another Nick Saban video, I decided that I reference his examples too often, and continued exploring other options.

My wife, who was present as I reviewed the videos, remarked during a brief intermission, "It's unfortunate that players of the current generation may not receive the invaluable life lessons imparted by those coaches—insights that are so essential as they transition into adulthood."

I thought of her words as I read about Dre Kirkpatrick Jr. being arrested. He has the potential to have the world by the tail but is on the precipice of losing it all due to his failure to understand respect and gratitude. A 19-year-old driving a Mercedes, who has experienced run-ins with law enforcement in the past, disregards their commands and ends up in trouble, and suspended from the team. Time will tell what the facts were, and maybe I'm wrong and it was a misunderstanding, and he innocently drove off. Time will tell.

But it got me thinking about my wife's comment, and I thought for a moment that, like so many before who have strayed from a path of respect and gratitude, is Kirkpatrick's arrest an omen for more situations like this, or just an exception. Nothing to see hear, a "kids do stupid things" moment.

Then someone sent me the video link of Thomas Hammock, the coach at NIU. It captures exactly what my wife was talking about. Are we preparing our kids properly to transition into life?



## Technology

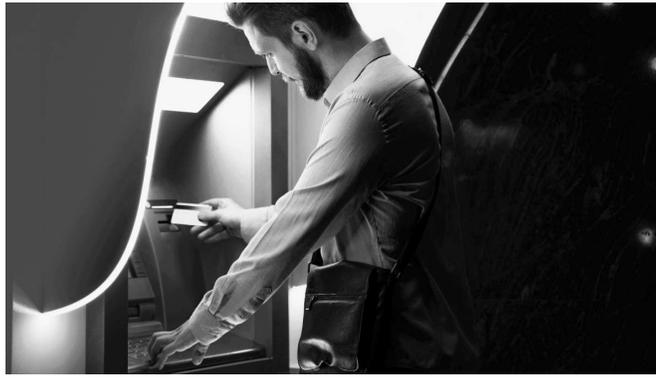


### Tech Talk: Protecting Essential Operations

Understand the risks of cybersecurity for law enforcement. Discover strategies to safeguard critical systems from attacks. Today's police agency has many digital systems to support its operations, and cybersecurity attacks can cripple these operational systems, taking away vital tools from officers.

One example is the dispatch system at the center of a department's operations. If a cybersecurity attack took it down, how would a department respond? Does it have a plan in place to get the system back online? Could it pivot to dispatchers using pen and paper?

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## **Android malware steals your card details and PIN to make instant ATM withdrawals**

Forget card skimmers-this Android malware uses your phone's NFC to help criminals pull cash straight from ATMs.

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## **Cybersecurity Resource Center**

In doing research for this month's newsletter I came upon a great resource for a general overview of Cybersecurity Basics from Malwarebytes.

Cybersecurity Basics is a source of information for everything about cybersecurity and staying safe online.

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## **Shaq's Missing Range Rover Exposes Growing Car Theft Scam - Frank on Fraud**

Shaq O'Neal was waiting for his custom Range Rover to arrive in Louisiana. But unfortunately the \$180,000 luxury car vanished somewhere between Atlanta and Baton Rouge and no one appears to know where it is. Experts now suspect that his Range Rover was caught up in a new transport fraud scheme that they're calling a [...]

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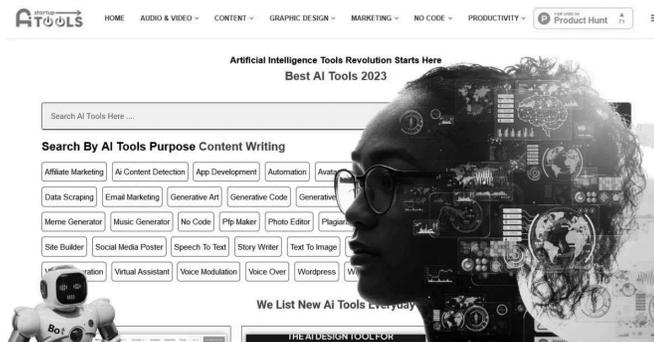
## **Shaq's \$200K Custom SUV Reportedly Stolen In Transit**

A \$200,000 custom Range Rover has gone missing. Who would pay that much to customize an SUV, you ask? None other than Shaquille O'Neal. The vehicle was en route to Louisiana when it was reportedly stolen in transit somewhere near Atlanta. The company that customized the car for Shaq says they're eager to get it to their client ASAP.

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## A Great Site for AI Resources (Previous Info Requested Again)

The link below will take you to the site "StartupAITools.com. While many of the sites it provides for AI related assistance may not be anything you need or are interested in, it is still a good site to expose the extent to which AI is inserting itself into our society.



## AI Tools Directory - Top Ai Aggregator 2024

Browse the Free AI Tools Directory with 40+ categories like AI content writer, plagiarism checker, art generator, automation, AI chatbot, and generative video.

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## "I Want to be a Better" ... At Learning



## **Lane Kiffin: We're Never Too Old to Learn!**

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### **Notice, Verify, Act**

“Below is a quick 4-minute clip on a core skill we all use (conflict communication) — but pay attention not just to what’s shown, but how the training is framed and delivered.

As experienced professionals (prosecutors, investigators, law-enforcement, church-security leads), our learning style matters: How we refresh, adapt, and retain skills is different now than when we were new.

Think about: What’s one skill you’ll deliberately revisit this week — and how will you structure your refresh so it actually sticks?”



## **Video Review: What went wrong and how 'noticing' could have changed this New Castle County stop**

In this Insight Policing video analysis, Dr. Megan Price, founder and director of Insight Policing, breaks down body camera footage from a June 29, 2024, traffic stop in New Castle County, Delaware. Using the Insight Approach to Conflict Resolution, she revisits the pivotal moments of this encounter to explore how the skill of "noticing" could have influenced the interaction, potentially leading to a more peaceful outcome.

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## **Crime**



## **Texas man charged with multiple crimes for allegedly targeting Louisville coach Jeff Brohm, court records show**

A Texas man is charged with terroristic threatening and attempted extortion for allegedly targeting Louisville coach Jeff Brohm and quarterback Miller Moss, court records showed. *(Note*

*from Jim Rechel - I won't be surprised to find out the crime is related to sports gambling by the suspect.)*

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## **Old Scam Returns in 2025 - Hitting Communities Across the Nation**

Approximately three weeks ago, I was contacted by a colleague who reported that his credit card information had been unlawfully used to purchase ten sets of semi tires at two separate locations, one week apart. Both tire dealers in cities 150 miles apart were unwitting victims.

Upon reaching out to the tire dealers involved, it became evident that this particular scheme, which has persisted for years, has recently resurfaced in various regions across the United States.



### **Truck driver exposes \$10K multi-state tire scam targeting Carlisle...November 2025**

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Pa. - A quick-thinking truck driver helped uncover a multi-state tire scam that cost a Carlisle business more than \$10,000, authorities say. Torri Kugle, who was hired to transport tires from McCarthy Tire Service in Cumberland County to a supposed buyer in Maryland,...

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## Warning from Cullman PD after tire purchase scam reappears - From 2023

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If you encounter a similar situation, especially if you work in law enforcement or specialize in card fraud, the summary below outlines key characteristics of this scam, along with insights provided by the victimized tire company I interviewed and on-line resources.

## Fraud Schemes Involving Stolen Credit Card Use to Purchase Semi-Truck Tires

To aid investigators and patrol officers in recognizing and responding to organized payment card fraud targeting tire distributors, truck service centers, and logistics suppliers.

### Overview

Offenders use stolen or cloned credit card data to purchase high-value semi-truck tires, often worth \$4,000–\$10,000+ per transaction. Tires are immediately resold for cash or installed on vehicles belonging to freight operators, making recovery difficult. Activity is often part of regional organized theft/fraud rings rather than isolated events.

### Common Scheme Pattern

1. Stolen card data obtained online or through skimming.
2. Small “test” purchase confirms active card.
3. Fraudulent large order placed online or by phone.
4. Pickup or shipment directed to freight yards, storage units, or short-term rentals.
5. Tires resold quickly to shops or truckers.

### Indicators for Law Enforcement

- Multiple victims: same business or region hit by similar fraudulent tire purchases.
- Use of rental trucks or personal vehicles for pickup.
- Fake business credentials (DOT number, trucking firm name).
- Out-of-state cardholders or mismatched billing/shipping addresses.
- Same driver or contact name linked to multiple merchants.
- Recovered tires with mismatched brands, no paperwork, or altered purchase tags.

### Investigative Actions

- Obtain video surveillance from pickup site and nearby roads.
- Recover and examine delivery documents, phone records, and IP addresses.

- Check for cross-jurisdictional patterns (multi-state activity, same contact email or number).
- Coordinate with Financial Crimes Task Force, U.S. Secret Service, or bank fraud investigators for card data linkage.

### **Why It Matters**

A single fraud ring can cause \$100K+ in losses across regions within weeks. Tire fraud is a gateway crime—rings often also traffic in stolen catalytic converters, diesel fuel, or equipment.

© Institute for Criminal Justice Education – Fraud Awareness Initiative

## **2025- ICJE Training and Education**

### **Training Schedule**

For more information on the 2025 schedule, please visit our website by clicking on "Read More":

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## **One More Thing**

### **Gratitude Changes Everything**

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