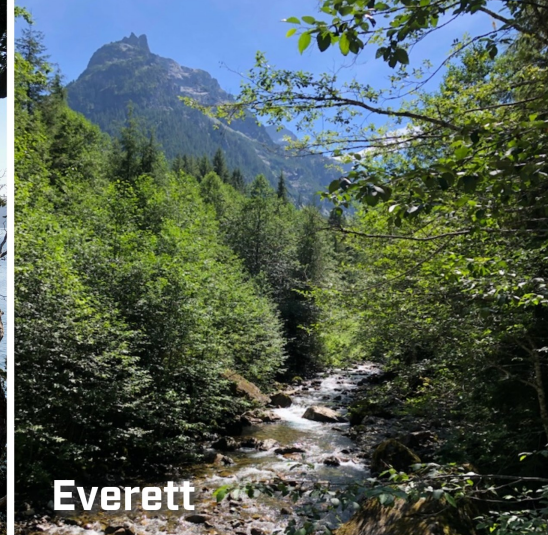




**Bellingham**



**Everett**



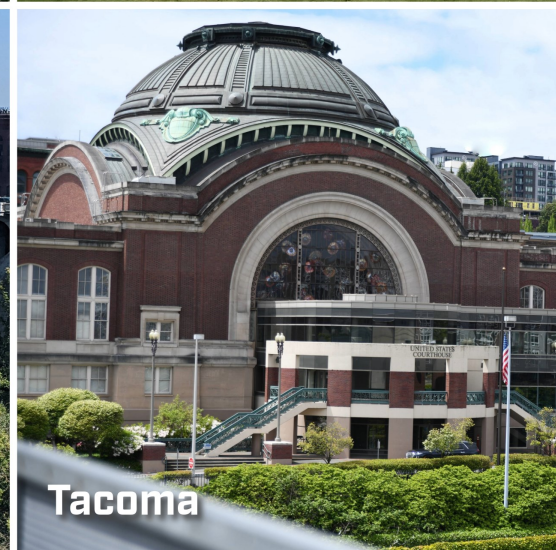
**Olympia**



**Poulsbo**



**Spokane**



**Tacoma**



**Tri-Cities**



**Vancouver**



**Yakima**



# **2023 FBI Seattle Year in Review**





## About FBI Seattle

### Serving Washington State

Along with our main Seattle office, we have 9 resident agencies: Bellingham, Everett, Olympia, Poulsbo, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Yakima

### Contact Us

206-622-0460 | 1110 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

### Public Affairs

**Contact:** [seattle.media@fbi.gov](mailto:seattle.media@fbi.gov) | 206-262-2390

**Social Media:** [X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

**Web Page:** [seattle/news](http://seattle/news)

### Community Outreach

**Contact:** [se\\_outreach@fbi.gov](mailto:se_outreach@fbi.gov)

**Web Page:** [seattle/community-outreach](http://seattle/community-outreach)

**Media, Podcasters & Authors:** to schedule an interview or learn more about the information in this publication or other FBI-related topics, please contact the Public Affairs office.

**Public & Students:** to attend Citizens Academy or another outreach event or to interview FBI personnel for a school assignment, please contact the Community Outreach office.

**Resources:** [Join the FBI](#) | [Report tips to the FBI](#) | [Report cyber crime](#)



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I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend  
the Constitution of the United States against  
all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear  
true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take  
this obligation freely, without any mental  
reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will  
well and faithfully discharge the duties of the  
office on which I am about to enter.

So help me God.

All FBI employees take this oath when they join the Bureau.  
The FBI Seattle field office has this oath displayed as a reminder.



## Message from the Special Agent in Charge



**T**he FBI has a worldwide presence, but we know the FBI that matters most is the one near you. FBI Seattle is your FBI field office, serving the citizens of Washington state since 1914. We are located in 10 locations throughout the state, ready to assist you, local industries, and law enforcement agencies before and when the threat appears.

We are not agents flying in from DC like you might see on television and in the movies. We are your neighbors, living in the communities we serve. We are agents, intelligence analysts, and professional staff with a variety of specialties. Safe communities are important to us not just because we swore to uphold the law, but also because we live here, raise families here, and call Washington home.

In these pages, you will find a brief snapshot of how we served Washington state in 2023: our casework, community outreach, and FBI Seattle in the news. We worked these cases with our partner law enforcement agencies so the successes you see here are their wins as well. And know we continue to work on many important issues behind the scenes that we can't share here.

I hope we will have a chance to meet you at an upcoming community event or our yearly Citizens or Teen Academies. Please reach out to us if we can assist you.

**Richard A. Collodi**

Special Agent in Charge, FBI Seattle



## Cases

As a standard rule, the FBI does not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation until the subject(s) are arrested, the case is charged, and the defendant(s) make their first appearance in court. The reason is not only to protect our ability to investigate the case, but also to safeguard the privacy and civil rights of subjects (who may be innocent), witnesses, and victims. This is a huge responsibility we do not take lightly: balancing the public's right to know with the integrity of the case and individual rights.

In a handful of exceptions, the FBI may reveal information about a case before a case is charged, typically when we need the public's help with finding a missing person or

fugitive or are seeking information about a subject's identity (see Investigative Publicity on page 16). The public could become aware of FBI activity, such as when they see agents executing a search warrant wearing FBI jackets. However, we often cannot provide additional details beyond confirming court-authorized law enforcement activity or assuring the public of no threat to public safety. We may also assist a partner agency when requested or when the FBI has a tool, tactic, or technique that could benefit their investigations.

Even though we do not discuss investigations until the charging stage, careful and patient work is happening behind the scenes to gather the needed evidence for a

successful prosecution. FBI Seattle cases cover a variety of federal criminal violations, such as white-collar crime, violent crime, and national security matters including terrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber crimes. Our investigations become public record through court documents filed from Washington state's two United States Attorney's Offices, the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington. For federal court records, visit the [Public Access to Court Electronic Records](#) (PACER) website.

Below is a sampling of FBI Seattle's casework in 2023. For all press releases involving FBI cases, visit [www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/seattle/news](http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/seattle/news).



Listen to FBI Seattle's podcast to learn more about human trafficking.





SAC Collodi speaks at June 2023 press conference announcing charges against Paradise Williams and five others in a scheme to defraud the King County rental assistance program of millions of dollars.

## Assaults on Aircraft

### [Federal Prosecutors, FBI, and Port of Seattle Detail Disturbing Increase of Sexual Assaults on Aircraft](#)

August 9, 2023

*As travel increases following pandemic, so too do reports of predatory conduct on aircraft, prompting federal investigations and charges*

With four federal criminal cases filed since the first of the year, and numerous sexual assault reports under investigation, federal law enforcement wants the traveling public to be alert and informed of the increasing number of reports of sexual assault and misconduct on aircraft.

## Counterintelligence

### [Former Soldier Indicted for Attempting to Pass National Defense Information to People's Republic of China](#)

October 6, 2023

*Defendant Arrested Upon Arrival in San Francisco on Flight from Hong Kong*  
Joseph Daniel Schmidt, 29, a former U.S. Army sergeant whose last duty post was Joint Base Lewis-McChord in western Washington was arrested on an indictment charging him with two federal felonies: attempt to deliver national defense information and retention of national defense information.

## COVID/Benefits Fraud

### [Leader of \\$6.8 Million Pandemic Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty to Wire Fraud and Money Laundering Charges](#)

December 11, 2023

*Defendant orchestrated scheme that stole more than \$2.7 million from Emergency Rental Assistance Program intended to assist King County residents facing eviction*

Paradise Williams, 29, the leader of a wide-ranging fraud scheme that stole more than \$3.3 million from federally funded pandemic assistance programs and attempted to obtain more than \$6.8 million, pleaded guilty to wire fraud and money laundering. Williams personally received more than \$2 million in fraudulent proceeds, spent on extravagant expenses.



## Cases, continued

### COVID/Benefits Fraud, continued

#### [Arkansas Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Fraudulently Obtaining More than \\$16.5 Million in COVID Relief Funding](#)

September 26, 2023

*Massive conspiracy involved dozens of fraudulent businesses and COVID business loans obtained through use of false statements and fraudulent documentation*

Tyler Keith Penix, 37, of Bentonville, Arkansas, pled guilty to fraudulently obtaining more than \$16.5 million as part of a wide-ranging conspiracy to obtain fraudulent COVID relief funding.

#### [Former Attorney, Convicted of Stealing from Client and Defrauding Friend, Pleads Guilty to Defrauding Taxpayers by Falsely Claiming COVID Program Benefits](#)

August 25, 2023

*Following publicity of 2022 sentencing for fraud, report from member of the public led to discovery of other schemes*

A disbarred attorney, sentenced last year to 18 months in prison for stealing from a deceased client's estate and defrauding a friend, pleaded guilty to wire fraud and making false statements for her scheme to illegally claim COVID pandemic benefits, and lie to the government about her income. Darlene Baker, 58 of Port Orchard, Washington, was

sentenced in March 2022 to 18 months in prison for her scheme to steal a \$500,000 bequest to a children's hospital and then a second \$500,000 stolen from a friend.

#### [Spokane Resident Pleads Guilty to Fraudulently Obtaining More than \\$360,000 in COVID-19 Relief Funding](#)

May 31, 2023

Marisa Beck, 40, of Spokane, pled guilty to fraudulently obtaining more than \$360,000 in COVID-19 relief funding intended for endangered small businesses.

#### [Yakima Resident Sentenced to 15 Months in Federal Prison for COVID-19 Relief Fraud](#)

May 18, 2023

Karla Padilla, 49, of Yakima, Washington, was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison for fraudulently obtaining more than \$290,000 in COVID-19 relief funds.

#### [Hanford Site Subcontractor and Its Tennessee Owner Indicted by Grand Jury for Stealing More than \\$1.4 Million in COVID-19 Relief Funding](#)

April 19, 2023

Hanford site subcontractor BNL Technical Services, LLC and its owner, Wilson Pershing Stevenson III, 44, of Nashville, Tennessee, were charged with eleven counts of fraudulently obtaining more than \$1.4 million in COVID-19 relief funding intended for struggling businesses.

#### [Two Nigerian Citizens Indicted for Attempting to Defraud the United States of Over \\$25 Million](#)

February 22, 2023

*Defendants used thousands of stolen identities to obtain over \$2.4 million in fraudulent COVID-19 unemployment benefits*

Two Nigerian citizens, Sakiru Olanrewaju Ambali, 45, and Fatiu Ismaila Lawal, 45, who currently reside in Toronto, Canada, were indicted for their scheme to steal COVID-19 disaster benefits and U.S. tax refunds.

### Cyber Crime

#### [Member of Notorious International Hacking Crew Sentenced](#)

January 9, 2024

*Millions of victims had their personal information stolen and sold by "ShinyHunters" group on the dark web*

A 22-year-old French citizen from Epinal, France, was sentenced to three years in prison and more than \$5 million in restitution for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. Sebastien Raoult, aka "Sezyo Kaizen," was arrested in 2022 in Morocco and was extradited to the U.S. in January 2023.



## Drug and Gun Crimes

### [Man Sentenced to 51 Months in Federal Prison for Selling Fentanyl Linked to Overdose Death](#)

October 20, 2023

Ron Montgomery, 43, of Richland has been sentenced after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute fentanyl. Montgomery, along with Christopher West, who was sentenced in March, were identified as being responsible for selling the pills to the man that died.

### [Snohomish County Man Sentenced to 8 Years in Prison in Connection with Three Arrests Over Two Years for Possessing Guns and Drugs](#)

October 20, 2023

*Defendant the subject of ten different investigations between 2020 and 2022*

A 34-year-old Snohomish County man was sentenced to

eight years in prison for persistently dealing drugs while armed. Jade Alexander Beavin was caught three different times, twice with distribution amounts of narcotics while also carrying firearms.

### [Snohomish Man Sentenced to 17 Years in Prison for Drug, Gun, and Murder-for-Hire Related Charges](#)

September 29, 2023

*Attempted to orchestrate the murder of a witness while in federal detention center*

Michael John Scott, 44, a Snohomish, Washington, man who was rearrested following his sentencing in a drug trafficking scheme, was sentenced to 17 years in prison for charges including

attempting to hire a hitman to kill a witness in his case.

### [Resident of Tacoma Hotel Indicted for Drug and Gun Crimes](#)

August 2, 2023

*Defendant arrested in February with huge cache of drugs and multiple stolen firearms*

Cesar Leonel Contreras-Arias, a 43-year-old Tacoma man, was indicted for three federal felonies: unlawful



Seizures from 27-defendant drug and gun case, March 2023

possession of firearms, possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute, and possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

### [Seattle-Area Man Arrested for String of Pot Shop Armed Robberies](#)

June 29, 2023

*Defendant charged in connection with three robberies – as many as ten robberies may be linked*

Caiden James Charlton, an 18-year-old Seattle-area man, was arrested June 27 in connection with three armed robberies in May and June 2023.



Seizures from 27-defendant drug and gun case, March 2023



## Cases, continued

### [Drug Ring Tied to Aryan Prison Gang Indicted with 24 Federal Arrests](#)

March 27, 2023

*More than 1.9 million doses of fentanyl and over 230 pounds of methamphetamine seized; More than 225 guns and firearm parts taken off the streets*

Twenty-seven people were indicted for drug trafficking, and many of those in the indictment are tied to the “Aryan Family,” a white supremacist prison gang.

## Hate Crimes

### [Washington Man Sentenced for Hate Crime Targeting LGBTQIA+ Community at Seattle Nightclub](#)

October 3, 2023

Kalvinn Garcia, 26, of Sedro Woolley, Washington, was sentenced to 48 months in prison for his bias-motivated arson at Queer/Bar, a nightclub and event space in Seattle.

### [Four Men Sentenced for Hate Crime and False Statement Charges After Racially Motivated Assault in Lynnwood, Washington](#)

January 27, 2023

Four men who assaulted a Black man because of the man’s actual and perceived race at a bar in Lynnwood, Washington, were sentenced. Jason DeSimas, 45, Jason Stanley, 46, Randy Smith, 42, and Daniel Dorson, 27, each pleaded guilty to one crime of

committing a hate crime, as well as one count of making false statements to investigators about their role in the assault.

## Indian Country Crime

### [Grand Coulee Man Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison for Violent Assault Against Partner, Tribal Elders](#)

November 1, 2023

Xander Lee Ostenberg, 18, of Grand Coulee, Washington was sentenced to 60 months in prison. Ostenberg and his partner began fighting, and her grandfather and family friend rushed to her aid. Ostenberg hit the grandfather in the head causing him lose consciousness and attacked the family friend and began choking him. The family friend was eventually able to break free. At that point, Ostenberg dragged his partner out of the house, hit her, and put her in his vehicle.

### [White Swan Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Sexual Abuse of a Young Girl](#)

October 23, 2023

Charlie Jim Peters, 35, of White Swan, Washington was sentenced to 120 months in prison. Peters molested a sixteen-year-old victim while the victim was asleep inside a camper van.

### [Taholah, Washington Man Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison for Sex Offense Against Minor](#)

February 8, 2024

*Following reported sex assault, other teens report sexual abuse to law enforcement*

Jerimiah McCrory, a 21-year-old Taholah, Washington, man was sentenced to 30 months in prison for abusive sexual contact in connection with the sexual assault of a teenager on the Quinault Nation reservation.

### [Sunnyside Man Sentenced to Ten Years Imprisonment for Selling Drugs Within the Boundaries of the Yakama Nation](#)

August 23, 2023

Jesse Robledo, 36, of Sunnyside, Washington, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison after his guilty plea to distribution of fifty grams or more of actual methamphetamine.

### [Man and Woman Found Guilty of Serious Felony Crimes Which Occurred Within the Boundaries of the Yakama Nation Indian Reservation](#)

August 11, 2023

Sundron Larsell Miller, 37, and Paula Eulojia Cantu-Lopez, 27, of White Swan, Washington, were driving with the victim on the Yakama Reservation. The victim was driving her pickup, and Miller began assaulting Cantu-Lopez. When the victim tried to intervene, both Miller



and Cantu-Lopez assaulted the victim, who is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation.

[Member of Tulalip Tribes Charged with Assault for Stabbing Incident at “Boom City” Fireworks Area](#)

August 9, 2023

*Defendant allegedly pushed a stranger to the ground and stabbed her three times*

Logan Winegar, an 18-year-old member of the Tulalip Tribes, was indicted for assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily harm.

[Washington Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2019 Murder of Alillia Minthorn](#)

February 21, 2023

Jordan Everett Stevens, age 31 of Wapato, Washington was sentenced to life in prison for the 2019 murder of Alillia “Lala” Minthorn.

## January 6 Capitol Violence

[Washington State “Proud Boy” Sentenced to Six Years in Prison for Actions During and After Jan. 6 Capitol Breach](#)

January 24, 2024

*Defendant Told Judge “You could give me 100 years and I would still do it all over again.”*

Marc Anthony Bru, 44, of Vancouver, Washington, was sentenced to 72 months – or six years – in prison and 36 months of supervised release, as well as a fine of \$7,946 and \$2,000 in restitution.

[Washington State Man Found Guilty of Assaulting Law Enforcement and Other Charges for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach](#)

November 21, 2023

Taylor James Johnatakis, 39, of Kingston, Washington, was convicted of seven charges, including obstruction of an official proceeding, civil disorder, and assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers, all felony offenses.

[Washington State Man Arrested on Felony and Misdemeanor Charges for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach](#)

July 25, 2023

*Defendant Part of Coordinated Push Against Law Enforcement in the Lower West Terrace Tunnel*

Benjamin John Silva, 36, of Yacolt, Washington, is charged in a criminal complaint filed in the District of Columbia with a felony offense of civil disorder.

[Texas Man Sentenced on Felony Charge for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach](#)

July 6, 2023

*Defendant Rifled Through Senator’s Desk on Senate Floor*

Joshua Johnson, 32, of Sherman, Texas, formerly of Spokane, Washington, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for obstruction of an official proceeding.

## Public Corruption

[Former King County Jail Guard and Five Others Indicted for Bribery Scheme That Brought Meth and Fentanyl into Seattle Jail](#)

November 2, 2023

According to the indictment, former King County Jail Guard Mosses Ramos, 39, of Milton, Washington, worked as a correctional officer for 17 years from June 2006 until he was fired in September 2023.

According to the indictment, between March and May 2023, Ramos accepted bribes to bring methamphetamine and fentanyl into the jail for the benefit of inmates.

[Enumclaw, Washington, Woman Sentenced for Criminal Scheme to Steal Flood Control Tax Dollars](#)

January 6, 2023

*Submitted false documents and forged signatures to collect more than \$465,000 in property taxes*

The wife of the former long-time Commissioner of an East King County drainage district was sentenced to three years in prison for multiple federal felonies connected to a scheme to steal tax dollars intended for flood control. Joann Thomas, 67, was convicted of 15 federal felonies in May 2022: conspiracy, four counts each of wire fraud and mail fraud, two counts of aggravated identity theft and four counts of money laundering.



# Cases, continued

## Substation Attacks

### [First of Two Defendants Sentenced for Christmas Day 2022 Attack on Power Substations](#)

December 8, 2023

*Men cut power as part of a scheme to steal from businesses and ATM machines*  
One of two Pierce County men who vandalized electrical substations as part of a burglary scheme, was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Jeremy Crahan, 40, pleaded guilty in September 2023, admitting he joined co-defendant Matthew Greenwood in a conspiracy to knock out power so they could rob ATM machines.

## Swatting

### [Bremerton, Washington Man Pleads Guilty to Four Federal Felonies Connected to His Extensive "Swatting" Scheme](#)

January 25, 2024

*False reports tie up emergency resources and put victims at risk with armed police response to fake reports of violence and danger*  
Ashton Connor Garcia, a 21-year-old Bremerton, Washington, man pleaded guilty to four federal felonies stemming from his extensive illegal harassing activity known as "swatting."

## Violent Crimes Against Children

### [Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Production of Child Pornography and Possession of Child Pornography](#)

November 29, 2023

Bryce Quinton Hale, 28, of Yakima, Washington, was sentenced to 240 months in federal prison for production of child pornography and possession of child pornography.

### [Yakima Man Sentenced to 300 Months Imprisonment and Lifetime Supervised Release for Production and Attempted Production of Child Pornography and Possession of Child Pornography](#)

July 11, 2023

Miguel Urbina, 38, of Yakima, Washington, was sentenced to 300 months in prison for production and attempted production of child pornography and possession of child pornography.

### [Pierce County Motocross Coach and Sponsor Arrested for Production of Child Pornography](#)

April 10, 2023

*Defendant allegedly used Snapchat to coerce minors into sending sexually explicit images and videos*  
Bryant Keith McCullough, a 32-year-old Tacoma man was arrested and charged with production of child pornography.

### [Former Burlington, Washington, Resident Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Production of Images of Child Sexual Abuse](#)

March 16, 2023

A 44-year-old resident of Dayton, Nevada, who previously resided in Burlington, Washington, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for production of child pornography. Between 2014 and 2020, John Holcomb made sexually explicit videos of a young child left in his care.

### [Former Law Enforcement Officer Convicted of Sexually Abusing Young Children](#)

March 10, 2023

*Defendant is former tribal councilmember and police officer of the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe and former Chief Fisheries Police Officer on the Hoh Reservation*  
Joseph Anthony Turrey, of Port Angeles, Washington, a 69-year-old member of the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe was convicted of nine federal crimes related to the sexual abuse of minors.

### [Former Active-Duty Soldier Sentenced to 22 Years in Prison for Child Sex Trafficking, Producing Child Pornography, and Traveling to the Philippines to Sexually Assault Young Children](#)

February 16, 2023

A former staff sergeant stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord was sentenced to 22 years in prison for sex





trafficking children, producing images of child sexual abuse, and traveling to sexually abuse children. Moeun Yoeun, 40, of Steilacoom, Washington, pleaded guilty in August 2022, admitting that young girls in the Philippines were threatened with death if they refused his sexual assaults.

## White Collar Crime

### [Accountant Pleads Guilty to Stealing More than \\$715,000 From Spokane Medical Practice](#)

November 21, 2023

Carol Casilla, age 26, of Spokane, Washington, pleaded guilty to wire fraud in connection with Casilla's theft of more than \$715,000 from a Spokane medical practice at which she was employed between 2020 and 2023.

### [Former Chief Financial Officer Sentenced for Falsifying Accounting Entries for Publicly Traded Vancouver, Washington Staffing Firm](#)

August 11, 2023

*Doctored books to hide increase in key business expense; sold*

### *stock options while hiding expensive trends*

The former Chief Financial Officer of Barrett Business Services, Inc. of Vancouver, Washington, was sentenced for falsely certifying the company's 2013 annual report. James Miller, 61, of Washougal, Washington, pleaded guilty on November 4, 2022, following years of shareholder litigation and a Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) fraud investigation.

### [Former Finance Director Pleads Guilty to Embezzling \\$3 Million+ from Two Local Non-Profits](#)

May 16, 2023

*Used the money for gambling, expensive trips, home mortgage, and extensive Nordstrom and Apple Store purchases*

The former Finance Director at two Seattle area non-profits pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$3 million from her employers. Susana Tantico, 62, of Renton, Washington committed the embezzlement over a nine-year period.

### [Accounting Manager for Everett, Washington, Company Pleads Guilty to Embezzling More Than \\$2.5 Million from Employer](#)

May 11, 2023

*Used phony accounting entries and falsified invoices to hide the fraud*

A 39-year-old Kent, Washington, woman pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax fraud charges for her 10-year embezzlement scheme. Christin Guillory, an accounting manager at an Everett-based manufacturing company, stole more than \$2.5 million from her employer by transferring funds to accounts Guillory set up in the names of fake companies and then routing the funds to her own bank accounts.

### [Former CEO of Dental Device Company Indicted for Fraudulent Stock Solicitations](#)

February 8, 2023

*Allegedly defrauded investors of more than \$10 million through misrepresentations about ultrasound device*

Stephen Baird, the former CEO of S-Ray, Inc., was indicted today by a federal grand jury for ten counts of wire fraud. ■



## Public Awareness Campaign



Media interview publicizing the “no drone zone” campaign

In advance of the 93rd Major League Baseball All-Star Week (July 7-11, 2023), FBI Seattle created a public awareness campaign about the FBI's role in special events preparation and safety, temporary flight restrictions (TFRs), and as the lead on investigations for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones.

FBI Seattle produced 30- and 60-second [PSAs](#) in both English and Spanish, pitched interviews with Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Collodi to local media outlets, and posted on social media. Partner agencies for the campaign were Seattle Mariners, Major League Baseball, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, and Seattle Police Department.

### The FBI played a supporting but important role in All-Star Week.

The FBI provides counterterrorism and crisis management support at major sporting events, Republican and Democratic conventions, presidential inaugurations, and high-level government conferences. However, even though local law enforcement was the lead agency for All-Star Week, we wanted to increase awareness of the FBI's role in



Media interview publicizing the “no drone zone” campaign



Filming “no drone zone” PSA



overall event security and our leading role on drone investigations.

**Temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) are not well known outside aviation, and they also change based on certain conditions.**

We wanted to increase public awareness that airspace restrictions can change for special events due to the FAA issuing a TFR. This means special events have a “no drone zone” in place around the venue. TFRs define a certain area of airspace where air

travel is limited because of temporary hazardous conditions (such as a wildfire, hurricane, or chemical spill), a security-related event, or other special situations, like VIP movement. The TFR specifics (size, altitude, date/time, etc.) can be viewed on the FAA website or their mobile app B4UFLY. Under all circumstances, drone operators should check for airspace restrictions before they fly. While we expected more experienced drone operators to be familiar with the regulations, we knew that amateurs looking to get that perfect shot for social media might not do their research ahead of time.

**Drones do not seem dangerous to the average person, and the public should take this issue seriously.**

According to the FAA, incidents involving unauthorized and unsafe use of small, remote-controlled aircraft have risen dramatically in recent years. The SAC's interviews gave recent Seattle examples of a Seahawks game, a Pride Parade, and Great Wheel and Space Needle crashes due to drones in which people or property were injured due to these little flying machines.

**WATCH THE  
“NO DRONE ZONE” PSA**

Next, we needed to educate about what the FBI could do. Law enforcement has ways to stop unsafe and illegal drone use, but we cannot speak to the specifics publicly. We assured media that law enforcement was monitoring and prepared to respond.

We explained potential federal criminal and civil statutes for

flying a drone unsafely or under certain conditions (ex: night without required equipment, over people) or locations (ex: weather conditions, national defense airspace). Other consequences could include losing an expensive drone or substantial civil fines. We also wanted the public to report any reckless use of a drone to their local law enforcement.

Thanks to our media, law enforcement, and private sector partners helping us spread the word on broadcast and social media, the campaign performed well and reduced expected incidents with drones during All-Star Week. ■



# Investigative Publicity

The FBI values tips from the public to help identify and locate fugitives, missing individuals, or unknown suspects, and the information we receive from the public is critical to our casework. To aid in this endeavor, field offices may distribute wanted, missing person, or seeking information posters to encourage people with information to contact the FBI. Sometimes, posters may include a reward leading to someone's recovery or capture.

Investigative publicity posters also include our most well-known poster category of the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." Since its inception, 526 fugitives have been featured on the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, and 490 have been apprehended or located. To be featured on the Most Wanted List, the fugitive must be considered a particularly dangerous menace to society and/or have a lengthy record of committing serious crimes.

FBI Seattle issued the posters featured on the following page in 2023. When someone is located, we send an update to our media partners, post on our social media channels, and a version of the poster with a "recovered" or captured" banner will be placed on the website temporarily.

All of our active posters are available on the [FBI Seattle](#)

## FBI Posters May Include:

### Case Summary

The narrative we can share with the public leading up to a fugitive or missing person's disappearance, such as when and where the individual was last seen.

### Descriptive Information

Any details to help the public recognize the person if encountered, such as eye or hair color, height, weight, date and place of birth, marks like scars or tattoos, locations where the person may travel, occupations, or known aliases.

### Photos

The most recent and highest quality images available of the person will be included, as well as an approximate date they were taken. Sometimes, older photos or age-progressed images will be used if the person has been missing for a long time.

### If a Fugitive Is Armed and Dangerous

As public safety is important to the FBI, any especially urgent reason to locate the person will be included.

### Translations

Posters may be translated into a language besides English if the person is thought to have traveled to another country or if we believe a group who speaks another language has information about the person's whereabouts.

[Wanted and Missing Persons page](#). Read more to learn details of some of these cases.

## Recovering Missing Kids

Between December 2022 and March 2023, FBI Seattle with our partners [successfully recovered four children](#) kidnapped from Washington state and taken out of state or to another country. Two of these children, Aranza Maria Ochoa Lopez and

Breadson John, are highlighted in missing person posters. Lopez had been missing for almost five years at the time of her recovery.

Typically, the FBI becomes involved in missing persons cases if local law enforcement requests assistance to provide a tool, tactic, or technique they do not have access to as part of their investigation. For potentially missing children,



## SEEKING INFORMATION

### BIRTHRIGHT OF VANCOUVER VANDALISM

Vancouver, Washington  
November 15, 2022



**DETAILS**

On or around November 15, 2022, Birthright of Vancouver, a pregnancy program in Vancouver, Washington, was vandalized by an unidentified male. The suspect appears to have a tattoo on his right wrist or hand. The FBI is seeking for the public's assistance in identifying the individual(s) responsible for this crime.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact the FBI's Toll-Free tip line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324). You may also contact your local FBI Office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Field Office: Seattle



## WANTED BY THE FBI

### JEFFREY JOSEPH BRANHAM

Distribution of a Controlled Substance/Fentanyl; Possession of a Controlled Substance/Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute; Carrying a Firearm During and in Relation to a Drug-Trafficking Crime



**DESCRIPTION**

Aliases: Jeffrey Ulrich, Jeremy A. Ulrich, Jeremy Allen Ulrich, T.J. Ulrich, Jeffrey J. Branham, J., Jeffrey J. Branham, Thomas Adair, Thomas J. Adair, Thomas J. Adair, "T.J. Speed"

Date(s) of Birth Used: June 24, 1989

Place of Birth: Washington State

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 155 pounds

Race: White

Sex: Male

Nationality: American

Scars and Marks: Branham has tattoos on his chest, neck, both arms, and both hands.

**REMARKS**

Branham has ties to Seattle, Kent, Federal Way, and Olympia, Washington.

**CAUTION**

Jeffrey Joseph Branham is wanted by the FBI for his alleged involvement in trafficking controlled substances, including fentanyl. On May 10, 2023, the FBI Seattle Office with assistance from the Seattle Police Department and the King County Sheriff's Office in Washington State arrested 10 individuals who were trafficking controlled substances, including fentanyl, in the Seattle metro area. Branham remains a fugitive.

On June 14, 2023, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Branham in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Seattle, Washington, after he was charged with three counts of distribution of a controlled substance/fentanyl, possession of a controlled substance/fentanyl with intent to distribute, and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug-trafficking crime.

**SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS**

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI Office at (206) 422-6460, your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Field Office: Seattle



## MISSING PERSON

### CHANCE ANTHONY CARSON

February 20, 2023  
Omak, Washington



**DESCRIPTION**

Date(s) of Birth Used: February 7, 1994

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 178 pounds

Race: Native American

Sex: Male

Scars and Marks: Carson has tattoos on his chest, left breast, left hand, and right arm.

**REWARD**

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the recovery of Chance Anthony Carson and the identification, arrest, and prosecution those responsible.

**DETAILS**

Chance Anthony Carson was last seen on the morning of February 20, 2023, in Omak, Washington. He was reported as a missing person on the Colville Reservation on March 15, 2023. Four days is suspected in his disappearance after it was reported that he had gotten into an altercation with two other individuals.

The FBI is working in conjunction with the Colville Tribal Police Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Unidentified Unit to conduct a full investigation into the disappearance of Carson. The FBI is seeking information leading to the location/recovery of Carson and information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of any person(s) involved.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

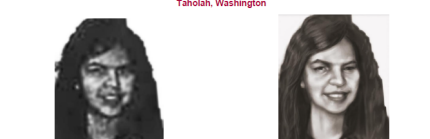
Field Office: Seattle



## MISSING PERSON

### ELSIE ELDORA LUSCIER

August 30, 1979  
Taholah, Washington



**DESCRIPTION**

Date(s) of Birth Used: January 30, 1965

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'11" (at time of disappearance)

Weight: 115 pounds (at time of disappearance)

Race: Female

Sex: Female

**DETAILS**

On August 31, 1979, Elsie Eldora Luscier, accompanied by her cousin, Carlotta Maria Sanchez, disappeared from Taholah, Washington, which is in the Quinalt River Indian Reservation. The FBI is seeking information about the disappearance of both girls, and about those responsible for their disappearance.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Field Office: Seattle



## PERSONA DESAPARECIDA

### SHELBY LYNN DWYER

29 de marzo de 2023  
Guamúchil, Sinaloa, México



**DESCRIPCIÓN**

Fecha de nacimiento usada: 5 de octubre de 2005

Cabello: castaño

Ojos: color café

Estatura: 5 pies 3 pulgadas (1,60 m)

Peso: 100 libras (45,3 kg)

Sexo: femenino

Raza: blanca

Marcas y cicatrices: Dwyer tiene los siguientes tatuajes: una rosa en la mano derecha, un diseño en el dedo corazón derecho y la palabra "Blessed" escrita en caligrafía en su antebrazo derecho.

**RECOMPENSA**

El FBI ofrece una recompensa de hasta USD 5.000 por información que conduzca a la recuperación de Shelby Lynn Dwyer.

**DETALLES**

La oficina regional del FBI en Seattle está colaborando con el Departamento de Policía de Des Moines en el estado de Washington, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y las autoridades mexicanas para realizar una investigación formal de la desaparición de Shelby Lynn Dwyer. El 25 de marzo de 2023, Dwyer se fue de manera voluntaria de la zona de Des Moines en el estado de Washington y viajó en carro a México comunicándose esporádicamente con su familia. Alrededor del 29 de marzo de 2023, cesó la comunicación. Se cree que Dwyer viajó a Tijuana, México, y es probable que viajara en avión desde Tijuana hasta Culiacán, Sinaloa, haciendo escala en Guadalajara. Se cree que el 29 de marzo de 2023, o alrededor de esa fecha, Dwyer estuvo en la zona de Guamúchil de Sinaloa, México. No ha sido oído nada de ella desde entonces.

Si usted tiene información con respecto a esta persona, póngase en contacto con la oficina local del FBI o con la embajada o el consulado estadounidenses más cercano. También puede enviar información por internet en [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Oficina regional del FBI: Seattle



## MISSING PERSON

### BREADSON JOHN

June 2022  
Vancouver, Washington



**DESCRIPTION**

Alias: Breadson John

Date(s) of Birth Used: October 17, 2014

Place of Birth: Hawaii

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Sex: Male

Race: Pacific Islander

Nationality: American

Languages: English, Tagalog, Chukchee

**REMARKS**

The photograph shown are more than a year old and Breadson's appearance is likely to have changed. He has ties to or may visit Hawaii, Arizona, Washington, and the Trust/Chuk Islands in the Federated States of Micronesia.


**DETAILS**

The FBI's Seattle Field Office is assisting the Vancouver Police Department in Vancouver, Washington with their search for Breadson John.

On June 17, 2022, Vancouver Police Detachments attempted to conduct a welfare check at the Vancouver residence of missing juvenile Breadson John, based on concerns for his welfare voiced by members of the community. Investigators have been unable to locate Breadson. He has also been known to use the name "Briar".

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

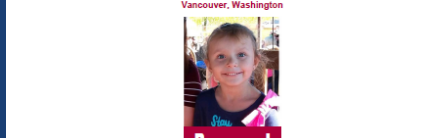
Field Office: Seattle



## MISSING PERSON

### ARANZA MARIA OCHOA LOPEZ

October 25, 2018  
Vancouver, Washington



**DESCRIPTION**

Aliases: Aranza Maria Ochoa Lopez, Aranza Ochoa Lopez

Date(s) of Birth Used: April 17, 2004

Place of Birth: Centralia, Washington

Hair: Blonde/Brown (at time of disappearance)

Eyes: Blue

Height: 5'4" to 5'7" (at time of disappearance)

Weight: Approximately 40 to 42 pounds (at time of disappearance)

Race: White (Hispanic)

Sex: Female

Nationality: American

Languages: English, Beginner Spanish

Scars and Marks: Aranza has pierced ears.

**REWARD**

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the recovery of Aranza Maria Ochoa Lopez.

**REMARKS**

Aranza was last seen wearing a long-sleeved dark blue shirt with a bubble on the front, blue, purple, and white striped pants, and Paw Patrol shoes. Her appearance may have been altered through hair dye and makeup.

**DETAILS**


The FBI's Seattle Field Office is assisting the Vancouver Police Department in Washington with their search for Aranza Maria Ochoa Lopez.

On October 25, 2018, Aranza was allegedly removed from a mall in Vancouver, Washington, by her biological mother, who was taken into custody in September of 2019 in Puebla, Mexico. It is believed that Aranza may still be in Mexico.

If you have any information concerning the location of this individual, please call the FBI's Seattle Field Office at (206) 422-6460. Tips may also be submitted anonymously online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

You may also contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

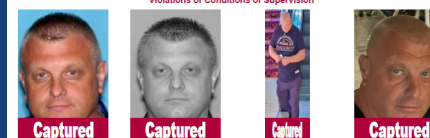
Field Office: Seattle



## WANTED BY THE FBI

### VOLODIMYR PIGIDA

Violations of Conditions of Supervision



**DESCRIPTION**

Aliases: Volodymyr Pigida, Volodimir Petrovich Pigida, Volodimir P. Pigida, Volodymyr Petrovich, He may also be using a false identity

Date(s) of Birth Used: September 14, 1974

Place of Birth: Ukraine

Hair: Black or dark brown

Eyes: Blue

Height: 5'2"

Weight: 240 to 260 pounds

Race: White

Sex: Male

Occupation: Property repair and maintenance manager

Language: English, Ukrainian, Russian

MOIC: W05276318

**REMARKS**

Volodymyr Pigida is known to have access to firearms. Pigida has ties to or may visit Spokane, Washington; southern Florida; and Ukraine. Pigida is a naturalized United States citizen.

**CAUTION**


In December 2022, Volodymyr Pigida was found guilty by a jury in the Western District of Washington of 26 felony counts, including conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, and kidnapping/fraud, among other crimes. In his case \$11 million Ponzi scheme that defrauded thousands of victims. Pigida and his wife operated a work "office" which scheme turned "Third Sound Promoter" that ultimately crashed—but not before the two used the company's accounts to purchase homes, expensive cars, and a yacht.

A warrant has been issued for his arrest for violating conditions of supervision. On August 4, 2023, Pigida also failed to appear at the hearing for his sentencing.

**SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS**

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

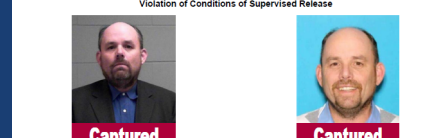
Field Office: Seattle



## LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

### RICHARD WARREN REID

Violation of Conditions of Supervised Release



**DESCRIPTION**

Aliases: Richard Reid, Richard W. Reid, Rick Reid

Date(s) of Birth Used: January 22, 1959

Place of Birth: Oregon

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 185 to 200 pounds

Race: White

Sex: Male

**REMARKS**

Reid has ties to Seattle, Washington, and Portland and Astoria, Oregon.


**CAUTION**

The FBI's Seattle Field Office is assisting the United States Marshals Service with the search for Richard Warren Reid. The co-owner of a defunct medical supply job, Reid was convicted on March 28, 2022, of operating a healthcare fraud kickback scheme that profited from using drug tests for government insurance recipients. On January 10, 2023, Reid appeared before the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington and was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment and one year of supervised release. He was ordered to report to the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon, on April 28, 2023, to begin serving his sentence. Reid failed to show up for his sentencing. He was last seen the morning of May 4, 2023 in Astoria, Oregon.

A federal arrest warrant was issued for Reid in the United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Seattle, Washington, on May 1, 2023, after he was charged with Violation of Conditions of Supervised Release.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact the Seattle Office of the FBI at (206) 422-6460, your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).


Field Office: Seattle



## SEEKING INFORMATION

### VANDALISM OF ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

Unknown Suspect(s)  
Barneslake Substation  
Tumwater, Washington  
November 22, 2022



**REWARD**

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for this act of vandalism.

**DETAILS**

On November 22, 2022, in the early morning hours, Puget Sound Energy discovered an incident at the Barneslake Substation in Tumwater, Washington. Field was looking on the ground after one of the rotators of transformers had been punched multiple times and caused the substation to go offline for several hours. Three 2,000-volt cables were located at the scene. The damage resulted in loss of power to 1,200 households.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Field Office: Seattle



## MISSING PERSON

### CARLOTTA MARIA SANCHEZ

August 30, 1979  
Taholah, Washington



**DESCRIPTION**

Date(s) of Birth Used: February 10, 1967

Place of Birth: Yuma, Arizona

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'0" (at time of disappearance)

Weight: 115 pounds (at time of disappearance)

Race: Native American

Sex: Female

Nationality: American

**DETAILS**

On August 30, 1979, Carlotta Maria Sanchez, accompanied by her cousin, Elsie Eldora Luscier, disappeared from Taholah, Washington, which is in the Quinalt River Indian Reservation. The FBI is seeking information about the disappearance of both girls, and about those responsible for their disappearance.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

Field Office: Seattle



# Investigative Publicity, continued

Child kidnapping cases take a great deal of coordination with other law enforcement agencies, both in and outside the U.S., and with our legat offices, which further the FBI mission overseas. These cases demonstrate the **dedication and compassion of FBI agents, victim specialists, and other personnel to the recovery, safety, and privacy of these young American citizens** who have been illegally taken from our country.

FBI SEATTLE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
**RICHARD A. COLLODI**



the FBI was given jurisdiction under the “Lindbergh Law” in 1932 to immediately investigate any reported mysterious disappearance or kidnapping involving a child, usually 12 or younger. However, the FBI can open an investigation into any missing child under age 18 of as an assisting agency to the local police department. [Learn more](#) about the FBI’s efforts to bring missing children home.

## Fugitives

Branham and Pigida are examples of defendants who failed to appear for their court hearings, and Reid failed to report to prison after sentencing. All three were captured.

On August 4, Pigida failed to appear at his sentencing hearing for an \$11 million Ponzi

scheme defrauding thousands of victims. His [poster was issued](#) on August 21, and he was [arrested October 24](#) in South Florida following an hours-long stand-off with FBI Miami.

Branham’s poster was released on September 14, after previously being charged for alleged involvement in trafficking controlled substances, including fentanyl, and subsequent disappearance. The next day based on a tip, police arrested Branham at a Kent apartment where he was staying.

On April 28, Reid failed to self surrender to prison for [operating a health care fraud kickback scheme](#). His poster was released on May 6, and he was [located in less than a day](#)

in the same place he was last seen, Astoria, Oregon. A member of the public saw the poster, recognized Reid, and reported him as a fugitive.

## Highlighting Old Cases

Despite recently becoming an FBI case, cousins Carlotta Maria Sanchez and Elsie Eldora Lusier have been missing since 1979. The FBI believes that even after 45 years, people have information about their disappearance from Taholah, Washington, on the Quinault Nation Indian Reservation. Living in Yuma, Arizona, Sanchez was visiting her cousin Lusier in Washington state when they both went missing. Because less information is currently known about Lusier, only one low resolution photo was available of her, which the FBI Lab enhanced to make it recognizable. FBI Seattle has several other posters on the website for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, including for Chance Anthony Carson, also issued in 2023.

## Seeking Information

When the FBI needs help identifying a subject(s), we may create a seeking information poster, such as for the vandalism of two locations in November 2022: the Birthright of Vancouver pregnancy resource center and the electrical substation in Tumwater, Washington. ■



Seattle University Practicum 2023

## Community Outreach

The FBI's Community Outreach Program supports the Bureau's investigative mission by working to address multiple interrelated societal problems—including crime, drugs, gangs, terrorism, and violence. Linking community service, prevention, and law enforcement is a national trend spurred by grass roots efforts around the country, and FBI Seattle employees have joined this movement, volunteering in a wide variety of community-related efforts. Some of these efforts are described below.

### Citizen's Academy

Citizens Academy is an six-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the FBI. Classes meet in the evening at the FBI field office. The mission of Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role of federal law enforcement in the community through frank

discussion and education. In 2023, FBI Seattle also held a shorter "C-suite" version of Citizens Academy for our local business leaders.

### Seattle University Practicum

The Practicum provides Seattle University students an understanding of the FBI's role as a federal law enforcement agency to include the violations the FBI investigates, an overview of the different policies and programs within the FBI, and employment opportunities.

### Teen Academy

The FBI Seattle Teen Academy program shows high school students a comprehensive look into today's FBI. Students receive presentations on topics such as cybercrime, counterintelligence, terrorism, evidence response, SWAT, and the daily field office operations.

### Director's Community Leadership Award

Since 1990, the [Director's Community Leadership Awards](#) has been the principal means for the FBI to publicly recognize achievements of individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to education and the prevention of crime and violence in their communities. Each field office nominates an individual or organization for the award, and recipients are invited to a ceremony and reception at FBI Headquarters.

### Speaking Events

FBI Seattle offers public speakers on various topics pertaining to the Bureau's investigative mission. Additionally, FBI Seattle employees routinely participate in awareness events designed to build trust and strengthen relationships between the FBI and the communities we serve. ■



## Photos



Director Wray and FBI Seattle's Director's Community Leadership Award Winner Rev. Father Andriy Matlak.



Employees attend a career fair to encourage applicants to consider FBI careers, including forensic accountants.



ASAC Golfrey speaks at the 2023 Seattle University Practicum.



Kids tour the FBI bearcat, try on tactical vests, and meet SWAT members during "Touch a Truck," hosted by the Junior League of Seattle.



Employees gather holiday toys for Washington state's children in foster care





An FBI agent speaks to students during the Seattle University Criminal Justice Career Fair.



Employees gather back-to-school supplies for Madrona Elementary School.



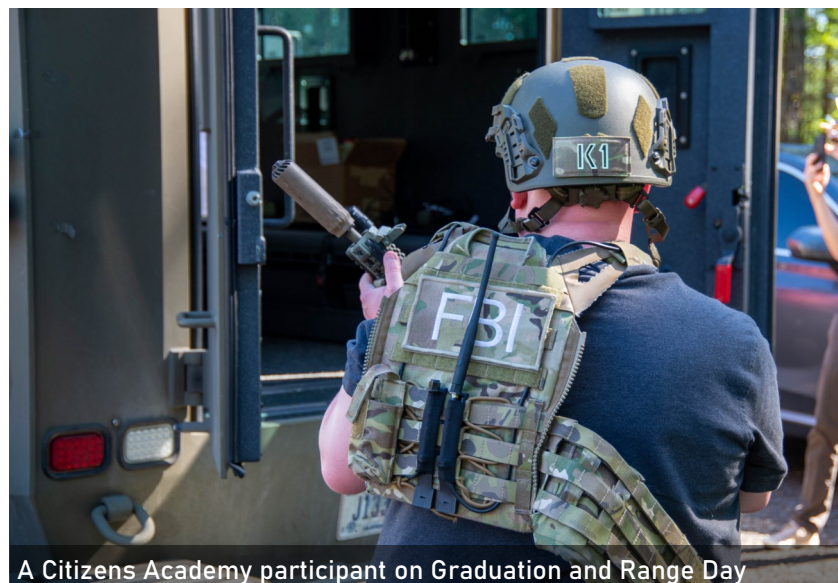
A child pets a K9 at "Battle of the Badges," hosted by Renton PD. FBI Seattle decorated our bearcat with holiday lights for the competition.



SAC Collodi speaks at the 2023 Citizens Academy graduation.



An FBI Seattle agent assists a participant on Citizens Academy Graduation and Range Day.



A Citizens Academy participant on Graduation and Range Day



## Photos, continued



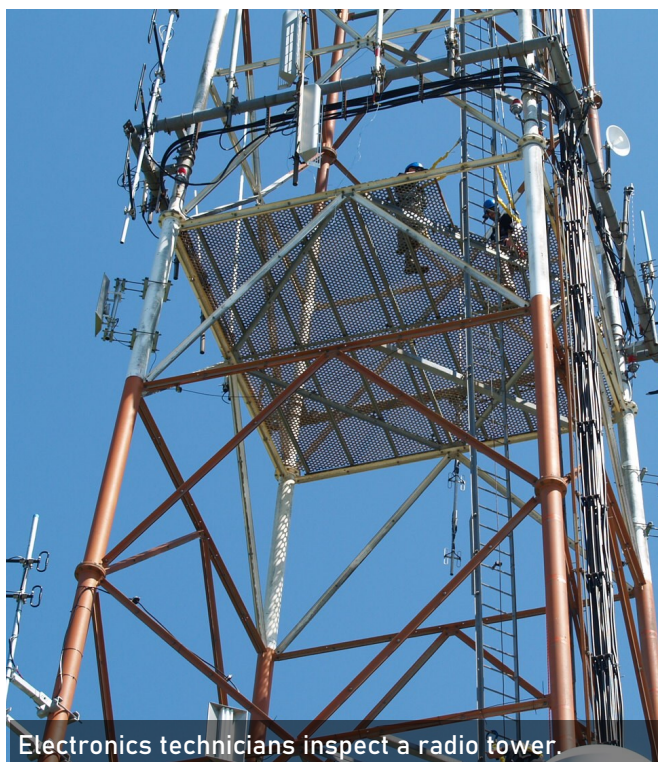
ASAC Austin films an interview for the Seattle Channel.



ASAC Smith films an interview for the FBI website.



An FBI employee at an outreach event



Electronics technicians inspect a radio tower.

Opposite page: In 2023, sixteen law enforcement agencies from Washington state sent representatives to the FBI National Academy located at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico. The National Academy offers 11 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.



# Washington State's 2023 FBI National Academy Graduates

**Sessions 285-288**







FBI Seattle's Evidence Response Team (ERT) processes a scene. ERTs in each of the 56 FBI field offices nationwide gather, document, and preserve evidence. Learn more: [Evidence Response Team Training](#).



**A publication of the  
FBI Seattle Public Affairs office**