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NEWS RELEASE

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SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT AT NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On Wednesday afternoon, around 5:00 p.m., the sheriff's office received a report of a suspicious incident at Norco Elementary School. A grandparent had been dropped off at the school by an Uber driver to pick up a student. The driver was in a light-colored truck that had Uber and foreign-language stickers, as well as a bed rack displaying colorful Tibetan prayer flags.

After parking the truck, the driver exited the vehicle and began walking around the area. He then approached the base of a tree, dug a hole, and placed an object inside it. The item was identified as a religious prayer pendant. Following this, the driver placed religious stickers on electrical poles near the school. These stickers are traditionally used in Tibetan Buddhist ceremonies and are intended for prayers of protection and purification. The combination of items placed around the school symbolizes ancient Buddhist religious practices and is not meant to convey any negativity or harm.

Detectives identified the driver, a Chinese national, and reached out to their FBI partners for additional information. It was confirmed that the driver is a lawful permanent resident of the United States, having held his green card since 2010, and he has no known criminal history.

Despite the unusual nature of the incident, the sheriff's office found no credible threats to the public, the school, its teachers, or its students. Detectives continue to investigate the matter as a precaution.