

### [Private Utah DNA Lab Faces Scrutiny After Crime Evidence Said To Be Mishandled](#)

Sorenson Forensics, which analyzes DNA evidence in criminal cases, has been the target of a probe by the Texas Forensic Science Commission, a state watchdog agency charged with investigating misconduct within forensic labs. The commission had been expected to issue a report this week on its review of the lab, detailing a handful of incidents in which Sorenson analysts had contaminated DNA samples.

### [House OKs crime lab at ECSU](#)

On Thursday, the House voted 114-0 to approve House Bill 813, a bipartisan bill championed by state Rep. Howard Hunter III, D-Hertford, and whose supporters include House Republican Majority Leader John Bell.

### [Searching for Harper Lee's Lost Book About a Serial Killer](#)

It was in Alabama that Cep met members of the Radney family, who were trying to retrieve some papers lent to Lee by the late Tom Radney, a prominent local lawyer. That's when Cep learned that years after Lee had written *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the book that had made her internationally famous and very wealthy, she had been interested in writing a book about a notorious series of mysterious murders that took place in rural Coosa County, Alabama, in the '70s.

### [Beer purchase leads to arrest](#)

Robert Radford Jr., 38, of Park Hills, has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident, driving while revoked/suspended, possession of a controlled substance, and misdemeanor operating a vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner involving an accident. His bond is set at \$50,000.

### [The economics of opioids: Fentanyl has a steep price tag in lives, lab costs and resources](#)

Paul Speaker, a professor of finance and an adjunct associate professor of economics at the WVU John Chambers College of Business and Economics, said the new wave is that of synthetic drugs. Having studied the economic impact of the opioid epidemic, Speaker said the presence — and easy accessibility — of the synthetic drugs fentanyl and carfentanil have had devastating economic effects on West Virginia and other states.

### [New law aims to crack more cold cases in Arkansas](#)

According to the Arkansas Attorney General's Never Forgotten website, there are nearly 500 unsolved missing persons cases in the state. The new law requires law enforcement agencies to input vital data into NamUs, including fingerprints, DNA, detailed personal descriptions, and the date and place of death within 30 days.

### [Indiana police say 47-year-old murder of college student Pamela Milam solved](#)

Working with Parabon, Keen submitted a data profile to a public genetic genealogy database. Based on the results, Keen conducted interviews and along with a genealogist eventually narrowed down possible suspects to a single member of one family — Jeffrey Hand.

### [Forensic science: the new method to detect where homemade explosives came from](#)

The new approach uses ion chromatography which is high resolution mass spectrometry. Using the new technique, the team has shown that it is possible to detect a large number of the components of homemade explosives, down to very low trace amounts.

### [ISU C-SAFE works to create greater certainty in forensic investigations](#)

We're looking into the science behind tracking the stray bullet that struck and killed a young woman and injured her boyfriend as they were driving down Highway 218 in Waterloo.

### [Researcher creates new lubricant database to help solve sexual assault cases](#)

"When we analyze the lubricant, then we can say, 'Oh, this is a flavored, water-based lubricant that has a polyethylene glycol base or a polybutylene glycol base,'" Bridge said. "In the absence of DNA, such as if a condom is used or a spermicidal lubricant, or anything that would kill DNA sources, we're hoping that using the lubricant from the condom could create a link between the victim and the suspect."

### [Pasco Sheriff abruptly cancels land lease for USF's outdoor forensics facility](#)

Now the outdoor forensics facility is in jeopardy after Pasco County Commissioners and the Pasco Sheriff abruptly canceled USF's long-term land lease this week .

### [Cold case: DNA links suspected South Bay killer to 1982 Tahoe murder](#)

For decades, investigators not only didn't know the suspect, they didn't know the identity of the victim. They determined both thanks to DNA technology and techniques similar to those that helped authorities find the Golden State Killer suspect.