

Backlog of cases at state crime lab leads to problems storing bodies

But there's a backlog at the state crime lab because of a staffing shortage, and Hinds County doesn't have a morgue to hold the remains.

St. Louis prosecutor ordered crime lab to reassemble Patricia McCloskey's gun

The gun Patricia McCloskey waved at protesters was inoperable when it arrived at the St. Louis police crime lab, but a member of Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner's staff ordered crime lab experts to disassemble and reassemble it and wrote that it was "readily capable of lethal use" in charging documents filed Monday, 5 On Your Side has learned.

Patricia McCloskey's gun was inoperable when seized, so a St. Louis prosecutor ordered crime lab to reassemble it and make it operational

A St. Louis prosecutor ordered the crime lab to dismantle and then reassemble the firearm to make it functional, according to a report from KSDK-TV.

Prosecutor Falsely Claimed Patricia McCloskey's Gun Was Capable of Firing When She Brandished It Outside Her Home

"The firearm could not be test fired as submitted," reads a report from the St. Louis police crime lab obtained by 5 On Your Side. "At the request of ACA Chris Hinckley, the firearm was field stripped and found to have been assembled incorrectly....The firearm was reassembled properly, test fired and functioned as designed." Crime lab workers photographed the disassembly and reassembly process.

Crime Lab Backlog Causes Delay In Choctaw County Investigation

And, a backlog there means it will be long before the coroner can officially inform a family.

Autopsies delayed statewide, possibly caused by State Crime Lab employees quitting

"We need help from the state with the conditions that are happening at the State Medical Examiners Office," said Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham Stewart. Stewart is president of the Mississippi Coroners Association.

Arrest Made In A Decades Old Willmar Cold Case

On July 17th, 2020, the BCA Crime Lab reported that the DNA collected from the 1974 evidence was a match to Vossen, and a warrant was issued for his arrest on 2nd-degree murder charges.

Carlsbad Police Announce Arrest In 33-Year-Old Murder Case

Last March, San Diego County sheriff's deputies arrested a man on narcotics and weapons violations and took a DNA sample from him, as required by law based on his alleged offenses, Reyes said. Last May, the sheriff's crime lab notified Carlsbad police that the DNA samples from the 1987 murder case were a match for Kingery.

Crime Has Declined Overall During The Pandemic, But Shootings And Killings Are Up

Even so, University of Chicago professor Jens Ludwig, the head of the university's Crime Lab, says it's a big puzzle why shootings and murders haven't dropped while other crimes have.

Documents reveal source of 2018 execution drugs

After the state received the two drugs on Oct. 31, 2017, they were handed over to the Nebraska State Patrol crime lab for testing. In one document, the drugs were only described as "miscellaneous drugs".

[Winnemucca detective's cause of death was drug overdose](#)

A Washoe County crime lab determined Morgan had taken Fentanyl and methamphetamine.

[Prosecutor awaiting report on shooting of Marshall man by police officers](#)

"Our information is collected, and our reports are completed," Christensen said. "We are waiting for lab reports from the MSP Crime Lab and some additional information in the form of reports from other police agencies."

[Wrongful death lawsuit against Raleigh police moves on to federal court](#)

Officer Edwards shot and killed Mojarrad in a shopping center parking lot in east Raleigh on April 20, 2019. Edwards fired 11 shots at Mojarrad, stopping to reload before firing again, hitting him eight times, according to the lawsuit. A knife was found in Mojarrad's open palm as he lay dead on the ground, but the State Crime Lab found no DNA or fingerprints on it, according to the lawsuit.

[Loyola University Maryland Launching New Forensic Science Master's Degree Program](#)

The need for forensic scientists is growing at a substantial rate, and in a city like Baltimore, those training for these positions might be able to find meaningful work throughout Maryland.

[Think Science: Forensic Discoveries](#)

At TPR's next Think Science event, we will explore how the use of forensic science can lead to startling discoveries; helping to solve crimes, or unearthing previously hidden evidence and details about people and places that came before us. Learn from experts in the field about how forensic science works, including a virtual tour of an outdoor "body ranch" in central Texas that serves as a research laboratory.

[Cigarette butts help with new murder charges filed in 35-year-old homicide case](#)

In 2019, OSBI criminalists at the Forensic Science Center alerted agents that during a search of the national DNA database CODIS, a potential DNA hit was obtained and matched Earl Wilson, 55. According to the news release, criminalists then matched the latent print impression taken from the crime scene to Wilson.

[Cold Case Murder Solved In Huntington Beach 52 Years Later](#)

A recently formed Investigative Genetic Genealogy task force initiated by the Orange County District Attorney's Office helped close the convoluted case half a century after it began. Officials are still researching how Piteau and Chrisco's paths crossed, and what led to her brutal death at age 26.

[Two Security Breaches at GEDmatch Open All Users' Profiles to Law Enforcement](#)

A month before Verogen officially acquired GEDmatch, a team of genetic security researchers revealed a flaw in GEDmatch's relative-matching algorithm that would allow a hacker to scrape more than 90 percent of users' DNA data. Almost as soon as the acquisition went through in December 2019, Verogen CEO Brett Williams told Forensic the company has already addressed GEDmatch's previous security issues, and was committed to monitoring/correcting any other security flaws.

[Study of U.S Mass Shootings, Firearms Homicides Suggests Two-pronged Policy Approach](#)

The study found that mass shootings occur disproportionately in states with higher levels of gun ownership, while rates of firearms homicides are higher in states with permissive concealed carry policies.

[Study: White Police Officers Use Force More Often Than Non-White Colleagues](#)

The outcome is dramatically different when a white officer responds to a call versus a Black officer in an otherwise similar call, they found. White officers use force 60 percent more often, on average, than Black officers, and fire their guns twice as often, said Texas A&M Professor of Economics Mark Hoekstra.

[Missouri Bill Streamlines Rape Kit Testing, Adds Survivor Resources](#)

Missouri's governor has signed into law a sweeping bill that addresses sexual assault crimes, including an electronic tracking system for rape kits and a telehealth network for forensic examinations of victims.

[Domestic Violence Increased During Great Recession](#)

Emergency room visits for domestic violence incidents in California more than tripled during the Great Recession compared to the years before, signaling a need to prepare for similar and more prolonged effects during the COVID-19 financial crisis, suggest University of California, Davis, researchers.