

### [Why a High-Ranking FBI Attorney Is Pushing ‘Unbelievable’ Junk Science on Guns](#)

For years, [forensic firearms analysts](#) have claimed the ability to examine the marks on a bullet found at a crime scene and match it to the gun that fired it—to the exclusion of all other guns. It can be powerfully persuasive to juries. But over the last decade or so, some scientists have cast doubt on the claim

### [Mississippi Hires New Forensics Laboratory Director](#)

Mary Dukes, who has worked in the private sector and at crime labs in Louisiana, will now join Mississippi's crime lab. Dukes is taking over for the state's previous forensics lab director, Sam Howell, who retired last year after decades working for the state.

### [Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office receives federal grant to upgrade Cyber Lab to help fight violent crime, sex crime](#)

The Cyber Lab provides critical support to Lake County’s law enforcement agencies by using software and human expertise to retrieve and analyze text messages, video files, and geo-data from phones, laptops, and other digital devices.

### [Forensic lab aids crack down on illegal wildlife trade in Viet Nam](#)

The facility is based at the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), located in the capital, Hanoi, and has undergone a major transformation.

### [As DC crime lab seeks path forward, council probes impact on current operations](#)

More than nine months after the D.C. crime lab lost its accreditation to perform forensic casework, the amount of DNA evidence from D.C. crimes uploaded to a national database — which can be used to link crimes and identify unknown perpetrators — has dropped significantly, according to testimony before a D.C. Council committee.

### [Crime lab worker describes photos from scene of slain Alaskan woman](#)

James Wolfe testified in Fairbanks Superior Court that he was summoned to Bartlett Hall at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks on April 26, 1993, to collect evidence from the bathtub area of the dormitory’s second floor bathroom where the body of a former student had been found early that afternoon.

### [O.C. Crime Laboratory recognized for implementing national forensic standards](#)

The Orange County Crime Laboratory, a division of the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, was nationally recognized as a “Registry Implementer” for its high-quality standards and practices in forensic science by the National Institutes of Science and Technology-sponsored Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC).

### [Plans proceed for high-tech crime lab in Delaware County](#)

The Indiana General Assembly this year funded a proposal by the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council to create 10 "regional hubs... to assist prosecuting attorneys in investigating, collecting evidence and prosecuting high tech crimes."

#### [Ward County Sheriff's Department seeks funds to upgrade crime lab](#)

"A few years back we got a camera system that took basically a virtual walk-through of a crime scene. Last year we focused on an alternate light source that can help in crime scene processing; turning off the lights looking for evidence that you normally can't see. And now this year, we're applying for the drying cabinet for evidence and crime scene barriers," said Capt. Jason Craft.

#### [Around 29,000 criminal cases are stalled as GBI labs struggle with backlog](#)

The director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation aims to dislodge tens of thousands of backlogged criminal cases from the state crime lab and into courtrooms across the state -- and an infusion of new state money will help.

#### [More law enforcement agencies turning to private crime labs, Oktibbeha Co. Sheriff's Dept. says it's a 'stopgap'](#)

"There's dozens of cases that are down there that are waiting on some type of result, whether it be from a DUI investigation or homicide," says Operations Captain Brett Watson with the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Department.

#### [Accused rapist who faked death re-arrested in Scotland, prosecutor says](#)

Nicholas Alahverdian, alias Nicholas Rossi, came to the attention of Utah authorities in 2018. A year earlier, authorities submitted a rape kit to the Utah State Crime Lab as part of the Utah Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

#### [Kemp's tough-on-crime plan veers sharply from Deal's approach](#)

Gov. Nathan Deal's most prized legacy was an eight-year criminal justice overhaul that steered more nonviolent offenders from prison cells to treatment centers. Gov. Brian Kemp is taking a sharply different path with a return to tough-on-crime policies that his predecessor avoided.

#### [New state DPS forensics lab rises in Santa Fe](#)

The 44,000-square-foot hulk at the southern dead end of Galisteo Road will be the new forensic laboratory for the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

#### [Department of Public Safety requests budget increases to improve staffing and pay](#)

"We want to get up to \$50,000 starting pay," explained Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell. "We felt like that's not only competitive with our neighboring states and what they're offering, but also multiple jurisdictions within the state cities are starting their officers off at \$50,000. So, we need that to be able to attract good folks into law enforcement."

#### [Cold Case Project | Barbara S. Jeffe](#)

This upcoming Valentine's Day marks 40 years since someone entered Barbara S. Jefferson's Richmond County home, stabbing and torturing her to death. Despite decades passing with no arrest, her family refuses to give up hope that they will one day see justice.

[Items found with body of missing Waterloo woman matched items found at her apartment](#) Police investigators said they found the sweatshirt stuffed into a kitchen trash can in the Paige Drive apartment the couple shared after her burned body was found dumped in a wooded area behind a cemetery in January 2018.

[DNA collection for felony charges advanced after cloture](#)

LB496, as introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilkemann last session, would require an adult charged with a felony crime of violence or burglary to provide a DNA sample to law enforcement at the time of booking or to the court during a first appearance.

[Despite its illegality, marijuana strain is being sold in Mississippi due to a legal loophole](#)

"Except they're putting it in vape pens, and the vape pen itself is less than a milliliter," Nicholson explained. "Our state statute defines a dosage unit as a milliliter or more."

[Warrants outline evidence linking man to 2012 killing of UNC student Faith Hedgepeth](#)

The Durham man accused of killing Faith Hedgepeth was arrested after investigators linked DNA from a rape kit, a wine bottle and other evidence at the 2012 crime scene to his distant relatives, newly released court documents reveal.

[Child rapist lost in backlog gets max sentence nearly 20 years after Torchlight attack](#)

The good news was there was DNA evidence collected that July night in 2006. The bad news was that kit would not be sent to the crime lab for testing for more than a decade. It became one of the 10,000 untested backlogged rape kits discovered in Washington state.

[Mississippi hires new forensics laboratory director](#)

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[Behind-the-scenes heroes honored for work that led to arrests in Oakbrook mall shooting](#)

County board Chairman Dan Cronin presented a proclamation of commendation Wednesday and Sheriff James Mendrick issued a unit citation to the entire DuPage County Crime Forensic Science Center for their efforts -- sacrificing time with family over the holidays, no less -- that led to the arrests.

[Former FBI informant sentenced to life in prison for 2006 rape of 12-year-old girl in Seattle](#)

Robert Childs Jr., 45, wasn't charged with second-degree rape of a child until February 2019 because the original Seattle police detective who investigated the girl's rape closed the case about six weeks after the assault, without ever requesting that forensic evidence obtained during a sexual-assault examination be tested for male DNA, court records show.

### [Georgia lawmakers start work on record \\$30.2 billion budget](#)

His proposal includes \$5,000 salary increases for state employees to cut down on high turnover rates; \$2,000 pay raises for teachers; bonuses for teachers and state employees in the budget for fiscal 2022, which ends June 30; income tax refunds worth \$1.6 billion; and the first cost-of-living raise for state retirees in more than a decade.

### [Gov. Ducey quietly uses federal COVID-19 funds to boost pay for some state workers](#)

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey quietly tapped \$95 million in federal coronavirus relief money in November to boost pay for state troopers, prison guards and workers in several other state departments deemed essential.

### [Convicted fraudster awarded himself projects at prior state job that went undetected](#)

A 2News continuing investigation uncovers new allegations dating back to the early 2000's in the case of a former state employee convicted last year in a scheme that defrauded Utah taxpayers. Our investigation shows potential issues with Dan Clark, 60, of Kaysville began much earlier than thought. Evidence obtained during our investigation indicates shortly after Clark began working for the state, he appears to have secretly used his personal business and awarded himself lucrative projects without disclosing the conflict of interest.

### [ANATOMY OF A MURDER CONFESSION](#)

Texas Ranger James Holland became famous for cajoling killers into confessing to their crimes. But did some of his methods — from lying to suspects to having witnesses hypnotized — ensnare innocent people, too?

### [Kentucky awarded \\$850,000 grant to expand KSP sexual assault kit team](#)

Beshear and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Kerry Harvey announced Kentucky has been awarded \$849,491 to expand the Kentucky State Police Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Investigative Team.

### [Part-Time Cop Accused of Vile Scheme to Lure Teens to Firehouse for Rape](#)

During the solemn ceremony, Christopher Lee Osborne, 25, sent a Snapchat message under the name "Richard Smith" to a 17-year-old junior firefighter who was also there, saying he wanted to "fuck" the 16-year-old girl next to her, states the newly unsealed warrant. The real Richard Smith, a retired lieutenant and 37-year veteran of the ambulance corps, was being laid to rest after dying from COVIDrelated complications.

### [Crime Lab Dedicated to Rose Ochi](#)

On Dec. 2, the Main Lobby of the Los Angeles Regional Crime Laboratory was named in honor of Rose Matsui Ochi, who was appointed the first executive director of the California Forensic Science Institute and played a pivotal role in the development of the Regional Crime Laboratory. Ochi passed away in December 2020, just two days shy of her 82nd birthday.

### Justice Department Awards More Than \$210 Million to Support Forensic Science

“The department is committed to strengthening and expanding forensic capabilities from the crime scene to the courtroom,” said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. “Supporting forensic science nationwide helps bring justice, closure and peace to victims and their families.”

### Forensic Science Students Present Innovative Research at Prestigious Conference

More than a dozen students were chosen to present their faculty-mentored research at the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting, and several Chargers were recognized for their impactful work and dedication to the field of forensic science.

### FDLE recognized for implementing gold standards in forensic science

FDLE labs received recognition from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for implementing the high-quality crime laboratory standards listed on the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Registry.

### Virginia Beach Police used forged forensic documents in interrogations

“This was an extremely troubling and potentially unconstitutional tactic that abused the name of the Commonwealth to try to coerce confessions,” Attorney General Mark R. Herring (D) said in a statement. “It also abused the good name and reputation of the Commonwealth’s hard-working forensic scientists and professionals who work hard to provide accurate, solid evidence in support of our law enforcement agencies.”

### Honey bees and their honey could be a big help in solving police cases

Mason teams from a number of different fields are working in unison at the Science and Technology Campus in Manassas, Virginia, on an ambitious project to see if the honey produced by bees after feeding on flowers can help them better locate missing persons.

### George Mason University to Open Innovative Forensic Lab

George Mason University has announced a partnership with FARO Technologies, Inc., a company that provides 3D measurement, imaging, and realization solutions for the 3D metrology, AEC (architecture, engineering, and construction), and public safety analytics markets, where they will develop a new forensic science research and training laboratory on the GMU campus. The university’s forensic science program will be the first in the US to offer a 3D course in crime scene documentation.

### Artifact believed to be from Bonnie and Clyde under analysis at UCO forensics

Thanks to a donation, the museum received a purse that is believed to have belonged to Bonnie Ray Parker. The notorious duo of Bonnie and Clyde committed dozens of robberies and burglaries while evading law enforcement between 1932-1934.

### Medical examination contractor threatens to leave Saginaw County hanging

That fracture widened further Friday, Jan. 14, when officials with Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine announced the company would no longer provide medical examination services for the county.