

[ideas42 and University of Chicago Crime Lab challenge assumptions about missed court dates](#)

Behavioral design nonprofit ideas42 and the University of Chicago Crime Lab today announced the publication of their new joint paper, Using Behavioral Nudges to Reduce Failure to Appear in Court in Science Magazine.

[Officials ask: What's next for embattled Austin DNA crime lab?](#)

Austin's embattled DNA crime lab could operate in a variety of ways in the future, depending on which recommendations city and county leaders take from a newly released report that details how and why alarming quality issues at the lab persisted for years.

[Indictments show St. Louis prosecutors allege McCloskeys altered gun to 'obstruct' prosecution](#)

Prosecutors allege Mark and Patricia McCloskey "altered a Bryco Arms semi-automatic pistol with the purpose to impair its verity in the investigation of an unlawful use of a weapon that occurred on June 28 on Portland Place, an official investigation, and thereby impaired the obstructed the prosecution of Patricia McCloskey for the crime of unlawful use of a weapon," according to the indictment.

[Salem police headquarters opens its doors to the public](#)

The open, three-story station is a significant upgrade from the department's cramped headquarters on the Salem Civic Center grounds. The station will house all departments and units under one roof, including evidence, storage, crime lab, emergency operations and community and training spaces.

[Texas crime lab helping to crack the case of a human skull found in a local family's basement](#)

"It was just unbelievable. Paul Folz, the chief of police called and said do you have people working in your basement on the firepit? Yes. He said well, 'they found a human skull way in the back.' You've gotta be kidding, a human skull?" said Jocelyn Rostad, the homeowner.

[Port St. Lucie crime lab receives \\$160K renovation](#)

Crime Scene Investigator Joel Smith explained that with Port St. Lucie's population growth, there are more crimes to investigate and the risk for a growing backlog. The newly renovated lab provides a larger and more controlled space, allowing technicians to work more effectively.

[GBI Jockeys Temporary Plan to Keep Crime Lab Open](#)

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Medical Examiner Office has devised a plan to temporarily continue operations at the Central Regional office to allow those counties affected by the suspension to prepare for its potential closure.

[Austin's DNA lab has had issues for years. A new report outlines how it could be run in the future.](#)

The report says higher-ups in the lab lacked background knowledge in science; employees used a DNA mixture analysis method that "was not generally accepted in the scientific community"; and the staff didn't have a contingency plan when the lab's technical leader had to go on an extended sick leave.

[Unified Police make arrest in 2010 killing of Sherry Black](#)

In 2017, Parabon Nanaolabs provided a composite sketch of a suspect. Using DNA found at the scene of Black's death, the lab conducted Snapshot Forensic DNA phenotyping which it "accurately predicts genetic ancestry, eye color, hair color, skin color, freckling, and face shape from any ethnic background, even individuals with mixed ancestry," the lab says on its website.

[DA: Police didn't commit crime arresting man on bogus cocaine charge](#)

Flynn said he repeatedly watched the police body camera video that was the subject of a Buffalo News article about Eaton's arrest. In the video, Davidson, for the most part, clings to the belief that the white powder contained in a vial of pills found in the auto was cocaine – even after a field test performed by another officer, Andrew Moffett, showed that it wasn't.

[Man charged with felony assault of child in Cedar City 17 years after alleged crimes](#)

The offense date given in the affidavit is June 26, 2003. According to records in the former cold case, a 13-year-old victim was taken to an emergency room at Valley View Medical Center on that date, and was given a sexual assault examination, which included the collection of a DNA sample.

[GBI: Serial killer helps crack mystery of woman found dead in 1981](#)

"As a direct result of that press conference, a family came forward stating they believed the woman was their family member," the GBI said. "DNA was obtained from family members and samples were sent to the GBI Crime Lab for comparison leading to the positive ID."

[Indictments shed new light in McCloskey case; attorney calls charges 'persecution'](#)

"To them, it feels like persecution," said Joel Schwartz, their defense attorney. Schwartz has long-maintained the McCloskeys' innocence.

[Suspect arrested more than 40 years after Tulane University student raped at gunpoint](#)

Ronald Craig is facing charges of aggravated rape and aggravated kidnapping for the violent crime, which unfolded on Sept. 21, 1975, NOLA.com reported. He was one of two masked men who sneaked into the victim's uptown New Orleans apartment off the Tulane University campus that night.

[Human remains found in Southwest Jonesboro](#)

Jonesboro Police Department Public Information Specialist Sally Smith said searchers spent several hours in the area Saturday. After the human remains were found, Jonesboro detectives soon arrived to process the area, Smith said.

[Forensic History: How The Orange County Crime Lab Helped Evidence Mount Against Serial Killer Randy Kraft](#)

Randy Kraft, convicted of murdering 16 men but suspected of having more than 60 victims, was arrested at about 1 a.m. May 14, 1983 after California Highway Patrol Officers observed him swerving on the 5 Freeway in Mission Viejo.

[Criminal cases drag on for years as some Cook County judges OK repeated delays](#)

Heading that delayed-justice list: Associate Judge Thomas Hennelly with 46 such cases, including the case with the most of what the legal system calls continuances by agreement — more than 230. That one's an unusual case. It involves a murder defendant named Derrick Pearson, who was charged with murder in 2010 and convicted in 2014. His conviction was overturned, and he remains in jail awaiting a new trial.

[Woodlands DNA lab IDs suspect in 1974 cold case murder](#)

"I can't find any cold cases with a live suspect that are older than this that have been solved," said Fort Worth Police Dept. Det. Leah Wagner. "Our first priority was to find out the truth for the (victim's) family, and because we did that, it was just a tremendous feeling of relief."

[Judge orders not guilty plea for Port Edwards man charged in 1984 homicide; case will continue](#)

John A. Sarver, 57, appeared Wednesday in a Wood County court, where he chose not to enter a plea to a charge of first-degree murder in the 1984 death of Eleanore Roberts. Judge Nicholas Brazeau Jr. ordered a plea of not guilty be entered on Sarver's behalf and determined there is enough evidence to proceed with the case.

[Middlesex DA, inspector general clash over drug lab scandal](#)

A \$6.2 million probe of the state drug lab scandal has sparked a heated dispute between the Middlesex district attorney's office and the state inspector general, who have recently exchanged letters disputing whether the investigation was sufficient to fully account for the conduct of disgraced chemist Sonja Farak.

[The Pandemic Has Hindered Many of the Best Ideas for Reducing Violence](#)

Reported crime of nearly every kind has declined this year amid the pandemic. The exception to that has been stark and puzzling: Shootings and homicides are up in cities around the country, perplexing experts who normally expect these patterns to trend together.

[Nash murder charge dismissed by state](#)

"Doc Nash is an innocent man who spent 12 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit," Weiss said. "This case illustrates that our system is not perfect and administered by humans who make mistakes, and there were a lot of mistakes made in this case."

[Authorities drop hate crime investigation for lack of proof in alleged Madison lighter fluid attack](#)

Wisconsin Crime Lab results showed a shirt Bernstein was wearing the night of the incident was contaminated with a substance that could be a charcoal lighter fluid or paint thinner, according to the records.

[The Benefits and Drawbacks of Automated Facial Recognition in Forensic Science](#)

One of the biggest concerns about facial recognition technology is whether it is accurate. If it isn't, the consequences can be dire. For example, a person may be wrongly identified as a suspect in a crime and arrested. A person may be misidentified when boarding a plane and be detained by airport security.

[Congressman Fulcher introduces resolution recognizing National Forensic Science Week](#)

This week, Congressman Russ Fulcher introduced a resolution to recognize the crucial role that forensic science laboratories serve in fulfilling our country's promise of equal justice and due process.

Congressman Mike Simpson is an original cosponsor of this resolution in the House, while Idaho Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo introduced a companion resolution in the Senate, which was unanimously approved and can be found in its entirety [here](#).

['CSI effect' remains a myth, retired judge says on 20th anniversary of popular forensic science show](#)

Shelton is referring to the idea that juries in criminal trials have a high expectation that prosecutors will present scientific evidence to prove their cases and that defendants are sometimes wrongfully acquitted because of a lack of it. So, the theory goes, the jurors came to court expecting to see such evidence, on account of watching *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and other law-related television programs.

[The Science of Solving Crimes: Pasadena Police Forensic Specialists Spotlighted on Forensic Science Week](#)

Whether trying to solve home burglaries or murders, the small group of men and women who make up the Pasadena Police Departments Forensics Section work seven days, and nights, each week in their lab and in the field to apply science to criminal investigations.

[NIST Launches an Updated Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science](#)

The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science has updated its structure and improved several processes. These changes will enable OSAC, which is administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to more quickly make high-quality, science-based standards available to forensic laboratories.