

### [TBI crime labs overrun by hemp, marijuana testing](#)

Investigators with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) said the inability to tell the difference is impacting their resources. Mike Lyttle, assistant director of the forensic services division, said it's an issue they are constantly dealing with.

### [St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office: 100 cases under review](#)

In McCulloch's voice message to the newspaper's reporter, he said the scientist's refusal to follow a new protocol that a national laboratory association had put out was the "only problem." He said the scientist got fired over that and tried to get her job back.

### [Texarkana expands, updates crime lab](#)

The crime lab used by both the Texarkana, Arkansas, and Texarkana, Texas, police departments has been remodeled and dedicated in honor of retired Detective Bill Sullivan. Sullivan was the first crime scene detective in Texarkana and served both sides of the city.

### [Atlanta Pays \\$935K to Ex-Crime Lab Chief Fired for Testifying for Florida Defendant](#)

Donald Mikko was booted from his job after Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard Jr. complained to former Atlanta Police Chief George Turner that, as a police official, Mikko should not be assisting criminal defendants even in another state, although his contract allowed him to do so.

### [Oberlin Police still unclear on exact substance that led to HAZMAT situation at Walmart](#)

In fact, they said the lab found no positives for opioids, only THC, which is found in marijuana.

### [State criminal reform law could cost NYPD close to \\$100M, O'Neill says](#)

The changes to pretrial discovery rules, which take effect Jan. 1, set basic time limits of 15 days for prosecutors to turn over materials such as witness statements and crime lab reports to defense attorneys, O'Neill said at a briefing with reporters.

### [One-year goal nearly reached, new bill would halve test time of sex assault kits](#)

Last Summer, Rep. Geran Tarr, D-Anchorage, passed a piece of legislation putting a 1-year cap on the amount of time a newly submitted kit could go untested.

### [Private DNA lab to help cold cases](#)

"One of the things we want the public to know is that this levels the playing field. We would be able to produce those phenotypes for law enforcement, the same kind of images at no cost," said Karra Porter with Utah Cold Case Coalition.

### ['Ballistics saved my life:' Macon man's murder charges dropped after investigation](#)

The Bibb County Sheriff's Office received the new NIBIN machine in July as part of a \$200,000 grant from the US Department of Justice.

### [Law enforcement, hospitals sign up to use new tracking system for sexual assault evidence](#)

Since launching at the start of September, about 280 people have registered to use a new statewide system to track evidence kits collected from sexual assault survivors, and nearly 550 kits are active in the system.

### [State police director looks to rebuild agency amid difficult year](#)

The vision for the new director's growth won't just be on the roads. Kelly said he wants more people for the state police's crime lab and other parts of the agency that provide services to local and county agencies across the state.

### [True Crime: Exclusive: Natalie Wood's Boat Captain One-On-One On The Fateful Night She Died](#)

The death of actress Natalie Wood is one of Hollywood's darkest and unsolved mysteries of all time. For years, everyone has speculated about what really happened on that fatal voyage, and if the others onboard know more than they've let on.

### [Dozens of Rape Kits From SDPD's Backlog Have Yielded DNA Database Hits](#)

Of the 313 backlogged rape kits SDPD screened between late 2017 and November 2018, thirty-eight contained DNA profiles that yielded a match in the federal DNA database, generating a possible lead. Those results appear to conflict with the department's longtime contention that testing all rape kits isn't useful or appropriate.

### [Health Minister Wants Full-Genome Sequencing Of Every Newborn Child In UK To Become Routine](#)

"My ambition is that eventually every child will be able to receive whole genome sequencing along with the heel prick test [a basic test for genetic conditions]," he told the conference.

### [Texas Prepares To Execute Rodney Reed Amid A Flood Of New Evidence Pointing To His Innocence](#)

"We each care deeply about the criminal justice system and the rule of law. While that often means holding wrongdoers accountable, it is the equally important goal of the criminal justice system to avoid punishing the innocent," Pierce told a group of reporters.

### [A solution to a hairy problem in forensic science](#)

In an effort to make hair comparison a more useful technique for investigating crimes, scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have developed a new way to dissolve hair proteins without destroying them. Once in solution, the protein molecules from two hairs can be analyzed and compared, yielding objective, quantitative results.

### [Can forensics help keep endangered rosewood off the black market?](#)

Demand for the beautiful, dark pieces comes at a price. Rosewood is the most trafficked wildlife product in the world based on market value — more than elephant ivory, rhino horns and pangolin scales combined. More than one-third of illegally traded plants and animals seized between 2005 and 2014 were rosewood, according to the World Wildlife Seizures database.

### [Man Convicted of Three Rapes Including Two Cold Cases Gets Life in Prison](#)

Kili Mayfield, a man convicted of raping 3 women over the course of 7 years will spend the rest of his life in prison. Mayfield, 40, of Bear, was arrested in June 2018 after being linked to the raping, beating, and strangling of a woman and 2 other sexual assaults for rapes that occurred in 2010, 2014 and 2017. The prosecution occurred thanks to the federally-funded Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), through which the state Criminal Justice Council, Delaware Department of Justice, state Division of Forensic Science and law enforcement agencies are working to identify offenders by reviewing cases in which there were untested sexual assault kits.

### [Skull features among Asian and Asian-derived groups differ significantly](#)

Forensic anthropologists have now discovered that several skull features in Asian and Asian-derived groups differ significantly with regard to shape, such that they can be distinguished using statistical analyses.

### [Forensic Science Centre workers threatened](#)

He said workers have been threatened by phone and therefore should be included for witness anonymity. They provide evidence in cases of homicide and dangerous drugs offences, he said, “and as a result, we are witnesses like any other witness.”