

### With Five New Additions, STRmix Now Being Used in 43 Labs Nationwide

“STRmix™ software has greatly improved the usability of DNA. Agencies, for example, are reporting an uptick of interpretable DNA in gun cases from approximately 40% to more than 70%,” explains John Buckleton DSc, FRSNZ, Forensic Scientist at the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR). “As a result, evidence is available in a much higher fraction of criminal cases than in the past.”

### How Ted Bundy got away with so many murders, according to a forensic psychologist

Through a modern lens, it's easy to forget the kind of pitfalls that law-enforcement officials worked under then. Modern forensic science techniques simply didn't exist. Hair and fiber analysis was standard practice and was not yet considered controversial, as it would be decades later. DNA testing wasn't yet a thing.

### JoAnn Parks was convicted of killing her kids in a fire. Now journalist Edward Humes is making the case for her innocence

In “Burned,” Edward Humes analyzes the saga, blending the intimate narrative of Parks' sad life with the work of the California Innocence Project lawyers striving to overturn the conviction. It's a devastating exposé of deep flaws in forensic evidence and the justice system.

### Stunned workers find hundreds of human bones from up to six people buried in black plastic bags dating as far back as the 1950s on building site

Contractors using a digger found a rubble bag buried six feet below ground at the location in Whitstable, Kent, on January 21.

### Oregon crime labs backlog at 'crisis' level, Linn County District Attorney says

The Oregon State Police crime lab stopped processing DNA found in most property crime cases a few years ago to focus more attention on its backlog of sexual assault forensic evidence cases, which means cases like the break-in at Economy Supply will expire with any material still untested.

### Police: Man executed in Texas in 1999 killed Oregon woman

Anna Marie Hlavka, 20, was killed in an apartment on July 24, 1979. Authorities said Thursday her killer, Jerry McFadden, was identified using the same technology that led to an arrest last year in California in the “Golden State Killer” case.

### NC has more than 10,000 untested rape kits. A new plan aims to erase the backlog.

N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein announced a \$10 million plan Tuesday to eliminate the backlog of more than 10,000 untested rape kits statewide, hoping to close decades of unsolved sexual assault cases.

### Actively Preventing And Fighting Human Trafficking

When evidence is uncovered at a crime scene, it is often sent to a lab for processing. Analyzing this data can take months, during which time the perpetrators remain free. In 2017, the doTERRA Healing Hands Foundation, in partnership with Operation Underground Railroad, funded the majority of a mobile crime lab that analyzes evidence on-site, many times resulting in immediate arrests. The lab began operations in Mesa, Arizona in November 2018.

[Former Burleigh Deputy Sentenced for Stealing Drug Evidence](#)

Thirty-two-year-old narcotics task force member Kerry Komrosky was charged in April 2018 after investigators found nearly 3 pounds of methamphetamine and 47 grams of cocaine in his home. Authorities say some of the drugs were from cases he helped investigate.

[Police dismantle fentanyl lab in Forest Lawn garage; four charged](#)

The lab was operating inside a detached garage at a home in the southeast community of Forest Lawn, according to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team, an umbrella agency that includes members from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat police, along with RCMP.