

### [Contra Costa Crime Lab awarded federal DNA grant, will help prevent crime case backlog](#)

The Forensic Services Division of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff was awarded \$376,101 in grant funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program.

### [Man extradited to Denver in 1994 cold case murder](#)

“Violent crime cold cases are among the most challenging of all our cases,” said Denver DA Beth McCann. “This federal funding was key to building the case that led to charging Steven Cumberbatch with the murder of Rita Desjardine.”

### [How researchers in Utah are leading the way in collecting DNA samples to solve sexual assault cases](#)

Researchers in Utah are leading the way when it comes to collecting DNA in sexual assault cases. At this moment, Utah is the only state using touch DNA to find answers, and the forensic nurse at the forefront is trying to change that.

### [Double murder from 1956 now oldest cold case solved through genetic genealogy, cops say](#)

Montana law enforcement officials announced earlier this month that they’ve closed the book on a 65-year-old double murder using a single sperm cell and genetic genealogy.

### [Judge tosses driver’s blood-alcohol test in wrong-way I-75 crash that killed Mason family](#)

“A wrongful conviction should be the greatest fear of any court. Since 1989, over 365 DNA exonerations were won in 37 states involving defendants who served 5,065 years in prison for crimes they definitively did not commit. Of these 365 exonerations, 41 involved false confessions; 65% involved false eyewitness identification, or rather mis-identification, and 44% involved junk, bogus science. 61 Based upon this Court’s express factual findings detailed herein, were this Court to permit introduction of Ms. Michaels’ so-called blood alcohol findings, this Court would guarantee the admission of junk, forensic science at trial of this matter.

### [Scientists excavating Tulsa Race Massacre site unearth skeleton with bullet wounds](#)

Forensic scientists and archaeologists investigating a mass grave near the site of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre have unearthed skeletal remains, including that of a Black man with multiple gunshot wounds to his head and shoulder, officials announced Friday.

### [Rutgers Law launches New Jersey Innocence Project to help wrongfully convicted people](#)

“We hope to provide support for those people and their families, and we hope to have influence on criminal justice policies that make wrongful convictions more likely,” said Jill Friedman, associate dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Project at Rutgers Law School in Camden. She is also a co-founder of the project and a former public defender in New York.

### [Death of former Miss. representative pushes state’s crime lab delay issues to the forefront](#)

“If it’s just the funding for how much they are paying or if it’s been in the past a lack of priority because that’s not a very high profile place to spend your money,” Criswell said.

### [Mississippi's crime lab still struggles with autopsy backlog despite new positions and legislators' promises](#)

Two months after lawmakers approved new positions for the state's crime lab amid talks of increased salaries for some of the positions to make Mississippi more competitive, those who investigate homicides in the state's most populous county say they haven't been able to tell if those actions are making a dent in the lab's backlog of autopsies.

### [Prosecutors 'deeply troubled' by DC crime lab's appeal of withdrawn accreditation](#)

As the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences challenges allegations of fraud in an attempt to win back its accreditation, federal prosecutors contend the crime lab is still failing to acknowledge some of the "significant issues" that led to the withdrawal of its accreditation in the first place.

### [Council signs off on pay for new Crime Lab hires](#)

Director Kermit Channell of the Crime Lab asked Public Safety Secretary Jami Cook in a letter dated June 7 for permission to offer the salary to Brown, whom Channell described as an exceptionally well-qualified candidate, and to seek the personnel subcommittee's approval for that salary rate.

### [Documents: DC crime lab says it never concealed findings](#)

An 18-page appeal, filed last month by the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences with the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and obtained by WTOP, acknowledges the lab didn't turn over a PowerPoint presentation that showed lab examiners reviewing disputed evidence in a murder case initially agreed with an outside audit team that cartridge casings from two 2015 killings were not linked to the same gun.

### [D.C. Appeals Forensic Lab Accreditation Suspension, Alleges Misdoings By U.S. Attorney's Office](#)

More than two months after D.C.'s troubled crime lab lost its national accreditation, the city has filed an appeal, alleging that "fatal" conflicts of interest and misrepresented information within the U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. led to its suspension.

### [Backlog at the North Louisiana Crime Lab in Shreveport](#)

The backlog at the North Louisiana Crime Lab in Shreveport as of June 1, 2021 was 388 cases. The North Louisiana crime lab services 29 parishes in North and Central Louisiana, but they only have 6 DNA analysts to get the job done. The lab in Shreveport is for toxicology and DNA analysis.

### [Amid upheaval at DC crime lab, murder case that exposed problems remains on hold](#)

A D.C. Superior Court hearing scheduled for Wednesday, at which Judge Milton Lee was to hear arguments about whether to dismiss the first-degree murder indictments against Rondell McLeod and Joseph Brown, has been pushed back until at least Sept. 24.

### [Broker Hires Couple To Pose As Home Buyers And Kill A Fellow Real Estate Agent](#)

Members of the Yakima County Sheriff's Office questioned and cleared Holbrook's employee, who had called 911 after discovering the victim, they told Oxygen series "Mastermind of Murder." They searched the crime scene for clues and it yielded a key lead: The victim's phone was missing.

### [Crime lab personnel testifies in Martin trial](#)

Trace evidence specialist Jack Reed analyzed hairs found in the vehicle of Ed Dansereau and while several were similar to a sample taken from Martin, his testing cannot definitively say they were from him.

### [Arrest Made in 2003 Grays Harbor County Rape, Kidnapping; Investigators Eye Lindsey Baum Case](#)

Paul Bieker was arrested after the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office after DNA collected after the assault was submitted to a laboratory for genealogy testing last December, according to a news release from the sheriff's office.

### [ATF Device Helps Analyze Shell Casings for DNA](#)

DNA analysis has been around for decades, and it's a crucial tool for solving violent crimes, but until recently, it was nearly impossible to collect DNA evidence left at shooting scenes. That changed with a process developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

### [Biden Could Have Taken the War on Drugs Down a Notch. He Didn't.](#)

Todd Coleman was sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 10 years in federal prison for selling 30 grams of cocaine — the equivalent of about 2 tablespoons — that a local crime lab said were laced with three illegal fentanyl analogues, including benzylfentanyl. They were wrong: none of the compounds was an illegal fentanyl analogue — two of them were not even controlled substances — but neither prosecutors nor Coleman's defense attorney caught the crime lab's error.

### [Mass. DAs have stopped using breathalyzer tests as evidence. Charlie Baker's administration says they're still reliable.](#)

The majority of district attorneys in Massachusetts have stopped using breathalyzer tests in drunk driving cases, amid concerns about the devices' reliability and use by uncertified operators.

### ['Dexter' Fans Can Watch Hidden Episodes While Waiting for Revival](#)

Called "Early Cuts," the show focuses on a young Dexter Morgan as he morphed into a vigilante killer. The episodes, which first began airing in 2009, shed insight into things like his earliest victims and the creation of Dexter's blood slide box. You can find them on YouTube and the Showtime website now.

### [Perry police, FDLE investigating suspicious death](#)

The cause of death has yet to be determined at this point, and PPD called the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for help in the investigation. The FDLE Mobile Crime Lab was at the scene Wednesday morning.

### [New DNA testing in Atlanta Child Murders on hold for unexplained funding issues](#)

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms in 2019 announced the evidence review, as well as a City Hall memorial to the murder victims. The memorial concept has progressed through City Council review, but the DNA testing effort went quiet. The Atlanta Police Department said in January of this year that the testing would begin within 60 days, but now says the work is on hold.

### [‘CSI: Vegas,’ ‘NCIS: Hawaii’ & More Spinoffs of Your Fave Procedurals Coming This Fall](#)

The coming season promises spine-tinglers (the killer return of Dexter), old favorites (a new Wonder Years), musical showstoppers (Ariana Grande on The Voice) and much more.

But first: super spinoffs of your four favorite procedurals!

### [DNA, forensic genealogy close 65-year-old double homicide](#)

Detective Sgt. Jon Kadner, who took over the case in 2012, said Tuesday it was the oldest case he could find nationwide that has been solved using forensic genealogy, which searches commercial DNA databases to find familial matches to the DNA of a crime suspect.

### [Marilyn Miller, crime scene guru and founding forensic science faculty member, retires](#)

If you ask the colleagues of Marilyn Miller, Ed.D., about the impact she's had on the forensic science community, you'll get a clear, consistent answer: For the past 20 years, Miller, an associate professor in the VCU Department of Forensic Science in the College of Humanities and Sciences, has been a driving force in legitimizing scientific analysis as a sub-discipline of crime scene investigation.

### [Are Forensic Accountants also Forensic Scientists? Clearing the confusion](#)

On the other hand, Forensic Accounting is the examination of data to determine the trail of missing money and how it can be recovered using techniques such as accounting, auditing and investigative skills (such as interviews, background checks etc.). This would not require laboratory or scientific process.

### [Forensics Department to officially split from Austin Police Department July 1](#)

Dr. Dana Kadavy, the director of the department, wrote to Austin Mayor Steve Adler and City Council members in the memo describing what the department has done to prepare for operating on its own out from under APD.

### [Putting Your Smart Phone on the Witness Stand](#)

The study found that a person analyzing digital forensics could interpret data differently based on information or comments given to them about the suspect or the case prior to conducting any of their analysis.

### [Ask the Expert: Sherlock Holmes' Forensics \(Virtual\)](#)

Dr. Henry C. Lee is one of the world's foremost forensic scientists, playing a prominent role in thousands of the most challenging criminal cases of the past 50 years. 12:00 PM–1:00 PM Friday June 25, 2021

### [13 Investigates: How quick crime fighting uses tech to pinpoint shooting suspect](#)

Houston police didn't know it then, but four days after an April murder at the Marq-E Entertainment Center, the same gun was allegedly used in the accidental shooting of a 3-year-old boy. Within days of that second shooting, forensic scientists matched gun evidence from one scene to the other, narrowing the search for a suspect.

### [Police Arrest Suspect in 1972 Murder of 15-Year-Old Girl](#)

On June 2, 2021, the Naperville Police Department (Chicago) arrested Barry Lee Whelpley, 76, of Mounds View, Minnesota, for the 1972 murder of 15-year-old Naperville resident Julie Ann Hanson.

### [Deception Bill Passes in Oregon, Banning Police from Lying to Youth During Interrogations](#)

On Tuesday, Oregon became the second state to pass legislation prohibiting law enforcement officers from using deception while interrogating people under the age of 18. The bill bans commonly used deceptive interrogation tactics, including false promises of leniency and false claims about the existence of incriminating evidence.

### [28 Bodies Unearthed at Possible Tulsa Race Massacre Burial Site, Including Women, Infants](#)

In the two weeks they have been back on site, forensic anthropologists and other researchers have more than doubled the number of graves and bodies found in the search for unidentified victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.