

### [North Louisiana crime lab facing dire financial situation; Shreveport poised to help](#)

"The services that they provide are critical to law enforcement and for the safety of all of our citizens. Partnerships are critical to see an end to this violence," Perkins said.

### [Jefferson County plans to build its own crime lab](#)

Jefferson County Sheriff Dave Marshak is hoping to catch criminals and get them charged with crimes more quickly with the help of a planned, new crime lab. Currently, it can take 13-14 months to get the results of a DNA test from Missouri's state crime lab operated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

### [New Orleans City Council sets deadline for beleaguered NOPD crime lab to win accreditation](#)

On Thursday, the New Orleans City Council adopted an ordinance to push police to step up their game. District B Council member Lesli Harris's measure requires the Police Department to get accreditation for DNA testing, crime scene investigation and firearms analysis by the end of 2025.

### [Commission recommends moving APD forensics lab](#)

With little fanfare, Austin's Public Safety Commission voted unanimously Monday to ask City Council to move the Forensic Science Bureau out of the Austin Police Department, making it independent both in structure and budget. Commissioners signaled last month that they would likely take up such a resolution this month after hearing from Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano that the city could likely make the move without jeopardizing its funding.

### [DNA from cigarette butt used to identify suspect in 1995 killing of Washington woman](#)

The cold case murder of a Washington woman has been solved over two decades later thanks to DNA evidence from a cigarette butt left at the scene, authorities announced Wednesday.

### [NC scientists still working to clear rape kit backlog](#)

State officials discovered there were more untested sexual assault kits in North Carolina than any other state in 2018. Over the past four years, the state has processed more than 5,000 kits, slowly catching up on the backlog.

### [Women's History Month: From Ballet To Biology, Meet BSO's First Female Crime Lab Director](#)

From ballerina to biology and forensic science, Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Director Claudine Carter Pereira is the first female Crime Lab director at BSO and the first and only Black Crime Lab director in Florida. She shares her wide experience with Sheriff Gregory Tony in celebration of Women's History Month.

### [DEFUNDING HAS CONSEQUENCES](#)

The Scientific Services Bureau (Crime Lab) lost 22 positions during the October 2020 curtailment. As a result, there is a 4,200 firearm and ballistic submission backlog, there is a 3-month backlog for toxicology, and the homicide and evidence collection has increased significantly.

#### [SF DA Boudin fights to protect genetic privacy](#)

SB 1228 emerged following the discovery that the San Francisco Police Department crime lab was retaining DNA collected from sexual assault survivors, and then searching that database to incriminate survivors in unrelated crimes.

#### [Motion filed for new review of DNA evidence in Adnan Syed case](#)

On Thursday, prosecutors signed a motion asking a judge to order the Baltimore City crime lab to retest evidence in the case using the latest DNA technology to include the victim's clothing, shoes and hair.

#### [Legal Questions Mount Amid Rape Kit DNA Case Involving San Francisco Crime Lab](#)

But this week's revelation that the San Francisco police crime lab used a sexual assault victim's DNA against her in an unrelated property crime case — and the allegation that it may be a common practice in California — has prompted a national outcry among law enforcement, legal experts, lawmakers and advocates.

#### [How are crime labs eliminating the sexual assault kits backlog?](#)

Robert W. Taylor, assistant director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Lab, talks about the backlog of sexual assault kits and the lab's initiatives to eliminate it.

#### [Kennewick Police confirm woman in viral Tiktok is NOT Sofia Juarez](#)

Sofia Juarez, the 4-year-old girl from Kennewick who went missing in 2003, would be 23 years old this year. A TikTok that went viral last year, including a woman being interviewed in Sinaloa by a Mexican influencer, was believed to be Sofia due to her similar facial characteristics. One year later, Kennewick Police Department confirmed the woman is not Sofia Juarez.

#### [Prosecutor: Kansas high school shooter used 'ghost gun'](#)

Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe said the gun used by Jaylon Desean Elmore during the shooting Friday at Olathe East High School was obtained either through a kit found on the internet or constructed with various parts. Such guns do not have serial numbers and are untraceable.

#### [ABQ spa killing tied to suspect in crime spree](#)

Days before Raphael Marquez allegedly broke into three homes, stole four vehicles and briefly kidnapped three women over the course of several hours in late February, police say he killed an employee of a massage business during an armed robbery.

#### [DA: San Francisco police used old rape kit DNA to link victim to crime](#)

San Francisco's police chief said Monday that he is investigating claims by the city's district attorney that DNA collected from rape victims is being used to help identify them as possible suspects in crimes.

#### [After treatment, charges refiled in 1993 murder of Bothell teen](#)

In a case that had gone cold for nearly three decades, Dean, now 64, was arrested in connection with Lee's death in July 2020 with the help of forensic genealogy research. A used cigarette butt linked Dean to the long unsolved killing of Lee, who was 15 when she died in April 1993. He was 35 at the time.

#### [Envista Forensics Launches Digital Forensics Lab Location in Richmond, Va.](#)

"Launching a lab in Virginia has always been part of our long-term plan, as we work with so many clients on the east coast, from Richmond to Washington D.C. and the New York City metro," shared Lars Daniel, Practice Leader of Digital Forensics, Envista Forensics.

#### [Gun discovered as new clue in killings](#)

Brian King, Clallam Sheriff's Office chief criminal deputy, said investigators are exploring possible links between the .22-caliber Ruger semiautomatic pistol and murder suspect Christopher Lee Haltom, Clay Haltom's son. The search for evidence was completed Friday.

#### [Fairfax County cold case: Texas lab hopes to identify 'Christmas Tree Lady' 25 years after her body was found in cemetery](#)

Othram, which is based in Texas and specializes in forensic genealogy, said on Monday that its staff was recently contacted by the Fairfax County Police Department about assisting with identifying the body.

#### [Sangamon County State's Attorney appointed to Forensic Science Commission](#)

Wright was appointed by Governor JB Pritzker as the latest member of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission.

#### [Shreveport city leaders support sending \\$400K to financially struggling North Louisiana Crime Lab](#)

Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins joined Police Chief Wayne Smith and a bipartisan group of city council members Tuesday to voice support for moving \$400,000 out of the city's general fund to support operations at the North Louisiana Crime Lab.

#### [Advanced Forensic Science helping to do away with 'The Perfect Murder'](#)

Riverside County Regional Cold Case Homicide Team Supervisor Ryan Bodmer says in his nearly three decades as a homicide detective, the advancement in technology, specifically forensic science is dream come true.

#### [Police rely on radiocarbon dating to identify forged paintings](#)

Radiocarbon dating has unmasked two forged paintings in France — probably the first time the technique has been used in a police investigation. The paintings were supposedly impressionist and pointillist works from around the early twentieth century. But a team led by heritage scientist Lucile Beck at the University of Paris-Saclay used radiocarbon levels in the fibres of their canvases to date them to sometime within the past 70 years. The researchers concluded that the paintings are modern forgeries in a 4 February report published in Forensic Science International<sup>1</sup>.

#### [One forensic scientist is scraping bones for clues to time of death](#)

With each cut she makes into human bones, Procopio removes minuscule amounts of material, collecting some in a tube. That precious powder holds clues to when its donor died and the person's age at death.

#### [Utah's Commercial Genetic Genealogy Database Bill Fails](#)

A bill addressing law enforcements use of genetic genealogy DNA databases like GEDmatch and Ancestry failed to pass the Utah House of Representatives late last week amid concerns it was not specific enough to prevent police "fishing expeditions."

#### [DNA Links Slain Illinois Man to 1982 Killing in Iowa](#)

Investigators in Iowa used genealogical data to link the 1982 fatal stabbing of a woman to an Illinois trucker who was found shot to death in a shallow grave months later, authorities announced Friday.