

[Missouri State Highway Patrol expands crime lab, expects more DNA processing](#)

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson cut the ribbon at a ceremony Wednesday to commemorate the expansion. The 8,000 square-foot expansion aims to increase DNA processing capabilities and efficiencies.

['You can trust this laboratory': DC crime lab director responds to scrutiny of firearms unit](#)

Speaking from the lab's headquarters in Southwest D.C., Smith admitted the lab made an error that was initially flagged by prosecutors in January. A DFS examiner, working in 2017, had wrongly concluded that two cartridge casings from two different crime scenes were fired by the same gun. The analysis resulted in a murder indictment that is now being challenged.

[WDSU Investigates: Former NOPD crime lab employee airs concerns over safety, procedures](#)

The New Orleans Police Department Crime Lab unit that processes drug evidence is unaccredited and has lacked official certification for years, if not decades, according to documents WDSU has obtained and multiple sources with knowledge of the lab's history.

[DNA processing backlog now down to 6 months, Illinois State Police tell state senators](#)

This hearing and others were prompted after a 2018 I-Team investigation that uncovered a backlog in the processing of 750 Chicago murder cases.

['Cog In A Wheel': 3 Ex-Prosecutors, Facing Potential Discipline For Drug Lab Scandal, Blame System Or Each Other](#)

What is believed to be the biggest stain on the Massachusetts criminal justice system continues to reverberate, seven years later. After countless court hearings, judicial rulings, investigations and even a Netflix series, one of the state's two drug lab scandals was the focus of weeks of disciplinary hearings for three former prosecutors essentially turned defendants.

[Worker Reported Violations at Fort Worth Police Crime Lab Alleges Retaliation](#)

Trisa Crutcher first reported possible violations in the lab's biology unit in 2018. Then, in July, she filed a 174-page whistleblower report with the Fort Worth Police Department, FBI and the Texas Forensic Science Commission, which investigates complaints at accredited state labs.

[Appeals court overturns conviction in 1993 murder case despite DNA match](#)

Kennedy was convicted in 2014 and has been serving a life sentence for the 1993 murder of Tanya Harris. The woman was found strangled to death, her body found in an abandoned building in what was once known as the Cass Corridor.

[In a bloody year for Minneapolis, one gun could be key to solving 14 shootings](#)

Using forensic technology, agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have linked the same gun to 14 recent crime scenes in Minneapolis, including a murder, several gang shootouts and a drive-by shooting on Interstate 94.

[Police: Dubuque man arrested for sexually assaulting 3 minors](#)

Damien Love, 46, of 727 Glen Oak St., was arrested at 10:28 p.m. Friday at the intersection of East Seventh Street and Central Avenue on warrants charging six counts of sexual abuse, five counts of drug distribution to a minor, second-offense possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while barred, as well as new charges of possession of marijuana, possession of contraband in a correctional institution and possession of drug paraphernalia.

[Criminal case dropped against Hialeah teen who fatally shot pal while 'simulating' rap video](#)

The reason: the Glock pistol had been modified, and the teen said he didn't think it worked. In reality, the modification made the weapon dangerously defective and it likely fired without the teen even pulling the trigger.

[Police eying suspects in Atkinson/Newby case](#)

In the Atkinson/Newby case, the state has applied for and received 40 search warrants and sent numerous items to the state crime lab for analysis. Hummel attributed delays in the case to a "historic" backlog at the state crime lab.

[Shawnee Mayor Michelle Distler charged with felony perjury](#)

The court documents list more than 30 people as witnesses in the complaint, including 911 dispatch personnel, Johnson County Crime Lab personnel and Kansas Attorney General's Office personnel.

[Rockford police debut unsolved homicides video series](#)

"From day one, I've said we know that someone knows. They know who murdered these men, women and children. The hope is that this video series pushes the unsolved murders to the forefront of the minds of the public and that these little reminders enable us to bring justice to the victims' families."

[CRIME & SAFETYGBI Makes Arrest in 2002 Triple Homicide in Turner County](#)

On Wednesday, December 2, 2020, Jason Michael Walker, 47, of Pulaski County, GA, was arrested and charged with Murder for the deaths of Thomas Wideman, Deborah Wideman, and Melissa Wideman. Walker is also charged with Feticide for causing the death of Melissa Wideman's unborn child, determined to be Walker's biological child, Aggravated Assault, and Arson in the First Degree. Walker was booked into the Turner County Jail.

[Progress being made in testing sexual assault kits statewide, AG says](#)

North Carolina implemented the system in October of 2018 -- allowing victims of sexual assault to track their kits all the way to the state crime lab. Before the system was implemented, officials found a backlog of thousands of untested sexual assault kits sitting on the shelves of law enforcement agencies.

[New technique allows ISP forensic scientists to match DNA in unsolved cases](#)

Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) recently received a grant for \$150,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance that will go towards conducting forensic molecular genetic genealogy.

[Illinois State Police reduce DNA backlog, ask legislators for more reforms](#)

According to Kelly, since 2019, ISP's Division of Forensic Services has reduced the number of "biology DNA pending assignments," referred to as the DNA backlog, by 48%. In March 2019, the backlog had 9,829 pending assignments, which has fallen to 4,857 pending assignments as of November 2020.

[New Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory to Open 2021](#)

The opening of George Mason University's new Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory in the Spring 2021 semester establishes Mason as a leader in forensic anthropology and investigations and a valuable community partner with law enforcement.

[Pritzker, ISP Announce Reduction In DNA Backlog](#)

Illinois officials say the state's DNA backlog is down by nearly half. Governor J.B. Pritzker and ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly announced a 48-percent reduction in Biology-DNA pending assignments yesterday. The backlog has gone from nearly 93-hundred pending assignments in March 2019 down to just over 48-hundred as of the end of last month. Pritzker says the Forensic Science Task Force established in 2019 is making more recommendations to further reduce the backlog.

[Houston forensic science director warns what's at risk without more help](#)

Houston's homicide numbers are ones HPD says it hasn't had to deal with in decades.

[13 Investigates: How nearly 350 murders this year impacts victims and solving crimes](#)

Boren is just 26 years old. She grew up in Spring and has worked Houston's roughest crime scenes for more than three years as a Crime Scene Investigator at the Houston Forensic Science Center, an agency charged with collecting and analyzing criminal evidence and separate from the Houston Police Department. These days it's worse than it's ever been.

[Studies into human decomposition - UQTR's outdoor decomposition research site welcomes its first human donors](#)

Referred to as the site for Research in Experimental and Social Thanatology (REST), this secure, open-air facility will make it possible to study the physical, chemical and biological processes of human decomposition in our northern climate, in order to assist law enforcement agencies involved in death investigations.

[Can the Sixth Amendment Protect Defendants from Junk Science?](#)

On December 3, the Maryland Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in two cases that address when a criminal defendant has a right to cross-examine a lab technician who tested a DNA sample in his case.

[Tuscola County looking at options after unsatisfactory privatized services](#)

Commissioners have dealt with a variety of complaints the last few years about the agency they hired to handle building codes, and now they are exploring other options for that service.

[Two former state prison inmates, whose murder convictions were reversed by the Supreme Court, file civil rights suits against police, Henry Lee](#)

The state Supreme Court reversed the convictions of Shawn Henning and Ricky Birch a year and a half ago, holding that the two, who were 18 and 19 years old when the crime was committed, had been denied a fair trial by Lee's inexplicably erroneous trial testimony about blood evidence.

[WMU-Cooley Law School Innocence Project announces DOJ grant award](#)

Monday, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office (WCPO) and the Western Michigan University-Cooley Law School Innocence Project announced that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is awarding a \$500,000 grant to collaborate on case review and DNA testing in post-conviction cases.