

Idaho State Police Forensic Services IMPACT REPORT



13,010 CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCE SAMPLES
ANALYZED

794 DNA CASES COMPLETED

28,508 ITEMS OF EVIDENCE
ANALYZED

15,738 CASES WORKED

3 COLD CASES SOLVED OR
RESOLVED BY IDAHO COLD
CASE AND ADVANCED DNA
METHODS

36 CRIME SCENE RESPONSES

4,717 ENTRIES INTO
COMBINED DNA INDEX
SYSTEM (CODIS)
• 449 FORENSIC
• 4,268 OFFENDERS
• 807 LAWFULLY OWED
THROUGH SAKI
PROGRAM

578 SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS
COMPLETED

21 NURSES TRAINED IN
SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE

90% OF ALL ADULT DUI
TOXICOLOGY CASES HAD AT
LEAST 1 DRUG CONFIRMED IN
THE SAMPLE

LATENT PRINTS

- 2,130 ITEMS PROCESSED
- 1,933 LATENTS
DEVELOPED
- 2,750 LATENTS
ANALYZED
- 32,563 COMPARISONS
CONDUCTED
- 706 IDENTIFICATIONS
- 3,179 LATENTS VERIFIED
- 36,654 COMPARISONS
VERIFIED
- 458 MBIS SEARCHES
- 26,888 MBIS
COMPARISONS
- 203 MBIS HITS
- 911 CASES CLOSED



This publication is intended to convey the essential value and impact the Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) Laboratories bring to the criminal justice system in Idaho. All the cases highlighted in this newsletter are cases where ISPFS played a critical role by performing forensic analysis used in the criminal proceedings. Some analysis performed by ISPFS led to individuals being convicted. Other forensic findings helped prove innocence or led to exonerations.

Timely forensic science analysis is vital to the success of the Idaho judicial system. Support from Idaho policymakers has been essential in the successes of the state laboratory system. The lab system employees will continue to work for Idaho citizens and other criminal justice stakeholders. Many new and ongoing forensic science initiatives will keep our Idaho forensic science lab system leading the country with innovative ideas.

Project Foresight

- Product of West Virginia University John Chambers School of Business and Economics to evaluate our efficiency and business costs for operation
- ISPFS operates within 93.45% of peak efficiency. Last year ISPFS ranked 12th in the nation for efficiency.
- This year, ISPFS ranks **#8 in the country for efficiency among forensic science labs.**

Moscow Quadruple Homicide

- 22 ISPFS employees worked on the case
- To date, ISPFS responded to 23 public records requests
- ISPFS provided over 2,356 pages of public records on our website including reports, case records, and email communications
- ISPFS completed over 46 case and crime scene reports

The logo for the University of Idaho, featuring the words "University of Idaho" in a serif font, with "University" above "of Idaho". A yellow diagonal line is drawn across the logo from the top right to the bottom left.

University
of Idaho

Digital Forensics

- 124/125 cases completed that existed prior to ISPFS acquisition
- 116 new cases completed since July 2024
- A2LA accreditation with no findings



Drug & Alcohol Testing

- Annual Toxicology Report
 - 88% of adult alcohol/volatile cases had a DUI charge
 - 69% of adult toxicology cases had a DUI charge
 - 87% of toxicology samples tested had at least one drug present
 - 90% of all adult DUI toxicology cases and 77% of all juvenile DUI toxicology cases had at least one drug present in the sample
- Drug Trend Dashboard launched
Sharing drug trend information with ODP, DHW, HIDTA, Legislators, Governor

Director's Series: Forensic Forum

A monthly presentation of the most current and timely information regarding forensic science in Idaho. The briefing is open to officers of the court, law enforcement, and other stakeholders such as public officials and employees.

Coming soon online learning portal for continuing education

Jan 16	NIBIN and/or Firearms
Feb 20	Idaho sexual assault statutes, annual report, and IKTS
Mar 20	Question Documents
Apr 17	SAKI PA4/6
May 15	DNA Database & SAKI PA3
Jul 17	Controlled Substance & Fire Evidence
Aug 21	Toxicology/Tox Report
Sept 18	Crime Scene
Oct 16	SANE/SART Coordinators
Nov 20	Latent Prints
Dec 18	Digital Forensic Evidence

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Program

- 21 nurses trained, totaling 283 since 2017.
- Idaho maintains 20 SANE-A (adult) and 4 SANE-P (pediatric) certified providers.
- Facilitated sexual assault response teams
 - Blaine County
 - Minidoka/Cassia County
 - Jerome/Twin Falls County
 - Benewah County
- Program site tracking launched



Purpose Area 3 (Lawfully Owed DNA)

- Presently, ISPFS has identified 30,056 offenders who very likely owe the State of Idaho a DNA sample.
- To date, ISPFS has collected 1,338 LODNA samples that are entered into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System).
- ISPFS has identified an additional 1,544 LODNA subjects and have supplied kits to agencies to collect samples
- To date, ISPFS has had 14 CODIS "hits"
- 2025 Quarter 4 will be the largest number of LODNA samples collected since the program began.

Purpose Area 4 & 6 (Cold Case)

- Triaged over 50 new unsolved cases with agencies throughout Idaho.
- Networked with 6 out-of-state law enforcement agencies on their unsolved cases.
- Currently working 35 opened "Agency Assist" unsolved cases and 54 pending or extended triage unsolved cases amongst three investigators.
- 39 CODIS hits generated by the "partially tested" sexual assault kit inventory.
- Resolved or solved 3 cases

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COLD CASES

Ex-boyfriend of missing Idaho woman pleads guilty to manslaughter. What to know

This was a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) team case.



BONNER COUNTY (Idaho Statesman) – On March 7, 2019, Rae Allison Berwanger was reported missing by her brother to the Bonner County Sheriff's Office. She's never been found.

But after a five-year investigation, law enforcement – despite never finding her body – arrested her ex-boyfriend, Jordan Law, in connection with her death. He was indicted last year on five felonies, including second-degree murder, and was expected to face a jury trial this week.

Instead, Law, now 48, will face sentencing next month after accepting a plea deal with the Bonner County Prosecutor's Office. He's expected to be sentenced to the maximum penalty of 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter, rather than second-degree murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, according to his plea agreement.

Remains found in Idaho identified as missing Washington woman 3 years later

This was a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) team case.

POWER COUNTY, Idaho – On July 30, 2022, a fisherman found a human skull along the Fort Hall River in Power County, Idaho. The next day, investigators from Fort Hall Police Department, the FBI's Pocatello Office, and the Power County Coroner's Office responded to the scene. There were no other skeletal remains.

After several years, the Power County Sheriff's Office, along with Idaho State Police Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Team, and many other local, state and federal agencies, have been able to confirm the identity of the found skull: Lesiah Olivia Pickett, a missing woman from Spokane, Washington.



Native American Skeletal Remains

This was a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) team case.

In May 2025, human skeletal remains were turned over to the Idaho State Police. It was reported these remains were found in 1974 outside of Show Low, Arizona, which is near the Fort Apache Native American Reservation. The Idaho Cold Case and Advanced DNA Methods coordinated with the Idaho State University Anthropology department who examined the remains. This examination determined the remains were skeletal fragments from at least two individuals who are likely pre-contact (archaeological). Based on this information, the Nohwike' Bagowa Apache Cultural Center and Museum in Fort Apache, Arizona, was contacted. In July 2025, the remains were returned to the museum and Apache community with respect for their customs, religion, and traditions.

ADA COUNTY

[Boise man sentenced to 15 years for shooting near gym](#)

ISPFS performed latent print analysis in this case.

The case stems from a September 2024 incident outside Mecca Gym in Meridian. Williams argued with gym patrons and fired several shots before fleeing in a white Dodge pickup truck. No injuries were reported.

Williams was arrested on September 20, 2024, the same day he allegedly broke into a Garden City business on Glenwood Street. Surveillance footage showed him entering that building armed with a gun and baton.

[Idaho couple who used 3x5 'menu' card to sell drugs sentenced to federal prison](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance and latent print analyses on this case as well as methamphetamine quantitation.

BOISE - Michael Paul Lacasse, 48, and Venetia Dawn Trischan, 47, of Caldwell, were sentenced to 133 months and 96 months, respectively, in federal prison for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

According to court records, in December 2023, law enforcement learned that Lacasse and Trischan were involved in distributing drugs. Lacasse provided his “customers” a 3x5 card, which contained different types and amounts of illicit controlled substances, and the “customers” could order from this “menu.”

[Armed Repeat Offender Sentenced to 97 Months in Federal Prison for Drug and Gun Charges](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in a total of 10 cases throughout the course of this investigation

BOISE - Isaac Augustin Santoyo, 25, of Nampa, was sentenced to 97 months in federal prison for seven counts of distributing cocaine, one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced today. U.S. District Court Judge Amanda K. Brailsford also sentenced Santoyo to serve five years of supervised release upon completion of his prison sentence, pay a \$9000 fine and pay a \$900 special assessment.

According to court records, Santoyo had previously been convicted of possession of cocaine with intent to deliver in Ada County in 2017. When he completed probation for that offense, he continued to distribute cocaine in Canyon County. From October 2023 through April 2024, Santoyo sold cocaine during controlled buys with law enforcement on seven different occasions, totaling 868 grams. A search warrant was served on his residence, where law enforcement seized (and ultimately forfeited) \$25,291, a semi-automatic handgun, and 174 grams of cocaine. Santoyo pleaded guilty to all nine offenses on January 16, 2025.

[Sinaloa Cartel Leader in Idaho Sentenced to 22 Years in Federal Prison](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance and latent print analysis in this case.



A 44-year-old Honduran national suspected to be unlawfully in the United States and using the name “Hector Ojeda Manuel Aponte” was sentenced yesterday to 262 months in federal prison for distribution of methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

Aponte is the sixth and final defendant sentenced from the investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Nampa Police Department Special Investigations Unit. U.S. District Judge Amanda K. Brailsford also previously sentenced Ernesto Diaz Gaspar (30 months in prison), Wilkin Rolando Martinez Munguia (36 months in prison), Cevin Alfonzo Martinez (42 months in prison), and Jesus DeJesus Loera (70 months in prison). Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nye sentenced Lawrence Barnes (160 months in prison). Defendants Barnes and Loera are U.S. Citizens, while the remaining defendants are aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

[Southern California Man Sentenced to 13 Years in Federal Prison For Involvement in a Fentanyl Overdose Death](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

According to court records, on March 16, 2023, law enforcement conducted a welfare check on the victim who had not responded to calls or knocks on the door. They found the deceased victim with a small drug tube clutched in his hand and a small piece of tin foil next to him. A toxicology report and autopsy showed that the victim had a lethal dose of fentanyl in his system at the time of death. The investigation revealed Facebook messages between the victim and Goodale. Goodale sent a message that said, “shoot the \$100 and I’ll send it now . . . 3pk . . . but I’m gonna need the \$200 on Wed. if your still alive!!” The investigation revealed that the victim purchased fentanyl from Goodale, who shipped the fentanyl through the Post Office in Chula Vista, California to Boise, Idaho. Goodale has an extensive criminal history that includes 29 prior convictions in the state of California, 20 of which are controlled substance offenses. At the time he sold the fentanyl to the victim in Idaho, Goodale was on felony probation for offering a controlled substance for sale, fentanyl, in Riverside County, California.

[Norteño gang member in Idaho sentenced to 7 years in federal prison](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

BOISE - Hector Aguirre, 28, of Caldwell, was sentenced to 7 years in federal prison for unlawful possession of a firearm and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

According to court records, in June 2023, officers contacted Aguirre during a traffic stop. Officers learned that Aguirre had absconded from supervision with the Idaho Department of Correction’s Probation and Parole. Officers searched Aguirre’s vehicle and found a loaded firearm and 66 fentanyl pills. Aguirre is prohibited from possessing firearms due to previous drug-related felony convictions. The investigation revealed that Aguirre is a Norteño gang member.

[Truck driver sentenced for the 2022 death of Idaho teen cyclist](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

Kent Fry pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter in the death of Rylan Hoob, who was hit on the shoulder of Highway 55 near the Beacon Light Road intersection in October 2022. Judge Cawthon ordered Fry to serve 90 days in jail during a two-year probation period on March 31. The judge also mandated that Fry report to jail before every holiday, including Christmas, Thanksgiving and Memorial Day, remaining incarcerated until the day after each holiday. Additionally, Fry must serve jail time

annually on both his and Hoob's birthdays. His driver's license has been revoked for 730 days. A charge of leaving the scene was dismissed.

Over 48,000 fentanyl pills seized in multi-agency bust in Idaho

ISPFS performed controlled substance and digital forensic analyses in this case as well as methamphetamine quantitation.

The Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) led the investigation into the defendants beginning in early 2023. A total of 10 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies as contributed in the case.

Officials said Idaho State Police (ISP) detectives received a tip that one defendant, Austin Lee, was distributing "large quantities of fentanyl in southern Idaho."

With assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other agencies, ISP quickly investigated Lee to identify the source of the drugs. ISP officials conducted some controlled purchases of fentanyl and methamphetamine from Lee and other co-conspirators, including several defendants.

Michigan woman sentenced to 11 years in prison for drug trafficking in Idaho

ISPFS performed digital and controlled substance analyses in this case.

BOISE - Nicole Ann Kettler, 41, of Grayling, Michigan was sentenced Friday to 139 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

According to court records, Kettler was traveling to Portland, Oregon on a regular basis to purchase large quantities of methamphetamine and fentanyl for distribution in Idaho. On May 2, 2024, Kettler was pulled over for a traffic violation in Nampa. During the traffic stop, officers observed drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. A canine trained in the detection of the odor of controlled substances positively alerted on the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered about 4,300 fentanyl pills, more than a half-pound of fentanyl powder, more than a quarter-pound of methamphetamine, and a variety of other controlled substances.

Man who robbed bank and led police on high speed chase sentenced to prison

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



BOISE - Leon Jason Fortner, 57, of Boise, was sentenced to 108 months in federal prison for bank robbery, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

According to court records, on Aug. 20, 2024, Fortner entered the Chase Bank in Mountain Home carrying a backpack. He approached the teller station and told the teller that the backpack contained an explosive device. He then told both tellers to give him all their cash or he would detonate the device. The tellers complied by providing cash from the tills and Fortner then fled the bank and got into a nearby vehicle.

Law enforcement officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but Fortner led them on a high-speed chase through Mountain Home and onto I-84. After a lengthy pursuit at high speeds, officers disabled Fortner's vehicle and took him into custody. They discovered cash from the robbery in his pockets, and Fortner admitted that he robbed the bank. Officers later discovered that the backpack contained clothing and a water bottle, but no explosives.

Undocumented immigrant sentenced to prison for distributing drugs in Idaho

ISPFS performed drug analysis in multiple cases associated with this conviction.

BOISE - Edwin Reyes-Parra, 22, of Mexico, was sentenced to 120 months in federal prison for distributing methamphetamine and fentanyl while in possession of a firearm, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

Between June and October 2024, Reyes-Parra distributed over four pounds of methamphetamine and smaller amounts of fentanyl and fluorofentanyl into the community.

In December 2024, law enforcement executed a search warrant at his residence and located 75.5 grams of fentanyl, a firearm, and \$2,000.00 in cash.

Police officers justified in Boise robbery suspect shooting, Blaine County prosecutor rules
ISPFS performed biology screening, DNA, latent print, firearms, blood alcohol, and toxicology analyses in this case.

The shooting occurred after a police investigation led detectives to believe Cook was the primary suspect in three armed robberies around Nampa and Boise, according to Fredback's letter to the Meridian Police Department. After another robbery at a Boise Adam and Eve store, police located Cook's vehicle in a CVS Pharmacy parking lot at night. Cook initially complied with the officer's orders before speeding out of the parking lot.

Cook led officers on a pursuit at speeds up to 90 mph, swerving into oncoming traffic and running through stop signs and red lights. Police had to terminate the pursuit, but one officer spotted Cook after driving into the neighborhood where he was last seen. Cook hid behind a shed in the backyard of a residence, according to the letter. After obtaining permission from the homeowners, police entered the garage and opened a door facing the shed. Cook "leaned out from behind the shed and pointed his hands" at one of the officers. From the body camera footage, Fredback said that "it appeared in the darkness that Cook had pointed a gun at him."

'You're not a kid': Idaho man sentenced to prison for pointing knife at officer
ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

BOISE (Idaho Statesman) – Before sentencing Gabriel Pope to a maximum of a decade in prison Wednesday, 4th Judicial District Judge Nancy Baskin told the 22-year-old that he simply needed to "grow up." Pope was sentenced to 10 years in prison, with the possibility of parole after four years, for pointing a knife at an officer in November. The officer, Boise Police Sgt. Steven Martinez, then fired five shots at Pope, with three of the bullets striking him.

Idaho couple sentenced to federal prison for drug crime
ISPFS completed controlled substance and fingerprint analyses in these cases.

BOISE - Ray Gordon Capistrant, 57, and Patricia Lynn Webber a/k/a Patricia Lynn Capistrant, 56, both of Caldwell, were sentenced to 120 months and 70 months, respectively, in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Bart Davis announced. According to court records, in December 2024, the Idaho State Police began investigating the Caldwell couple for distributing methamphetamine in the Treasure Valley. On four occasions from December 2024 through January 2025, a confidential source purchased methamphetamine from Webber at the couple's shared residence. During two of these occasions Capistrant was present nearby in the residence.

Idaho inmate who escaped from Boise hospital pleads guilty to murder
ISPFS provided field services and performed firearms, latent print, biology screening, and DNA analyses in this case.

BOISE, Idaho – Skylar Meade, the Idaho inmate who escaped police custody while undergoing medical treatment for self-inflicted wounds at a Boise hospital, has pleaded guilty to murder.

Meade on Thursday pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of James Mauney and Gerald Henderson in northern Idaho, according to the Nez Perce County Prosecutor's Office.



BANNOCK COUNTY

[Former owner of Downard Funeral Home officially pleads guilty after taking plea agreement](#)
ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.



A report was made in July 2021 after a representative from Idaho State University reported to Pocatello Police that a number of cadavers that families had donated for scientific research hadn't been delivered to the university by the funeral home. They also discovered that at least one body hadn't been returned to the family afterward.

During a police raid of the funeral home, police found several bodies, one of which was decaying on the floor of the garage. There were also 11 bodies attached to altered documents, and one body had no documentation at all. A significant number of other irregularities were found related to the disposal of remains.

[Drug dealer who led police on high speed chase sentenced to prison](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in these cases.

According to court records, Cates sold methamphetamine and fentanyl to an individual on three occasions at his residence at Fort Hall. On April 11, 2024, Cates sold 3.58 grams of methamphetamine. On July 22, 2024, Cates and his co-defendant, Mariah Dawn Russell, sold 10.92 grams of fentanyl. On Aug. 21, 2024, Cates and co-defendant Russell sold 505.7 grams of fentanyl. On Oct. 9, 2024, officers traveled to Cates home to arrest him pursuant to the federal arrest warrant. Cates fled from police officers in his vehicle at a high rate of speed. Officers from multiple law enforcement agencies pursued Cates through the residential area and the backroads of Fort Hall. Officers subsequently arrested Cates after he crashed his vehicle in a rural area of Fort Hall.

[Two men sentenced to federal prison in separate fentanyl trafficking cases](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in both cases.

In one case, David Erik Traversa, 32, of Utah, was sentenced to 156 months in federal prison for possessing fentanyl with the intent to distribute it.

According to court records, in May 2024, officers initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle and arrested an individual in possession of approximately 200 fentanyl pills weighing 19.6 grams. Officers found two hotel room keys and applied for a search warrant. A magistrate judge for the Sixth Judicial District, State of Idaho, issued a warrant to search the hotel rooms.



In a separate case, Casey Steven Evans, 38, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison for possessing fentanyl with the intent to distribute it.

According to court records, in May 2024, law enforcement stopped a blue Range Rover belonging to Evans. During the traffic stop, officers developed probable cause to search the Range Rover. When officers searched the trunk, they found a black metal safe that contained small blue circular fentanyl pills and a loaded black and silver SCCY CPX-1 9mm handgun. On the front passenger floor, officers found a second loaded handgun, which was a black Taurus PT111 9mm. The safe contained 107.94 grams of fentanyl.

[Man who threw cash, fentanyl out window during high speed chase is sentenced to prison](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

POCATELLO - Creston Dale Kindness, 42, of Fort Hall, was sentenced to 100 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced. According to court records, on Jan. 21, 2024, officers observed Kindness driving at a high rate of speed. A lengthy pursuit followed, and the vehicle stopped when it became stuck in the snow. Officers arrested Kindness and took him to jail.

[Former school bus assistant gets a decade of probation for lewd conduct with a child](#)
ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

Anderson was initially arrested in May after a caller reported him to the Pocatello Police, saying she saw him put his hands down the pants of an 8-year-old victim. Anderson changed his plea to guilty on Feb. 24, as part of a plea agreement, where one of his two counts of lewd conduct with a minor under 16 was dropped.

[Idaho Falls man and woman sentenced to prison for trafficking meth](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis and quantitation of methamphetamine in this case.

POCATELLO - Ana Costilla, 38, and Jorge Hernandez Venegas, 24, both of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced today. Chief United States District Judge David C. Nye sentenced Costilla to twelve and a half years and Venegas to nine years in federal prison for their roles in the conspiracy. According to court records, law enforcement learned that Costilla was arranging to have a co-conspirator drive ten pounds of methamphetamine from California to Costilla's residence in Idaho. Law enforcement stopped Venegas as he left Costilla's residence in Idaho Falls. Officers with the Idaho Falls Police Department searched the vehicle Venegas was driving and found one pound of methamphetamine. Officers later discovered an additional nine pounds of methamphetamine during a search of Costilla's home

[Two Idaho Falls women sentenced for fentanyl distribution after 17,000 pills are seized](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in both of these cases.



In one case, Rebecca Marie Lavatta, 33, of Idaho Falls, was sentenced on Jan. 28, to 78 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. According to court records, on May 17, 2023, following a year-long investigation, detectives with the Idaho Falls Police Department, Idaho State Police, and Pocatello Police Department, located Lavatta in Pocatello and arrested her on outstanding warrants. During a search of her vehicle, law enforcement recovered two loaded handguns, suboxone, and a heat-sealed clear bag containing 5,000 fentanyl pills.

In a separate case, Kristen Nichole Meyer, 28, of Idaho Falls, was sentenced on Jan. 29, to 57 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. According to court records, on Aug. 18, 2023, Fort Hall Police officers responded to the area of the Fort Hall Casino on a report of a couple who appeared to be fighting. Officers located Kristen Meyer, along with her husband, Andrew Meyer near their car, which had fentanyl pills in plain view. Bingham County Sheriff's deputies searched the car and found over 12,000 fentanyl pills, along with other drugs. Both Kristen and Andrew Meyer admitted to selling the drugs. Andrew Meyer's sentencing is scheduled for March 17.

[Registered sex offender sentenced to five years in prison in child abuse case](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

POCATELLO - A 34-year-old man who was sent to prison in 2017 for sexually abusing a child was sentenced last Thursday for an incident in 2024 where police say he touched and sexually photographed a 15-year-old girl. Logan Khaide Gabriel Kniffen was originally charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a child and enticing a child over the internet.



[Pocatello man sentenced for trafficking meth](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

POCATELLO - Steven Greenleaf Blodgett, 67, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced.

According to court records, in July 2024, officers with the BADGES Task Force executed a search warrant on Blodgett's rental car as he returned to Bannock County from a trip to Utah. Officers found and seized approximately four pounds of methamphetamine. Officers then executed a second search warrant on Blodgett's residence in Pocatello, where they found a loaded firearm and evidence of drug distribution at the home.

[Pocatello Man Sentenced to 9 Years in Federal Prison for Trafficking Fentanyl](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

POCATELLO - Geoffrey W. Ancheta, 40, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 9 years in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced today.

According to court records, members of the BADGES Task Force stopped Ancheta and his co-defendant, Alme Otto, as they returned from a trip to Arizona on April 13, 2024. Task Force officers searched the car and found over 500 grams of blue fentanyl pills and a firearm. Ancheta later admitted trafficking fentanyl to Idaho.

[Local man sentenced to federal prison for trafficking drugs](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance, fingerprint, and digital forensic analyses in this case.

Jack Edward Newsom, 43, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 121 months in prison for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced. Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nye also ordered Newsom to serve five years of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

According to court records, Newsom was arrested on May 8, 2024, when police officers executed a search warrant on his home and a fifth-wheel trailer parked in a storage facility. The officers seized 48.9 grams of fentanyl powder and a half a pound of methamphetamine from the residence in addition

to a pound of marijuana, half a pound of methamphetamine, 79.6 grams of fentanyl powder, and 237 fentanyl pills from the fifth-wheel trailer.

[Montana drug dealers arrested in Idaho, sentenced to federal prison](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis and meth quantitation in this case.

POCATELLO - Carson Lee Maynard, 49, of Livingston, Montana, was sentenced to 180 months in federal prison, and Amy Marie Tillman, 43, of Lewistown, Montana, was sentenced to 70 months in federal prison. The two were sentenced for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott announced Monday. They were also ordered to forfeit to the government a residence in Livingston, Montana because they used it to commit the offense.

In the early morning hours, court records show an Idaho State Police Trooper stopped a vehicle that Maynard and Tillman were traveling in because of a window tint violation. When police searched the vehicle, they discovered five pounds of methamphetamine and 3,000 fentanyl pills in a spare tire in the trunk of the vehicle. Maynard and Tillman were traveling back to Montana from New Mexico and Las Vegas after receiving large amounts of methamphetamine and fentanyl. Maynard and Tillman admitted they conspired to return to Montana where they would sell the methamphetamine and fentanyl.

[2 women, man sentenced in separate meth trafficking cases](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in each of these cases.

In one case, Andrea Nichole O'Brien, 38, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it to others. After law enforcement officers stopped O'Brien for a traffic violation, a dog, which was trained and certified to detect the odor of illegal drugs, alerted to the odor of narcotics in the vehicle. During a search, police officers located 106.3 grams of methamphetamine under the driver seat and a loaded Glock 43 handgun in the driver's door.

In the second case, Curtis Lee Campbell, 40, of American Falls, was sentenced to 143 months in federal prison for the distribution of methamphetamine. According to court records, in April and June 2024, Campbell sold methamphetamine to another person on three occasions in eastern Idaho. The first sale consisted of 7.24 grams, the second 27.23 grams, and the third was 28.62 grams, totaling 63.09 grams of methamphetamine. At sentencing, the Court determined that Campbell was a career offender because he had at least two prior felony convictions for controlled substance offenses.

In the third case, Jessica Dona Elison, 44, of Pocatello, was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison for possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it to others. According to court records, Elison traveled to Mexico or Arizona to get methamphetamine from her supplier. Bingham County Sheriff's detectives were granted a search warrant to place a tracking device on the vehicle that Elison was driving. Detectives observed her vehicle coming back to Idaho. After Elison's vehicle broke down in Pocatello, she moved the methamphetamine from her vehicle to another vehicle. During a search of that vehicle, officers found a bag that contained 281.53 grams of methamphetamine and 68.5 grams of marijuana.

[Man sentenced to at least 25 years of prison time for lewd conduct, incest](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

POCATELLO - A man who pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting one of his family members has received a prison sentence in Bannock County District Court.

A sentencing hearing was held Thursday afternoon for Bill Montgomery Green, 20, who sexually assaulted one of his family members in 2023. While his attorney made an argument for a retained jurisdiction program, Judge Javier Gabiola decided that Green would be a danger to society and gave him at least 25 years in prison for his crimes.

BINGHAM COUNTY

Woman sentenced after placing dead newborn in Safe Haven Baby Box *ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case*

Newberry was arrested in November 2024 in Twin Falls on a felony Bingham County arrest warrant after medical staff at Grove Creek Medical Center in Blackfoot discovered a deceased baby in a Safe Haven Baby Box on Oct 13, 2024. The Safe Haven Baby Box is a location where parents can anonymously and safely leave an infant they are unable to care for.

According to court documents, Newberry had hidden her pregnancy from her family and gave birth alone in a bathroom inside her home on Oct. 12, just days after her 18th birthday.

Detectives say there is evidence she tried to take care of the baby, but also say there is evidence that she knew the baby was dead when she placed her in the baby box.

'It's the sound of a life stolen': Arco woman sentenced to probation after fatal crash near INL *ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.*



Kenadee Bowcutt, 25, was initially charged with felony vehicular manslaughter for causing the death of Jimmy Broncho, 58.

However, on Aug. 12, Bowcutt accepted a plea agreement in which she agreed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count of vehicular manslaughter with a sentence of 365 days in jail to be suspended in place of two years of probation. Magistrate Judge James Howard Barrett Jr. accepted the agreement and sentenced Bowcutt to two years of probation.

The crash occurred on May 1, 2024, in the early morning hours when two vehicles collided near the INL Puzzle. Witnesses told troopers that the vehicle driven by Bowcutt had been drifting between lanes and driving erratically. According to court documents, troopers with Idaho State Police investigated the crash and discovered drug paraphernalia inside her vehicle. Bowcutt was interviewed and admitted to a trooper that she had consumed alcohol and marijuana the night before.

BLAINE COUNTY

Bellevue man sentenced to prison in meth distribution case *ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.*



Fernando Penagos, 70, was originally charged with felony meth trafficking in June 2023 after officers found more than two pounds of meth in his truck. His original charge carried 10 years to life in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

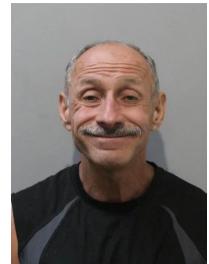
On March 10, Penagos entered a nonbinding plea deal with the state in which Blaine County Deputy Prosecutor Stacie Summerhill agreed to reduce his original charge to meth possession with intent to deliver.

[Prison time ordered in wrong-way driving, fleeing case](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol analysis in this case.

A Twin Falls man was ordered last week to complete a seven-year prison sentence followed by a three-year indeterminate period in custody after a judge convicted him on April 2 of felony DUI and felony eluding a police officer in a vehicle.

McCabe's three original felony charges stemmed from a police pursuit south of Bellevue on Aug. 8 that began when Blaine County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jacy Baird observed McCabe speeding in the wrong direction.



Baird testified in court that he was driving south on Gannett Road shortly before 6 p.m. when he saw McCabe's white Pontiac speeding toward him in the same lane. Baird said he pulled off to avoid a head-on crash and pursued the wrong-way driver at more than 80 mph before the Pontiac made an abrupt left turn into a field, jumped over a canal and crashed into a fence post. Baird said he drove after McCabe through the field and McCabe fled on foot.

[Hailey man sentenced to 'rider' for inhalant DUI crash](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.



Colten Wind Bravo, 36, pleaded guilty on Aug. 11 to felony driving under the influence of fluorinated hydrocarbons. The case stemmed from a July 1 crash in which he drove his 2003 Chevrolet Silverado into a residence near Fifth Street and Walnut Avenue. No one was home at the time, police said.

According to Blaine County Sheriff's Office Deputy Daniela Vargas, who responded to the scene, she observed "a black truck partially inside a residence" with visible damage to the carport. Bravo, she testified, was standing outside the vehicle and believed he had suffered a seizure.

While Bravo was transported to the hospital, another officer discovered an air duster can near the driver's seat. Bravo claimed he used the can to clean his air vents, officers said during a preliminary hearing on July 29. However, psychiatric pharmacist Gary Dawson—also called to testify on July 29 by the Blaine County prosecutor's office—told 5th District Magistrate Judge Brendan Ash that Bravo's behavior was consistent with inhalant intoxication.

[Bellevue man sentenced to 5 years in prison on heroin trafficking](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance and latent print analyses in this case.

Joseph Grant Moran, 65, was arrested and charged in January 2024 after detectives with the Blaine County Narcotics Enforcement Team executed a search warrant on his home. Police seized 15.4 grams of heroin, 28 grams of meth and about 8 grams of cocaine, along with four firearms, digital scales and several other meth "rocks," according to officer testimony.

At Moran's sentencing on July 21, Blaine County Deputy Prosecutor Stacie Summerhill said he had been "on the radar of NET for a while." She noted he was



“very cooperative” during the search, greeting detectives outside and pointing them to the drugs in his bedroom.

BONNER COUNTY

[Meyer pleads guilty to amended arson charge](#)

ISPFS performed fire analysis in this case.

SANDPOINT – The woman charged in connection to a July 4 fire that burned down the Army Surplus 1 store pled guilty Tuesday to an amended charge of second-degree arson.

According to a probable cause affidavit, when the arson fire investigation started, security footage led Sandpoint deputies to believe Meyer was in the vicinity of the crime scene and acting in a suspicious demeanor. After local authorities brought Meyer in for an interview, police informed her that she was seen on several security cameras on the night of the fire. When asked about her whereabouts, a search warrant affidavit suggests “Meyer was caught lying about her statements regarding her routes and clothing attire during the time in question.”



[Veach enters Alford plea on amended charges](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance, blood alcohol, toxicology, biology screening, and DNA analyses in this case.

Veach was originally arrested Jan. 13 and held on an \$80,000 bond. The case against him was continued twice before being dismissed without prejudice Feb. 19. When a suspect is dismissed without prejudice, the charges are dismissed but can be refiled at any point. Dismissal without prejudice can occur when a change needs to be made to the original charges or case.



Veach was arrested a second time Thursday, Feb. 27, and held on a \$200,000 bond after Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler posted on the department's Facebook page that a search warrant had been issued. According to a probable cause affidavit, law enforcement allege Veach and Ramsey Rowman – Ramsey plead guilty to injury to child for the same incident – entered the victim's bedroom, bringing alcohol and supplying it to her. At the time, Veach was the only one above the legal drinking age.

[Martin pleads guilty to child abuse, assists in related case](#)

ISPFS provided multiple field services responses and performed biology screening, fingerprint, and DNA analyses in this case.



Taleea R Martin, 27, was originally charged with one count of aggravated assault, one count of injury to child and one count of infliction of great bodily harm.

As part of a pretrial settlement, Martin plead guilty to the injury to child charge. Also in the settlement, Martin agreed to cooperate with prosecutors, assisting in their defense against Jordan Everette Gabor. Gabor, 28, is charged with several child abuse charges stemming from the same alleged abuse. Court documents indicate that Gabor is the main perpetrator.

[Snyder pleads guilty to strangulation charge](#)*ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.*

An Oklahoma man has plead guilty to a charge that stems from an alleged rape incident. Joshua Charles Snyder, 32, pled guilty to one count of felony attempted strangulation. As part of the agreement, the original rape charge against him will be dropped during his sentencing hearing Aug. 18.

[Richard Cowell pleads guilty; state recommends 44 years in prison](#)*ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.*

Police arrested the married couple Feb. 5 at their Naples home, which doubled as an unlicensed child daycare, over charges of lewd conduct with a minor.

Richard and Katherine Cowell opened Little Zookeepers Daycare in 2019, but the alleged child abuse took place between 2012 and 2015, according to court records. The daycare announced its permanent closure Feb. 11, six days after the arrest.

[Springer sentenced four years in high-speed chase case](#)*ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.*

A Washington resident is facing up to four years in prison for crimes stemming from a high-speed chase that took place March 21 in Bonner and Boundary counties.

Patrick R. Springer, 35, pleaded guilty Aug. 20 to possession of a controlled substance, driving under the influence (second offense) and attempting to elude a police officer as part of a plea deal.

[Nasin sentenced two years of probation in City Beach assault](#)*ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.*

Law enforcement became aware of the crime after the victim reported it to Sandpoint Police in July 2024. According to a probable cause affidavit, Nasin and the woman met in the parking lot near the entrance of City Beach before riding together in the same vehicle to the water.

Documents suggest that after the woman took a quick swim, she "no longer felt interested in being around him (Nasin)" and said she needed to go home. Before taking her back to her vehicle, Nasin said that he wanted to show the woman a playlist he created. While playing the music, court documents

contend that Nasin aggressively grabbed the girl and started kissing her while pulling her hair. The affidavit further says that Nasin refused to take the woman back to her car, sexually assaulting her through use of force.

[Kuehn sentenced to rider, seven years underlying](#)*ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in these cases.*



According to an affidavit in support of a warrant, Bonner County Sheriff's Office became aware of Kuehn's alleged underage relationships after one of his victims reported his crimes by way of a 911 call. He was placed at the Bonner County Jail on Dec. 6, 2024.

Court documents indicated that Kuehn's first charge is related to the accusation of having sexual relations with several underage girls in the Blanchard area. A probable cause affidavit noted that his other five charges stemmed from alleged videos and pictures found on Kuehn's phone of himself and his alleged victims engaging in sexual activities.

Westra sentenced 25 years in lewd conduct case

ISPFS performed biology screening in this case.

Dayle Westra, 52, pled guilty pursuant to an Alford plea June 24 to one count of lewd conduct with a minor. As part of a plea deal, two additional counts of lewd conduct with a minor will be dismissed.

Under an Alford plea, a defendant admits no wrongdoing but concedes a guilty verdict could result following a trial. The plea is treated no differently than a standard plea of guilt at sentencing. Westra will be sentenced to serve a total of 25 years in prison – 10 years determinate, 15 years indeterminate. He will get credit for two days of time served. Westra is already registered on the national sex offender registry for crimes stemming from a December 2009 lewd conduct with a minor charge.



In 2010, Westra faced similar charges in Bonner County after pleading guilty to molesting an 11-year-old girl, where he served two-and-a-half years in jail. He is currently on parole in that case until 2029.

Pair sentenced in abuse case

ISPFS performed toxicology, controlled substance, blood alcohol, biology screening, and DNA analyses in this case.

Law enforcement became aware of the crime by way of a 911 call after several eyewitnesses alleged seeing Veach assault the victim while she was unconscious. Documents indicate that the victim had consumed a large amount of liquor – which was allegedly provided by Ramsey – before the incident.



Reports suggest that Ramsey was not seen during the time of the assault, but was with Veach and the girl beforehand, pressuring her to drink alcohol that the pair had provided. At the time of the crime, Veach was the only one above the legal drinking age of 21.

R. Cowell sentenced to 22 years

ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.



The married couple opened Little Zookeepers Daycare in 2019, but the alleged child abuse took place between 2012 and 2015, according to court records. The daycare announced its permanent closure Feb. 11, six days after the arrest.

During a joint preliminary hearing March 17, the alleged victims testified they were coerced into sexual relations with the couple as minors.

The first victim alleged that he was coerced into a sexual relationship with Katherine Cowell when he was between the ages of 15 and 17 years old. He

told the court that he felt prompted to come forward after recognizing similar behaviors in other children to those that he experienced during the alleged abuse.

The day after the couple was arrested, the second victim came forward, informing law enforcement that she had faced coercion from Richard Cowell for a sexual relationship from ages 14 to 20.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

I.F. man who broke officer's hand and hurt another during DUI arrest gets probation *ISPFS performed blood alcohol analysis in this case.*

IDAHO FALLS - An Idaho Falls man who injured two officers, fracturing one of their hands, while being arrested for drunk driving has been sentenced on Tuesday.

Bradley Cory Willard, 36, was arrested in August and charged with felony DUI, two felony counts of assault upon certain personnel and misdemeanor resisting arrest.

The 36-year-old accepted a plea agreement in December where he'd agree to plead guilty to one count of assault and a misdemeanor DUI charge. The state dismissed the second assault and resisting charges.



Woman: 'I am a survivor;' Local man sentenced to 10 years, pleads guilty in kidnapping *ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.*

Heaton was arrested back on Oct. 7, 2024, after a woman had escaped from the man's residence and managed to call 911 through a stranger's phone. The woman reported that Heaton was schizophrenic, paranoid and not taking his medications and had kept her in his home against her will. She said Heaton had believed she was having multiple affairs and was communicating with the police through hand signals. During the time she was stuck inside the home, the woman reported that Heaton had beaten her with multiple objects. An examination found that she had a brain bleed, two black eyes, bruising in several areas of her body and possible broken bones in her hand.

Man sentenced after fatal drunk driving crash that killed six agricultural workers *ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.*



The fatal crash occurred in the early morning hours of May 18, 2024, on U.S. Highway 20 close to the Lindsay Boulevard exit in Idaho Falls. Garcia Diaz was driving a Dodge Ram pickup east when "it was driven left of center and collided with a westbound Chevrolet passenger van," according to a news release from the Idaho State Police.

The van was occupied by 14 passengers, plus the driver. All passengers were confirmed to be agricultural workers from Mexico in the United States on H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker visas.

Court documents say Garcia-Diaz's blood alcohol level was at 0.192% at the time of the crash. The legal limit is 0.08%.

Man convicted of second-degree murder after killing Idaho Falls father *ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.*

The murder occurred on the Northgate Mile in Idaho Falls on Oct. 19. Officers were called to the scene near May Street where they found a man with significant injuries. The man, later identified as Paredes-Hurtado, died from his injuries several days later, after being taken to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center for treatment.

On Oct. 21, the Idaho Falls Police Department released dashcam video from the night of the assault. It showed Paredes-Hurtado being found unconscious and a person of interest walking away from the scene. Lange turned himself into the Idaho Falls Police Department on Oct. 22. During an interview with detectives, he told them he had been out drinking but was "mad and wanted to fight."



CANYON COUNTY

[Canyon County man found guilty after shooting wife in head](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening, DNA, fingerprint, and firearms analyses in this case.



CALDWELL, Idaho – A Canyon County Jury has found a man guilty of first-degree murder of his wife. According to court records, Francisco Torres-Rodriguez staged the murder of his wife, Reyna Quintero, making it look like a suicide.

Court documents indicate Quintero was getting ready to go out for the night, after deciding to end the marriage to Torres-Rodriguez. That's when he carried out the murder, said a news release.

[Three men sentenced for 2023 deadly beating in Caldwell](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance, biology screening, DNA, fingerprint, and firearms analyses in this case.

As previously reported by KTVB, 44-year-old Jeremy Jones was beaten to death by three individuals. Police said Kyle McGinnis, Richard Laine and Tommy Vallotton were charged in connection to the case. A grand jury previously indicted the three men for the death of Jones on Aug. 1, 2023. According to court records, two men identified as McGinnis and Laine broke into Jones' home with a BB gun that looked like a sawed-off shotgun and began beating him over the head when he answered the door.

[Man sentenced to life in prison without parole for killing Abel Saenz](#)

ISPFS performed latent print, biology screening and DNA analyses in this case.

CANYON COUNTY, Idaho – Boise man Hunter Knepp has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Abel Saenz. Judge Gabriel McCarthy sentenced him on Thursday, Jan. 16 and said he was denied parole due to the brutality of the murder, his lack of remorse and ongoing violent behavior.

The Nampa Police Department said dispatch received a 911 call on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, saying a man was lying in an alley in the 1200 block of 3rd Avenue North. First responders found a man dead with "what appeared to be stab wounds."



Police later identified the victim as Saenz. According to police, Kneppe stabbed Saenz in Nampa but was taken into custody at a hospital, where he had gone for treatment for defensive wounds.

[Nampa man cleared in fatal shooting, ruled self-defense](#)

ISPFS performed biological screening, DNA, and firearms analyses in this case.

Boyd cited Idaho's "Stand Your Ground" law, which presumes that homeowners acting in defense of their habitation do so with reasonable fear of imminent peril.

According to investigators, Villalobos, 53, approached Fleming's home uninvited and intoxicated before physically attacking Fleming, striking him in the head. Fleming then shot Villalobos in self-defense.

[Canyon County man sentenced to life in prison for murder of stepson](#)

ISPFS performed firearms analysis in this case.

On Wednesday, a Canyon County man was sentenced to life in prison for the first-degree murder of his stepson, 21-year-old Danny Borges.

According to a news release from the Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, the sentence was handed down to Felix Santiago-Torres on July 23.

"The conviction stems from an incident on April 17, 2024, when Torres shot and killed Danny Borges following a domestic dispute involving Borges' mother. After an argument escalated into a physical confrontation, Torres retrieved a firearm and fatally shot Borges outside the family home," said the news release.

[Woman sentenced for role in son-in-law's murder in Canyon County](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.



CANYON COUNTY, Idaho – A 60-year-old woman convicted of aiding and abetting in the second-degree murder of her son-in-law was sentenced Thursday afternoon in Canyon County District Court.

Rosalie Morris was sentenced to 30 years in prison with the possibility of parole after 18 years for her role in the 2024 killing of her son-in-law, Travis Calumpit. Prosecutors said Morris and her daughter, Melissa Calumpit, crossed state lines in July 2024 to carry out a plan to kill Travis, who was later found shot to death at Martin Landing Campground in Parma.

CASSIA COUNTY

[Burley man pleads guilty to rape and kidnapping after crime spree](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening, DNA and latent print analyses in these cases.

A Cassia County Sheriff's Office affidavit stated that Vergara entered three homes in Burley armed with a knife on the morning of April 19, 2023. Around 9 a.m., he entered a family's home while a mother was attending to her newborn baby in a bedroom. Vergara picked up the mother's 4-year-old daughter and then placed the child down and ran off.

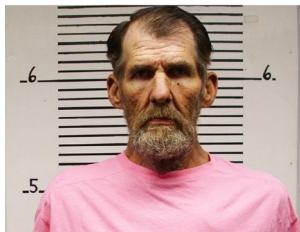


Vergara entered another house around 10:30 a.m., where he raped a 68-year-old woman, according to the affidavit. He entered a third house and verbally threatened to kill a woman inside before leaving. Law enforcement located and arrested him at 11:40 a.m.

CUSTER COUNTY

70-year-old enters Alford pleas in death and dismemberment of missing man

ISPFS provided field services and performed biology screening, DNA, and firearms analyses in this case.



CHALLIS – A 70-year-old man entered an Alford plea to killing and dismembering a missing man.

Alan Bruce entered the plea last week in the second-degree murder of 47-year-old Patrick Shelton. Bruce, who investigators said threw Shelton's burned remains in the Salmon River, also pleaded guilty to felony destruction of evidence.

An Alford plea is a guilty plea in which a defendant asserts innocence but admits a jury would likely find them guilty based on the evidence presented.

FREMONT COUNTY

Multiple Fatality Crash on US20 Near Henry's Lake

ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.

FREMONT COUNTY, Idaho - The Idaho State Police (ISP) is investigating a two-vehicle crash with multiple fatalities that occurred Thursday evening, May 1, on eastbound U.S. Highway 20 near Henry's Lake.

Just before 7:15 p.m., ISP troopers responded to the crash at milepost 399. The preliminary investigation indicates the collision involved a 2021 black Chevrolet Silverado pickup and a Mercedes passenger van. The van, which was reportedly transporting a tour group, caught fire following the crash.

GOODING COUNTY

Teenager pleads guilty to first-degree murder in Jerome man's death

ISPFS provided field services and performed biology screening, digital forensics, and DNA analyses on evidence in this case. Additionally, ISPFS performed DNA analysis to identify the remains.

GOODING, Idaho (KMVT/KSVT) – One of two teenagers charged in Gooding County for murder changed his plea to guilty as part of a plea agreement.

Alexander Garcia, 17, pleaded guilty in Gooding County District Court on July 22 to first-degree murder for the death of Dax Richins, according to court documents. As part of the plea agreement, the charges of destruction of evidence and failing to notify of death were dropped.



Woman sentenced to prison for aggravated DUI after crash paralyzes 4-year-old boy
ISPFS performed blood alcohol analysis in this case.



An affidavit from Idaho State Police states that on the night of Oct. 20, 2024, Brye was driving westbound on U.S. Highway 30 near milepost 177, just south of Hagerman, when she attempted to take a left turn onto River Road. Brye then struck an SUV driven by Tiffany Acuna, 35, who had two children in the back seat: Ali Acuna, who was 8 years old at the time of the crash, and Kase Jay, who was 4 years old at the time of the crash.

The crash left Jay with a traumatic brain injury and spinal fracture, according to the affidavit. He required a ventilator and a prolonged stay in intensive care.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

Post Falls man gets prison for aggravated assault
ISPFS performed biology screening, DNA, fingerprint, and firearms analyses in this case.



The charges stem from last August, when prosecutors said Marson pointed a handgun at the woman he was dating and threatened to shoot her and then himself.

Marson fired a round into the ceiling above where the woman was standing before fleeing the scene, according to prosecutors. Police located and arrested him several days later.

Coeur d'Alene man gets prison after rider for voyeurism, sexual battery
ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

COEUR d'ALENE – A man who admitted to sexually assaulting and photographing a sleeping woman will serve the rest of his prison sentence after a judge declined to place him on probation following completion of a prison treatment program.

Dexter R. L. Tondu, 20, pleaded guilty in April 2024 to video voyeurism, a felony, and sexual battery, a misdemeanor. Tondu originally faced an additional charge of forcible penetration with a foreign object, a felony with a maximum penalty of life in prison, but prosecutors later dismissed the charge in exchange for his guilty plea on the remaining charges.



Coeur d'Alene drug dealer sent to prison
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in these cases.

Tyson Patrick Healey, 44, was sentenced April 17 by District Judge Ross Pittman.

After learning Healey was dealing methamphetamine in the community, police used a confidential informant to purchase methamphetamine from him in November and December 2023, according to a press release. Officers used that information to obtain a search warrant to search Healey's

residence. Upon searching Healey's residence, officers located more methamphetamine, a scale and over \$2,000 in cash. Healey was indicted on these charges by a grand jury Jan. 24, 2024.

[Man gets prison for lewd conduct, child sexual abuse](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

The charges stem from last year, when prosecutors said Vansickle reconnected with an old acquaintance and subsequently became close to the acquaintance's teen daughter, bonding with her over a shared hobby.

"There was active grooming behavior that led up to him victimizing (the teen)," prosecuting attorney Laura McClinton said. In June 2024, prosecutors said, Vansickle brought the girl to a remote location and raped her. After the assault, a sexual assault nurse examiner collected DNA evidence from the teen's body that matched Vansickle.

[Washington man acquitted after fatal crash](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

The charges stem from the afternoon of Nov. 22, 2022, when police said Hegdahl was traveling northbound on Highway 3, north of Harrison, crossed into the southbound lanes and crashed into a truck occupied by a 49-year-old St. Maries man and his 10-year-old son.

The St. Maries man died at the scene from his injuries, while his son sustained 13 fractures and a brain bleed. The crash left the boy with facial scars and ongoing pain from a broken ankle, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said a blood test showed that Hegdahl had multiple prescription medications in his system at the time of the crash, including Suboxone, Adderall and Valium. The combined medications impaired Hegdahl's ability to drive, prosecuting attorney Katie Murdock argued.

[Harrison Man Sentenced To Prison For Lewd Conduct And Sexual Abuse Of A Child Under The Age Of Sixteen](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

COEUR D'ALENE - Jared R. Vansickle, 44, was convicted of Lewd Conduct With a Minor Under Sixteen and Sexual Abuse of a Child Under the Age of Sixteen.

The charges stemmed from an incident on June 24, 2024, when Vansickle engaged in manual-genital, oral-genital, and/or genital-genital contact with a 15-year-old child (the daughter of a friend). During the investigation, law enforcement learned that prior to the incident the defendant engaged in grooming behavior, including sending messages with sexual content to the victim and complimenting her appearance. In order to facilitate the sexual abuse on June 24th, Vansickle took the child to an isolated location - to look for camping/hunting spots - where she wasn't able to call for help. Vansickle denied any memory of the incident, claiming to have suffered a traumatic brain injury earlier in life. However, when confronted about the incident by the child through text messages only days after the incident, Vansickle apologized to the child, asked if "it hurt," told the child she did not have to worry about STD's and that it was unlikely she was pregnant. Vansickle's DNA was later confirmed to be on

the victim's genital area. Lewd Conduct With a Minor Under Sixteen is a felony, punishable by up to life in prison. Sexual Abuse of a Child Under the Age of Sixteen is a felony, punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Vansickle was sentenced on March 17, 2025, by District Judge Ross Pittman.

Cd'A man gets prison for witness intimidation, unlawful firearm possession

ISPFS performed firearms analysis in this case.



The charges stem from May 2024, when police investigated a claim that Romero had pointed a firearm at his former girlfriend.

Police obtained a search warrant for Romero's residence and located a firearm. Romero's firearm rights were suspended due to prior felony convictions, according to the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

A month later, Romero was charged with driving under the influence. A judge ordered that he be held on \$250,000 bail and issued a no-contact order forbidding him from contacting his former girlfriend.

Prosecutors said Romero violated the order in July 2024 by calling the woman from jail and "requesting that she be untruthful when testifying in regard to his criminal proceedings."

Man sentenced for seventh lifetime DUI

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

COEUR d'ALENE – A man who pleaded guilty to his seventh lifetime instance of driving under the influence received a probation sentence, according to the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Richard J. Rehl, 60, pleaded guilty in April to excessive driving under the influence, possession of an open container by a driver, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, all misdemeanors. Excessive DUI is punishable by up to one year in jail.

Rathdrum man sentenced to prison for drug trafficking, possession of child porn

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in these cases.



A Rathdrum man was recently sentenced to a 10-year prison sentence with parole eligibility after five years after being found in possession of child pornography. Steven Archie Spry, 59, was convicted of possession with intent to deliver fentanyl, trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of fentanyl and six counts of sexual exploitation of children by possession of sexually exploitative material, according to a press release from the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Post Falls killer gets life sentence

ISPFS provided field services and performed firearms, latent print, biology screening, and DNA analyses in this case.



COEUR d'ALENE – A man who fatally shot his ex's boyfriend will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Jason M. Rook, 48, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the Feb. 23 killing of 46-year-old Nathan Rogers. Rook also pleaded guilty to first-degree stalking, a felony.

In exchange for Rook's guilty pleas, prosecutors dismissed charges of burglary and destruction of evidence and dismissed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty.

Man imprisoned for meth trafficking, unlawful firearm possession

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

Daniel P. Grove, 55, of Coeur d'Alene, pleaded guilty in July to trafficking in methamphetamine and 14 counts of unlawful possession of a firearm.

First District Judge Regina McCrea sentenced Grove last week to 20 years in prison with parole eligibility after 10 years.

The charges stem from last October, when police were investigating a report of a stolen trail camera. The camera continued to transmit photos and GPS locations, according to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office, leading police to a residence on 15th Street in Coeur d'Alene.

Multiple agencies responded to the residence. A search of the place yielded the trail camera, more than two pounds of methamphetamine and firearms that were found behind the headboard and beneath the mattress of Grove's bed, as well as inside a closet and large bag.



LATAH COUNTY

Judge sentences Bryan Kohberger to life in prison for murdering four University of Idaho students

ISPFS provided field services and performed biology screening, DNA, fingerprint and controlled substance analyses in this case. A total of 47 separate analytical reports were issued.



Judge Steven Hippler ordered Kohberger to serve four life sentences without parole for four counts of first-degree murder in the brutal stabbing deaths of Mogen, Goncalves, Xana Kernodle and Ethan Chapin early on Nov. 13, 2022. He was also given a 10-year sentence for burglary and assessed \$270,000 in fines and civil penalties.

The defendant pleaded guilty early this month, just weeks before his trial was to start, in a deal to avoid the death penalty.

Kohberger broke into the home through a kitchen sliding door and brutally stabbed the four friends, who appeared to have no connection with him. No motive has been offered, and Kohberger chose not to speak at the hearing.

MADISON COUNTY

Rexburg man gets prison for murdering 35-year-old woman in front of her children

ISPFS performed blood alcohol, toxicology and controlled substance analyses in this case.

REXBURG – A 33-year-old man wept heavily throughout his sentencing Thursday as he was dealt the consequences for killing a mother of four in front of her children.

District Judge Steven Boyce sentenced Fabian Hernandez to life in prison. He will be eligible for parole after 35 years and receive credit for seven months already served in jail.

TETON COUNTY

[Jeremy Best sentenced to life in prison for killing pregnant wife, son](#)

ISPFS provided field services and performed firearms, biology screening, DNA and fingerprint analyses in this case

BOISE, Idaho – An Idaho man has been sentenced to life in prison for the deaths of his pregnant wife, the unborn child she was carrying, and their 10-month-old son, Local News 8 reported.

The sentencing began on Wednesday, July 23, and after two days of testimony, Jeremy Albert Best was reportedly sentenced to three consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole.



TWIN FALLS COUNTY

[Suspect pleads guilty to voluntary manslaughter in Fawnbrook Apartments shooting](#)

ISPFS performed firearms and latent print analyses in this case.

TWIN FALLS, Idaho (KMVT/KSVT) – A suspect in a July 2024 shooting in Twin Falls pleaded guilty to an amended charge as part of a plea agreement.

Dustin Molina, 29, pleaded guilty on Friday to one felony voluntary manslaughter charge as part of the agreement, according to the plea document. Molina was initially charged with second-degree murder, burglary, grand theft, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and intimidating a witness.

[Man receives prison sentence after admitting to 2022 fatal shooting, deputies say](#)

ISPFS provided field services and performed biology screening in this case.



Juan Jose Hernandez-Quiroga, 44, was sentenced on Dec. 1 to 20 years to life in prison for second-degree murder, according to court records. He also received a five-year consecutive sentence for destroying evidence.

An affidavit from the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office stated that Hernandez-Quiroga admitted to law enforcement that he killed Jose Israel Gallardo Eslava in April 2022. Eslava was first reported missing by the Mexican consulate in Boise on May 25, 2022, the affidavit said. The Twin Falls Police Department then received an anonymous letter in the mail on Sept. 6, 2022, which claimed that Hernandez-Quiroga had killed a man months ago at his workshop south of Twin Falls.

[Twin Falls man sentenced to prison after sexually assaulting child at fast food play area](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

TWIN FALLS, Idaho (KMVT/KSVT) – An Ada County judge has sentenced a Twin Falls man to prison after he sexually assaulted a child at a fast food play area.

Joseph Galan, 35, was sentenced to a unified 45-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to one count of lewd conduct with a minor under 16, according to the Ada County Prosecutor's Office. Galan will serve 20 years fixed and 25 years indeterminate. The office stated that Galan sexually assaulted a 4-year-old girl in a children's play area at a Boise fast food restaurant in October 2024. Galan turned himself in to law enforcement in January 2025 after fleeing to Oregon.



[Man sentenced to prison for child sex crimes in joint-sentencing agreement](#)
ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.



In the early morning of Jan. 20, 2025, a Jerome County deputy responded to a report of a possible attempted rape near Jerome, according to court documents. After being read his Miranda rights, Silvaz admitted to trying to have lewd conduct with a minor.

The documents reveal that during the initial investigation, Silvaz also admitted to having lewd conduct with a minor in Twin Falls around December 2023. Silvaz contended that the act was consensual, but the victim denied that claim.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

[Guilty verdict returned in Shoshone County fentanyl trial](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



WALLACE - A Montana man was found guilty of numerous drug-related charges following a trial last week in Shoshone County.

According to Shoshone County Deputy Prosecutor Britney Jacobs, the jury needed just 30 minutes to return a guilty verdict for 40-year-old Lacey Eagle The Boy, who had been charged with possession of fentanyl pills with intent to deliver them to others, attempted destruction of evidence, reckless driving, possession of marijuana, and possession of an open container of alcohol by a driver.

[Silver Valley woman found guilty of drug charges](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

According to court records, the charges stemmed from a May 2024 incident where Kleinbeck called emergency services and demanded to speak with the FBI concerning fabricated allegations against deputies with the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office. She then barricaded herself inside her residence on Pine Creek Road as law enforcement arrived at the scene.

Officers from three local law enforcement agencies responded, including Osburn and Kellogg police, and the SCSO. OPD Lt. Jason Woody was the first officer at the home and attempted to coax Kleinbeck out of the home to no avail, according to court records. He then told other responding officers that he believed her animated state and the allegations she was making were potentially the result of drug use.

The SCSO deployed K-9 unit Lulu, who alerted them to the presence of drugs in Kleinbeck's trailer and prompted them to secure a search warrant for the home.

[Montana man pleads guilty in fentanyl case](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

WALLACE - A Montana man pleaded guilty to possession of fentanyl with intent to deliver on Monday morning at the Shoshone County Courthouse.

Colton Zimmer, 35, had originally been charged with trafficking fentanyl, possession of drug paraphernalia, and obstruction before accepting the offer from the state to reduce the trafficking charge and drop the other two charges in exchange for his guilty plea.

[Montana man changes plea in meth trafficking case](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



Court records show the charges stem from a September incident in which Taplin-Jones was driving east on Interstate 90 when Idaho State Police Trooper Tyler Minkner attempted to stop him for not displaying a license plate or temporary tags. Minkner reported the vehicle swerved across lanes as both occupants moved around inside.

After pulling the car over, Minkner said he detected a faint odor of marijuana and asked if that was what the occupants had been shuffling. Taplin-Jones said it was, but later admitted there were other drugs and paraphernalia in the vehicle. A search uncovered more than 80 grams of methamphetamine scattered on the floorboards and hidden inside a Big Gulp cup.

[Silver Valley man found guilty in meth case](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis and provided an expert opinion related to methamphetamine manufacturing.

The charges stem from a February 2025 arrest. According to court documents, Deputy Eric Green with the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) received information from a confidential informant that Anderson was manufacturing methamphetamine at his Pine Creek home and planned to distribute the drugs in the community. After gathering enough evidence to corroborate the informant's claims, Green applied for a search warrant, which was issued in the early morning hours of Feb. 5.

The SCSO Rapid Action Team (RAT) raided the residence, where they found large quantities of chemicals used to produce methamphetamine, a marijuana grow station, and methamphetamine. Anderson was not home during the search, and the lab was inactive, according to SCSO Capt. Seth Green. Court records show the amount of meth seized during the search was roughly one pound, or 453.5 grams.

