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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.

RANDOX | TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM

In 2024, Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) created a drug overdose pilot project to assist coroners with financial burdens that toxicology testing on counties. The ISPFS lab is currently able to perform a rapid toxicology screening on suspected or potential drug overdose deaths with a **two-business day** turnaround time at no cost to the submitting agency. Results are then input into ODMaP which collects data on drug related hotspots across the state and nation and is available to all first responder agencies enrolled in the ODMaP program.

- 19 county coroners had participation agreements
- 48% submissions were presumptive positive for fentanyl
- FY25 program is operational and available for enrollment for counties who are interested in participating.



Purpose Area 3 (Lawfully Owed DNA):

- All lawfully owed DNA samples of sex offenders for each of the 44 counties have been identified and referred back to county sex offender registry for collection
- 1,414 DNA collection kits have been distributed under program; 498 of those returned

Purpose Area 4 & 6 (Cold Case) Cases Opened by County:

15 TOTAL			
1	Ada	1	Jefferson
1	Bannock	1	Kootenai
2	Bonner	1	Latah
4	Bonneville	1	Lincoln
1	Fort Hall	2	Nez Perce



61 nurses were trained in Idaho this year, totaling 261 trained nurses exceeding the goal set in 2019 of training 250 nurses. Of those trained, Idaho has 21 SANE-A (adult) and 4 SANE-P (pediatric) certified providers.

The ISPFS SANE/SART program has facilitated the development of three formal sexual assault response teams serving Blaine County, Minidoka/Cassia counties, and the Twin Falls/Jerome counties.

DIGITAL FORENSICS

Digital Forensics, formerly Cyber Crimes, has transitioned to Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) with accreditation coming in 2025. ISPFS Digital Forensic Scientists are International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS) certified and continue to serve the State of Idaho by providing forensic examination of:

- All digital media
- Onsite imaging capabilities
- Digital evidence search warrant and subpoena assistance
- Expert witness court testimony
- Video/audio enhancement

COLD CASE - NEZ PERCE COUNTY

[42-Year-Old Cold Case Solved with Advanced DNA Technology in Nez Perce County](#)

ISPFS performed DNA analyses in this case.

In June 1982, the remains of an unidentified individual were discovered in the Snake River near the mouth of the Grand Ronde River in Nez Perce County, Idaho. Nez Perce County is located in northwest Idaho, bordering the southeast corner of Washington. The Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene where it was determined the remains were that of a white male.

In 2023, the Nez Perce County Coroner's & Sheriff's Office and Idaho State Police Forensic Services submitted forensic evidence to Othram in The Woodlands, Texas to determine if advanced DNA testing could help identify the man. Othram scientists successfully developed a DNA extract from the forensic evidence, and then used Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing® to build a comprehensive genealogical profile for the unknown man. Othram's in-house forensic genetic genealogy team then used this profile to conduct genetic genealogy research, ultimately providing new investigative leads to law enforcement.

Using this new information, a follow-up investigation was conducted leading investigators to potential relatives of the man. Reference DNA samples were collected from the potential relatives and compared to the DNA profile of the unknown man. This investigation led to the positive identification of the man, who is now known to be Dewayne Surls, born 1965.

ADA COUNTY

[Boise social media influencer Natalie Hodson pleads guilty to killing woman in 2022 crash](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

BOISE, Idaho – A Boise woman charged with killing another woman in a crash on Highway 55 in 2022 changed her plea to guilty Thursday morning. Natalie Hodson, 39, is charged with vehicular manslaughter and leaving the scene of an injury crash in the death of 39-year-old Kristina Rowley of Cascade on Aug. 9, 2022.

[Caldwell man sentenced for trafficking fentanyl, meth](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

BOISE, Idaho – A 31-year-old Caldwell man will spend the next 20 years in federal prison for trafficking fentanyl and methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced Wednesday.

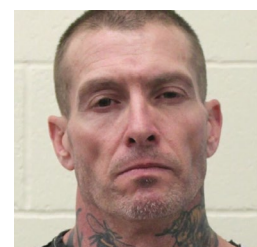
Rigoerto Hernandez was found with 19,900 fentanyl pills and 13.5 pounds of meth back in April 2023 while staying at an Airbnb. Officers with the Treasure Valley Metro Violent Crimes Task Force also located three guns during the search.



[Jerome Resident Convicted of Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced Jason Earl Wright of Idaho was sentenced to 7 years in federal prison for possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. Court records indicate Wright was involved in a drug trafficking organization in Idaho that extended to Oregon even though he primarily operated in Idaho. He was found with a small amount of cocaine, and when arrested after



his federal indictment, he was found with a loaded handgun, two loaded magazines, more than an ounce of methamphetamine, two cell phones, two scales, small plastic baggies and two drug ledgers.

[Meridian man pleads guilty for shooting power stations at Idaho dams](#)

ISPFS performed fire debris analysis in this case.

Randy Vail shot at the Hells Canyon and Brownlee dams in June 2022, resulting in more than \$500,000 in damages to the power stations.

[Idaho Falls woman who had 11K fentanyl pills goes to federal prison](#)

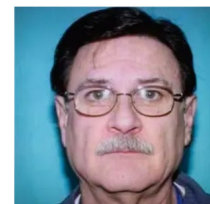
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

According to court records, Gomez conspired with four codefendants to distribute fentanyl. Three of the codefendants - Juan Villa, 34, Tyson Mitchell, 37, and Kevin Sermon, 34, were incarcerated for prior drug crimes during the conspiracy. Villa had been arrested after bringing 20,000 fentanyl pills into Idaho. Villa, Mitchell, and Sermon recruited Gomez and Summer Jones, 37, of Idaho Falls, to receive drugs from a California-based source of supply and transport the drugs to Idaho for further distribution.

[DNA helps link killings of 4 young women to an American man who lived in Canada illegally](#)

ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.

Crime scene DNA was seized during the initial homicide investigations, but due to a lack of DNA technology at the time, police failed to link a suspect to the killings. About 30 years later, in 2003, police were able to confirm the same suspect was linked to Rehorek and MacLean's deaths through DNA evidence. And in 2021, resubmitted crime scene evidence from the Dvorak and McQueen investigations unearthed a link with those of Rehorek and MacLean, according to RCMP.



[Man, 81, and wife, 70, sentenced for trafficking large amounts of meth in Idaho](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

According to court records, on April 15, 2023, Avilez-Lopez and Medina-Zeveda sold an undercover officer five pounds of methamphetamine in a Nampa store parking lot. On April 25, 2023, they both sold an undercover officer 20 pounds of methamphetamine in a Nampa store parking lot.

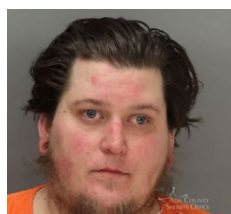
[Man from Meridian sentenced for vehicular manslaughter for killing pedestrian](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol, biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

Kellen Tutt, 41, was sentenced on Wednesday to serve up to nine years in prison by Ada County District Judge Peter Barton. Tutt pleaded guilty in January to felony vehicular manslaughter for hitting and killing 79-year-old Henry Reents, who was crossing the street in the crosswalk when he was fatally hit in January 2023.

[Boise man found guilty in 2022 murder](#)

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



Jed Earls, of Boise, was convicted by a jury on Thursday of second-degree murder in the shooting death of 22-year-old James "Matt" Cuellar. Jurors deliberated for roughly seven hours before determining Earls was guilty of shooting and ultimately killing Cuellar at a "gathering" at a Boise home on January 15, 2022, according to the Ada County Prosecutor's Office (ACPO). Earls was convicted following a 12-day jury trial.

Eagle man sentenced to 20 years for raping a woman

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

According to the prosecutor's office, Schossberger went to a local restaurant in March 2023, where he met the victim and began a conversation with her. The two did not know each other prior to this "criminal conduct," which took place inside his car.

Boise woman sentenced to life in prison for second-degree murder in 2018 killing

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.



In April 2018, Vargas was found dead in the Civic Plaza Apartments and had been stabbed multiple times in the head, neck, chest and stomach. Police spoke with witnesses, and officers identified the suspect as Swa.

According to Friday's news release, an autopsy found the victim was found with 36 distinct wounds.

He treated a homeless man to breakfast, then killed him. Man sentenced for Idaho murder.

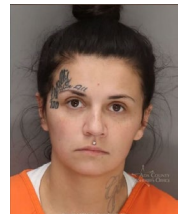
ISPFS performed toxicology, controlled substance, biology screening, and DNA analyses in this case.

"Cameron and Justin, who had been homeless for few months at that point, were cold and hungry and accepted what they thought was a kind gesture," Ada County Deputy Prosecutor Katelyn Farley said in court on Thursday. Hours later, Friesner was dead. Police found his body on July 27, 2023, near the Boise Airport in an industrial area along South Production Avenue, north of Gowen Road.

Woman charged in connection to prison escape, shooting at Boise hospital sentenced to 25 years

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

A woman who was charged in connection to aiding and abetting two men in a prison break at a Boise hospital earlier this year was sentenced to prison. On Friday, Dec. 20, Tia Garcia was sentenced in an Ada County courtroom to 25 years in prison for aiding and abetting and persistent violator charges. She assisted in the escape of Skylar Meade, an Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) inmate who was being treated at the Saint Alphonsus in Boise.



BANNOCK COUNTY

Brad Compher found guilty of murdering Nori Jones 20 years ago

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

Compher, 49, was found guilty of killing Nori Jones, a 25-year-old Pocatello native found stabbed to death in her home on the morning of Sept. 28, 2004. The jury determined that evidence proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, Compher killed Jones in the act of burglary, rape or both.

Charges dismissed against Pocatello man accused of raping young girl

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

The charges against a man accused of raping a woman for multiple years have been dropped. John William Tonks, 67, of Pocatello, was initially charged with two counts of rape.

The charges were dismissed with prejudice on Oct. 10, meaning the case cannot be refiled again in court. According to Tonks' attorney, Allen Browning, the charges were dropped because of testimony by multiple witnesses who reportedly discredited the woman's accusations.

[Fentanyl, methamphetamine dealer from Blackfoot sentenced to over 6 years in federal prison](#)
ISPFS performed latent print, controlled substance, and meth quantitation analyses in this case.



According to court records, on Jan. 11, 2024, officers stopped Johnson for speeding and failing to display a license plate. Prior to the vehicle coming to a stop, officers observed Johnson throw an item from the vehicle onto the side of the highway. Officers located a sock in the snow on the side of the road. The sock contained 347 grams of fentanyl and 39.6 grams of methamphetamine.

[Convicted meth trafficker sentenced to over a decade in prison](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance and digital analyses in this case.

According to court records, on Aug. 22, 2023, detectives with the Mini-Cassia Drug Task Force served a search warrant at Arteaga's home in Rupert and found 368 grams of methamphetamine and a firearm in Arteaga's bedroom. Detectives also found smaller amounts of cocaine, marijuana, and fentanyl in the room. Arteaga has previously been convicted of federal drug trafficking and firearms offenses in Idaho.

[Judge sentences man to 25-year sentence for 'sexually deviant' and 'reprehensible' behavior](#)
ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

A Bannock County man who pleaded guilty to lewd conduct with an 11-year-old girl has been ordered to serve a unified prison sentence of 25 years. Markus James Hottel, 22, pleaded guilty after reaching a plea agreement with the Bannock County Prosecutor's Office.



[Arizona Man Sentenced to 10.5 Years for Trafficking Fentanyl in Southern Idaho](#)
ISPFS performed controlled substance, biology screening, latent print and DNA analyses in this case.

58-year-old Larry James Little of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 126 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced today. According to court records, in August 2022, BADGES Task Force officers received reliable information that Little and his co-defendant, Adrienne Anderson, 44, also of Phoenix, were distributing fentanyl in Pocatello. After a four-month-long investigation, Anderson and Little were stopped by BADGES Task Force officers after they returned to Idaho from Arizona. BADGES Task Force officers searched the vehicle and located approximately 287 fentanyl pills and a firearm. Another firearm was recovered during a search warrant at a storage unit rented by Little and Anderson. BADGES Task Force officers also intercepted a package that Little and Anderson sent through the U.S. Postal Service that contained two ounces of methamphetamine.

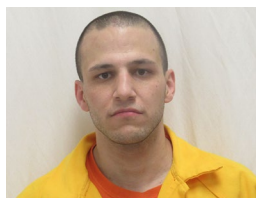
[Former Pocatello firefighter gets probation for possession of cocaine](#)
ISPFS performed blood alcohol and controlled substance analyses in this case.

Lloyd Russell Sleight, 31, entered a guilty plea after reaching a plea agreement with the Bannock County Prosecutor's Office, court records show. As part of the agreement, misdemeanor charges for possessing drug paraphernalia, driving under the influence and carrying a concealed weapon while under the influence were dismissed.



Pocatello man sentenced to prison for firing gun inside occupied home

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

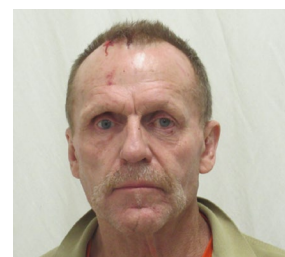


Zazweta was arrested in January following an altercation during which he fired several gunshots inside a home with multiple occupants. As officers approached the scene, they reported hearing gunshots coming from the home. Upon arrival, they found two spent shell casings as well as a fired bullet in the yard of the home from which the gunshots were coming. Zazweta had already left the scene when they arrived. Residents at the home told officers Zazweta threatened them with a gun from outside the front door, then attempted to break into the home through a window. They said Zazweta had fired multiple shots at the house a few days prior, but did not report the incident for fear of retaliation.

Pocatello man sentenced to probation for multiple high-speed chases

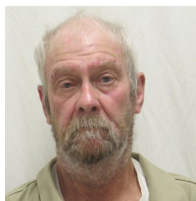
ISPFS performed controlled substance, blood alcohol, and toxicology analyses in these cases.

Bret Harold Charlton, 61, pleaded guilty to two felony counts of attempting to elude an officer and a misdemeanor charge for leaving the scene of an accident after reaching a plea deal with the Bannock County Prosecutor's Office, according to court records. As part of the deal, numerous charges were dismissed – including two additional counts of attempting to elude an officer and a felony drug possession charge. Charlton was arrested last June after his involvement in multiple high-speed chases spanning the previous three months.



Thrice-convicted drunk driver sentenced to 12 years in prison for DUI crash that killed woman

ISPFS performed toxicology analysis in this case.



A man with a history of driving under the influence who killed a pedestrian in 2022 has been sent to prison. Darwin Dee Reisner, 66, pleaded guilty to felony aggravated driving under the influence with a persistent violator enhancement after reaching a plea deal with the Bannock County Prosecutor's Office. As part of that agreement, a charge of vehicular manslaughter was dismissed.

Authorities identify human remains found in Portneuf River

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

Pocatello police officers on July 13 responded to the area of the Pacific Steel & Recycling trailhead to investigate the report of a human body that had been found in the Portneuf River. When officers arrived, they found partial skeletal remains.

Menan man sentenced for trafficking fentanyl

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

William Brian Thomson, 37, of Menan, was sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced. According to court records, Bonneville County Sheriff's deputies stopped a vehicle that was driven by Thomson. He fled on foot and was apprehended by law enforcement a short distance away. During a search of the vehicle, law enforcement discovered approximately 1,739 blue pills that later tested positive for fentanyl, a quarter pound of methamphetamine, and other drugs.

Two men sentenced for fentanyl trafficking in Pocatello

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced on Tuesday that 41-year-old Andrew George Haney and 35-year-old Anthony Michael Stratton were sentenced for conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, according to the attorney's office. Stratton provided money to help traffic 2,000 fentanyl pills into Idaho from California hidden in candy boxes, according to the attorney's office. Police initiated a traffic stop on the car the two were traveling in and located the pills.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

Man who pleaded guilty to string of burglaries sentenced to probation, community service

ISPFS performed blood alcohol analysis in this case.

Hansen and 27-year-old Adrian Harley Salerno were arrested in September following a high-speed chase near Saint Charles. Officers investigating a string of burglaries at local businesses when a vehicle connected to the burglaries by one of the victims drove past the scene. Following a chase, Hansen and Salerno were found in possession of, among other items, stolen chicken strips taken from an area restaurant. Both were charged with burglary, while Salerno was also charged with eluding an officer.



California man and Utah man sentenced for drug trafficking in eastern Idaho

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

Hank David Langley, 42, of Visalia, California, and Thomas Joel Schooley, 39, of Hyrum, Utah, were sentenced to 11-and-a-half years and eight years in federal prison, respectively, for trafficking methamphetamine and fentanyl in eastern Idaho, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced.

In January 2023, investigators intercepted a package sent through the U.S. Postal Service that contained 1,000 grams of methamphetamine. The package was addressed to Langley. Later the same month, Langley was arrested after a traffic stop in Pocatello. A pound and a half of methamphetamine, over 1,000 fentanyl pills, and a firearm were found in the car. Another firearm was later found in Langley's hotel room as part of the investigation.

BINGHAM COUNTY

Chester man sentenced for misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter.

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

The sentence comes after a double fatality crash on Interstate 15 in March 2023. Blanchard, who was driving a 2001 Lincoln Navigator, had swerved into the southbound lane of traffic and hit a Toyota RAV4 head-on. The crash killed two victims, 38-year-old Destiny J. Thain of Rexburg and 18-year-old Naomi Hernandez of Meridian.



Local man convicted of vehicular manslaughter in 2023 double-fatal crash on I-15 near Blackfoot

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

A 42-year-old local man was recently convicted of two counts of misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in connection to a double-fatal crash on Interstate 15 near Blackfoot in March 2023. The charges stem from a March 26, 2023 crash in which Blanchard was the driver of a 2001 Lincoln

Navigator SUV that crossed the centerline of Interstate 15 just north of Blackfoot and collided head on with a 2009 Toyota RAV4 compact SUV, authorities said.

BLAINE COUNTY

Charles Christopher Holloway sentenced to 25 to life for the murder of his roommate

ISPFS performed digital forensics, firearms, field services, biology screening and fingerprint analyses in this case.



BELLEVUE, Idaho (KMVT/KSVT) – A Bellevue man is headed to prison after killing his roommate late last summer. Monday, March 11, 2024, Judge Ned Williamson sentenced Charles Christopher Holloway to 25 years to life in prison in the murder of Joshua Takacs on August 24th, 2023.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

Man sentenced for 2022 shooting near Idaho Falls LDS temple

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



Idaho Falls Police were dispatched to an area near the Idaho Falls Temple on Memorial Drive on May 8, 2020, around 8 p.m. According to court documents, officers were told there was a shooting and everyone involved had already run away. The man who had been shot, later identified as Austin James Kuck, was already at the Idaho Falls Community Hospital with a gunshot wound to the hand.

Man going to prison for lewd conduct with 12-year-old

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis on this case.

A 22-year-old man will be spending time in prison after he was sentenced for having sexual conduct with a 12-year-old. District Judge Dane Watkins Jr. sentenced Denilson Jared Diaz Garcia to two to 12 years in prison. Deputies say a man, later identified as Diaz Garcia, was “caught having sex with a 12-year-old female.” When deputies arrived, Diaz Garcia was reportedly inside a trailer. Officers questioned him. During the interview with investigators, Diaz Garcia allegedly admitted to having sex with the victim in his house that morning. He said the reporting party walked in after they were done.



Man pleads guilty to first-degree murder in Idaho Falls

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

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – In March of 2024, five felony charges were up against 23-year-old Lance Broncho in relation to the death of Eric Leask in Idaho Falls. Broncho initially faced first-degree murder, robbery, burglary, unlawful possession of a firearm and aggravated battery charges. However, Broncho earlier this week pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and aggravated battery - the other three charges were dismissed due to a plea agreement.

Three Idaho Falls men sentenced to prison for drug trafficking

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in these 3 cases. Firearms analysis was performed in the officer involved shooting that occurred during Rosas's arrest.

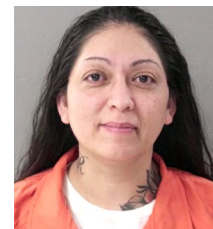
IDAHO FALLS – Three Idaho Falls men have been sentenced in federal court for drug trafficking.

According to the Idaho U.S. Attorney's Office, three separate drug distribution cases in eastern Idaho were resolved with prison sentences after being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Zoie Laggis.

[Angelica Martinez sentenced to prison for connection to double homicide](#)

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

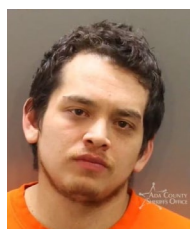
TWIN FALLS, Idaho (KMVT/KSVT) – A woman connected to the double homicide at a local business is headed to prison. Angelica Martinez told police she was the driver in the murders of 26-year-old Jaime Bravo Rodriguez and 36-year-old Jesse Ortiz-Meda at Tint Shop V on Dec. 1, 2023. On Friday, Martinez was sentenced to five years indeterminate and zero years fixed for felony accessory of withholding, concealing or harboring a felon and felony possession of a controlled substance.



CANYON COUNTY

[Nampa man convicted for killing his mother's alleged killer](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.



A news release from the Ada County Prosecutor states 32-year-old Raul Cuevas was convicted by a jury of second-degree murder in the killing of 39-year-old Jesus Urrutia.

Urrutia was a suspect in the murder of 52-year-old Michelle Luna, who is Cuevas' mother. Following the incident, Urrutia was found stabbed in a car at a gas station by Nampa Police, taken to a local hospital, and later declared dead.

[Caldwell woman sentenced to 25 years in prison for aggravated DUI](#)

ISPFS performed blood alcohol analysis in this case.

Canyon County officials said in a news release 29-year-old Ryann Ashley Holland was sentenced to serve ten years fixed, followed by 15 years indeterminate, for a total unified sentence of 25 years in prison. The news release states in December 2023, Holland was arrested after she was involved in a three-vehicle crash. She was reported to have a blood alcohol content of .271, was breastfeeding her six-month-old baby, and had a two-year-old child in the back seat at the time of the accident.

CARIBOU COUNTY

[Soda Springs woman sent to prison for selling meth out of home shared with children](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

Brook Jean Neeser, 30, pleaded guilty to one felony count of possession of meth with intent to deliver after reaching a plea deal with the Caribou County Prosecutor's Office, court records show. In exchange, two felony charges of injury to a child were dismissed. Neeser was arrested in October 2023 after deputies with the Caribou County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at her home. During their search, deputies found drugs and paraphernalia throughout the home, of which two of the bedrooms appeared to be occupied by small children. Some of the contraband was found in common areas of the home.

FREMONT COUNTY

[Man gets prison after taking Alford plea for drugging woman with meth to have sex with her](#)

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



On April 18, the victim met with Fremont County Sheriff's deputy and reported Wilding had abused her. She told the deputy he had been putting meth in her food, drinks, and medicines to rape her. He would also allegedly "attempt to introduce smoked methamphetamine vapors into her bedroom." When deputies asked how Wilding was drugging her, she explained that he would break open her medicine capsules and put methamphetamine into the capsules. He would also mix the drug into coffee, sweet tea, or her water bottle.

Former teacher pleads guilty to sexual battery of a teenage boy

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

As part of a plea agreement, Lawson agreed to plead guilty to two counts of felony sexual battery of a minor who is 16 or 17 years of age, and the Attorney General's office will drop all other charges, along with a separate case where Lawson was charged with an infraction for permitting an unauthorized minor to drive.



FRANKLIN COUNTY

Utah man gets prison for causing DUI crash that killed 5-year-old

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

Joshua Jason Hansen, 41, pleaded guilty to felonies of vehicular manslaughter and aggravated DUI after reaching a plea agreement with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, court records show. As part of the agreement, two additional felony aggravated DUI charges and misdemeanor charges of possessing marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use were dismissed.

GOODING COUNTY

Athena Miller and Nicholas James enter in a guilty plea for the murder of Roger Driesel

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

The hearing was held for both parties to re-enter a plea. Originally, both Miller and James were entered in for not guilty, but today they both plead guilty and took a plea deal with the state. The plea deals offered them 25 years fixed in prison and life undetermined. If they agreed to the plea deal on the same day, additional charges would be dropped as long as both parties agreed to cooperate with the investigation. Both Athena and Nicholas plead guilty on the record.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

'I wish it would have been me.' 19-year-old sentenced for local crash that killed man, severely injured woman

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

A 19-year-old responsible for the death of a man last year in a Jefferson County crash apologized for what he did with tears in his eyes before he was sentenced Monday afternoon. Court documents said Garcia was driving east on U.S. Highway 20 when he lost control of his vehicle – a gray 2012 Honda Accord. He drove through the median and into westbound traffic, crashing head-on into a white 2007 Nissan Murano, according to Idaho State Police.

JEREOME COUNTY

Co-Conspirator in Magic Valley drug ring sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for distributing fentanyl

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

BOISE, Idaho – Brandon Aaron Dana, 36, a co-conspirator in a giant drug trafficking conspiracy, was sentenced today to 10 years in federal prison for distributing over 7,000 fentanyl pills in the Magic Valley, announced U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit on Thursday.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

Washington man sentenced for trafficking meth

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

Rhett “Montana” Duwayne Schow, 61, of Tacoma, Wash., was pulled over Aug. 9 by Kootenai County Sheriff’s deputies as he was traveling along Interstate 90 on his way to Kalispell, Mont. After seeing several fentanyl pills in plain view, deputies searched Schow’s vehicle and located approximately one pound of methamphetamine and 150 fentanyl pills. Trafficking in methamphetamine is a felony punishable by up to life in prison and carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of at least three years.



Post Falls man gets prison for child sexual exploitation

ISPFS performed latent print analysis on this case.



The charges stem from late 2022, when a cloud storage service provider informed police that a user, later identified as Richmond, had uploaded child sexual abuse material to his account. Police obtained a search warrant for the contents of Richmond’s cloud storage account. The search yielded more than 500 videos and images depicting child sexual abuse, according to court records, including material that appeared to be produced by Richmond.

Cd'A man sentenced for voyeurism, intimidation, drug charges

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

A Coeur d'Alene man was recently convicted of video voyeurism, intimidating a witness, possession of fentanyl with intent to deliver and possession of methamphetamine and fentanyl, according to a press release from the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Cd'A man gets 30 years

ISPFS performed DNA analysis in this case.

On July 21, 2020, Granger, then 21, was sentenced for the felony crimes of rape, lewd conduct with a minor under 16 and sexual exploitation of a child by possession of sexually exploitative material, according to the press release.



Man gets prison for malicious harassment

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

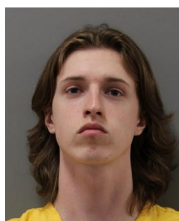
A Washington man received a prison sentence for lunging at a Post Falls police officer after calling the officer racist slurs, according to the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Dwayne T.

Houston, 40, pleaded guilty in January to malicious harassment and possession of methamphetamine, both felonies.

Coeur d'Alene man sentenced to prison for voyeurism, sexual battery

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

Dexter R. L. Tondu, 19, pleaded guilty in April 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. In January, a woman who described Tondu as a friend reported that he had sexually assaulted her while she stayed overnight at his residence.



PF teen gets prison time for role in shooting

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

District Judge Barry McHugh sentenced Ashlan Taylor Hjelmstrom to a 10-year prison sentence with parole eligibility after three years for aggravated battery and a 10-year prison sentence with parole eligibility after three years for unlawful discharge of an occupied vehicle, according to a press release from the Kootenai County Prosecutor's Office.

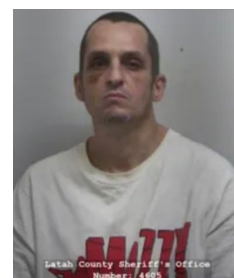
The charges stemmed from an April 5 incident when Hjelmstrom and Devin Corles Spring shot at a vehicle occupied by Spring's then girlfriend and another man, the release said. One of the bullets struck the man in the leg. Police officers later found two handguns hidden in a bag at a third party's residence.

LATAH COUNTY

44-Year-Old Moscow Man Who Took Part In Last Fall's Car Burglary Spree Sentenced

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

The 44-year-old Moscow man convicted of taking part in last fall's rash of car burglaries in Moscow and Pullman has been sentenced. Matthew Neeley was sentenced to diversionary drug court by Latah County Second District Court Judge John Judge on Tuesday. If he fails the intensive program then he faces between two and seven years in prison. Judge Judge also placed Neeley on probation for three years. He spent 120 days in jail since his arrest.



LEMHI COUNTY

Salmon man sentenced for manslaughter after jury trial

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

According to the release, evidence presented at trial showed that in October 2021, officers were called to the Panther Creek area in Lemhi County where witnesses had found the deceased body of the victim. "The law enforcement investigation led to Pethtel, who was staying at a cabin in the area and had been with his wife and the victim the night before," says the release.



LEWIS COUNTY

Lewiston Man Sentenced to 14 Years for Role in Deputy Assault and Vehicle Theft Incident

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

The sentence relates to his role in a July 2022 incident in Lewis County where 38-year-old Sarbacher fled from a Lewis County deputy while also in possession of a stolen UTV. In the course of this pursuit, Lewis County deputy Forrest Robinson was struck from the rear by a second vehicle, crashing and rolling the deputy's vehicle.

MADISON COUNTY

Chad Daybell verdict: Guilty on all counts

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



After a modest five and half hours of jury deliberations for the high-profile murder trial of Chad Daybell, a 12-person jury found the East Idaho man guilty of murder in the first degree on all counts. In the verdict reached on Thursday, May 30, Daybell was convicted for murdering his first wife, Tammy Daybell, and the two children of current wife Lori Vallow-Daybell, Joshua "JJ" Vallow and Tylee Ryan. The convictions carry a potential sentencing of the death penalty.

NEZ PERCE COUNTY

Suspect Accused of Attacking man With Hammer in Lewiston Pleads Guilty to Attempted Murder

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

LEWISTON - A 37-year-old man has pleaded guilty to attempted murder in relation to an incident where he allegedly attacked another man with a hammer near the area of 5th Street and Levee Bypass on June 23, 2023 in Lewiston.



Richard Ross Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2021 Murders of Edwina and Michael Devin

ISPFS performed field services, biology screening, DNA, fingerprint, and fire debris analyses in this case.



Ross was taken into custody in October of 2021 at the Clarkston Motel 6, and has since been held at the Nez Perce County Jail for his suspected involvement in the 2021 murders of 76-year-old Edwina Devin near Grangeville, and her 57-year-old son, Michael Devin, in Lewiston the next day. Both had been strangled. Michael Devin is a former brother-in-law of Ross. Ross is also a suspect in the 1994

Grangeville murder of Bruce and Lynn Peeples. Both were discovered in a burning home by firefighters. The cause of death was strangulation in those cases.

Lewiston Man Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter for Fentanyl Overdose Death

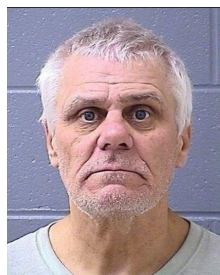
ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.

According to the Nez Perce County Prosecutor, Samantha Russell died from fentanyl toxicity on October 4, 2022, due to a single fentanyl, or “mexi,” pill provided to her by 52-year-old Eric Scott Taylor of Lewiston. Following a comprehensive investigation by the Lewiston Police Department, the Nez Perce County Prosecutor's Office sought and obtained a grand jury indictment in April 2023. Taylor was charged with involuntary manslaughter for her death and delivery of a controlled substance, both classified as felonies.



Suspect in Lewiston Attempted Murder Case Found Guilty

ISPFS performed latent print, controlled substance, biology screening, and DNA analysis in this case.



According to the Nez Perce County Prosecutor's Office, on July 14, 2023, the Lewiston Police Department responded to an injured person call in North Lewiston. Upon arrival, officers located the victim unconscious with multiple stab wounds. The victim was identified as Loyal Otis Dickson. Through a multi-month investigation, LPD Detectives were able to determine the trio of suspects were allegedly involved. All three were arrested in early October of 2023. Allen and LaPlante were indicted for attempted first degree murder and Wilson was indicted for accessory to attempted first degree murder.

Woman Accused of Smothering her Dad at Lewiston Vets Home Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Battery

ISPFS performed biology screening and DNA analysis in this case.

McCarty was arrested on February 2, 2023. According to court documents, the initial investigation by Lewiston Police showed that nursing staff interrupted McCarty while she was on top of her father, Bob Whitlock, with her hands over his mouth. Whitlock was an 81-year-old military veteran whom McCarty was visiting at the time. Whitlock was reportedly in hospice care at the time of the incident and died approximately two weeks after the incident.



Lewiston Man Pleads Guilty in Methamphetamine Trafficking Case

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

U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit announced today that 61-year-old Gary Glasser of Lewiston, has pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. According to court records, in May 2023, Glasser received a satchel from an unidentified person containing methamphetamine in Nez Perce County. Following his arrest, a search of his home uncovered a digital scale, several glassine baggies, and multiple ledgers, indicating intent to distribute the drug.

Lewiston man who Eluded Police, was Arrested With Nearly a Half Pound of Meth Sentenced to up 5 Years in Prison

ISPFS performed controlled substance analysis in this case.



A Lewiston man who allegedly fled from police and was later found in possession of nearly a half-pound of meth was sentenced in Nez Perce County Court on Wednesday.

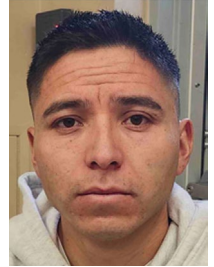
During the arrest, Acree told police that he had put a bag in the door panel of the car and said it contained "about a half pound of meth," according to the documents. Based on that statement, the officer searched the car and found a sandwich sized bag that contained a large amount of crystalline substance believed to be methamphetamine. The weight was approximately 207.7 grams, or about .46 pounds.

TETON COUNTY

Man sentenced to prison after crash that killed driver in 2023.

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

TETONIA – A 34-year-old was sentenced to prison for killing an Idaho Falls man after driving recklessly on snow-covered roads, causing a head-on crash. Isaul Sanchez, of St. Anthony, was charged with felony vehicular manslaughter. Brian Wright, 52, was killed. Sanchez signed a plea agreement earlier this year and pleaded guilty to the charge. District Judge Steven Boyce sentenced him on Nov. 19 at the Teton County Courthouse to two and a half years of fixed time in prison with no eligibility for parole.

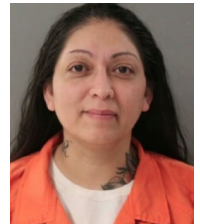


TWIN FALLS COUNTY

Martinez pleads guilty to amended charge in Tint Shop V Murders

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

According to court documents, Martinez allegedly drove two men to the tint shop on December 1, 2023, where they proceeded to kill 26-year-old Jaime Bravo Rodriguez and 36-year-old Jesse Ortiz-Meda. Martinez stated in her interviews with law enforcement that the two men, “El Guero” and “El Diablo” had her drive them to Mexico and told her they no longer needed her services.



Mi'Quavis Taylor sentenced in Twin Falls County Court

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

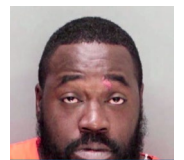


On Nov. 16, 2023, Mi'Quavis Taylor and Kaden Thomson murdered 32-year-old Freddy Rodriguez outside of his home during a robbery. Taylor and Thomson went on a reckless rampage of robbery, thefts, burglaries and violent crime before they ended the spree with the murder of Rodriguez, according to court documents and the prosecutor's office. Taylor addressed Rodriguez's wife in court, claiming he knows what it feels like to lose someone.

Man sentenced to prison after killing Twin Falls woman in 2019 crash

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

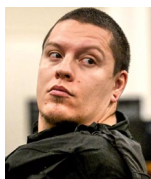
According to court records, on June 7, 2019, Mitchell drove between 74 and 79 miles per hour on Heyburn Avenue, before crashing into the back of a pickup driven by Maryann's husband, Dwayne. The four-vehicle crash at the intersection of Heyburn and Blue Lakes Boulevard North sent six people to the hospital.



SHOSHONE COUNTY

Man who killed entire Kellogg family sentenced to life without parole

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



Gasps rang through a packed courtroom Monday as the man who shot and killed an entire family in Kellogg last year was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Majorjon Kaylor, 32, pleaded guilty in December to executing his four neighbors last summer.