

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.

COLD CASE -

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 3×5 '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 3×5 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.

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.

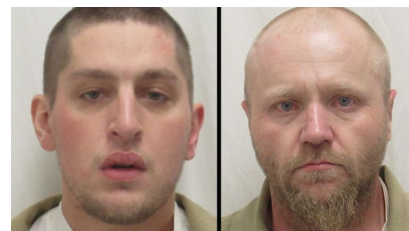
According to court records, Cates sold methamphetamine and fentanyl to an individual on three occasions at his residence at Fort Hall. On April 11, 2024, Cates sold 3.58 grams of methamphetamine. On July 22, 2024, Cates and his co-defendant, Mariah Dawn Russell, sold 10.92 grams of fentanyl. On Aug. 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.

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.

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.

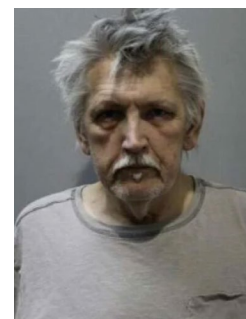
While Bravo was transported to the hospital, another officer discovered an air duster can near the driver's seat. Bravo claimed he used the can to clean his air vents, officers said during a preliminary hearing on July 29. However, psychiatric pharmacist Gary Dawson—also called to testify on July 29 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.”

[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.

[Westra pleads guilty, second sex abuse case](#)

ISPFS performed biology screening in this case.

During the hearing, Bonner County Prosecutor Louis Marshall told the court that the allegations stem from a recorded call that occurred around a year ago between the victim and Westra, where Westra allegedly admitted guilt of the lewd conduct. The victim, at the time of the incident, was between the ages of 4 and 5. Westra was arrested on the matter Feb. 25, in Ada County, his county of residence. 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 for the matter until 2029.



[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.

[Veatch 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.



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.

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.

Rexburg man signs plea deal in fatal crash that killed six; state recommends 30-year sentence

ISPFS performed blood alcohol and toxicology analyses in this case.

According to court documents, Garcia-Diaz was driving in a Dodge Ram heading east when he “drove over the center of the highway and entered the westbound lanes, and collided head-on with a 2016 Chevrolet Express van, carrying 14 people.

The document states that a search warrant for Garcia-Diaz’s medical records was obtained, and a toxicology exam was conducted the morning of the crash. It states that Garcia-Diaz’s blood alcohol level was at 0.192%. The legal limit is 0.08%.



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%.

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.

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 Knepe 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.

[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.

[CARIBOU COUNTY](#)

[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.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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.



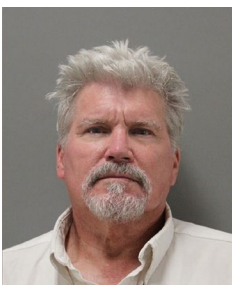
JEFFERSON COUNTY

JEREOME COUNTY

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.

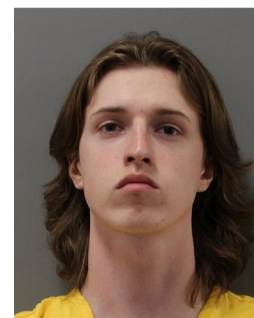
Marson fired a round into the ceiling above where the woman was standing before fleeing the scene, according to prosecutors. Police located and arrested him several days later.

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. Tondou, 20, pleaded guilty in April 2024 to video voyeurism, a felony, and sexual battery, a misdemeanor. Tondou 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.

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.

LEWIS COUNTY

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.

NEZ PERCE COUNTY

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

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.