


FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION


Labyrinth – Quarterly Newsletter

1st Quarter 2025

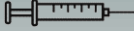


Biology

 Congratulations to Danielle Klemenko, who has finished her DNA training and is now a full time analyst!


 You may notice that our Serology Reports have new wording. We have removed some redundant wording and added a statement that clarifies whether additional DNA analysis is being done and whether anything else is required from the agency. Please contact us if you have any questions about these changes.

Chemistry


 Please include on the Submission Form where drug evidence items were recovered from (for example, John Doe's pocket or Sara Smith's purse). This information can be added on the line description or in the synopsis field. This helps us appropriately prioritize which items to work.

Evidence


 Welcome our new Evidence Technician Hazel Videon!


 Please make sure and package items separately for evidence submission and list each item on its own line of the submission form. Do not place multiple items within the same bag or box, if they are not considered part of the same evidence item. Separately packaged items may be combined for mailing.

Firearms


 The Firearms Section will be receiving additional instrumentation to expand the Virtual Comparison Microscopy capabilities of the section. The Cadre VERSA Scanner allows imaging of highly damaged bullets and bullet fragments, as well as other toolmarks which are not possible using the current desktop scanner. We are currently working on the validation for this equipment.


Latent Prints

 LP will be doing more agency outreach in 2025. If you are interested in getting more hands-on latent collection training, please email dojprints@mt.gov.


 If an item can easily be submitted for LP, please do so. The Latent Print unit has over 20 different processing techniques to increase the possibility of developing impressions on items that may not be easily visible with the use of powder and photography.


Toxicology

 The Toxicology Section has validated a screening method using new technology called an LCMS-QTOF. This will allow the section to provide fast screening results for a wide range of drugs using smaller sample volumes. It was a huge undertaking and a testament to the dedication of our scientists.

 Liz Holom-DeYoung has left the Toxicology Section of the Crime lab. We wish her the best of luck at her new job!

Miscellaneous

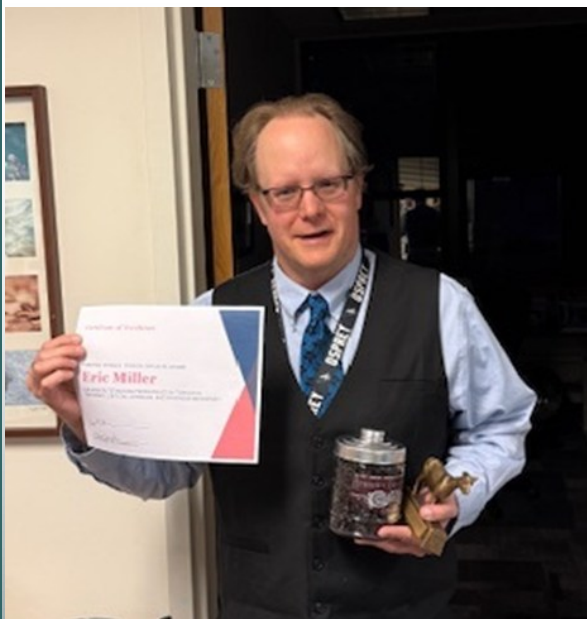
 We recently said farewell to our two Missoula Medical examiners, Dr. Aldo Fusaro and Dr. Sunil Prashar. We wish them luck on their next adventures and are working on hiring new Medical Examiners.

 For Discovery Requests, please visit the Discovery Records portion of our website. It contains the information we require to complete your request in a timely manner.

Labyrinth - continued

Employee Awards

Congratulations to last quarter's Employee of the Quarter, Jaimie Soderling, and to the lab's 2024 Employee of the Year, Eric Miller! Both hardworking employees of our Toxicology Section!



Website Update

The Department of Justice recently underwent an update, including the Crime Lab's website. The new URL for our website is <https://dojmt.gov/forensic-science-division/>. The links for all of our pages, including forms, policies, evidence collection resources, accreditation information, discovery records, and more, can be found on the upper right hand side of the main page. Just click on the drop down menu arrows to expand!

Employee Spotlight

This month's Employee Spotlight is on Ben Vetter! Born in Helena, Ben moved to Missoula as a child and attended Sentinel HS and the University of Montana. He earned a BA in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology and a minor in Psychology. Ben joined the Crime Lab in 2001 in the Breath Alcohol Section. Ben's job duties include certifying Intoxylizers and doing breath test/DUI training across Montana, most often at MLEA, Maelstrom Air Force Base, and at Glacier. Ben has two adult sons and an adorable dachshund named Weenifred who keeps him in line. In his spare time, Ben fixes cars and has a collection of over 140 watches.



Forensic Science Division
PO Box 16170
2679 Palmer Street
Missoula, MT 59808
(406)728-4970

Forensic Science Division - East
1516 4th Avenue North, Suite 1
Billings, MT 59101
(406)255-1101

Website: <https://dojmt.gov/forensic-science-division/>

Please take the survey on our website.