


# FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION


## Labyrinth - Quarterly Newsletter

December 2022

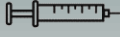


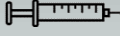
### Biology

 Biological samples need to be dried and packaged in paper or cardboard. Packaging wet items in plastic can lead to mold growth and decreased DNA recovery or render the item unsuitable for analysis.


 Please remember that all submissions to the Biology section require a police report. We cannot begin analysis of a case without it.


### Chemistry

 Please submit a police report with all GSR evidence.


 Fentanyl cases are up ~250% over last year. This issue recently made the news: <https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/billings-crime-lab-chemists-unbundled-bizarre-things-drug-makers-mix-in-fentanyl-pills>

### Evidence


 Please make sure to properly seal evidence. This includes the plastic ends of syringe tubes and heat seals. All seals that are not manufacturer's seals require an additional seal with the individual's initials or badge number and date sealed.


 Please ensure that you are using the correct Submission Form for your type of evidence and submission location. The forms can be downloaded at <https://dojmt.gov/crime/forms/>.

### Firearms


 The Firearm Section is anticipating the installation of a new bullet recovery tank. Team Fabrication, Inc. is in the process of scheduling the installation in the near future. The new system adds a filtration and pumping system, as well as a bullet recovery wand. It also features an illuminated tank and a full length mechanical lid. The new system facilitates the test firing process, greatly improving upon the old system.


### Latent Prints


 Please don't hesitate to contact the Latent Prints section with any questions regarding evidence packaging, collection, or photography!

 Due to some upcoming extended stall leave, some agencies may be contacting regarding a small-scale, short-term outsourcing effort at the start of next year. Overall operations should only be minimally impacted, so please continue to submit cases as normal.


### Toxicology


 Breath Test Specialist recertifications are now **overdue**. If you still have not sent yours in, please do so right away to avoid decertification. Please contact the lab with any questions.

 In 2023, the Breath Alcohol Section will be moving to digital storage of all records.

 Two additional analysts will be starting in the Toxicology Section over the next several months.

### Miscellaneous

 Congratulations to Joel Smith, JITSD Employee of the Quarter award for the 3rd quarter, 2022!

 We're looking into a new secure electronic system for submitting evidence items and receiving reports. Stay tuned for more info!

# Labyrinth - continued



Part of the Missoula crew.



Part of the Billings crew.

## Employee Spotlight

Stephanie Shappee has been a Latent Print examiner for over 5 years. During her time at the Crime Lab, she not only works tirelessly on casework, but also strives to improve the latent print process across the state and country. Stephanie performed the VMD validation and was invited to present her work at the Tennessee Division of IAI. She is a board member on the board of directors for PNWD. In addition, she is the Montana representative for ABIS, which entails training new examiners, troubleshooting, and meeting with organizations such as DCI's TenPrint. Her current project is obtaining a CJIN terminal at the Crime Lab. Stephanie earned her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from AIU and her Master's in Forensic Science from National University. We're so grateful to have her on our team!



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