

Forensically Speaking

Seeking truth and justice through science.

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

Aug 13-17 IAI Certification Test Prep
To register visit: <http://www.forensicpieces.com/lists/2-course-descriptions/items/24-crime-scene-certification-text-book-review-all-levels>

Sept 10-12 CSI & Forensic Entomology
Contact: Douglas A Young (720) 984-2403 or triadforensics@gmail.com
www.triadforensics.com

Dec 3-6 Scientific Analysis: Applying ACE-V and Daubert to Testimony
Contact: Angie Olson (402) 444-6625 or Michele Triplett 206-819-3385
Angie.olson@douglascounty-ne.gov

These classes are being held at our facility, but conducted by outside instructors. Please see the contact information for specifics regarding each course.

If you are looking for a specific course to be held in the Omaha area please let us know and we will locate an instructor and host the course at our facility.



From the Crime Laboratory Director

I recently was reading an article on the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists website (www.swafs.us) titled "Preparing for a Career in Criminalistics: A Guide for Current & Prospective Students" by Thomas W. Adair. I highly recommend this article not only for students but those who are new to the field. The Forward in this article was written by the Former Chief of Police for the City of Westminster in Colorado, Dan Montgomery and are points that we all should be reminded of from time to time. Please enjoy this reprint of the Forward entitled, "10 Tips for Success & Survival".

"10 TIPS FOR SUCCESS & SURVIVAL"

Over a 45-year career in law enforcement, I have learned a few things from very smart people that have been extremely helpful to me personally, and professionally. I call these things, "10 Tips for Success & Survival," and would urge anyone who is at all concerned about being successful in the criminal justice field, or any field for that matter, to take note. I have seen too many people fail over the years. And they failed because they didn't pay attention to, or forgot about one or more of these "10 Tips for Success & Survival."

1. Work hard, do good, be kind (McFall).
2. Be SPIRIT-driven. SPIRIT is an acronym for service, pride, integrity, responsibility, innovation and teamwork (McFall). Provide quality service; take pride in who you are and what you do; have impeccable integrity; be responsible and accept responsibility for your actions and decisions; be innovative, think outside the box; and be a team player.
3. Practice the, "Golden Rule." Treat others like you want to be treated and treat them with courtesy, respect and dignity.
4. Work hard at maintaining harmony. Life is all about relationships and interpersonal skills, so be tough on issues, but easy on each other. People get hired because of their technical abilities, but they get fired, lose their jobs, or wallow in mediocrity, because they can't get along with others.
5. Be an optimist and not a pessimist. Optimists see the opportunity in every difficulty. Pessimists see the difficulty in every opportunity. Don't be an Eeyore and drag everyone down with your complaining.
6. Be humble and eat a little humble pie on occasion. People make many mistakes, but they aren't a failure until they start blaming others (Churchill).
7. Be in control. The mind is a strange thing. It can make a heaven of hell or a hell of heaven. The choice is yours and yours alone (Milton).
8. Have a good sense of humor and have fun on the job. If you're not having fun on the job, you're not doing it right (Rominger).
9. Be objective and see the big picture. Open up your mind and dig deeper to see the whys behind the "what"s.
10. Manage interpersonal conflicts effectively. Conflicts involving value systems, e.g. what is right, wrong, good, bad, proper, improper, etc., usually can't be resolved, and at best can only be managed. Conflicts that involve facts, information or data can usually be resolved once the facts, information or data are clarified. Know the difference, and know too that it takes a significant emotional event in one's life to change one's value system.

Write these down, keep them close, and pay attention. Believe me, they will help you succeed and survive. Good luck to you in your future endeavors.

*Dan Montgomery;
Chief of Police (retired), City of Westminster, Colorado*

*Tracey M. Ray
Crime Laboratory Director
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Crime Scene Investigation - Bloodstain Pattern Analysis – Thank You Ketchup!

By Ashley Paggen – CSI I

While attending the 2012 Annual Joint Quality Assurance Session on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (hosted at the Kansas City Regional Police Academy in Kansas City, MO), I was introduced to a simple way of explaining a difficult concept. As a new Crime Scene Investigator and even newer trainee in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA), I need all the help I can get when it comes to relaying difficult concepts. The best way to explain difficult con-



cepts is to apply the concept to an everyday occurrence. Thankfully, French-fries and ketchup go hand-in-hand, so “life experience” with ketchup here in the United States is certainly not difficult to find! Although ketchup resembles blood in that it looks great on a home-made vampire’s costume, it is not that aspect of ketchup that proves useful to the BPA discipline. Rather, its’ inherent physical property, viscosity, also known as resistance to flow, by which it remains “stuck” in the bottle and the process by

which our “life experience” recalls beating the back end of the bottle until the stubborn ketchup comes flying out, serves as an instant bridge for relating the following BPA concept.

Since claims have been made that BPA is a subjective inference of the bloody “static aftermath,” I feel obligated to first assert that the discipline is quite the contrary. BPA heavily relies upon the scientific method to objectively reconstruct bloodletting events by applying relevant scientific principles/laws of physics, mathematics, biology, and chemistry. With that said, some of the science based BPA applications are well known and understood by everyday people, such as the concepts of gravity and speed. Other BPA applications, such as non-Newtonian fluid dynamics and shear rates, are foreign, frightening, and frankly, boring to the majority of French-fry loving Americans. That’s where ketchup saves the day!

Ketchup, you see, spares you (and the jury) an entire lesson in fluid dynamics and Newton’s laws of motion. If you have en-

dured thus far, you can rest assured in knowing that you have all the prior knowledge required to understand how blood behaves. Most fluids, like air and water, adhere to Newton’s laws of motion, so they are termed Newtonian fluids. And yes, air IS a fluid, it’s just not a liquid (to refresh your memory). Anyhow, blood, as with toothpaste and paint, do not move according to Newton’s laws and thus are termed non-Newtonian fluids. So, what’s that mean? Simply put, their viscosity, AKA resistance to flow, can change instantly. But how?



Drawing upon the aforementioned “life experience,” recall how when you turn a ketchup bottle upside down and nothing comes out, you instinctively hit the back of the bottle. Little did you know that by doing so, you increased the ketchup’s shear rate, thereby causing the viscosity to decrease, thus allowing the ketchup to flow out of the bottle in

When combined with other BP a dynamics (that I will spare you of), this reality aids in understanding how blood droplets deform and break apart after impacting a surface --- the “static aftermath” surface. This concept may seem puzzling at first, but in knowing this clever everyday analogy, BPA experts can easily introduce non-Newtonian fluid dynamics and furthermore convey their findings. Once again, thank you ketchup!

Latent Fingerprints

The Latent Print Unit is dedicated to providing quality work utilizing various methods that are accepted within the forensic science community. When conducting a latent print comparison, the DCSO Latent Print Unit utilizes a scientifically-based method called ACE-V. ACE-V stands for Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification. It mirrors the scientific method which is the process by which good science is practiced. In order for an examiner to arrive at a conclusion, this method should always be utilized.

Scientific Method:
 Hypothesis
 Observation/Testing/Experimentation
 Analyze Data
 Interpret/Form Conclusions
 Publish/Peer Review

ACE-V:
 This print belongs to this person
 Analysis—pattern, clear detail, good quantity
 Comparison—known print pattern, clear detail, good quality
 Evaluation—this latent print was made by this finger
 Verification—Peer Review

The **analysis** phase of an exam is where the examiner looks at an unknown impression and determines whether or not the impression is comparison quality. This is where documentation is crucial as to what the examiner is seeing in that unknown impression. Level 1 detail is a print's overall pattern and ridge flow, level 2 detail are referred to as minutiae (ridge endings, dots and bifurcations) and level 3 detail are the characteristics of the ridge itself, like the presence of pores within the ridges or the morphology of the ridge edge. These levels of detail are utilized to analyze a latent print and determine whether or not that print is suitable for further

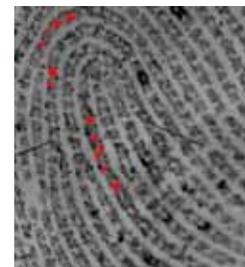
*ACE-V stands for
 Analysis, Comparison,
 Evaluation and
 Verification*



Level One-Whorl



Level Two-Ridge Endings/
 Bifurcations

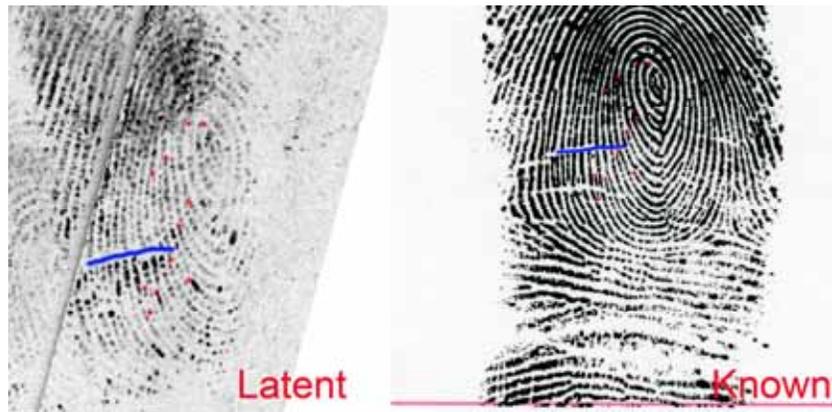


Level Three-Pores

Once a latent print examiner determines that a latent impression is suitable for further examination (or comparison quality), they can then move on to the **comparison** phase where they utilize the already analyzed latent impression and compare it to a known impression. (Generally, known impressions are of high quality; they are obtained in a controlled setting with careful attention to the recording process and as such, are suitable for comparison purposes as well.) In this phase, the examiner utilizes everything that they noted in the analysis phase and compares those notations to the known print to determine if the two prints are in agreement. (continued)

Latent Fingerprints (Cont)

After all of the notations have been compared, the examiner then **evaluates** the results of the comparison and makes one of three conclusions; identification (the two impressions were made from the same source), non-identification (the two impressions were not made from the same source), or inconclusive (either the known or unknown impression was not sufficient enough to determine exclusion or identification).



Backlog

As of the end of May, the latent unit has a backlog of 37 cases and a turn around time of 29 days.

After the analysis, comparison and evaluation phases have been completed, the examiner then submits the completed examination to another qualified latent print examiner who completes the **verification** phase. This phase entails the latter examiner reexamining the impressions to determine if they both arrived at the same conclusion. They enter the verification phase trying to disprove the original examiner's conclusion; if they cannot disprove the original conclusion, they must accept the original conclusion and agree with the original examiner's findings.

Is Certification Necessary?

Anytime someone or something is certified, it gives us a warm fuzzy feeling that that 'person' is the best or that that 'thing' is in good working order. While certifications exist for almost anything, the process to get that certification is always different. For example, to be a certified Forklift Operator, one only needs to watch a 45-minute video and take a 15 question test. To be a certified law enforcement officer, one must attend a fourteen-week academy with rigorous testing throughout. Certification programs are vastly different across professions.

Does a certification hold any water for our profession, especially in court? Does testimony of a certified latent print examiner, for example, carry more weight than a non-certified examiner? It all depends on the person and the lab where they work and that lab's practices. If latent print examiners are competency tested and proficiency tested yearly, but not certified, one can say that this is a way to measure their abilities without the global "certification" moniker. As long as a person can testify in a clear, concise, and truthful manner, and show knowledge of the area they are testifying to, one doesn't need to be certified to testify.



Certifications are definitely not a bad thing. In fact, having a certification in conjunction with the lab's practice of competency and proficiency testing is a great thing. Certified Latent Print Examiner (or CLPE) is a title any practicing latent print examiner should aspire to obtain if working in the field of latent print examinations. This certification is based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of qualifications as reviewed by the applicant's fellow examiners as well as a formal examination. This formal examination consists of a three part written examination that test the examiners knowledge of the history and current events in the field as well as the examiner's ability to compare and identify latent prints. Although it is not necessary to be certified to be a working latent print examiner, the criminal justice system has the right and obligation to know as to why a latent print examiner on the stand does not have their certification. A latent print examiner can still be in practice without the certification as long as they can show adequate and proper training, years of experience, that they have been competency and proficiency tested, and that their work is being reviewed.

There are currently just over 800 certified latent print examiners in the world with only a fraction of those actually practicing latent print examinations in their everyday case work.

www.theiai.org/certifications/latent_print/intro.php

Does Certification Equal Competency?

Multimedia

- A quick lesson in Forensic Video Analysis -

Forensic Video Analysts utilize many different tools and techniques to process videos involved in criminal investigations. One of the most important being a technique called Frame Averaging.

Frame Averaging

A process that combines multiple frames of video and averages the pixel values together to create an averaged frame. Everyone is familiar with the classic *snow* displayed on a television screen when there is no reception. When looking closely, it is obvious that the *snow* is randomly moving on the screen. This *snow* is a very good comparison to the noise and grain seen in almost every frame of recorded video. Essentially every video contains noise which is created when the recording media comes in contact with the recording device or, in the case of digital video, the recorded video is compressed which creates visible compression artifacts. No matter how the noise is created, it is almost always random and therefore can be reduced so the content of the video is clearer. This process works best when the target content is stationary, such as a parked vehicle. Since the vehicle is not moving and the noise is moving, processing the video utilizing computer software with a frame averaging filter, the analyst can tell the software to eliminate the content in the video that is changing from frame to frame...which in this case is the noise. The result is a single image created from multiple averaged frames of video.



The Frame Averaging technique can be a very effective tool for clarifying the content in video



The original image below depicts one single frame captured from a video file. The second image depicts the same captured frame with the brightness increased. The video noise in the second image is very obvious. The frame averaged image depicts the result of approximately 120 video frames averaged together. The noise is reduced to the point where details such as the cabinet handles become visible.



As can be seen in the above images, the Frame Averaging technique can be a very effective tool for clarifying the content in video. Stay tuned for additional Forensic Video Analysis lessons.

Chemistry

Evidence Integrity

The value of any type of evidence depends on maintaining the security and integrity from collection to trial. With this being said, it is obvious that the collector of the evidence holds the responsibility of submitting evidence that is properly packaged and sealed. The chemistry unit has many types of evidence that are submitted for analysis. One of these types of evidence is fire debris. The purpose of analyzing fire debris samples is to detect residues of ignitable liquids that may have been used to accelerate a fire. Because analysts are looking for potential trace amounts of these volatile liquids, proper packaging of these types of samples is very important. If samples are not packaged correctly, vapors may escape or be masked by contamination, which leads to false negative findings. Fire debris samples require specific packaging. Types of containers that should be used for fire debris samples are metal cans, glass containers with Teflon lids, and nylon bags. Other types of packaging should not be used unless there is absolutely no alternative. In these cases, the evidence should be appropriately re-packaged as soon as possible, and the initial packaging material should also be submitted to the lab for analysis. Some tips on packaging fire debris samples are:

- If the sample is a container containing an unknown liquid, do not submit the entire container for analysis. Submitting large amounts of potential volatiles to the lab is hazardous. Use a glass vial with a Teflon lid to collect a sample of the liquid.
- Do not over fill the metal cans or nylon bags. This eliminates the vapor space necessary to extract the ignitable liquid.
- Do not underfill a can. This can also interfere with the efficiency of the extraction.
- Ensure all seals are tight and secure. If seals are complete vapors will escape.
- Nylon bags are not the same as plastic bags that are frequently used for other types of evidence. Plastic bags allow ignitable liquid vapors to escape and can contaminate the sample.

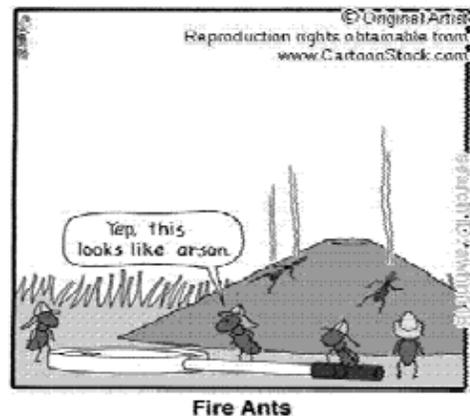
If submitting samples that include dirt or vegetation, they must be stored in a freezer or refrigerator. The microbes present in these types of samples will degrade the ignitable liquids if present.

Once the evidence is packaged in the appropriate container, labeling and sealing the evidence is a crucial step to maintaining the integrity of the evidence. All evidence submitted to the lab must be properly labeled with case and item information. Finally, tamper resistant evidence tape should be used to seal any evidence container sent to the laboratory. The collector of the evidence should place their initials and the date across the tape. This ensures that the container has not been opened prior to analysis.

Backlog

As of the end of June, the chemistry unit has a backlog of 136 cases and a turn around time of 33 days

The value of any type of evidence depends on maintaining the security and integrity from collection to trial



Fire Ants

Patron Saints of the Mexican Drug Underworld



Watch the world news on any given day and you will likely see a story about the Mexican drug wars. Violence has been escalating as the cartels battle for drug routes since the United States and Mexican governments have methodically secured routes they had used in the past. These drug cartels are ruthless, and the killings and violence being seen today are horrific. This issue does not just affect Mexico. These cartels have people spread across the United States doing their business for them.

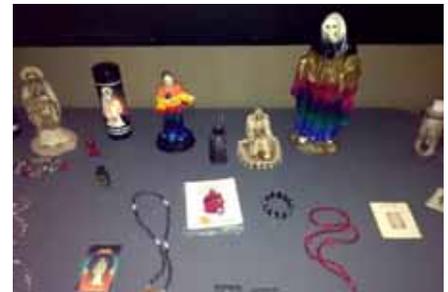
Law enforcement across the country needs to be on high alert when they come into contact with these drug traffickers associated with the Mexican cartels. But how would law enforcement know that they are dealing with such a person? According to a seminar on this topic by U.S. Marshal Robert Alamonte, there are some signs that law enforcement should be aware of that may indicate a suspect has an association with drug activity.

Investigators have discovered a trend among drug traffickers involving religious icons. Drug traffickers use the icons of certain saints, believing they will protect them and their drugs from law enforcement. These icons are often displayed or visible to an observant law enforcement officer, and can serve as the first sign that there is a need to proceed with caution.

So what are these religious icons? They are often small statues, prayer cards, religious tokens or coins, or candles with images of the saint on the label. If these items are observed during a traffic stop or any search, they should be an indication to the officer to use caution and continue to look for evidence of drug activity. Of course not everyone in possession of a religious icon is involved in drug activity, but it is a trend worth paying attention to.

Being aware of these icons and knowing what to look for can lead to drug busts. In fact, a good place to begin your search is at the location of these icons or at any alters, as history has shown that this is a likely place for drugs or money to be concealed.

The most common religious icons are those that portray St. Jude (Saint of Lost Causes), Jesus Malverde (The Narco Saint), Juan Soldado (Patron Saint of Illegal Aliens), and the very popular Santa Muerte (Saint of Death).



These icons may appear as statues, amulets, cards and candles.



Malverde, Santa Muerte, and St. Jude are all common icons that have been associated with drug activity

Law enforcement across the country needs to be on high alert when they come into contact with drug traffickers associated with the Mexican cartel.

Editorial - Saving Money at Work!

By Eileen Patania – LET II

Many people today are looking for ways to save money through coupons, discounts or just cutting costs in everyday life. The average person makes approximately \$13 an hour, gas averages out to about \$4 a gallon, plus with groceries, electric and other expenses, that \$13 gets spread fairly thin. This leaves very little for recreation, unexpected surprises or just saving for a rainy day.

With the hectic pace society has, most people don't think about taking the time to make breakfast or bring a bag lunch to work. You get up in the morning, grab a shower, feed and walk the pets (if you have them, and they need walking), or a much greater time consuming task; get the kids ready for daycare/school. Throw a pop tart at the kids and maybe grab a piece of toast for yourself. Then jump in your car and head out, wondering why you are still exhausted.



As you pass by the abundant coffee houses that line your route to work, you might think "Coffee sounds good". So, you pull up to the drive thru, order your medium mocha latte with an extra shot of espresso (just to get to the afternoon) and let's add a tasty muffin to that. Already you have spent \$7 to \$8, depending

on the coffee house you stop at.

Around 11:30 you start thinking about lunch. This is the one time of the day where you can try to slow down and take a small reprieve from the hectic work flow; or is it? Since you didn't bring lunch, you have to get back in the car, drive over to one of the fast food places, wait in line with the rest of the community who didn't bring lunch, and either eat there or get back in time to swallow it down in approximately an hour. A "value" meal as they are so eloquently described runs an average of \$7; however, if you like to be waited on, like I do, then your lunch will average approximately \$15 with tip.

For argument sake, let's ignore the sit down restaurant and focus on the quick easy meals for the day. If the above sounded anything like your day, you spend an average of \$3600 a year on eating out. If you were to cut back on the coffee house breakfast once a week, you would save yourself about \$725 a year. Bring lunch the same day and you double that.



Now let's slow it down a bit, get up in the morning say a half hour earlier, make sure your coffee maker is set for the night before so you already have a cup of coffee ready. Breakfast is then a nice bowl of cereal with a few pieces of fruit thrown on top. You can always prepare lunch a head of time so that you can just head

out when you're ready. Throw a sandwich, with a few pieces of fruit and a soda in to a bag and bring it into work. This will save you about \$2600 a year, more since you aren't using gas to run out for lunch. I can think of a lot of things \$2600 can buy.



Quality Corner

Evidence Packaging Guidelines and Tips

The proper packaging of evidentiary material is crucial to the integrity and possibly the analysis of the submitted items. If there are any concerns about whether an item is packaged correctly, the investigator should contact the laboratory.

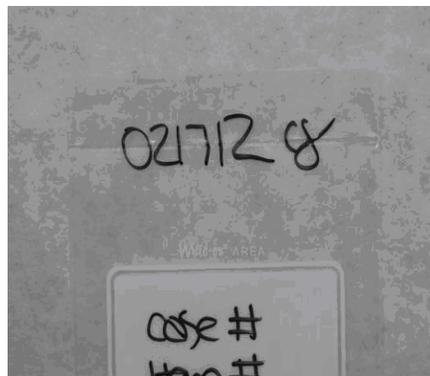
General Packaging Tips

- Evidence packaging needs to be properly sized to accommodate bar coding labels and the opening and re-sealing of the evidence by lab personnel.
- A good rule of thumb is plastic bags smaller than sandwich bags are NOT appropriate and the outer packaging should not be tightly wrapped around the evidence like a present.
- Sharps need to be in a puncture resistant container and should be marked that it contains a sharp.
- Evidence that has biohazardous material on it (ie. Blood) must be clearly marked on the outer packaging BIOHAZARD (preferably with a red sticker). Biological evidence should be placed in paper or cardboard.
- Swab Boxes and small items should be packaged into a secondary container of appropriate size.
- Glass containers should be avoided—if necessary, they should be packaged inside another non-breakable container (paint can, plastic container) to prevent breakage and wrapped with some type of padding.

Proper Seal

- The seal MUST have at a minimum the initials or other unique identifier of the person sealing the package (*date recommended*) written across the seal in such a way that the writing crosses both the seal and the packaging.
- All heat-seals must have at a minimum the initials or identifier of the person sealing the package (*date recommended*) on the seal (see below).
- Self Sealing evidence bags may be used with initials (*date recommended*) although it is recommended to also tape over the self seal to ensure integrity.

The proper packaging of evidentiary material is crucial to the integrity and possibly the analysis of the submitted items.



Community Service

I would've been lost
without a clue



if not for the Douglas County
Crime Lab Team.

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E-mail: marian.price@ic.fbi.gov

03/26/2012

Josh - I wanted to personally thank you for hosting & coordinating our recent training at your office. The facility is amazing & your hospitality was fabulous! I truly appreciate the effort that went into putting everything together! Thank you too for the Douglas County CSI patch! It's awesome! Please don't hesitate to contact me if there's anything we can do to assist you! Thanks again for everything!
Marian

Elkhorn South
SPORN
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

Josh,
Thank you so much for the setting up a fun morning of learning for the kids! All and your CSI presentation were both super for the kids to have a hands-on approach to the field. It was very kind of you to host us off the morning. Take care and best of luck with all yours!
Sincerely,
Dawn Thoren - ERMS High School

But in all seriousness, thank you so much for helping put on an amazing CSI Day! We couldn't have done it without you and your team Josh, Ashley Olson, Shanna Tysor, C.L. Riefelstorf, Christine Gabis, Mr. Kohn and Mr. Pegen.
Thanks to all of you, we got to help teens learn more about a career that makes us them

Thanks again,
Kyl O'Leary,
Espiro's Team

Employee Spotlight—Jodi Monahan

Jodi Monahan is relatively new to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), having just started as a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) with the DCSO Forensic Services Division in April of 2011. So far, Jodi has thoroughly enjoyed CSI work, as it has provided her with new and interesting challenges on a daily basis.

Prior to becoming a CSI, Jodi attended Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, where she received a Bachelors degree in biochemistry. Upon graduating from Simpson in the spring of 2008, Jodi moved to the Omaha area and began working as a Research Technician in the Biomedical Sciences Department at Creighton University. There, Jodi participated in research projects that focused on treating both cancer and hearing loss.

While working at Creighton, Jodi was also introduced to an individual who attended Nebraska Wesleyan University's Masters of Forensic Science program. Jodi had always been interested in forensic science and, after learning about this Lincoln-based program, it did not take long for her to realize that she wanted to go back to school. A short time later, Jodi began attending Nebraska Wesleyan University, and, in the spring of 2011, she completed her Masters classes and started her career with Douglas County.

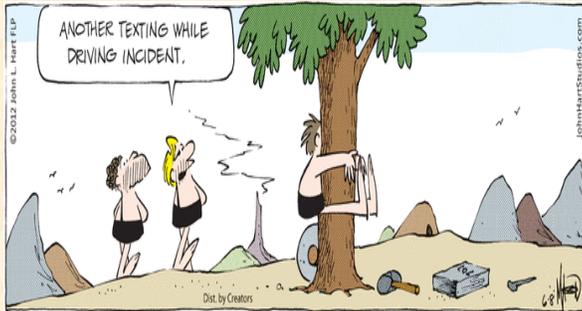
In her free time, Jodi enjoys cooking, baking, and, of course, eating delicious food. She also loves traveling and spending time with her fiancé, Eric, and their cat, Tiger. Lately, she has been very busy planning their wedding, which is set for August of this year.



Jodi participated in research projects that focused on treating both cancer and hearing loss.



Laugh Lines



Employee Birthdays This Issue

May

Eileen Patania
Ashley Paggen

June

Shanon Tysor

August

Angie Olson

September

Allison Sundeen



The Scoop

Creole Salmon over Pineapple Rice

By Eileen Patania

- 2 Salmon Filets (skin removed)
- 1 Cup Apple Juice
- 1 Cup Water
- 1 can (4 oz) Crushed Pineapple
- 1/4 cup Orange Juice
- 1 Cup White Rice
- 1 tbsp Soy Sauce
- Tony's Creole Seasoning



Bring one cup water and one cup apple juice to boil
Add rice and simmer 20 minutes

Sprinkle Creole Seasoning over both sides let sit 15 minutes

Heat 1 tbsp oil in frying pan over medium heat

Gently place filets in oil, lift salmon after a few seconds to prevent sticking to pan

Fry both sides 3-4 minutes

Carefully pour Soy Sauce over both filets followed by orange juice; turn down heat and let sit while preparing rice

Mix Crushed Pineapple into rice

Serve Salmon on bed of rice

**DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
FORENSIC SERVICES DIVISION**

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(24/7, 7 days/week)
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[http://
www.omahasheriff.org
/services/fsd](http://www.omahasheriff.org/services/fsd)
(under construction)

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- Shanon Tysor
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Multi-Media Unit:

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- Ashley Paggen
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Property and Evidence Division

Hours of Operation are 9-4 Monday through Friday, closed on Wednesday.

Contact information:

Annette Doyle - (402) 444-6747

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Sandee Polsley - (402) 444-6824

Sandee.Polsley@douglascounty-ne.gov

Please contact to make an appointment.

Core Values

The members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Division are committed to the following principles:

Service

Furnish timely and accurate results with reasonable scientific certainty by providing clear and concise reports and by treating all agencies and their evidence with care, respect, professionalism, and confidentiality.

Quality

Provide the highest quality forensic work to our customers through utilizing only validated procedures that are recognized by the forensic community and by implementing standards in compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and the ASCLD/LAB accrediting body.

Integrity

Perform forensic analyses within the parameters of observing the utmost ethical awareness and integrity in the pursuit of the unbiased truth.

Accountability

Ensure the reliability of analytical results through investing in competency testing of all personnel in each forensic discipline in which they work, and by requiring proficiency testing on an on-going basis.

Development

To further the development of personnel by providing training opportunities in the latest forensic trends and encouraging membership and active participation in appropriate and reputable forensic science organizations.

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