They Help Police Crack Crimes

Story By Deb David
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NEW IBERIA — They’re involved behind the scenes, in almost every major crime in Acadia. They’re paid to deal in illegal drugs, firearms and fraud. These men whose jobs have made them outlaws are walking the streets that drug dealers are, trying to catch and convict them. Police know of their professional criminal activities, but they never have been arrested.

That’s because the men who run Acadia Criminalists Laboratory in New Iberia are licensed and paid to deal in crime solving.

Criminalists can examine physical evidence and prove that a chip of glass found in a suspect’s shoe matches the broken pane of a burglarized store.

Physical evidence for almost every criminal trial in Acadiafilters through the crime lab. But rarely do criminalists know they are solving a murder. They deal in facts, not fiction, and they seldom reveal the methods of criminology with which they deal are serology — the study of body fluids, firearms and drug identification and transfer. A blood sample from a crime scene can be matched to a blood sample found in a suspect’s car.

There’s never been a success story between the victim and the culprit. The culprit is known, but he always remains free. Criminalists are not criminals. They are involved in almost every major crime in Acadia. They’re paid to deal in illegal drugs, firearms and fraud.

A new crime lab in New Iberia is being constructed. It will be twice the size of the present lab, which is located in the old police station. The new lab will be equipped with the latest in crime detection equipment.

The lab is staffed by six criminalists, who are all graduates of the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory.

The lab is financed by the state of Louisiana and the city of New Iberia. The city has paid $60,000 for the construction of the new lab, and the state has contributed $40,000.

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