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NEWS-LEADER

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Gunshot detection tech ignites controversy

Springfield, Illinois, Police Officer Timara Pflug demonstrates in 2021 how officers can see a notification of gunfire on a map from Shotspotter, now called SoundThinking, in their squad cars. JUSTIN L. FOWLER/SPRINGFIELD STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Critics cite concerns about privacy, accuracy

N'dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

When gunshots ring out on America’s streets, bystanders face an instant, high-stakes dilemma. ● *Do I call the cops? Were those even gunshots? Maybe it was just fireworks.* ● Every moment of hesitation risks a delay in medical treatment or gives a suspect extra time to escape. But a high-tech solution to the problem has ignited a fresh round of controversy in cities across the nation.

Law enforcement officials in states including New York, Georgia, California, Michigan and Virginia have credited one system with helping them make arrests and alerting them to gunshots that would have otherwise gone unreported.

The system – part of an arsenal of police surveillance technology that advocates have warned about – is a network of audio sensors designed to record the sound of gunshots and tell authorities where the shots were fired.

That’s where the problems start. The technology has faced a host of controversies: concerns over privacy and eavesdropping; complaints about accuracy; and even reports of many devices being installed in the wrong places.

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The Springfield, Missouri, Police Department has installed gunshot detection devices through Flock’s gunshot detection system, Raven. NATHAN PAPES/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

Tenants get injunction as housing court case advances

Hope Davis
Special to the News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

The tenants at two Springfield housing developments can stay in their affordable homes while their class action lawsuit against the current and former landlords moves forward, the judge ruled last week. At a press conference Monday, Aug. 3, members of the Rosewood-Cedarwood Tenant Union who brought the case said they can sleep peacefully without the fear of homelessness looming over them.

The mood at Monday’s press conference was joyful and determined as tenants celebrated the ability to stay in their apartments past the end of this month. They also stressed that their union is made up of retirees, working families and people with disabilities who need affordable and accessible housing to maintain their quality of life.

The tenants sued the past and present owners of the complexes formerly known as Rosewood Estates and Cedarwood Terrace in May 2025 over the way the properties were pulled from the federal low income housing tax credit program (LIHTC) to make way for more lucrative luxury homes.

To win this motion, the tenants and their lawyers argued in March that losing their homes would cause irreparable damage to the tenants and their families and be against the best interest of the larger public.

LIHTC housing makes up the largest share of federally-supported public housing in the nation, but LIHTC properties have been leaving the market as credits expire and owners opt out of the program.

The lawsuit background

The lawsuit filed is one of two the tenants filed in May 2025. The tenants allege that the past and present owners of the developments acted unlawfully by trying to leave the federal low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) program without notifying tenants, as well as by acting to convert the affordable homes into luxury housing. If allowed to continue with the original

See LAWSUIT, Page 5A

Husband indicted in 1988 murder of pregnant wife

Marta Mieze
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly four decades after a pregnant woman went missing in Christian County, a man has been indicted in her killing.

Ronna Bremer was last seen in December 1988 when she was 22 years old

and seven months pregnant, according to News-Leader archives. Now, Joel Bremer, who was her husband, has been indicted by a grand jury for two counts of second-degree murder of both Ronna and her unborn child. According to a Christian County Sheriff’s Office news release, Joel Bremer was the one who reported Ronna missing.

A skull mailed to the Greene County

Sheriff’s Office in 1991 was identified in 2002 as Ronna Bremer. According to the state’s request for Joel Bremer’s arrest warrant filed in court, the skull had been found on land adjacent to his brother-in-law’s.

Ronna Bremer’s disappearance was seen as suspicious and her murder was suspected from the start of the investigation, according to News-Leader ar-

chives. The Iowa native had moved to Ozark that summer with two young children. According to the release, throughout the years, the case was re-investigated and interviews conducted but they failed to result in any meaningful leads.

The case was also featured on “Cold

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