



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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WINTER STORM

CITY WILL BREAK WITH TRADITION



LIZ RYMAREV, POST-DISPATCH

A truck sprays a brine solution onto Graham Street in St. Louis on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026. Ahead of the forecasted winter storm, the city has deployed trucks to pre-treat the roads.

St. Louis to run snowplows down neighborhood streets

BY AUSTIN HUGUELET
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Mayor Cara Spencer said Thursday the city will break with tradition and run snowplows down neighborhood streets during this snowstorm expected this weekend in a bid to prevent them from icing over and paralyzing parts of the city, as happened last winter.

For decades, the city has focused its plows on main thoroughfares and left most side streets — chronically lined with cars — to melt on their own.

But melting could take a while this weekend: Forecasters expect 5 to 10 inches of snow to fall on the region and temperatures to stay below freezing for days, raising the risk that packed snow will turn into sheets

of ice.

A similar recipe, coupled with a less ambitious city response, led to disaster last January.

Unplowed side streets turned into ice sheets, trapping residents in their homes for days. A few months later, they vented their frustration at the ballot box, ousting Mayor Tishaura O. Jones in a landslide.

Spencer, who criticized Jones' handling of that storm, has vowed to avoid a repeat performance.

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■ **Across US:** Much of nation is preparing for huge winter storm. **A11**

NCAA's request rejected by panel

Mo. Gaming Commission votes to hold off on new limits to sports betting

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Gaming Commission rejected new limits on sports betting Thursday, bucking a request by the NCAA to help address a gambling scandal rocking college athletics.

Just seven weeks after sports betting went live in the state, the commission voted 3-0 to put the NCAA request on hold while it studies the issue of so-called proposition or "prop" betting, which allows gamblers to wager on how individual players perform in a game.

"We will continue to look at this issue," commission Chair Jan Zimmerman said. "We want to make sure we get this right."

Under the state's gambling rules, prop bets on athletes playing in games involving Missouri colleges and universities already are prohibited. The NCAA had asked regulators to ban Missouri gamblers from placing prop wagers on all sports contests across the nation.

The national college athletic sanctioning body wants states to prohibit the bets because they have been manipulated by some athletes as part of a bribery scheme.

A federal indictment issued earlier this month accuses more than two dozen people of bribery, wire fraud and conspiracy in a scheme involving at least 39 players on more than 17 NCAA Division I men's basketball teams attempting to rig more than 29 games.

Among those caught up in the dragnet was former St. Louis University men's basketball player Bradley Ezewiro, who spent the 2023-24 season with the Billikens.

According to the indictment, Ezewiro and another unnamed member of the Billikens "agreed, in exchange for bribe payments, to underperform in and influence" SLU's Feb. 20, 2024, game against Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, to help bettors win hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Billikens lost that game 81-66.

Ezewiro, from Torrance, California, played in 22 games and averaged nearly 22 minutes per game for the Billikens during the 2023-24 season.

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Judge declines to reduce bond for Riverview mayor

BY NASSIM BENCHAAABANE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON — Riverview Mayor Mike Cornell shook his head Thursday as prosecutors read aloud nine felony charges against him for sexual abuse, harassment and possession of child pornography.

Cornell, 39, denied the charges and told a judge that they were part of a political conspiracy to remove him from office in Riverview, where he has been mayor for three years.

"If I was not who I was, I would not be in here," he said.

The mayor's statement came during a court hearing to decide whether to reduce the \$1 million cash-only bail required for Cornell's release after his arrest last week.



Cornell

But county prosecutors said the mayor was at risk of fleeing police and retaliating against four victims claiming he sexually assaulted or harassed them, and Judge Kelly Lyn Snyder declined to reduce Cornell's bond.

Cornell, who had not hired an attorney as of Thursday, represented himself during the hearing.

He said he remains acting mayor of Riverview and would get back to work leading the city if he were released.

Cornell said he had been turning the city, one of St. Louis County's smallest

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Aldermen in Warrenton give OK for data center complex

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WARRENTON — City aldermen have given the green light to build a data center complex on 337 acres near Interstate 70.

The 6-0 vote on Tuesday night to move ahead with the project was in contrast to recent problems developers have had in winning approval for data center projects in other parts of the metro area, including St. Charles and Franklin counties.

Steve Etcher, an official with the Warren County Economic Development Council, said at the meeting that the project is expected to generate an additional \$77.8 million in property taxes, including \$44 million to the city's school district.

"This project alone will increase by

110% the tax revenues flowing into our community," Etcher said.

Opponents, meanwhile, voiced some of the same concerns expressed in other locales about data centers, including noise and light pollution and how the centers might affect the environment and residents' health.

Concerns about the effect data centers might have on the area water supply were also cited.

One critic, Chris Sutton, said at the meeting that the data centers would disrupt what people like about the area.

"People that live around it that bought their homes for the privacy and the peace and quiet and the wildlife, they won't have that" anymore, he said.

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Weather

Plan your week: For a 5-day weather forecast for our region as well as the national outlook, please see **PAGE B12**

Cold snap



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