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# MLB to broadcast Cardinals games

Club breaks with FanDuel amid uncertainty despite possible large revenue hit

BY JACK SUNTRUP AND DERRICK GOOLD

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Major League Baseball will take over Cardinals game broadcasts from FanDuel Sports Network this spring, a move with potentially large consequences for team revenues.

The Cardinals announced Monday that Major League Baseball would produce and distribute all games that aren't national TV exclusives — about 145 of 162 regular-season contests.

Such a deal had been under consideration ahead of the 2025 season, but it would've meant less in broadcast revenues compared to the arrangement with FanDuel Sports Network's parent company. A team source said Monday that under the new deal, broadcast revenue for the Cardinals is expected to fall between \$18

million and \$20 million compared with last year, when the team expected around \$58 million.

Unlike FanDuel, where set fees were paid for the rights to broadcast Cardinals games, broadcast revenue with MLB is based on affiliate fees from cable providers and subscription and advertising revenue generated after accounting for costs.

The previous deal with FanDuel fell apart after the Cardinals didn't receive a scheduled payment from the broadcaster in December. Then, in January, the

Cardinals and eight other MLB teams terminated existing broadcast contracts with FanDuel Sports' parent company, Main Street Sports Group, injecting uncertainty for 2026.

The Cardinals on Monday said this season's games would be shown on traditional cable and satellite, though information on specific providers or channels wasn't announced Monday. That will be finalized with distribution agreements. The

Please see **MLB**, Page A5

METRO EAST | ALTON

# STEEL PLANT CLOSES; WORKERS SCRAMBLE



DAVID CARSON, POST-DISPATCH

The Alton Steel complex is seen on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, two days after the company announced its closure.

## Area businesses brace for impact as closure hits more than 250 employees

BY HANNAH WYMAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ALTON, Ill. — Single slices of pizza rotated in their warming tower in a Casey's convenience store here on a recent winter day. The gas station sits directly across the street from the steel plant and draws in steelworkers for breakfast and lunch.

Store manager Rosey Jones knows many by name.

But now, Alton Steel is shutting down, putting hundreds out of work. Sales at Casey's will likely drop 25% to 30%, Jones said.

"I'm in shock," Jones said. "It's been open for so many years."

After more than 20 years of making and shipping steel parts, Alton Steel's plant is sitting quiet this week. Men and women who have shown up to work at the mill every day for years are now sitting at home, filling out job applications and wondering if their last paychecks will go through.

In its announcement, the company cited "insurmountable challenges" such as old equipment, intense market competition and industry consolidation. It doesn't have

the money to continue, Alton Steel wrote in a letter to the state. The news shocked the community.

People here in Alton aren't panicking. But they're worried.

Alton Mayor David Goins called it "major news." For years, Alton Steel has been one of the city's largest employers.

"This is not just another business, not like a CVS pharmacy closing or a mom-and-pop," Goins said. "I can't downplay the impact."

Alton's history is steeped in industry and manufacturing. The 25,000-plus-person town sits along the Mississippi River, about 20 miles north of St. Louis, and has tall hills decorated with Victorian-style houses overlooking the water.

Alton Steel is the reincarnation of the Laclede Steel Co., which was incorporated in 1911. Laclede Steel shuttered the mill in 2001, declaring bankruptcy, but in 2003, prominent Metro East lawyer John Simmons and others restarted steel rolling operations under a new name.

Please see **STEEL**, Page A5

## Suit: Man jailed for 18 days by mistake

BY DANA RIECK

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — A Texas man says he was arrested during a 2024 traffic stop and extradited to Missouri — all in a case of mistaken identity.

Marquise Williams says he spent 18 days in custody trying to convince authorities he wasn't their suspect before they realized they had the wrong guy.

Williams, an insurance claims adjuster from Arlington, Texas, is suing Manchester police Officer David Schmiedeskamp, who investigated the case.

"(Williams) had never been to St. Louis, Missouri, and had no connection whatsoever to the underlying conduct for which he was charged," says his lawsuit, filed Friday.

The city of Manchester said it does not comment on pending litigation. Williams' lawyer, Kevin Etzkorn, declined to comment on the case.

Please see **SUIT**, Page A5

## St. Louis Co. may raise its property tax

Revenue would go toward services for senior citizens

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — The St. Louis County Council is considering an increase to property taxes to raise money for senior citizen services.

The Seniors Count organization is set to argue before the council Tuesday for a hike of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and wants it on the Nov. 3 ballot.

If voters approve the tax, a board would be set up to consider giving grants to various organizations that help senior citizens, said Jamie Opsal, project lead for Seniors Count. Many of those are nonprofits.

St. Louis County voters rejected a similar proposal in 2016, while a tax hike for the same purpose was approved in the city of St. Louis. Ever since then, supporters have wanted to try again at the polls in the county, but county officials dissuaded the effort, said Opsal.

"We've been continuously told to wait," Opsal said. "Now organizations and providers simply can't wait anymore."

Opsal retired in 2024 as executive director of the St. Louis Senior Fund, the organization in St. Louis city that administers its tax.

Please see **TAX**, Page A5

### Inside

MARKETS	A6
OPINION	A7
OBITUARIES	A8
NATION & WORLD	A10
SPORTS	B1
EVERYDAY	B7

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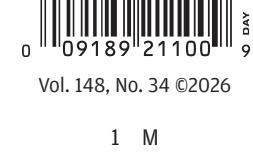
### Weather

Plan your week: For a 5-day weather forecast for our region as well as the national outlook, please see **PAGE B10**

### On the air



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1 M