



Bracket predictor; Where the preseason rankings get it wrong

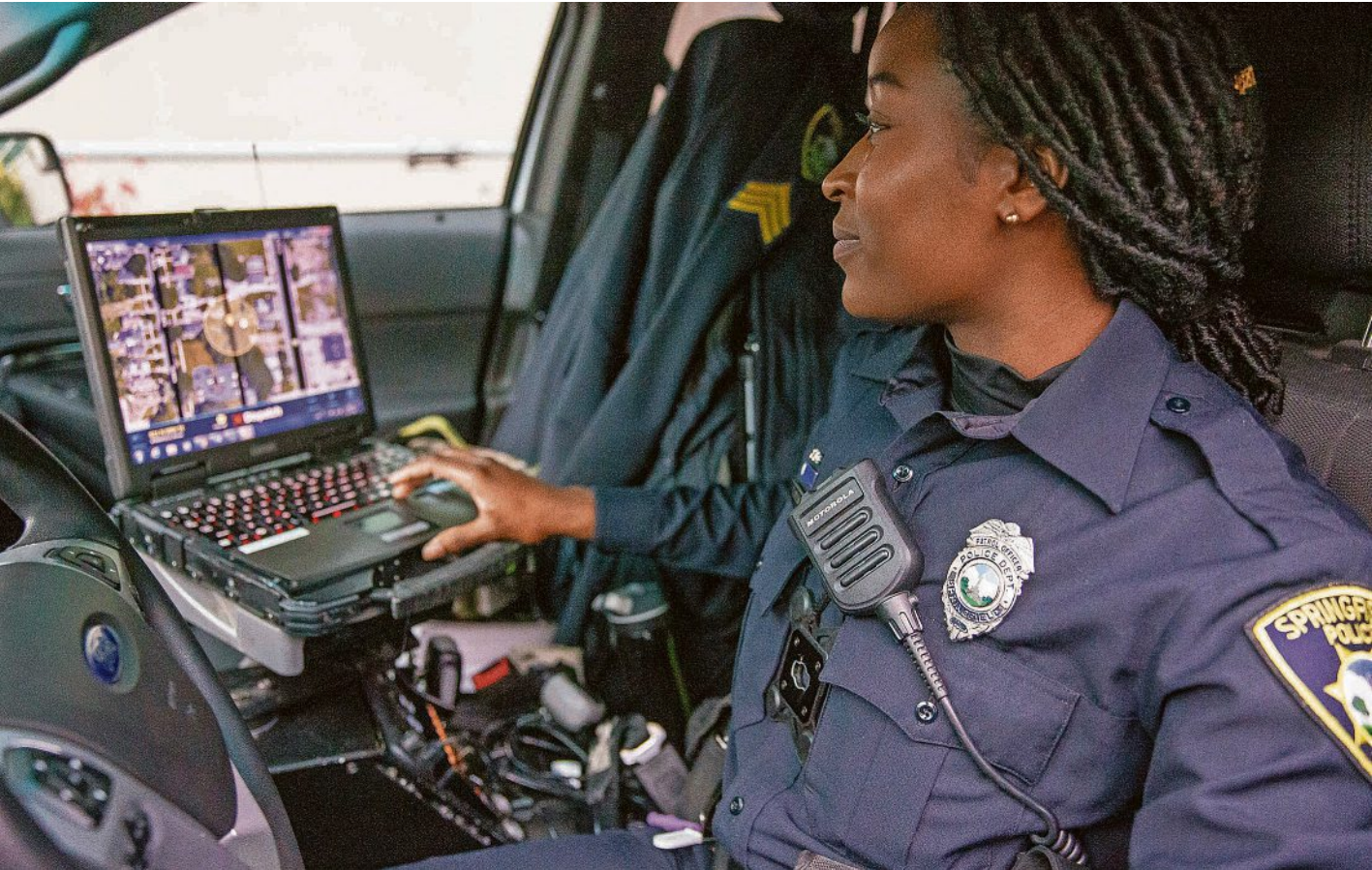
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The Times

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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

U.S. News just named PA’s best hospitals

Bethany Rodgers USA TODAY NETWORK

Twenty-eight Pennsylvania hospitals have earned top marks on a U.S. News & World Report ranking of facilities based on patient outcomes and experiences for specialty care and common procedures.

The site considered 217 sites throughout the commonwealth but said only a fraction of those made the cut as one of the region’s best hospitals.

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia landed at the top of the list, achieving national recognition for 12 medical specialties and a spot on the website’s honor roll of the 20 best U.S. hospitals.

How did U.S. News & World Report score hospitals?

The 2026 rankings published in August were based on a combination of factors, including data about a hospital’s skill in handling some of the most challenging and complex medical conditions. U.S. News & World Report evaluated the hospitals across 14 different specialties such as cancer, cardiology, obstetrics, orthopedics and neurology.

The list also takes into account a facility’s performance in treating the full range of patients for common conditions and procedures, like knee and hip replacements, heart attacks and strokes.

For example, the University of Pennsylvania hospital earned a

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Webb telescope finding shows origin of Neptune’s moons

Catastrophic collision responsible for current satellite makeup

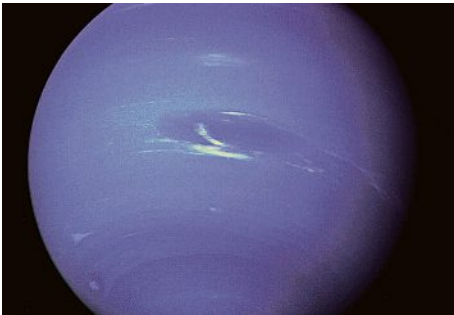
Will Dunham REUTERS

WASHINGTON – New observations of some of Neptune’s moons and rings are providing evidence of a catastrophe

that occurred billions of years ago around the solar system’s outermost planet in which a Pluto-sized interloper caused a celestial demolition derby.

Researchers used NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope to examine the composition of three of Neptune’s small inner moons – Proteus, Larissa and Galatea – and its inner dusty rings, and detected clay minerals that one

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The researchers said the culprit behind this cataclysm appears to be Triton, which currently is Neptune’s largest moon but previously resided farther out in the solar system in a region called the Kuiper Belt. PROVIDED BY NASA TV VIA REUTERS

