



Hayes: Where the preseason rankings get it wrong

SPORTS, 1B

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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.

See GUNSHOTS, Page 2A



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

Fauci faces contempt resolution in Senate

Paul says pardon ends Fifth Amendment claim

Zachary Schermele USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and personally sensitive issues, ranging from his actions as the country’s top pandemic expert to his own revealing diary entries.

Fauci’s stonewalling, pleading the Fifth more than 100 times, enraged Republicans, most notably committee chair Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, who accused him of defying Congress. “The sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, quote, ‘behind bars,’ ” Fauci told lawmakers. “Any reasonable person who has followed his unhinged obsession with me would readily come to the same conclusion.”

Paul has repeatedly advocated for the imprisonment of Fauci, a longtime political foe. Fauci stressed that it pained him to not answer senators’ questions. He insisted he respected the legislative branch’s authority and underlined his “decades-long record of cooperating with Congress.”

Before leaving office, former President Joe Biden issued a pardon to Fauci for any actions he took as a federal public health official between 2014 and 2025. That fact has

See FAUCI, Page 2A

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