



ST. ANN

POLICE KILL MAN AFTER CHASE



LAURIE SKRIVAN, POST-DISPATCH

“Be strong,” said Brian Boyd, who comforts his daughter Britny Boyd as she grieves the death of her husband Troy Hamilton on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, outside their home in the 3300 block of Welsberg Drive in Bel-Ridge. A St. Ann police officer fatally shot Hamilton early Wednesday after chasing his car into Bel-Ridge.

Officers followed him to a Bel-Ridge home, where they say he pulled a gun

DANA RIECK AND KIM BELL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. ANN — A St. Ann police officer fatally shot a man early Wednesday after chasing him to a Bel-Ridge home, where the man pulled out a gun, police said.
Britny Boyd identified the dead man as her husband, 37-year-old Troy Hamilton.
“They robbed me of my dreams,” Boyd said Wednesday morning. “They robbed me of my future.”
The man was shot about 12:15 a.m. Wednesday at a home in the 3300 block of Welsberg Drive in Bel-Ridge, police said.
The incident started in the neighboring municipality of St. John, said Sgt. Benjamin Santoyo with the North County Police Cooperative, which was asked by St. Ann to investigate the shooting.
Hamilton was in a car that ran a stop sign near St. Charles Rock and North and South roads, Santoyo said at an afternoon press

conference. St. John officers tried to pull the car over, but it didn’t stop, and officers started the chase.
“The vehicle was not stopping for them,” Santoyo said.
St. Ann police joined in, put a tracker on the car, and followed it to the Welsberg house, southeast of Natural Bridge Road and Interstate 170.
There, Hamilton got out of the car, there was a “physical altercation,” and Hamilton pulled out a gun, Santoyo said.
Two officers fired shots at Hamilton. One had six years of police experience, the other seven, Santoyo said.
He did not further describe the altercation or gunfire. Santoyo said officers did not know the Welsberg home was where Hamilton lived. And he said the gun Hamilton had was stolen.

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FBI will increase agents in St. Louis

JACK SUNTRUP AND AUSTIN HUGUELET
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — The FBI is sending more agents and personnel to St. Louis, boosting numbers to their “highest point in years,” and marking another move by the Trump administration to beef up federal presence in an American city.
It represents “one of the largest per capita infusions of full-time agents and intel personnel in the nation,” the office of U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt said in a statement on Wednesday.
The additions will increase the agency’s violent crime-fighting capabilities, said Schmitt, who pushed for the extra agents.
FBI Director Kash Patel said it brings the office to “its strongest presence in St. Louis in years and we’re here to stay.”
“This investment in St. Louis is about action, not politics, making sure our agents are shoulder to shoulder with local law enforcement to take violent criminals off the streets,” Patel said Wednesday in a statement released through Schmitt’s office.
But Trump’s moves into American cities have generated controversy in recent months. In June, he sent members of the California National Guard into Los Angeles in response to pro-immigrant protests. He also asserted control over Washington, D.C.’s police department and sent in the DC National Guard over crime concerns.
And immigration arrests have been on the rise in Missouri. County jails in the state that contract with the federal government to house people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have been taking in more and more people in recent months, the Post-Dispatch reported in June.
That leaves some skeptical of an increased federal presence in St. Louis.
“I have yet to see Sen. Schmitt show a full understanding or a deep care for the city of St. Louis, other than optics,” said Alderwoman Daniela Velázquez, of Shaw. “I’m concerned that it is another publicity stunt for him.”
U.S. Rep Wesley Bell, a Democrat, said he wanted to learn more about the plan for the extra agents.
“We need to be smarter about crime — not just have a show of force that really does nothing,” he told the Post-Dispatch.
There is also a large need for resources like mental health care and addiction treatment, he said, which could help make further crime reductions in the long run. “That’s how we actually make our region safer,” he said.
Violent crime has been falling in St. Louis in recent years, according to police statistics.

Please see FBI, Page A5

Man infected by amoeba at Lake of the Ozarks dies

MICHELE MUNZ
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — A man battling a rare brain infection from an amoeba in Lake of the Ozarks has died, state health officials confirmed Wednesday.
The man died Tuesday at a St. Louis area hospital. No other information was provided.
“We extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the patient,” read a news release by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
The man was infected after water skiing at the lake during the first week

of August. A laboratory confirmed the cause was Naegleria fowleri, a microscopic amoeba commonly found in warm fresh water such as lakes and ponds.
He had been hospitalized since Aug. 10. His symptoms began two days earlier, health officials said.
People are infected when water containing the parasite enters the body through the nose, usually while victims are swimming or diving.
“It has to involve some pretty forceful water going up the sinuses,” said Nathan

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City’s emergency chief fired after siren debacle

AUSTIN HUGUELET
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Sarah Russell, the city’s emergency management chief for four years, has been fired, officials said Wednesday.
No official reason was immediately given. But Russell had been on leave for months in the wake of the city’s failure to properly deploy storm sirens before the May 16 tornado. And on Monday, officials released the results of an outside investigation that sharply criticized Russell.
Russell did not respond to a request for comment. A spokeswoman for Mayor



Cara Spencer, who put Russell on leave, declined comment.
Jamella Brown, a city public safety spokesperson, did not comment on the firing beyond confirming it in an emailed statement.
“We remain committed to ensuring continued service and leadership within the department during this transition,” Brown wrote.

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