



Sheriff is out for now

Judge says Montgomery can't run office from jail

KATIE KULL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — A judge on Wednesday kicked Sheriff Alfred Montgomery out of office, finding he can't run the department from jail.

Judge Steven Ohmer's ruling came over protestations from Montgomery's lawyers, who compared his absence to a prolonged vacation.

"I don't see how the sheriff's office can run without his presence," Ohmer said.

Ohmer's ruling is temporary. Montgomery will be on leave while the Missouri Attorney General's Office continues to pursue a lawsuit seeking his permanent ouster.



Montgomery marks the latest setback for Montgomery and could be a potentially fatal blow to his political career. Since he took office in January, the 28-year-old sheriff endured scandal after scandal — for the handcuffing of a city jail official, for flashy spending, for fights with city officials and having a deputy pick up his kids from school.

Then, on Oct. 14, a federal judge sent him to jail after he was indicted on six criminal charges, including felony witness tampering.

Through it all, Montgomery has said he

has done no wrong, accused his critics of racist discrimination and cast himself in the mold of a civil rights figure fighting against oppression.

His attorneys said Wednesday that he's been running his office from a jail cell with the help of his top deputy, Col. Yosef Yasharahla. Montgomery has consulted on employee discipline based on recommendations from a personnel committee. He helped coordinate a major land tax sale and would sign off on the receipts. He has kept tabs on office operations through frequent phone calls with office employees, said sheriff's office attorney David Mason.

It's like he's been on a vacation in a far-away place — like Vienna — Mason said.

"There's no significant management decision that the sheriff is unable to make," he said.

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Recipients of food aid must show work proof

New requirement in Mo. goes into effect Saturday

KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — A new work requirement for food stamp recipients goes into effect Saturday even as the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program is set to halt benefits to more than 650,000 Missourians if the government shutdown continues.

Beginning Nov. 1, the day SNAP is set to run out of money because of the partisan impasse in Congress, able-bodied food stamp recipients will be required to start showing the state they meet new work requirements, which include at least 80 hours of employment or participation in a training program every month.

Individuals will receive three months of SNAP food benefits, but the subsidy will end if they do not provide proof of compliance with the work requirements.

The new rules are part of the federal budget bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in July.

SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but are administered in the state by the Missouri Department of Social Services.

Officials acknowledge the confusion and worry the shutdown has caused for recipients, but said people should continue to apply for benefits in November in anticipation of the shutdown coming to an end.

"We understand the uncertainty caused by the shutdown," said Mandi Adams, director of the agency's Family Support Division. "FSD's team is committed to keeping Missourians informed of any changes."

Gov. Mike Kehoe Wednesday announced plans to redirect some federal funds to prop up food distribution programs while SNAP benefits are suspended.

The governor moved \$10.6 million out of a reserve fund to the Missouri Area Agencies on Aging to boost the number of meals the local agencies are able to provide to seniors and used a separate fund to divert \$5 million to food banks, which are seeing an increase in need due to inflation and the shutdown.

"While the State of Missouri cannot fully replace federal SNAP benefits for

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■ **Food program:** Missouri to keep WIC food aid on tap for moms and babies as shutdown continues. **A4**

HURRICANE MELISSA

PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Storm leaves deaths and massive damage



MATIAS DELACROIX, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents pass by damage in Santa Cruz, Jamaica, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, after Hurricane Melissa hit the island as a Category 5 storm with winds up to 185 mph. For more, please see story on **Page A7**.

3 men charged with murder in connection to 2 killings

DANA RIECK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FERGUSON — In March this year, a Ferguson man reported a teen's rape to authorities.

When the suspect's sister later offered him a \$12,000 bribe to stay quiet, Kcoree Warren refused.

Six weeks after that, in July, the 44-year-old was shot dead outside his front door. Hours later, his killer's body was found near a burned car.

On Wednesday, authorities announced three men are now charged with murder in connection to both killings.

St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Price Smith said multiple agencies, including the FBI, have worked on

the case for four months.

"While every defendant is presumed innocent, due to the diligence and the countless hours and cooperation of these law enforcement agencies, we are confident that these defendants will be held accountable," she said. "We believe they were all acting together in both of these murders."

The three men were indicted by a grand jury on Tuesday afternoon.

The rape suspect, 40-year-old Lavor Harmon, faces five new charges: two first-degree murder counts, two counts of armed criminal action and one count of knowingly burning or exploding.

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St. Louis Galleria looking to sell 6 acres of property

STEPH KUKULJAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

RICHMOND HEIGHTS — The owner of the St. Louis Galleria is seeking a buyer for six acres of the mall's property.

The land is located at the southern end of the mall, at Interstate 64 and Brentwood Boulevard, and is in use as a parking lot.

The city of Richmond Heights has eyed the site for a possible redevelopment, outlining broad plans for a mixed-use development and greenspace to accommodate the flood plain.

Rick Spector, president of local commercial real estate firm L3 Corp., said the location is near the Brentwood

Promenade and Brentwood Square, top retail destinations in the state, and is likely to draw interested retailers, as well.

"Every retailer wants to be here," Spector said.

No list price was available, and online marketing materials said the price would be determined by the market.

The Galleria's owner did not respond to a request for comment.

The listing comes after the center lost anchor Nordstrom earlier this year, and as malls in general have struggled to fully rebound from the pandemic and find their place among online shopping.

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