

STUDIO LAYOFFS HIT CBS NEWS

Paramount's cuts after Skydance takeover also affect workers in cable and film.

By MEG JAMES AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Paramount on Wednesday began cutting about 1,000 employees, the first wave of a deep staff reduction planned since David Ellison took the helm of the entertainment company in August.

Ellison announced the layoffs in an early morning email to his staff, saying the long-anticipated move was aimed at "building a strong foundation for the future." Wednesday's cuts represent about 5% of the organization.

"Today we begin the difficult process of informing impacted team members across the company," Ellison wrote. "These decisions are never made lightly, especially given their effect on our colleagues who have made meaningful contributions to the company."

The layoffs cut across a broad swath of the company and included staff at CBS, cable channels including MTV, BET and Comedy Central, television production as well as the historic Melrose Avenue film studio, according to people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to comment.

Another 1,000 jobs are expected to be cut at a later date, ultimately bringing the total reduction to about 10% of Paramount's current workforce, sources said.

At CBS News, about 100 people were forced out. The company pulled the plug on two digital newscasts, the unit's Johannesburg bureau and several correspondents.

The move was expected. Paramount's new owners — Ellison's Skydance Media [See [Paramount](#), A11]



DODGERS FANS before Game 3 of the World Series between the Dodgers and the Blue Jays at Dodger Stadium. Latinos make up a large part of the fan base.

ICE raids tested some Latinos' faith in Dodgers

By NATHAN SOLIS

Lifetime Dodgers fan Jorge De La Cruz had his faith in the team tested this summer when the Trump administration began immigration raids across Southern California.

De La Cruz, among others, said he was disappointed the team was not more forceful in condemning the raids, especially given the fact that Latinos are such a big part of its fan base.

But here he was Tuesday night in front of the Greyhound Bar & Grill in Highland Park, an hour before the fourth game of the World Series began to make sure he got a good seat.

"You're always going to

have people cheering for the team and I see why the Dodgers don't want to say anything because it's all corporations. But at some point, it's their civic duty to speak up about what's going on with people being taken," he said. He is still smarting about the Dodgers' response, adding, "People are still talking about all of that."

De La Cruz's mother arrived in the United States an undocumented immigrant from Mexico decades ago and now has a green card. Despite all of the turmoil, she still cheers for the Dodgers.

"She's going to root for them no matter what," he said.

The immigration raids

placed the Dodgers in a precarious position that the organization is still trying to navigate. The Trump administration's actions sparked protests around the city, including outside the gates of the stadium when masked federal officials staged there in a line of vehicles.

The Dodgers said they had nothing to do with that operation and announced the team would pledge \$1 million "toward direct financial assistance for families of immigrants impacted by recent events in the region."

Dodgers President and Chief Executive Stan Kasten said at the time: "What's happening in Los Angeles has reverberated among

[See [Raids](#), A14]

Most voters favor Prop. 50, survey suggests

About 60% in poll side with Democrats over Trump and the GOP on redistricting.

By SEEMA MEHTA

A Nov. 4 statewide ballot measure pushed by California Democrats to help the party's efforts to win control of the U.S. House of Representatives and stifle President Trump's agenda has a substantial lead in a poll released on Thursday.

Six out of 10 likely voters support Proposition 50, the proposal by Gov. Gavin Newsom and his allies to redraw the state's congressional districts to try to increase the number of Democrats in Congress, according to a survey by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies that was co-sponsored by The Times. About 38% of likely voters oppose the ballot measure.

Notable in an off-year special election about the arcane and complicated process of redistricting, 71% of likely voters said they had heard a significant amount of information about the ballot measure, according to the poll.

"That's extraordinary," said Mark DiCamillo, director of the IGS poll. "Even though it's kind of an esoteric topic that doesn't affect their daily lives, it's something voters are paying attention to."

That may be because

roughly \$158 million has been donated in less than three months to the main campaign committees supporting and opposing the measure, according to campaign fundraising reports filed with the state last week. Voters in the state have been flooded with political ads.

Californians watching Tuesday night's World Series game between the Dodgers and the Toronto Blue Jays saw that firsthand.

In the first minutes of the game, former President Obama, Newsom, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and other prominent Democrats spoke in favor of Proposition 50 in an ad that probably cost at least \$250,000 to air, according to a Democratic media buyer who is not associated with the campaign.

According to the survey, the breakdown among voters was highly partisan, with more than nine out of 10 Democrats supporting Proposition 50 and a similar proportion of Republicans opposing it. Among voters who belong to other parties or identify as "no party preference," 57% favored the ballot measure, while 39% opposed it.

Only 2% of the likely voters surveyed said they were undecided, which DiCamillo said was highly unusual.

Historically, undecided voters, particularly independents, often end up opposing ballot measures they are uncertain about, preferring to stick with the status

[See [Poll](#), A14]

Court rules Essayli serves 'unlawfully'

Judge disqualifies the Trump appointee as acting U.S. attorney in Southern California.

By BRITTNY MEJIA

A federal judge Tuesday ruled that Bill Essayli is "not lawfully serving" in his position as acting U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, the latest rebuke of the Trump administration's unusual maneuvers to keep political allies in power as chief federal prosecutors across the country.

Although the ruling disqualifies Essayli from continuing in the role of "acting" U.S. attorney, the judge said he can still remain in charge of the office as "first assistant," a lesser title he already holds.

"I'm still here, I'm not planning to go anywhere. We're still reviewing that order," Essayli said at a news conference Wednesday. "We're less concerned with titles and we're more concerned with the authority of my position to be able to run this office as the chief federal law enforcement officer of this district. I think the judge has made clear, re-



CHRISTINA HOUSE L.A. Times

BILL ESSAYLI can remain in charge as "first assistant," the judge said.

gardless of my title, I have the authority to run this office."

Senior U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright of Hawaii was brought in to oversee motions seeking to disqualify Essayli after federal judges in Los Angeles recused themselves. His ruling follows a string of challenges nationwide to President Trump's tactics for installing loyalists who wield the power to bring criminal charges and sue on the government's behalf.

Essayli, 39, a former Riverside County assemblyman, was appointed as the region's interim top federal prosecutor by U.S. Atty. [See [Essayli](#), A14]

A U.S. teen's Israeli prison ordeal

Held for months, he's accused of throwing rocks in West Bank

By Nabih Bulos

TAYBEH, West Bank — The three military vehicles growled to a stop in front of Zaher Ibrahim's elegant two-story home in this village in the occupied West Bank.

It was 3:30 a.m. on Feb. 16, and the Israeli soldiers — two dozen of them, family members said — ran up and hammered at the door. When Ibrahim opened, they asked for his youngest son, Mohammed Zaher Ibrahim, then 15, and a Palestinian American from Florida, like the rest of the family.

Moments later, Mohammed was blindfolded, family members said, his hands zip-tied behind his back, and pushed into one of the vehicles.

"We didn't even know what was happening," his father said.



MAYA ALLERUZZO For The Times

MOHAMMED Zaher Ibrahim, who is now 16, was arrested in February.

As he was transported for interrogation, according to testimony Mohammed gave to a lawyer from Defense for Children International-Palestine, a children's rights organization, soldiers beat him with their rifle butts.

Ibrahim called friends, who reassured him that Israeli raids were a part of life in the West Bank. His son would spend the night, maybe another day, they said, and then be released.

More than eight months later, Mohammed is still in prison.

He joins hundreds of Palestinian children in Israeli detention, according to rights groups, almost half of them held without charge or trial in an incarceration [See [Prison](#), A4]

A post-fire effort to help eateries

Altadena Dining Club aims to keep ailing restaurants afloat after deadly Eaton blaze.

By MELISSA GOMEZ

Before the fire, Lucy's Place would come alive in the morning.

Gardeners and day laborers would come by for a morning pastry or breakfast burrito and coffee served up by owner Juan Orozco, who arrived at 5 a.m. to prepare. If he had to step out, his regulars would take over

and serve coffee to customers, he said.

Orozco and his wife have run the modest cafe since 1997, serving items such as huevos rancheros, tacos, burgers and fajitas on oblong plates with a side of grapefruit. Customers who rented apartments nearby would swing by for a meal. But after the Eaton fire, Orozco's humble cafe has become a shell of itself. He said it's lucky if anyone comes by before 8 a.m.

"I want to close," he said Oct. 21. "There's no business."

That was before the Altadena Dining Club arrived.

Made up of local residents wanting to save eateries that survived the fire, the dining club is the brainchild of Brooke Lohman-Jan, a displaced renter determined to preserve the fabric of Altadena. That's why, that night, she and other club members walked into Lucy's Place and took over its patio. About a dozen people, including some first-timers and dining club regulars, spent that evening chatting about their lives, rebuilding, and of course, the night of the Eaton fire.

Orozco, who estimates he's lost three-fourths of his [See [Club](#), A11]

12 face charges in protests of raids

People are accused of assaulting law enforcement officers at rallies against immigration policies. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Streaming costs continue to rise

Consumers are looking into ways to save money, including bundling the services or watching with ads. **BUSINESS, A9**

Weather

Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 88/57. **B6**



7 85944 00200 5



YOUSSEF AL ZANOUN Associated Press

GAZA CEASEFIRE SHAKEN

Mahmoud Shakshak, right, holds the bodies of his son, Fadi, 5, and daughter, Sara, 8, who were killed in Israeli army strikes in Gaza. **WORLD, A4**