

Roughly 20 Staff Let Go at Scripps San Diego Station

San Diego ABC affiliate KGTV got caught in the recent Scripps layoffs.

The Times of San Diego said roughly 20 staffers, including photographers, producers, and a receptionist were laid off. The media outlet provided a pretty detailed list of those affected.

According to sources familiar with the situation who spoke to Times of San Diego on condition of anonymity, KGTV-TV anchors-reporters who are gone include:

- Veteran newsroom staffer **Rachel Bianco**, who joined the 10News team in May 2009
- Nigerian native **Wale Aliyu**, an anchor since October 2022, who was teamed with longtime evening anchor **Kimberly Hunt**
- Team 10 senior investigator **Jim Avila**, a newsman since 1973, a former senior White House correspondent during President Barack Obama's second term and national correspondent for ABC News, who joined KGTV in November 2023;
- Sports anchor **Steve Smith**, who has covered sports for 25 years and was known for telling stories about teams and athletes who have overcome the odds;
- **Lindsey Peña**, who joined KGTV in April of 2017, and covered the Native American and LGBTQ+ communities;
- Chula Vista native **Vanessa Paz**, a morning meteorologist and traffic anchor, who joined 10News in January 2020;
- Reporter **Madison Weil**, who joined in May 2022 and reported on the homeless, refugee, Ukrainian and

Palestine communities;

- *Weekend morning anchor and reporter **Aaron Dickens**, a member of the LGBTQ+ communities, according to his station bio.*

*Among the videographers and editors who were let go included **Mike Howder, Sara Wemy, Paul Anderegg, Sean Dooley, Lyle McCartee, Maria-Camilla Murcia, Jessica Howard, and Steve Martinez.***

*Producers who lost their jobs included **Rose Arslan, Enedina Cisneros, and Deyja Charles.** Receptionist **Gina Welker** was also laid off.*

“While I can’t confirm specific numbers or names, I can tell you that there are impacted positions at KGTV. These are not easy decisions, but the changes are essential as KGTV and our parent company, Scripps, respond to evolving viewer habits and the continuing disruptions with the broadcasting industry,” **Leon Clark**, vp and general manager of KGTV told Times of San Diego. “The 10News team remains committed to listening to and reporting on the stories where we live and work. We still have a large team of reporters that are integrated into communities across the San Diego area, delivering the news and information that matter to our viewers.”

“Over the last two years, prompted by research and changing consumer viewing habits, Scripps has been transforming how our local news is produced and delivered, with two goals: to enhance the economic durability of our business and to improve the quality of our journalism,” said Scripps. “Through these efforts, our aim is to cover our communities more deeply and to do this in a sustainable way to ensure we can continue providing our audiences with essential services well into the future.”

Scripps owns of 61 stations in 41 markets.

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