

# Ellison prepares bid for Warner Bros.

Paramount, backed by the co-founder of Oracle, has its sights set on rival studio.

By MEG JAMES AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Warner Bros. Discovery stock jumped nearly 29% Thursday upon news that Larry Ellison-backed Paramount was preparing a bid to buy its rival that owns HBO, CNN and the Warner Bros. studio.

The Ellison family and RedBird Capital Partners acquired Paramount last month, and they have signaled that they would take bold steps to rebuild Paramount to its former glory. The Ellison-RedBird team is in final stages of putting together a bid for Warner Bros. Discovery, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The move underscores the ambitions of Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle, who ranks among the richest men in the world, and his 42-year-old son, David, who serves as Paramount's chairman and chief executive, to build a top-tier entertainment company.

The Wall Street Journal first reported that Paramount's largely cash bid would be for the entire company, including its movie studio, streaming assets and cable networks. Warner Bros. Discovery is in the process of spinning its cable channels, including TNT, [See [Paramount](#), A12]

# Airstrike in Qatar strains U.S. ties

Israeli attack shakes the decades-long American security pact with Gulf states.

By NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — For years, Persian Gulf nations staked their defense on one thing above all: a U.S.-supplied security umbrella, paid for with tens of billions of their petrodollars and agreements that allowed the U.S. to dot the Middle East with some of its largest military facilities.

The thinking was that being users of U.S. weaponry and having a U.S. military presence was a virtual guarantee of protection if enemies came to call.

That thinking was upended on Tuesday, when Israel, arguably the U.S.'s top ally, dispatched warplanes and hurled 10 missiles at Hamas' political office compound in the Qatari capital, Doha.

The attack, which targeted the Palestinian group's senior negotiation team as it was discussing a ceasefire proposal from President Trump, killed five Hamas members and a Qatari security officer. Hamas denies any of its senior leadership was killed.

But whether the targeting succeeded is irrelevant to Gulf leaders pondering the effectiveness of decades-old security arrangements with the U.S.

"The message to the region appears to be, 'If you [See [Qatar](#), A4]



MICHAEL CIAGLO Getty Images

AN INQUIRY continues at Utah Valley University on Thursday amid a manhunt for Charlie Kirk's killer.

# A new burst of political violence

Factors shaping this moment are like those in past eras, experts say

By KEVIN RECTOR

Two assassination attempts on President Trump. The assassination of a Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband and the wounding of others. The shooting death of a top healthcare executive. The killing of two Israeli Embassy employees in Washington. The storming of the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob intent on forcing the nation's political leaders to their will.

And, on Wednesday, the fatal shooting of one of the nation's most prominent conservative political activists — close Trump ally Charlie Kirk — as he spoke at a public event on a university campus.

If it wasn't already clear from all those other incidents, Kirk's killing put it in sharp relief: The U.S. is in a new era of political violence, one that is starker and more visceral than any other in decades — perhaps, experts said, since the fraught days of 1968, when two of the most



TAYFUN COSKUN Anadolu

SUPPORTERS gather Wednesday to mourn Charlie Kirk, who was fatally shot at Utah Valley University.

## Campus free speech in spotlight

Discussions resurface of the importance of expressing different viewpoints at universities. **NATION, A6**

## Make a commitment to our country

Columnist Anita Chabria writes that violence is a symptom of our unhealthy democracy. **NATION, A8**

## MSNBC cuts ties with political analyst

Network apologizes for Matthew Dowd's comment on slain conservative's "hateful thoughts." **BUSINESS, A10**

prominent figures in the civil rights movement, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, were both assassinated in a matter of months.

"We're very clearly in a moment where the temperature of our political discourse is extremely high," said Ruth Braunstein, an associate professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University who has studied religion and the far right in modern politics. "Part of what we see when that happens are these outbursts of political violence — where people come to believe that violence is the only solution."

Although the exact motives of the person who shot Kirk are still unknown, Braunstein and other experts on political violence said the factors shaping the current moment are clear — and similar to those that shaped past periods of political violence.

Intense economic discomfort and inequity, Sharp [See [Violence](#), A8]

# Bill aims to help oil industry but limits offshore drilling

By LAURA J. NELSON AND GRACE TOOHEY

SACRAMENTO — Amid concerns that refinery closures could send gas prices soaring, California legislative leaders Wednesday introduced a last-minute deal aimed at increasing oil production to shore up the struggling fossil-fuel industry while further restricting offshore drilling.

The compromise, brokered by Gov. Gavin Newsom, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire, would streamline environmental approvals for new wells in oil-rich Kern County

and increase oil production. The bill also would make offshore drilling more difficult by tightening the safety and regulatory requirements for pipelines.

With support from Rivas and McGuire, Senate Bill 237 is expected to pass as part of a flurry of last-minute activity during the Legislature's final week. Newsom's office said the governor "looks forward to signing it when it reaches his desk."

The late introduction of the measure may force the Legislature to extend its 2025 session, set to end Friday, by another day because bills must be in print for 72 hours before they can be voted on.

# FBI SEEKS MAN SEEN ON VIDEO IN KIRK SHOOTING

Authorities share photos of college-age 'person of interest' in commentator's killing.

By GRACE TOOHEY, JENNY JARVIE AND RICHARD WINTON

OREM, Utah — Authorities unveiled grainy photos Thursday of a man clad in a black, long-sleeved T-shirt, dark sunglasses and a baseball cap who they said was "of interest" in the fatal shooting of influential right-wing activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah college campus.

The man, captured on security camera video walking up a stairway, appears to be wearing a T-shirt with an image of an American flag and an eagle.

"We are asking for the public's help identifying this person of interest in connection with the fatal shooting of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University," the Federal Bureau of Investigation Salt Lake City said on X.

No suspects were in custody more than 24 hours after the shooting. However, Robert Bohls, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Salt Lake City office, said investigators recovered the weapon they believe was used to kill Kirk — a high-powered bolt-action rifle. They also identified foot and palm prints believed to have been left behind by the shooter.

We "will continue to work nonstop until we find the person that has committed this heinous crime, and find out why they did it," Bohls said

The agency also announced a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest of the gunman.

A close ally of President [See [Manhunt](#), A6]



JULIANA YAMADA Los Angeles Times

THE PHILLIPS 66 Los Angeles Refinery in Wilmington is one of two such facilities slated for closure.

# Psychedelic 'restarts your brain,' hurt athletes say

By CLARA HARTER

As awareness grows around the dangers of head trauma in sports, a small number of professional fighters and football players are turning to a psychedelic called ibogaine for treatment.

Ibogaine, which is derived from a West African shrub, is a Schedule 1 drug in America with no legal medical uses, and experts urge caution because of the need for further studies. But the results, several athletes say, are "game-changing."

"It saved my life," said former NFL offensive guard Robert Gallery, who traveled to Mexico in 2023 to try ibogaine.

"I'm not anxious all the time, I'm not depressed," he continued, "I can go for a run and be thankful that I'm alive, rather than having a thought that I should step

in front of a semitruck coming down the road."

The psychedelic substance is derived from the iboga plant, and proponents tout its ability to treat addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, or TBI.

An observational study of 30 special forces veterans by researchers at Stanford University suggests that ibogaine can be highly effective at reducing anxiety, depression and cognitive challenges associated with TBI.

"This is a miraculous thing," said retired MMA fighter Tait Fletcher, who credits the treatment with freeing him from suicidal ideation.

NFL Hall of [See [Ibogaine](#), A14]

## Bill stirs concern on police reforms

State Assembly weighs more layers of confidentiality for officers who are accused of misconduct. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## UCLA fans ask, 'Who are you?'

Massive turnover and little media access leave football fans feeling a bit disconnected from their team. **SPORTS, B10**

## Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 80/65. **B6**

**Markets** ..... **A12**  
**Opinion Voices** ..... **A13**



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## Emmys host has a game plan ready

Nate Bargatze shares the advice he received from other comics and how he intends to keep acceptance speeches brief. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

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