



Imagine what Saban thinks as 'Bama dynasty falters

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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Hiring slows further as jobless rate climbs

Report likely to cement Fed rate cut this month

Paul Davidson USA TODAY

Hiring in the United States slowed further in August as President Donald Trump's aggressive trade, immigration and federal layoff policies took a growing toll on a rapidly softening labor mar-

ket. Employers added a disappointing 22,000 jobs and the unemployment rate rose from 4.2% to 4.3%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Sept. 5. Ahead of the report, economists surveyed by Bloomberg had estimated that 75,000 jobs were added in August. While few businesses are laying off workers, hiring has fallen below the pre-pandemic average, making it tough for employees who lose jobs to find new po-

sitions. In another worrisome sign, payroll gains for June and July were revised down by a total of 21,000 and now reveal the economy shed 13,000 jobs in June – the first job losses since the depths of the pandemic in December 2020. "August's employment report confirmed that the labor market has headed off a cliff-edge," economist Bradley Saunders of Capital Economics wrote in a note to clients.

And over the longer term, Trump's policies likely will have a bigger impact on hiring, forecasters say. Some industries did hire in August. Health care, a reliable jobs engine the past couple of years, again drove payroll gains with 31,000. Leisure and hospital-ity, which includes restaurants and bars, added 28,000. However, professional and business

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An Altadena neighborhood was destroyed in the Eaton Fire, burning two houses belonging to the family of La Quinta resident Brittany Lopez. PROVIDED BY BRITTANY LOPEZ

Electronics, papers taken in search of Bolton's home

Bart Jansen USA TODAY

A federal magistrate judge revealed that the FBI removed computers, other electronics and documents during a search of John Bolton's house and that President Donald Trump's former national security adviser is under investigation for possible violations of the Espionage Act. However, U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy Sullivan kept confidential a court document that details what investigators were hoping to find when they searched his house Aug. 22. Bolton, who served during Trump's first term and has since become a vocal critic of the administration, has not been charged in connection with the matter. The belongings seized from Bolton's Maryland home included two iPhones, typed documents in folders labeled Trump I to IV, white binders labeled

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Feds sue SoCal Edison

Suit: Utility's negligence root cause of Eaton Fire

Brian Day USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed litigation against Southern California Edison, alleging that the utility's negligence led to the deadly and destructive Eaton Fire in Los Angeles County earlier this year, as well as the deadly Fairview Fire in Riverside County in 2022. Both lawsuits were filed Thursday, Sept. 4. Both blame faulty SCE equipment for sparking the fires, which killed a combined 21 people, destroyed well over 10,000 structures and consumed thousands of acres of forest, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California Bill Essayli announced. "The lawsuits filed today allege a

troubling pattern of negligence resulting in death, destruction, and tens of millions of federal taxpayer dollars spent to clean up one utility company's mistakes," he said. "We hope that today's filings are the first step in causing the beginnings of a culture change at Southern California Edison, one that will make it a responsible, conscientious company that helps – not harms – our community," according to Essayli. "Hardworking Californians should not pick up the tab for Edison's negligence." While the official cause of the Eaton Fire, which devastated the community of Atladena, has yet to be released by fire officials, Cal Fire investigators concluded in 2023 that the Fairview Fire was ignited by a sagging SCE power line that fell onto a nearby communications cable. The lawsuits seek nearly \$80 million in damages from the fires, according to a

DOJ statement. SCE representatives could not be reached for comment Thursday.

\$40 million sought in Eaton Fire

Federal officials are seeking \$40 million for damage and costs related to the Eaton Fire, the DOJ statement said. "Those damages include, but are not limited to fire suppression costs, rehabilitation of burned areas, and other environmental damages." The federal lawsuit comes on the heels of another filed by Los Angeles County earlier this year, which also accused SCE of sparking the Eaton Fire with faulty electrical transmission equipment. The nearby cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre, as well as numerous individuals affected by the Eaton Fire,

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Trump wavers on support for COVID shots

Josh Meyer and Ramon Padilla USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump demanded Sept.1 that COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers prove their shots have been effective, adding to his long string of comments alternately praising – and doubting the effectiveness of – the potentially life-saving medication. "Many people think they are a miracle that saved Millions of lives. Others disagree!" Trump said of COVID-19 drugs, including vaccines made by Pfizer, Moderna and other pharmaceutical companies.

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