

BUSINESS

Scripps cuts MI jobs amid push in streaming, automation, AI



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E.W. Scripps Co., which owns three TV stations in Michigan, is cutting 268 jobs nationwide — including positions in Michigan — as the company moves to reshape its local news operations around streaming, centralized digital production and automation, including the use of artificial intelligence.

The number of layoffs at Scripps' Michigan stations was not immediately clear, but the company confirmed positions were impacted at WXYZ-TV (Ch. 7) in Detroit and WXMI-TV (Ch. 17) in Grand Rapids.

In a letter Tuesday, Scripps President and CEO Adam Symson told employees that the cuts are part of a transformation plan to make operations more sustainable.

"268 colleagues we work alongside are losing their jobs," Symson wrote in the message. "These are teammates who have helped build and serve this company in important ways, and we are deeply grateful for everything they have contributed."

Scripps, based in Cincinnati, owns three television stations in Michigan: WXYZ-TV (Ch. 7) and WMYD-TV (Ch. 20) in Detroit and WXMI-TV (Ch. 17) in Grand Rapids.

In an email from Rebecca McCarter, senior director of external communications for Scripps, the company confirmed layoffs in Michigan.

"We can confirm there are impacted positions at Scripps' WXYZ in Detroit and Fox 17 in Grand Rapids," the statement read. "The impacted roles are primarily tied to digital and traditional newscast production workflows, with some positions including producers and directors. These decisions were not made lightly, and we are grateful for the contributions of the employees who will be moving on. We are committed to supporting them through the transition."

The cuts come as media companies increasingly turn to artificial intelligence and automation to change how news is produced. Upcoming changes outlined in the letter include launching 24/7 local news streams, centralizing some digital production work and using technology and automation to shift resources toward local reporting.

"New AI systems and other technology designed and developed by Scripps employees is making this possible," Symson wrote. "At a time when many in our industry are responding to economic pressure with cuts alone, our goal is to build a different, more sustainable model for serving audiences. Our work is what separates cost reduction from transformation: One protects an ineffective status quo; the other builds something new and impactful."

Symson wrote that Scripps has been building toward its new model for about three years through investments in technology and automated workflows that allow the company to "allocate fewer resources to production tasks and more to reporting from the field."

As part of a transaction in May 2026, Gray Media acquired Scripps' WSYM (Ch. 47) in Lansing.

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