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Publisher: Wea H. Lee
General Manager: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Business Manager: Jennifer Lopez
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

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Wynn resigns as RNC finance chair after sexual misconduct allegations

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned as finance chairman of the Republican Party's fundraising arm on Saturday, a day after a newspaper reported that he routinely subjected women who worked for him to unwanted sexual advances.

"Today I accepted Steve Wynn's resignation as Republican National Committee finance chair," RNC chair Ronna Romney McDaniel said in a statement.

The billionaire has denied the accusations published by the Wall Street Journal as "preposterous" and said they were instigated by his ex-wife to seek advantage in their divorce lawsuit.

As recently as Friday night, Wynn associates were insisting he would fight the charges and remain at the RNC.

Instead, he becomes the latest powerful man to pay a price for accusations of sexual misconduct in the United States.

The 76-year-old founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Wynn Resorts Ltd, has been a prominent figure in the casino resort business and onetime rival of U.S. President Donald Trump.

After previously seeking to appear nonpartisan, he threw his support behind Trump during the 2016 campaign and donated money to several Republican causes including the RNC.

Trump called Wynn a "great friend" after he won the Nevada caucus in February 2016, and Wynn was named finance chairman of the committee after Trump became president.

U.S. Representative Francis Rooney of Florida being considered as a replacement, one Republican fundraiser said.

The board of directors of Wynn Resorts said on Friday it had met to form a special committee consisting solely of independent directors to investigate the allegations reported by the Journal.

The special investigation panel will be chaired by Patricia Mulroy, a member of the board's corporate governance and compliance committees and a former member of the Nevada Gaming Commission, the board said in a statement.

The Wall Street Journal said former and current company staff members it interviewed had accused Wynn of creating a hostile work environment for women and of regularly pressuring employees to perform sex acts.

"The idea that I ever assaulted any woman is preposterous," Wynn said in a statement on Friday. "The instigation of these accusations is the continued work of my ex-wife, Elaine Wynn, with whom I am involved in a terrible and nasty lawsuit in which she is seeking a revised divorce settlement."

A spokeswoman for Elaine Wynn, 75, declined comment on Friday, but her Washington-based attorney, James Cole, told Reuters the notion that his client fomented the allegations in the Journal article "is just not true."

After The New York Times revealed in October that Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein had paid off multiple sexual harassment accusers over decades, it unleashed a wave of accusations against the rich and powerful,



FILE PHOTO: Steve Wynn speaks during the Milken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills

leading to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements demanding an end to impunity.

Weinstein was long a major donor to Democratic candidates and causes. The scandal prompted McDaniel, the RNC chairwoman, to urge the Democrats to give back his "dirty money."

After the Journal published the accusations against Wynn, Democrats in turn called on Republicans to return his donations.

Nearly 100 killed in ambulance blast in Afghan capital Kabul

(Reuters) - A bomb hidden in an ambulance killed at least 95 people and wounded about 158 in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday when it blew up at a police checkpoint in a busy part of the city that was crowded with pedestrians.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the suicide blast, a week after they claimed an attack on the Intercontinental Hotel in which more than 20 people were killed.

An interior ministry spokesman blamed the Haqqani network, a militant group affiliated with the Taliban which Afghan and Western officials consider to be behind many of the biggest attacks on urban targets in Afghanistan.

As medical teams struggled to handle the casualties pouring in, some of the wounded were laid out in the open, with intravenous drips set up next to them in hospital gardens.

"It's a massacre," said Dejan Panic, coordinator in Afghanistan for the Italian aid group Emergency, which runs a nearby trauma hospital that treated dozens of wounded.

Hours after the blast, a health ministry spokesman said the casualty toll had risen to at least 95 killed and 158 wounded.

Saturday's explosion capped a violent week in Afghanistan, with the siege at the Intercontinental Hotel and another attack on an office of the aid group Save the Children in the eastern city of Jalalabad. That attack was claimed by Islamic State.

The wave of attacks has put pressure on President Ashraf Ghani and his U.S. allies, who have expressed growing confidence that a new, more aggressive military strategy has succeeded in driving Taliban insurgents back from major provincial centers.

The United States has stepped up its assistance to Afghan security forces and increased its air strikes against the Taliban and other militant groups, aiming to break a stalemate and force the insurgents to the negotiating table.

The S&P 500 up more than 19 percent in 2017 and close to 7 percent so far this year.

"Nothing is going to trump tax reform," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading in Greenwich, Connecticut. "Since I expect the president to do a victory lap, the typical market reaction would be a sell-the-news reaction in contrast to last year."

The S&P 500 has had only 4 daily declines so far this year, and the chances of a Jan. 31 selloff are higher if the market does not take a breather before then,



Shopkeeper looks on behind broken glass of his shop, near the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul

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與美南報系所有讀者共勉！

美南新聞日報 (Southern Chinese Daily News) 休士頓黃頁 (HCYP)

電話: 281-498-4310
傳真: 281-498-2728
11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072

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Trump Immigration Plan Calls For Citizenship Path For Dreamers, Border Spending

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

bipartisan support and should be able to pass both chambers of Congress."

"It is an extraordinarily generous concession to get us to 60 votes, and it again rejects the historically failed model that defined the Graham-Durbin approach to immigration, which is very large increases of low skilled immigration combined with very generous grants of legalization and no enforcement," a senior administration official said. The plan presented by Senators Lindsey Graham and Dick Durbin "compounds all of the worst features of the immigration system," the official added.



Senators Lindsey Graham (right) and Dick Durbin (left)

On Wednesday night, Mr. Trump held an impromptu press conference with reporters in Chief of Staff John Kelly's office in which he said that he was open to a pathway to citizenship after ten to twelve years for recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). A senior administration official specified that this included the 690,000 people who are currently registered under DACA.

But by Thursday, that number had increased to include 1.8 million undocumented immigrants who the administration believes will meet the requirements for a pathway to citizenship, but never got around to registering for DACA under the Obama administration.

"This status can be revoked in light of criminal conduct, public safety concerns, national security concerns, fraud or a public charge," a senior official added.

The official White House press release says "good moral character" is a requirement. The White House's proposal also curbs "chain migration" by limiting it to nuclear family — spouses and minor children — and excluding sponsorship of extended family.

"But you'll have wives and husbands and you'll have sons and daughters, but parents is a tricky situation because they came here illegally," Mr. Trump told reporters on Wednesday night.

The framework also eliminates the Diversity Visa Lottery, a program the president has



The Trump immigration program would eliminate the Diversity Visa Lottery.

consistently mischaracterized, and will reallocate those visas to reduce the backlog of high skilled employment and family based immigration. The White House estimates that the backlog consists of roughly 4 million undocumented persons.

Another senior administration official pronounced the Graham-Durbin immigration proposal dead on arrival. But the official added that while they have briefed many on the hill on the proposal, the White House had not received any assurances from the Senate that a version of this bill will make it to the floor by the week of Feb. 6th.

"I think an awful lot of the certain members of Congress used this as perpetual excuse: 'We don't know where the president is at,'" a senior administration official said. "Well here it is, so this is the president's position. It goes over to the Hill, they digest it, develop a bill they think they can pass. But this is the bottom line of the president."

It's hard to say yet how this proposal will play out in Congress.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said members can "look to this framework for guidance."



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky

"I want to thank President Trump and his administration for their work on this important issue," McConnell said in a statement. "This framework builds upon the four pillars for reform that the president has consistently put forth, and indicates what is necessary for the

president to sign a bill into law. I am hopeful that as discussions continue in the Senate on the subject of immigration, Members on both sides of the aisle will look to this framework for guidance as they work towards an agreement."

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, did not comment on the substance of the proposal.

"We're grateful for the president showing leadership on this issue and believe his ideas will help us ultimately reach a balanced solution," said Doug Andres, spokesman for Ryan. The cost that the White House has put forth to build the wall along the southern border has incrementally increased over the past few weeks. During a bipartisan meeting on immigration reform, Mr. Trump told a group of senators that he could build the wall for \$18 billion and that he'd do it "ahead of schedule and under budget." Now, the administration argues that they need \$20 billion to build the wall and an additional \$5 billion to pay for technological costs around the wall and what a senior official called "other mitigation efforts." Overall, while the White House would like to see a total of \$30 billion allocated for border security but for the DACA phase, they say that \$25 billion suffices.



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin

If Congress is unable to reach a deal, the White House could not ensure that current Dreamers will be protected from deportation once DACA protections expire on March 5th.

"They won't be targeted but if they fall into the hands of ICE for some reason," they will be processed for deportation, a senior official said. (Courtesy

Trump immigration plan calls for citizenship path for Dreamers, border spending

The White House presented a plan to Congress on Thursday offering a path to citizenship for 1.8 million undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, many of whom are

currently in the U.S. with temporary Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protection. The offer is part of an immigration deal that also includes \$25 billion for a "border wall system," an end to the visa lottery system and restrictions on family-based migration.

Senior administration officials gathered in the West Wing to brief reporters on a legislative proposal for the Senate that puts forth "a compassionate solution for the DACA immigrants -- and one that the president can sign and have bipartisan support and should be able to pass both chambers of Congress."

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The Trump immigration plan calls for citizenship path for Dreamers, border spending.

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A Snapshot Of The World



An injured man receives treatment at a hospital after a blast in Kabul



Afghan police keep watch while man drives at site of car bomb attack in Kabul



Kam Air local crew stand honour over the coffins of Ukrainian employees of the Kam Air Afghan airline, who were killed during an attack in Intercontinental Hotel this week, in Kabul



Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez is sworn in for a new term during his inauguration ceremony at the Tiburcio Carias Andino National Stadium in Tegucigalpa



Soccer Football - Bundesliga - VfB Stuttgart vs Schalke 04 - Mercedes-Benz Arena, Stuttgart, Germany - January 27, 2018 Stuttgart's Christian Gentner looks on REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbac



People take part in a rally denouncing the targeting of immigrant activists by Immigration Customs Enforcement while NYPD officers stand guard, in New York



Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal sits for an interview with Reuters in the office of the suite where he has been detained at the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Tennis - Australian Open - Women's singles final - Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Australia



Tennis - Australian Open - Melbourne, Australia



Daniel Day-Lewis in Phantom Thread.

PHANTOM THREAD *** (3/4 stars) Directed by: Paul Thomas Anderson

A hit with New York critics, if not the bewildered public, Paul Thomas Anderson's odd, elegant romantic drama Phantom Thread has finally opened in cinemas nationwide.



"Phantom Thread Review: The Most Surprising Love Story of the Year." Vanity Fair

A confirmed bachelor, never married and set in his infuriating ways to the point of madness, he one day meets a shy, working-class waitress named Alma (Vicky Krieps)—nothing special to look at, but a pleasant disposi-

tion—and begins a strange personal relationship that seems logical only to director-writer Anderson. Skinny and awkward, her bones are all wrong and she's too flat-chested to fill his gowns with any commercial oomph, but on his arm and in his designs, Alma feels perfect.



Lujza Richter Stills at Phantom Thread Premiere in New York 2017/12/11.

Until she doesn't. Reynolds does an uncharacteristic about face, makes Alma his chief model, and marries the interloper. When Alma makes the fatal mistake of falling in love, everything backfires.

Movie Review 'Phantom Thread' Is As Elusive As Its Meaningless Title

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



mushroom patch. P.T. Anderson's movies are never coherent enough to appeal to the mainstream, but this one is so ravishing and meticulous and exquisite that you have no difficulty ignoring its inherent lack of logic.

Related

Daniel Day-Lewis Breaks the Hearts of Millions by Confirming His Retirement



Daniel Day-Lewis with his Oscar award.

Back in June, a representative for Daniel Day-Lewis revealed that the only man to ever win three Best Lead Actor Academy Awards would be retiring after Paul Thomas Anderson's Phantom Thread arrives in December (just in time for the Oscars race).

In a new interview with W Magazine, Day-Lewis confirmed that he was calling it a career.



plores love and intrigue in the 1950s London fashion scene, was the nail in the coffin.

"It got its hooks into me," Day-Lewis said of the film's interesting content. However, the movie's production proved difficult when Anderson moved filming into a Georgian townhouse fashion studio.

"It was awful," Day-Lewis told Indiewire. "...We were living on top of each other. It was an enormous unit. There was no space. The way it works if it's helpful is that these rooms belong to you. These rooms are yours, they are part of your life.

As a result, Day-Lewis said he will not be seeing Phantom Thread once it is released. (Courtesy http://observer.com/2017/11/)

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Real estate in brief: Distribution warehouse changes hands in Stafford 2018!

Stoneleigh CP Apartments has secured a loan to refinance The Cape, a 228-unit apartment complex at 10810 Spring Cypress Road, Tomball. Mark Brandenburg of JLL arranged the loan through Freddie Mac. Built in 2006, the three-story complex encompasses 200,000 square feet across 13 buildings. A subsidiary of Stag Industrial has purchased Stafford Commerce Center, a 68,300-square-foot distribution warehouse

Archway Properties and NewQuest Properties. Exeter Property Group has purchased a 206,808-square-foot office building at 10720 W. Sam Houston Parkway in northwest Houston, from Liberty Property Trust. Minneapolis-based MVP Logistics has expanded its facility at 8411 FM 1960 in Humble to more than 100,000 square feet. Dallas-based CAF Capital Partners has obtained a loan to refinance the Haven at Westgreen, a 225-unit apartment complex at 510 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Courtney Cole and Dustin Selzer of HFF arranged a 10-year floating-rate loan through Freddie Mac. The property was built in 2015. Brooker Apartments has purchased the 20-unit Lindencrest Apartments at 7410 Lindencrest in southeast Houston. River Oaks Equity Partners handled the sale between two local investors. Katy ABA Center of Texas has leased 2,006 square feet at 6701 Highway Blvd. in Katy. Dani Allison of Office Solutions represented the landlord. The Loev Law Firm, Timothy J. Henderson and Aschermann Law have extended their 2,639-square-foot lease at 6300 West Loop South, Bellaire. David Loev of the Loev Law Firm represented the tenant and John Andell represented the landlord. SG@Queenston has purchased 7.15 acres at the northeast



corner of Queenston Boulevard and Kieth Harrow. Jim Autenreith of Moody Rambin represented the seller, Ivest. Denise Ksiazek of Cypressbrook Co. represented the buyer.



at 13720 Stafford Road. The property is leased to Quest Design and Fabrication. Trent Agnew, Rusty Tamlyn and Charlie Strauss of HFF represented the seller, Black Flag Properties. Finial Group has purchased a 49,640-square-foot multi-tenant industrial and office building at 500 Century Plaza. Trent Agnew, Rusty Tamlyn and Johnny Knight of HFF represented the seller, a joint venture of

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Advertisement for Double Star Academy (育才學校) featuring math and English classes for various grade levels.

Advertisement for Talent Academy (騰龍教育學院) featuring bilingual day care, after-school programs, and summer camps.

Advertisement for IQ TUTORING CENTER (課後安親班) offering tutoring services for students from pre-K to 12th grade.

Advertisement for FIRST ACADEMY 第一學院 offering K-12 and undergraduate tutoring services.

Large advertisement for 李元鐘保險 (Lee Yuan Zhong Insurance) with contact information and services offered.

Advertisement for 瀚文學校 (Han Wen School) offering various educational programs including math, English, and arts.