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FBI HOUSTON WARNS OF A SCAM TARGETING MANDARIN-SPEAKING CITIZENS



Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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U.S. lawmaker charged with insider trading halts re-election bid

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Representative Chris Collins, an ally of President Donald Trump charged with taking part in an insider trading scheme, halted his campaign for re-election on Saturday, as Republicans sought to minimize the damage from his case ahead of November's midterm elections.

Collins said in a statement his decision was in the best interest of his constituents in New York, as well as the Republican Party and "President Trump's agenda."

Collins was charged earlier this week with taking part in an insider trading scheme involving an Australian biotechnology company, Innate Immunotherapeutics LTD, on whose board he served. He has denied the charges.

Collins, 68, said he would fill out the remaining few months of his term in office. "I will also continue to fight the meritless charges brought against me and I look forward to having my good name cleared of any wrongdoing," he said in the statement posted on Twitter.

"I respect Chris Collins' decision to step down while he faces these serious allegations. As I've said before, Congress must hold ourselves to the highest possible standards," said Representative Steve Stivers, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, which works to elect Republicans to the House of Representatives.

Republicans are nervous about their prospects for retaining their majorities in Congress in the Nov. 6 election, in which all 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats will be up for grabs. Democrats need to pick up 23 seats to take control of the House.

Collins, who was one of Trump's earliest supporters in Congress, had been seeking a fourth two-year term in the solidly Republican 27th congressional district in the western part of New York.

Non-partisan analysts had predicted Collins would win re-election, but his indictment put Republicans on the defensive.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi called Collins' decision to halt his campaign too little, too late and said he should resign. "Speaker (Paul) Ryan must call on Congressman



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Rep. Christopher Collins (R-NY) departs the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse following his arraignment on insider trading charges in New York

Collins to resign," she said in a statement. Democrats have said the charges against Collins are an example of a "culture of corruption" under Trump, pointing to ethics scandals that have ensnared several cabinet members and to the trial of Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort on bank and tax fraud charges.

REPLACING A CANDIDATE

Although Collins has said he is halting his campaign, New York state law restricts political candidates from being easily replaced on ballots, unless a candidate dies, moves out of state or is nominated for another office.

"The only way he (Collins) can be replaced is if the Republicans are brazen enough to run him for another office," said Jerry Goldfeder, special counsel at Stroock, a law firm in New York.

FBI seeks motive after U.S. airline worker stole plane and crashed it

(Reuters) - Federal authorities on Saturday were seeking to learn what drove an airline worker to steal an empty airplane from Seattle's airport in a security scare that caused the scrambling of U.S. fighter jets and ended when the plane crashed onto a sparsely populated island.

A Horizon Air ground service agent got into a Bombardier Q400 turboprop aircraft on Friday night in a maintenance area at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and took off, Horizon sister carrier Alaska Airline (ALK.N) said. He flew for about one hour, often erratically, before crashing on Ketron Island in Puget Sound, about 25 miles (40 km) to the southwest.

The employee had worked for Horizon Air for three and a half years and had clearance to tow planes, airline and airport officials said at a news conference.

The 29-year-old man, who has not been

named, was suicidal and appeared to have acted alone, according to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, which said the employee was believed to have been killed in the crash.

"Doing stunts in air or lack of flying skills caused crash into Island," the Sheriff's Department said on Twitter.

In partial recordings of his conversations with air traffic controllers that were published online by Broadcastify.com, the man said he was sorry to disappoint people who cared about him and described himself as a "broken guy."

"Got a few screws loose, I guess," he is heard saying in the recording. "Never really knew it until now." The Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the incident.

"We are going to be thorough, which means taking the time needed to scour the area, delve into the background of the individual believed responsible, and review every aspect of this incident with all appropriate public & private partners," the FBI said



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FBI HOUSTON WARNS OF A SCAM TARGETING MANDARIN-SPEAKING CITIZENS

HOUSTON, TX— The FBI has issued a warning about a new robocall scam targeting Mandarin-speaking individuals visiting or living in the United States. Officials with both the FBI and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have observed a massive spike in the number of reported robocalls in recent months. The FBI and FTC, in cooperation with the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Houston, caution Mandarin-speaking individuals to not disclose any personal information to perpetrators of this sophisticated scam.

The scam works by sending out hundreds of pre-recorded robocalls to random individuals with U.S. phone numbers. The caller poses as an employee of the local PRC Consulate-General. Then, the caller either states that there is a package at the local PRC Consulate-General which needs to be picked up, or asks for personal information in order to clear up issues regarding their status in the United States. In both versions of the scam, the robocaller communicates in Mandarin, spoofs the PRC Consulate-General phone number, and convincingly declares they represent the PRC government. The FBI assesses that these three elements work together to

specifically target Mandarin-speaking individuals within the United States.

The FBI, FTC, and the Houston PRC Consulate-General strongly discourage individuals from giving personal information to any caller. "This type of scam works because it preys on the confusion many new immigrants and visitors to this country experience when traveling between China and the United States," said FBI Houston

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Darryl Wegner. "Regardless of who says they're calling, never send money to anyone who calls and asks you to send it. Never give your Social Security number, your bank or credit card number, or other sensitive information to anyone who calls and asks for it," said FTC attorney Patti Poss.

"The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Houston remains committed to protecting our citizens travelling abroad from all crimes, particularly those which deliberately target the finances of citizens of the People's Republic of China," stated a PRC Consulate-General spokesman.

Both U.S. and PRC officials urge individuals who suspect they have been victims of this scam to contact

either

the FBI Houston Field Office at 713-693-5000, the FBI's website tips.fbi.gov, or the Federal Trade Commission's Complaint website www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.



Lesbian Texas teacher barred from her classroom to start new academic year suspect arrested

Controversy is a part of art, and for Texas art teacher Stacey Bailey, that statement is all too true. In September 2017 Bailey was allegedly barred from her classroom at Charlotte Anderson Elementary School in Arlington, Texas after a parent complained she was pushing her "homosexual agenda" on her students. Bailey claims she had shown her students a photo of her and her wife's fish costumes from the Disney movie "Finding Nemo," which elicited the initial complaint from parents. When she taught her students about gay artist Jasper Johns, she said parents complained again, resulting in Bailey being placed on administrative leave. Nearly a year after dealing with the stress and frustration of being removed from her classroom and hindered from sharing her passion for art with her young students, Bailey is back in the classroom. According to the Star-Telegram, Bailey will be stating the

new academic year Mansfield's Lake Ridge High School and will be teaching 9th through 12-grade students instead of elementary age students.

Bailey's attorney, Jason Smith told the publication that the new position was meant to frustrate Bailey and encourage her to resign, and will come with a "greater workload" and a "learning curve" since she only has experience with elementary students.

Mansfield High School released a statement saying it had "concluded its internal investigation and that she reported for work this week along with all the other teachers in the district."

The year begins Aug. 15, and Bailey will continue to teach despite pending federal lawsuit filed by Bailey for loss of earning capacity, mental anguish, emotional pain, and suffering, lost employment benefits, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, damage to professional reputation and other damages.



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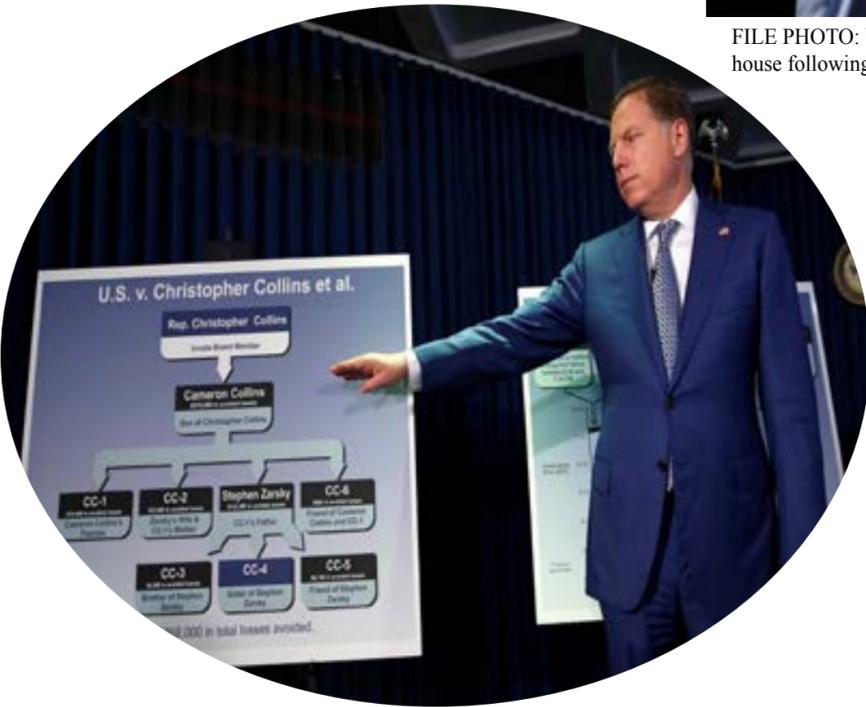
Editor's Choice



A plane dumps fire retardant as the Holy Fire spreads close to a residential area in Lake Elsinore, California



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Rep. Christopher Collins (R-NY) departs the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse following his arraignment on insider trading charges in New York



U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman speaks during a news conference in New York



EUROPEAN-CHAMPIONSHIPS/ROWING



A counter-demonstrator makes a poster outside the White House in Washington



U.S. President Donald Trump talks with a supporter during a meeting with a group called "Bikers for Trump" at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster



Firefighter fight fire near torching trees as wildfire burns near Yosemite National Park



Congolese officials and the World Health Organization officials wear protective suits as they participate in a training against the Ebola virus near the town of Beni

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Miller Outdoor Theatre offers the most diverse season of professional entertainment of any Houston performance venue, and it's all FREE! Classical music, jazz, ethnic music and dance, ballet, Shakespeare, musical theatre, classic films, and much, much more are included in this year's outstanding lineup.



The theatre is located on approximately 7.5 acres of land in Hermann Park, site of the Houston Zoo, the Garden Center and the Museum of Natural Science. Seating is provided for 1,705 patrons and 20 wheelchair spaces, plus a sloping lawn that accommodates approximately 4,500 more on blankets or lawn chairs.

Dance Of Asian America: Journey Through China VIII At Miller Outdoor Theatre

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



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MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE 95 IN HERMANN PARK

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BEIJING/SHANGHAI (Reuters) – Tesla Inc has started hiring for a new factory in Shanghai, according to job postings on its website, just a month after the U.S. electric vehicle (EV) maker signed agreements with local authorities for the \$2 billion project.

The website showed the automaker was looking to fill 14 roles, including architectural designer and senior finance manager for its Shanghai Gigafactory, which is expected to produce both electric vehicles and their batteries.

Most of the positions are senior in level and require at least six years' experience, the job descriptions showed.

Tesla did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

The 21st Century Herald, a Chinese business newspaper that reported the job postings on Tuesday, said Tesla began advertising the roles on Sunday.

Tesla signed agreements with Shanghai authorities last month to build its first factory outside the United States, which would double the size of its global manufacturing.

The automaker planned to produce the first cars about two years after construction began on the factory, ramping up to as many as 500,000 vehicles a year about two to three years later.

Those agreements followed the May hiring of James Zhou as Tesla's chief financial officer for China.



Chief Executive Elon Musk said on

Company Will Build 500,000 Cars A Year At First Plant Outside The U.S.

Tesla Starts Hiring For New \$2 Billion Shanghai Plant

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



People walk past a showroom outside Tesla China headquarters at China Central Mall in Beijing, China July 11, 2018. REUTERS/Jason Lee

an earnings call this month the factory would cost around \$2 billion and Tesla planned to fund the project with local debt.

Last week, in a letter to investors, the company said the first cars would begin to be built in about three years, or 2021. But during a call with analysts, Musk gave a timeframe that did not match the letter to investors, saying the Shanghai plant would be key to its goal of producing 1 million vehicles per year by 2020. Many analysts say that goal is unfeasible.

Tesla also posted the 14 job listings for the Shanghai Gigafactory on its U.S. website in English, suggesting some hires may come from outside China.

(Courtesy oann.com)

Tesla's New Shanghai electric car factory doubles Company's production and will build 500,000 cars a year at First Plant Outside The U.S.

Tesla is to open a new electric car production plant in Shanghai, its first outside the US, chief executive Elon Musk said from the city on Tuesday.

The new auto plant is slated to produce 500,000 cars a year, taking Tesla's total global manufacturing capacity to 1m vehicles a year. Most automotive factories are tooled to produce 200,000 to 300,000 vehicles a year.

The Shanghai municipal government welcomed Tesla's move to invest not only in a new factory in the city but also

in research and development. It suggested it would help with some of the capital costs saying it would "fully support the construction of the Tesla factory".

China has long pushed to capture more of the talent and capital invested by global automakers in advanced electric vehicle technology. Shanghai is one of the centres of the Chinese automotive industry.



Tesla predicts its Shanghai factory will double the firm's global production. (Photo/AFP/Getty Images)

Tesla said the first cars would roll off the Shanghai production line about two years after construction begins on the factory. Production will ramp up to 500,000 vehicles a year about two to three years later, roughly matching the planned output at Tesla's current Fremont, California factory.

The announcement came as the price of Teslas made at the company's US factory and sold in China rose as a result of the new 25% tariffs imposed by the Chinese government in retaliation for

Donald Trump's increase in duties on Chinese goods. Tesla had been in protracted negotiations to open a Chinese factory to help bolster its position in the country.

China is the world's largest auto market with more than 28m vehicles sold last year, and annual sales are forecast to top 35m by 2025. It is also the world's largest market for electric vehicles, driven by new regulations and China's aim to have 100% electric vehicles by 2030.

Tesla shares were up 1.5% in early US trading, even as some analysts questioned where the loss-making company will get the capital required to build and staff such a large plant. Tesla has burned through more than \$1bn in cash while struggling to ramp up production of its all-important mass-market Model 3 electric car.



Tesla Model 3

Tesla recently hit its 5,000-a-week production target for its Model 3 and opened up its configuration system to those with vehicle reservations, of which it has over 450,000, requiring a further \$2,500 (£1,886) deposit from each buyer.

Musk has said Tesla will be cash-flow positive this year. Analysts have predicted the company will raise capital to fund a list of new projects, including launching an electric semi truck, a pickup truck and a compact SUV, as well as new battery and vehicle production facilities that Musk has proposed for China and Europe. (Courtesy the guardian.com)



主播高白

畢業於浙江傳媒學院新聞系播音與主持專業，中國國家級普通話測評員、中國國家級主任播音員。
1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播，2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休士頓記者（2016年卸任）。



主播高航

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美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響；為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。



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