

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

House GOP in eleventh-hour attempt for immigration accord

WASHINGTON — Divided on immigration, House Republicans are huddling privately as leaders try pushing them toward consensus on the issue, racing the clock and trying to defuse a civil war within the party that threatens their effort to keep control of the chamber in November's elections.

But even as they gathered in a Capitol basement meeting room, there were no indications that a deal mending the party's chasm over immigration was at hand and no definitive details of where middle ground might be. If leaders fail to find a solution, that would give momentum to moderates seeking to stage election-year votes in just three weeks on the issue, a showdown that leaders want to head off.

GOP lawmakers emerged from the office of Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on Wednesday saying he would present the rank and file with broad ideas for resolving a dispute that has split Republicans for years, damaging the party with Hispanic and moderate voters.

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., and other moderates need just two more GOP signatures on a petition to require immigration votes, assuming all Democrats sign on. If today's meeting doesn't produce an accord, the moderates could reach that threshold quickly.

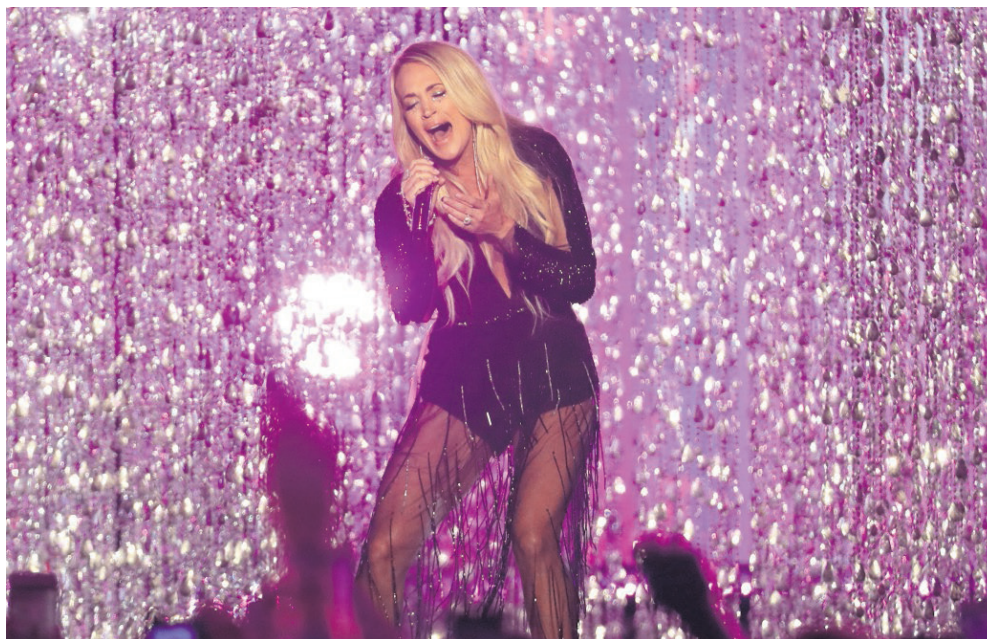
The major hang-up in GOP talks has been how, as the moderates have demanded, to offer a chance for citizenship to young "Dreamer" immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Conservatives have opposed creating a special pathway for them to become citizens, calling it amnesty.

Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., said a large group of conservatives he leads has discussed providing a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers in exchange for giving President Donald Trump nearly all the \$25 billion he wants to build his proposed wall with Mexico. In addition, the conservatives want to end a lottery that grants visas to countries with few immigrants to the U.S. and curb the relatives who can be brought over by immigrants, Walker said.

Democrats and at least some moderates would likely oppose such measures, giving it little chance of surviving in the more centrist Senate.

Commerce Secretary: US reaches deal with China's ZTE

WASHINGTON — The United States and China have reached a deal that allows the Chi-



Carrie Underwood performs 'Cry Pretty' at the CMT Music Awards. AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Underwood makes history again, Shelton wins top country award

Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards with 18 wins, while Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize.

Shelton, the only person to win two awards Wednesday, won video of the year for "I'll Name the Dogs" at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I've been doing this for 18 years. I have been making records and luckily enough you guys have accepted them," said Shelton, who also won male video of the year. "It's been a crazy ride."

Underwood won female video of the year for the Ludacris-assisted song, "The Champion," also giving the rapper-actor his first CMT Award.

Underwood, per usual, was a vocal powerhouse as she sang "Cry Pretty," earning of the night's loudest applause.

Some performers sang outdoors, including Luke Bryan, Chris Stapleton and Sam Hunt, who sang "Downtown's Dead" in downtown Nashville, walking the streets and going into bars during the performance.

The CMT Music Awards, which kicked off with a spoof of the Royal Wedding, honors the year's best country music videos.

nese telecommunications giant ZTE Corp. to stay in business in exchange for paying an additional \$1 billion in fines and agreeing to let U.S. regulators monitor its operations.

The fine announced today comes on top of \$892 million ZTE has already paid for breaking U.S. sanctions by selling equipment to North Korea and Iran. The Commerce Department said that ZTE must also put \$400 million in escrow — a sum that it would forfeit if it violated today's agreement.

In addition, a compliance team chosen by the United States will be embedded at ZTE and the Chinese company must change its board and executive team.

President Donald Trump has drawn fire from

Congress for intervening in the case to rescue a Chinese company that had violated U.S. sanctions against two rogue nations that have been pursuing nuclear weapons programs.

In April, the Commerce Department barred ZTE from importing American components for seven years, having concluded that it deceived U.S. regulators after it settled charges last year of sanctions violations. Instead of disciplining all employees involved, Commerce said, ZTE had paid some of them full bonuses and then lied about it.

Trump barged into the ZTE case last month by tweeting that he was working with President Xi Jinping to put ZTE "back in business, fast" and save tens of thousands of Chinese jobs. He

later tweeted that the ZTE talks were "part of a larger trade deal" being negotiated with China.

Trump has drawn criticism from members of Congress for going easy on the Chinese company.

"This deal is a loser for American security and a loser for American workers," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "The president and congressional Republicans must reverse this decision before it is too late. The Trump administration is giving ZTE and China the green light to spy on Americans and sell our technology to North Korea and Iran, as long as it pays a fine that amounts to a tiny fraction of its revenue. The president is making America less safe, creating jobs in China and securing nothing for American workers in return. The only question is whether this was the price of Ivanka's trademarks and the \$500 million loan to an Indonesian Trump development."

Boy Scout's toy grenade causes bomb scare in Houston airport

HOUSTON — A Boy Scout who packed a toy grenade in his carry-on bag caused the shutdown of a security checkpoint at Houston's William P. Hobby Airport this morning, just a day after the international terminal of the city's other major airport was evacuated due to a bomb scare.

Houston Airport System spokesman Bill Begley said people were allowed to approach the checkpoint again after authorities determined that the suspicious item spotted by a Transportation Security Administration agent was a "novelty grenade." It's not clear why the 17-year-old had the item in his bag.

Houston police said the state won't charge the teen but that he could face a federal fine.

Hobby Airport is a hub for Southwest Airlines and Begley said more than 15 Southwest flights were delayed. The website FlightAware indicated delays of an hour or more for flights arriving and departing the airport immediately after the security checkpoint reopened.

An Associated Press journalist was in the line when a TSA agent raised the alarm at about 4:35 a.m., forcing hundreds of people to move away from the immediate area on both sides of the security checkpoint.

"My wife and I were waiting to drop our bags into the X-ray machine and go through the detector, and I heard a TSA agent scream 'Shut it down, shut it down, shut it down!' Everyone was looking around, confused, and people were ordered to 'Clear out now!'" the AP's John L. Mone said.

On Wednesday, police detained "an impatient passenger" who made comments about explosives in a bag at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. Begley said that unidentified passenger's "inappropriate comment" prompted a bomb squad to close the international terminal for nearly an hour.



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