

Jeb Bush In Race For President

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will run for president in 2016, according to several senior aides who confirmed Thursday that the Republican would announce his widely expected decision in Miami later this month.

As the son of one president and brother of another, Bush would be the third member of his immediate family to sit in the Oval Office if elected. His decision to run ensures the possibility of a general election showdown between two political families as Hillary Rodham Clinton eyes the Democratic presidential nomination.

Bush senior aides confirmed that the 62-year-old Bush, who left the Florida governor's mansion in 2007, will enter the race during an event at Miami Dade College soon after returning from a weeklong European trip. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the decision ahead of the formal announcement.

"My expectation, my hope, is I'll be a candidate," Bush said earlier in this week while attending an economic forum in Florida with other 2016 GOP prospects.

There's been little mystery to Bush's plans. He's been raising many millions of dollars for a separate political group that is expected to support his candidacy and perform many of the functions of a campaign, although with dollars not bound by the same federal requirements as a formal campaign committee.

Greece To Have Payments Bundled

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Desperate for time, Greece is taking an unusual step in talks over its bailout program: It will bundle four payments due this month to the International Monetary Fund into one payment on June 30.

The delay is allowed under IMF rules. Yet it shows how Greece is struggling to meet its financial obligations without the rescue loans that have been withheld since last summer, as Athens and its creditors fail to agree on economic reforms.

The move follows the failure of radical left Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to break the stalemate with creditors at a late-night meeting with European Commission head Jean Claude Juncker and the top official representing Greece's peers in the eurozone. The talks will resume "within coming days," officials said.

On his return to Athens, Tsipras told government officials that "extreme proposals will not be accepted by the Greek government. Everyone must understand that the Greek people have suffered greatly over the last five years and some people must stop playing games at their expense."

Without a deal, Greece will not get the 7.2 billion euros (\$8.1 billion) remaining from its 240 billion-euro bailout fund, which it's been relying on for five years. Without the money, it will struggle to pay upcoming debts and the country could soon go bankrupt — a possible preamble to a forced exit from the euro and a return to a financial stone age with a devalued version of its old national currency.

Hackers Suspected In Breach

WASHINGTON (AP) — China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that data from the Office of Personnel Management and the Interior Department had been compromised.

"The FBI is conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred," the statement said.

The hackers were believed to be based in China, said Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican.

Collins, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said the breach was "yet another indication of a foreign power probing successfully and focusing on what appears to be data that would identify people with security clearances."

US Missiles Might Counter Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is weighing a range of aggressive responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

This "counterforce" option is among possibilities the administration is considering as it reviews its entire policy toward Russia in light of Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea and other actions the U.S. deems confrontational in Europe and beyond.

The options go so far as one implied — but not stated explicitly — that would improve the ability of U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy military targets on Russian territory.

It all has a certain Cold War ring, even if the White House ultimately decides to continue tolerating Russia's alleged flight-testing of a ground-launched cruise missile with a range prohibited by the treaty.

Russia denies violating the treaty and has, in turn, claimed violations by the United States in erecting missile defenses.

LA-Area Shoreline Latest To Close Over Oily Goo

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — A 4-mile stretch of beach in south Los Angeles County was closed Thursday after tar balls washed ashore — the latest Southern California coastline to shut down due to oily goo, authorities said.

The Long Beach Fire Department ordered the closure Wednesday night over concerns the material could cause skin irritation or other adverse health effects.

The closure was continued after authorities assessed the beach Thursday afternoon and determined tar balls were still washing up on shore.

"We ask that people stay off the beach and out of the water for now," agency spokesman Jake Heflin said.

By Thursday morning, crews scooped up about 55 gallons of the sticky substance from the shoreline about 25 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, Heflin said. Tar was not readily apparent on the sand at midmorning, between low tide and high tides.

"Various amounts of 'tar balls' continue to wash up on shore and create a public and environmental health concern," the Long Beach Fire Department said in a statement.

Rick Perry Goes At It Again, Launches 2016 Bid

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

ADDISON, Texas — Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination Thursday, pledging to "end an era of failed leadership" and hoping this campaign will go better than his last one.

The longest-serving governor in Texas history when he left office in January, Perry made his announcement inside a steamy hangar at an airfield outside Dallas, in the company of fellow veterans and a hulking cargo plane like the one he flew for the Air Force.

Perry vowed to help the country rise above its slow economic recovery. During Perry's last seven years in office, Texas created 1.5 million new jobs.

"I have been tested," Perry said. "I have led the most successful state in America."

In a nod to the tea party, he said: "Our rights come from God, not from government."

This time, Perry is a decided underdog who has been visiting early voting states for months, hoping to convince voters he deserves another chance.

In 2012, he announced late, surged in the polls but wilted amid a series of gaffes. He's still trying to live down the "oops" he sheepishly uttered in a brain-freeze moment during a debate in the 2012 race when he forgot one of the federal agencies he'd vowed to close as president.

Perry was a ferocious fundraiser before, but his coffers could be hurt this



BRANDON WADE/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS
Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry announces his second presidential bid during a rally at the Addison airport on Thursday, June 4, 2015, in Addison, Texas.

time by two felony indictments he's facing in Austin.

A grand jury indicted him on abuse of power and coercion after he publicly threatened — then carried out — a veto of state funding for public corruption prosecutors. That followed the Democratic head of the unit rebuffing Perry's calls to resign after her arrest for drunken driving.

Perry says the case against him is purely political, but he's been unable to get it dismissed on constitutional grounds — and may eventually have to pause campaigning to appear in court.

In his speech, Perry savaged the Obama administra-

tion for Iraq's decline after U.S. combat troops left, for what he sees as a flawed nuclear deal being negotiated with Iran and for an insecure border with Mexico.

"A lot of candidates will say the right things," Perry said. "We need a president who has done the right things."

According to Perry: "We're at the end of an era of failed leadership."

Texas' white-hot job growth was fueled by an oil-and-gas boom, but Perry said his keeping taxes low, restricting regulation and curbing civil litigation awards helped. Perry also distributed millions in state funds, hoping to lure top job

creators to Texas — sometimes with few new jobs to show for it.

Perry is playing up his military experience in a GOP field that has few veterans. His announcement featured many well-known veterans, including Marcus Luttrell, a longtime Perry friend and the only survivor of a four-man team attacked in Afghanistan. Luttrell's story was featured in the 2013 film "Lone Survivor."

Perry's launch was somewhat overshadowed Thursday by confirmation that top-tier prospect Jeb Bush also will run, bringing the Republican presidential field to 11.

One rival, fellow Texan Ted Cruz, welcomed Perry to the race as "a friend and patriot."

Perry, though, indirectly swiped at senators such as Cruz and Marco Rubio of Florida, as well as others in the race with little or no executive experience. "Leadership is not a speech on the Senate floor," he said.

From Texas, Perry soon plans to head back to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — early voting states where he has already been active.

He's hoping the on-the-ground politicking proves more sustainable this time than the early sizzle last time.

"He's kind of been freed up to be Rick Perry again," said Brendan Steinhauer, a Texas political consultant and veteran of tea party-backed FreedomWorks. "That's going to give him a lot of freedom to do what he does best, which is talk to voters one on one, shake hands."

FIFA Discloses Ireland Received \$5M Over Henry's Handball

BY ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

In the midst of an escalating financial scandal, FIFA admitted Thursday to giving Ireland \$5 million in compensation for missing a place at the 2010 World Cup after Thierry Henry's handball set up France's winning goal.

FIFA disclosed the payment after the money was mentioned in a radio interview by Football Association of Ireland chief executive John Delaney. Neither FIFA nor the FAI had previously disclosed the agreement to stave off legal action following the contentious 2009 playoff game.

The revelation was made two days after FIFA President Sepp Blatter announced under pressure that he will resign,

likely by March. Blatter, who has headed FIFA since 1998, was re-elected to a fifth term last Friday despite criminal investigations into FIFA that included U.S. criminal charges against executive committee members and arrests at the FIFA Congress in Zurich.

The loan highlights the lack of transparency that plunged FIFA into the biggest scandal of its 111-year history. Northern Ireland's Jim Boyce, who retired as a FIFA vice president last week, called for an investigation into the Irish loan.

In November 2009, Ireland was furious that Henry's handball in extra time enabled William Gallas to score and give France a 2-1 aggregate win and a place in the 32-nation field on South Africa. Swedish

referee Martin Hansson was criticized heavily for not making a handball call.

FIFA rejected requests by the FAI that the game be replayed and Ireland be added to the field as an extra team. The compensation deal risks setting a precedent that other disgruntled teams could try to apply if in-game decisions go against them.

"While the referee's decision is final, and the Football Association of Ireland ultimately accepted it as such, in January 2010 FIFA entered into an agreement with FAI in order to put an end to any claims against FIFA," FIFA said in a statement. "FIFA granted FAI a loan of \$5 million for the construction of a stadium in Ireland. At the same time, UEFA also granted the FAI

funds for the same stadium."

The 56,000 seat Aviva Stadium was built on the site of the Lansdowne Road national stadium and opened in 2010.

"The terms agreed between FIFA and the FAI were that the loan would be reimbursed if Ireland qualified for the 2014 FIFA World Cup," the FIFA statement said. "Ireland did not so qualify. Because of this, and in view of the FAI's financial situation, FIFA decided to write off the loan as per 31 December 2014."

The FAI responded to the FIFA statement by calling the payment a "legal settlement agreement" rather than a loan and saying it was 5 million euros not 5 million dollars, as FIFA said.

Ticks

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Bachmann said there's a few reasons why South Dakota hasn't seen the disease.

"Some (ticks) are capable of transmitting — vectoring — Lyme disease; others are not either because the hosts that harbor the disease don't intersect with the host that the tick feeds on," she said. "Or just geographically, it hasn't moved far enough."

However, Bachmann said that doesn't mean ticks in the region aren't capable of spreading other illnesses to humans. That it's still a good idea to be vigilant.

"We do have ticks that can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever," she said. "Ticks feed on human blood and they feed on multiple hosts — that's how they spread the diseases around — so it is important that, if you're out in areas where ticks are prevalent, make sure to wear the proper

repellant, high socks, and high pants, and make sure to check yourself and your pets when you get back home."

Bachmann said yard maintenance is a key way of keeping ticks away.

"If you're concerned about ticks in your yard, the best prevention there is making sure that you remove any habitat in your yard that's good for ticks — mowing down the tall grasses, trying to minimize those wild areas in your yard," she said.

For those who are bitten, the CDC suggests using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible and pulling up with steady, even pressure.

Bachmann added that if there's difficulty in removal, seek the help of a medical professional.

"If you cannot get the tick out, or it's in sort of a hard-to-reach area ... I always recommend seeking medical assistance because it's very important when removing a

tick that you get all of the tick out — they can embed their mouth parts and it makes it very tricky to get them out if they've been feeding extensively," she said.

She added there are also a few steps to remember if you're concerned the tick may have transmitted a disease.

"If you think that you have a tick that is possibly disease carrying, like if you're out on the East Coast and you get bitten by a deer tick, save the tick for identification if you're not already in a doctor's office," she said. "Stick it to a piece of paper with clear tape, put it in a clear jar and save the tick so somebody can identify it and narrow down if you're possibly going to be at risk of any sort of diseases."

For more tips on tick removal, visit http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html.

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