

Fla. Primary Attracts Romney

BY KASIE HUNT AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — If there's any Republican presidential candidate who can afford to spend precious time and money focusing on winning in Florida, it's the one who campaigned in the state Tuesday.

Florida is the only early primary state Mitt Romney plans to visit this week, little more than a month before voters start weighing in on the GOP nominating fight.

Depending on how he performs in earlier contests in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — all three are still uncertain — Florida represents a chance for Romney to either seal the nomination or an opportunity to revive what likely would become, if he's lost three times, a struggling campaign.

Romney spent all day in Florida, attending several fundraisers and holding public events in Miami and Tampa.

Unlike his rivals, Romney has the resources to compete aggressively here. He had nearly \$15 million at the end of October and has spent little of it — a war chest that would allow him to buy expensive TV ads across Florida's 10 media markets. He has national name recognition from his 2008 bid, an asset his team believes will give him a significant advantage over lesser-known rivals in a large state where retail politicking alone doesn't cut it. And he's kept in good touch with the support and fundraising network he built last time

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MITT ROMNEY

around, an effort that's shown through as he's picked up endorsements from many of the state's top Republicans, including Sen. Mel Martinez and former Sen. Connie Mack.

All that would also help him in the general election against President Barack Obama, where Florida is a key battleground.

“They don't want to see me as the nominee, that's for sure,” Romney told reporters Tuesday. Democrats started running paid TV ads against him on Monday. “It shows that they're awfully afraid of facing me in the general election. They want to throw the primary process to anybody but me, but bring it on. We're ready for them.”

But Romney's team also recognizes that losing Florida could doom his chances of winning the nomination — and Romney's efforts here show that. He's stayed on safe ground on Social Security, important to the state's signifi-

cant elderly population, while hammering rival Rick Perry for calling the program a “Ponzi scheme.” He's also reached out to the Cuban American community, a historically Republican constituency that plays a significant role in state politics. On Tuesday, former Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Mario Diaz-Balart and his brother, former Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, all backed him at an event in Miami. Those three endorsed Sen. John McCain in 2008.

His campaign is also preparing an on-the-ground strategy. His five paid staffers are preparing volunteers to begin grass roots activities just before the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary — a necessity because absentee and military ballots start going out Dec. 27. The Romney campaign is holding three weekly strategy calls with its Florida team.

Contrast that with most of his rivals, who have spent most of the primary campaign jockeying to become the consensus conservative alternative to the former Massachusetts governor — and probably need to win at least one earlier-than-Florida primary to stand a chance of surviving to compete with Romney here.

Newt Gingrich is spending the week in South Carolina and Iowa. Perry and Jon Huntsman are campaigning in New Hampshire. Rick Santorum and Michele Bachmann are in Iowa. Herman Cain is scheduled to make stops in Michigan and Ohio, though his campaign is now battling new accusations that he had an extramarital affair.

OFFICIAL:

Jackson’s Doctor To Serve About 2 Years

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The doctor convicted in the overdose death of Michael Jackson was sentenced to the maximum four years behind bars Tuesday by a judge who denounced him as a reckless physician whose actions were a “disgrace to the medical profession.”

Dr. Conrad Murray sat stoically with his hands crossed as Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor repeatedly chastised him for what he called a “horrific violation of trust” while caring for Jackson.

However, Pastor conceded his sentence was constrained by a recent change in California law that requires Murray to serve his sentence in county jail rather than state prison.

Sheriff's officials later said Murray will serve a little less than two years behind bars while housed in a one-man cell and kept away from other prisoners.

“This is going to be a real test of our criminal justice system to see if it's meaningful at all,” District Attorney Steve Cooley said.

Cooley said he was considering asking the judge to modify the sentence to classify the crime as a serious felony warranting incarceration in state prison.

The judge was relentless in his bashing of the 58-year-old Murray, saying he lied repeatedly and had not shown remorse for his actions in the treatment of Jackson. Pastor also said Murray's heavy use



IRFAN KHAN/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT
Jermaine Jackson, left, and mother Katherine Jackson leave the Los Angeles Superior Courthouse after the sentencing of Dr. Conrad Murray, Tuesday, November 29, 2011. A judge sentenced Murray to four years behind bars, the maximum punishment possible, for his part in Michael Jackson's death, saying the doctor's role in the singer's fatal overdose was "money-for-medicine madness."

of the powerful anesthetic propofol to help Jackson battle insomnia violated his sworn obligation.

“It should be made very clear that experimental medicine is not going to be tolerated, and Mr. Jackson was an experiment,” Pastor said. “Dr. Murray was intrigued by the prospect and he engaged in this money for medicine madness that is simply not going to be tolerated by me.”

Pastor also said Murray has

“absolutely no sense of fault, and is and remains dangerous” to the community.

The judge said one of the most disturbing aspects of Murray's case was a slurred recording of Jackson recovered from the doctor's cell phone.

“That tape recording was Dr. Murray's insurance policy,” Pastor said. “It was designed to record his patient surreptitiously at that patient's most vulnerable

point.”

Defense attorney J. Michael Flanagan said after the sentencing that he was surprised the judge focused on the recording. The lawyer also contended that nothing said during the hearing would have changed the judge's mind about the sentence.

Michael Jackson's family told Pastor in a statement read earlier that they were not seeking revenge but wanted Murray to receive a stiff sentence that served as a warning to opportunistic doctors.

It included elements from Jackson's parents, siblings and his three children.

“As his brothers and sisters, we will never be able to hold, laugh or perform again with our brother Michael,” the statement said. “And as his children, we will grow up without a father, our best friend, our playmate and our dad.”

The family told The Associated Press after the sentencing that they were pleased with the results.

“We're going to be a family. We're going to move forward. We're going to tour, play the music and miss him,” brother Jermaine Jackson said.

Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a six-week trial that presented the most detailed account yet of Jackson's final hours but left many questions about Murray's treatment of the superstar with propofol.

Eurozone Trying To Beef Up Rescue Fund

BRUSSELS (AP) — Eurozone nations are calling for more IMF resources to help out their embattled currency.

The 17 eurozone finance ministers on Tuesday agreed to seek new ways to increase the resources of the International Monetary Fund through bilateral loans that could be used to protect EU nations facing financial trouble.

The ministers meeting in Brussels also agreed on options to give the rescue fund more leverage power and build up its resources so it can help bigger troubled EU members such as Italy and Spain.

Airline Files For Bankruptcy Protection

DALLAS (AP) — An analyst for Fitch Ratings says that American Airlines will have to focus on terminating its underfunded pension plans and getting wage concessions from workers now that it has filed for bankruptcy protection.

Leaders of employee unions at American say they'll fight to look out for the workers' interests.

Fitch analyst Bill Warlick says that American may need to consider a merger with US Airways.

American's parent company, AMR Corp., filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday. The company says it was forced to file because of high labor and fuel costs and the weak economy.

Iranian Mobs Storm British Embassy Compound

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Hard-line Iranian protesters stormed British diplomatic compounds Tuesday, hauling down the Union Jack, torching an embassy vehicle and pelting buildings with petrol bombs in what began as an apparent state-approved show of anger over the latest Western sanctions to punish Tehran for defiance over its nuclear program.

The hours-long assault on the British Embassy and a residential complex for staff — in chaotic scenes reminiscent of the seizing of the U.S. Embassy in 1979 — could push already frayed diplomatic ties toward the breaking point.

Iran's parliament approved a bill Sunday to downgrade relations with Britain, one of America's closest allies with diplomatic envoys in the Islamic Republic.

Calling Tuesday's attack “outrageous and indefensible,” British Prime Minister David Cameron said that Iran's failure to defend the embassy and its staff was a disgrace and would have “serious consequences.”

He said all embassy staff had been accounted for and praised Britain's ambassador to Iran for handling a “dangerous situation with calm and professionalism.”

Pakistan Steps Up Anti-U.S. Rhetoric

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan withdrew from an international conference on stabilizing Afghanistan to protest the deadly attack by American forces on its troops, widening a fresh rupture in ties with a nominal ally that is endangering the U.S. plan for gradually ending the war.

In an unusually hostile comment, a top Pakistani army general said Tuesday that the deaths of 24 Pakistani soldiers were the result of a “deliberate act of aggression.” He said the military has not decided whether to take part in an American investigation into the weekend encounter along the mountainous Afghan border.

The hard line was aimed partly at pacifying the country's anti-American public, most of whom detest their leaders' close association with Washington. The uncompromising stance of the army was also likely designed to press for more concessions from Washington.

Regardless of motive, Pakistan's retaliatory moves and tough rhetoric lower the chances of greater cooperation in the Afghan war and will make it harder to repair ties with the U.S. once emotions cool.

Those ties have been beset by crises for the most of the year, most notably after the U.S. raid on May 2 that killed Osama bin Laden and wounded Pakistani pride. Each time, U.S. officials have worked to get the relationship back on track, knowing that Pakistan's influence over Afghan Taliban leaders could be key to achieving a negotiated settlement that would allow American combat troops to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Cain Tells Aides He Is Reassessing His Campaign

BY RAY HENRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Herman Cain told aides Tuesday he is assessing whether the latest allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior against him “create too much of a cloud” for his Republican presidential candidacy to go forward.

Acknowledging the “firestorm” arising from an accusation of infidelity, Cain only committed to keeping his campaign schedule for the next several days, in a conference call with his senior staff.

“If a decision is made, different than to plow ahead, you all will be the first to know,” he said, according to a transcript of the call made by the National Review, which listened to the conversation.

It was the first time doubts about Cain's continued candidacy had surfaced from the candidate himself. As recently as Tuesday morning, a campaign spokesman had stated unequivocally that Cain would not quit.

Cain denied anew that he had an extramarital affair with a Georgia woman who went public a day earlier with allegations they had been intimate for 13 years.

“It was just a friendship relationship,” he said on the call, according to the transcript. “That being said, obviously, this is a cause for reassessment.”

He went on: “With this latest one, we have to do an assessment as to whether or not this is going to create too much of a cloud, in some people's minds, as to whether or not they would be able to support us going forth.”

Saying the episode had taken an emotional toll on him and his family, Cain told the aides that people will have to decide whether they believe him or the accuser. “That's why we're going to give it time, to see what type of response

we get from our supporters.”

Cain has denied the affair as well as several other accusations of inappropriate sexual behavior that have dogged his candidacy over the past month. He had been publicly resolute about pressing ahead even as his standing in public opinion polls and his fundraising started to slide.

But in the conference call, he pledged only to keep his imminent schedule, including a foreign policy speech at Hillsdale College in Michigan later Tuesday that he promised to deliver with “vim, vigor and enthusiasm.”

He scrapped at least one planned event, withdrawing from a party in New York on Sunday to meet with some of the city's top journalists including NBC's Matt Lauer and ABC's Barbara Walters. Cindy Adams, the New York Post columnist hosting the dinner, told the AP she had received a call Tuesday from Cain adviser John Coale saying Cain had decided not to attend. Coale declined to comment.



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Wednesday, November 30
7:40 a.m. YHS Winter Activities (Wally Bosch)
8:20 a.m. Hy-Vee (Chef Staci)

Thursday, December 1
7:40 a.m. Yankton Chamber of Commerce (Carmen Schramm)
8:20 a.m. Yankton Convention/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)

Friday, December 2
7:40 a.m. YAPG (Mike Dellinger)
8:20 a.m. YAA (Amy Miner)

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Pictures With Santa

Saturday, December 3rd
1:00pm-4:00pm



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