

Bush, Carson Seek To Steady Campaigns In GOP Debate

BY JULIE PACE
AND JULIE BYKOWICZ
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Republicans Jeb Bush and Ben Carson sought to steady their presidential campaigns in Tuesday night's GOP debate, with Bush taking advantage of a policy-focused contest to detail positions on the economy and immigration while Carson swatted away mounting questions about the veracity of his celebrated biography.

"I have no problem with being vetted," said Carson, a quiet-spoken retired neurosurgeon. "What I do have a problem with is being lied about."

The debate, the last for the GOP until mid-December, could help shape the course of the campaign into the winter as voters begin to pay more attention to the White House race. After a furor over moderators' aggressive tone in the last debate, Tuesday's hosts from Fox Business News allowed the eight candidates to deliver lengthy, uninterrupted answers and avoided attempts to get them to engage with one another.

Bush entered the debate in a precarious position, desperate to ease the anxiety of donors and other supporters. While it's unclear if his competent performance Tuesday

night will be enough to reset his campaign, he highlighted his fluency on domestic policy issues and described himself as best prepared to take on Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton in a general election.

In one of the night's notable exchanges, Bush stood by his call for allowing some people living in the U.S. illegally to find a path to legal status, criticizing billionaire Donald Trump's call for mass deportations as an impractical plan that would hand Democrats a talking point as they seek to appeal to Hispanic voters.

"They're doing high fives in the Clinton campaign when they're hearing this," said Bush, the former Florida governor.

Bush avoided tangling with fellow Floridian Marco Rubio, a shift in strategy after his poor performance in the last debate. Rubio had another strong performance, sticking to his strategy of weaving his own compelling personal story into his policy discussions and taking an aggressive stance on foreign policy.

Still, Rubio faced criticism from some rivals, most notably Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, about whether he's a true conservative given his calls for a child tax care credit and increased military spending.

"We can't even have an economy if we're not safe,"

said Rubio, a first-term senator enjoying recent momentum for his White House bid.

Rubio's call for more military spending was backed by Trump, the real estate mogul who has led the GOP field for months. While Trump has generated attention through his outspoken statements on the campaign trail, he delved into the policy discussions in Tuesday's debate, including outlining his opposition to a new Asia-Pacific trade deal supported by many Republicans.

"I love trade," Trump said. "I'm a free trader 100 percent. But we need smart people making the deals."

Trump's grip on the GOP field has been challenged in recent weeks by Carson, another outsider appealing to voters angry with Washington. As Carson has risen in preference polls, however, he has faced a flurry of questions about his biography, which has been central to his connection with voters.

The questions ballooned last week after CNN reported it could not find friends or confidants to corroborate the story, told in his widely read autobiography, of his trying to stab a close friend when he was a teenager.

Carson was cheered by the debate audience when he suggested he was facing tougher scrutiny than Clinton. But he

appeared to flounder on some policy questions, including a disconnected answer about whether he would break up big banks.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz repeatedly played the populist. He railed against the "Washington cartel," big government and even big banks. But in moment reminiscent of a former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's "oops" debate debacle, Cruz blanked when it came to naming the five departments he would eliminate.

"The IRS, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, ah, the Department of Commerce and HUD," Cruz said.

Businesswoman Carly Fiorina and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, two lower polling candidates in search of a breakout moment, repeatedly sought to interject themselves into the discussion. Trump sought to shut Fiorina down at one point, drawing jeers from the crowd when he said, "Why does she keep interrupting everybody?"

Missing from the lineup were New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Both were dropped from the top-tier debate with low poll numbers in national surveys, sparking criticism for the way networks hosting the debates have determined participation.

Moscow Pushes Back Against Allegations

MOSCOW (AP) — The day after the 2014 Sochi Olympics ended with Russia atop the medals table, a beaming President Vladimir Putin presented his athletes with state awards for "defending the honor" of their country by showing that its "great and glorious" sports traditions were still strong.

From its decades of dominance in the 1960s to the 1980s when the Soviet Union was known as the "Big Red Machine," international sports has held outsized importance for Russians as a way to measure their country's standing in the world.

That's why accusations of cheating — widespread, state-sponsored doping — drew such a harsh reaction Tuesday in Moscow. It would be a huge embarrassment for Russia if its track and field athletes were kept out of next summer's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Russian officials have sought to discredit the report by a commission from the World Anti-Doping Agency, saying it failed to prove its main points and suggested the existence of an anti-Russian conspiracy.

"As long as there is no evidence, it is difficult to consider the accusations, which appear rather unfounded," said Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

Congress Sends Obama Defense Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress sent President Barack Obama a \$607 billion defense policy bill that he is expected to sign even though he adamantly opposes its ban on moving some Guantanamo Bay detainees to U.S. prisons.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill, 91-3, on Tuesday just days after the House passed the bipartisan measure, 370-58. The legislation authorizes Pentagon spending on military personnel, ships, aircraft and other war-fighting equipment.

The president plans to send Congress a blueprint for fulfilling his campaign pledge to close the U.S. prison in Cuba. But the plan is widely expected to be dead on arrival on Capitol Hill, with Republicans and some Democrats opposed to any move to detain some of the terror subjects on U.S. soil.

The congressional decision to retain a ban on transferring detainees to the U.S. has prompted debate on whether the president will try to bypass Congress and close the prison through executive action. "We know he's contemplating it," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama would sign the bill because it includes provisions critical to protecting the United States. But he said the president's signature does not change his position about the need to close the prison.

Outcry Over Starbucks' Red Cups

NEW YORK (AP) — It's as red as Santa's suit, a poinsettia or your neighbor's ugly Christmas sweater. Yet Starbucks' stark new holiday coffee cup has set off complaints that the chain is making war on Christmas.

The outcry — which gained in intensity after Donald Trump suggested boycotting the coffee chain — illustrates the fine line companies must walk during the all-important holiday season: They want to stand out from their competitors, but not go so far as to offend or unsettle.

"The challenge is that the holiday language is same for everything," said Allen Adamson, founder of BrandSimple Consulting. "Everyone does it, so how do you do it in a way that's distinctive? If you push too far with distinctiveness, you might end up ruffling feathers."

Since 1997, Starbucks has offered holiday drinks in a festive red cup, adorned with such things as Christmas ornaments, reindeer and snowflakes. This year's design is minimalist: vivid red, with nothing but the familiar green Starbucks logo.

Starbucks executives said they wanted to embrace "simplicity and quietness" and show that the coffee shops are a "sanctuary" during the holidays. The company also reminded customers that it is selling its Christmas Blend of coffee as usual this year.

University Saw Decades Of Bad Relations

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — This week's events at the University of Missouri seemed to unfold rapidly, with little warning. But some students, faculty and alumni say the protests and sudden resignation of the president and chancellor are the culmination of years of racial tension on the state's flagship campus.

The history of racially charged incidents dates back generations.

When the university denied admission to black law school applicant Lloyd Gaines, the issue led to an influential 1938 Supreme Court decision that helped pave the way for the civil rights movement.

Three decades later, during the unrest of the late 1960s, the Legion of Black Collegians emerged at Mizzou to press for increased minority representation among students, staff and faculty — a goal student protesters say remains unmet.

And the 2011 suicide of black swimmer Sasha Menu Courey after she was allegedly raped by several football players led some to question the campus commitment to investigating sexual assaults.

Bond Strengthened By Kidney Donation

NEW YORK (AP) — Serving together in Vietnam, John Middaugh and Henry "Bill" Warner forged an Army-brothers bond they knew was profound and lasting.

A world and nearly a half a century away from the war zone where they'd counted on each other, Middaugh put himself on the line for Warner this month in a new way: by giving one of his kidneys.

"He had my back many times," Middaugh said as they awaited surgery last week at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, across the country from his home in Port Orchard, Washington. "So this is payback time."

2 Dead As Business Jet Crashes Into Ohio Apartment Building

BY MARK GILLISPIE
Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — A small business jet crashed into an apartment building with a huge bang on Tuesday, killing at least two people aboard and shaking furniture in homes several blocks away, authorities said.

Investigators were trying to determine how many people were on the 10-seat Hawker H25 jet, but they confirmed two deaths, said Lt. Sierjie Lash, an Akron fire department spokeswoman.

No one was inside the small brick apartment building or another home that caught fire, she said.

The jet, which took off from Dayton, had planned to land at Akron Fulton International Airport, about 2 miles from where it crashed. It clipped a utility wire on the way down and burst into flames and disintegrated after impact, Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Bill Haymaker said.

The plane then hit an embankment beyond the apartment building, causing a nearby house to also burn, he said. There were no known injuries on the ground, he said.

Witnesses reported hearing explosions when the plane hit.

"I heard a big bang, and my couch shook twice,"



ED SUBA JR./AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/TNS
Area police and firefighters work at the scene after a passenger jet crashed into a home on Mogadore Road while on a short approach to Akron-Fulton Airport on Tuesday in Akron, Ohio.

said Carrie Willis, who lives several blocks away.

The front of the two-story apartment building was destroyed.

A woman who lives about a block away and was driving home with her grandson at the time said she saw the plane crash into the building and burst into flames.

"This plane just dropped out of the sky, veered and crashed into the apartment building," Roberta Porter

said.

She said it's scary to think that if she had been driving faster the plane may have clipped her car.

Another witness, Jesse Moon, told WEWS-TV that he was six blocks away when the plane went down and he ran over to the area.

"Everything was gone," he said. "It looked like a bomb exploded."

A mass-fatality team planned to begin working

at daylight Wednesday to sift through the wreckage and recover bodies of the victims. Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler said Tuesday evening that authorities still hadn't confirmed how many people were on the plane.

Inspectors from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were due at the scene of the crash, whose cause was unknown.

3 Chinese Warships Arrive At Cuban Port

HAVANA (AP) — Three Chinese naval ships have arrived in Cuba to mark the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Communist Party-ruled countries.

The visit comes as Cuba and the United States work to normalize relations after more than 50 years of official hostility.

The commander of the Chinese fleet, Wang Jianxun, said it is the first time a military flotilla from the Asian country has come to Cuba.

Cuban officials, sailors and Chinese students studying on the island greeted the arriving ships Tuesday. Some young Cubans dressed up as red-and-gold dragons.

China is a key ally of Cuba, and its No. 2 trade partner after Venezuela. The visit comes amid high tensions between Washington and Beijing in the South China Sea.

Freedom is never free.

THANK YOU

For serving our country. For protecting our freedom. For sacrificing much and risking more.
We salute you on Veterans Day and every day.

Midcontinent
COMMUNICATIONS