

Fox News sets GOP debate field

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Billionaire businessman Donald Trump has scored the top spot for Thursday night’s leadoff debate of the 2016 presidential race, joined by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and seven other Republican contenders who made the campaign’s first cut.

Seven others will be excluded, including former technology executive Carly Fiorina and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, relegated to a pre-debate forum and second-tier status in the party’s crowded field.

Fox News announced the 10 GOP White House hopefuls who will take part in the prime-time debate in the crucial swing state of Ohio.

Beyond Trump, those selected among the top 10 — based on recent national polls — include Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Those who didn’t make the field for the first debate include Fiorina, the GOP’s only female presidential candidate, Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki and former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore.

The announcement concludes an anxiety-filled process for a Republican Party that worked aggressively to improve its debates ahead of the election season.

Yet with the largest field of contenders in modern memory, organizers say something had to give to ensure the debate in Cleveland didn’t turn into a nationally televised circus.

“We never ever envisioned we’d have 17 major candidates,” said Steve Duprey, New Hampshire’s representative to the Republican National Committee who helped craft the debate plan. “There’s no perfect solution.”

Republican officials worked closely with TV executives, although the networks have the final say about



AP Photo/Jim Cole, File
In this Aug. 3 file photo, Republican presidential candidate, Ohio Gov. John Kasich speaks in Manchester, N.H. Kasich's recent poll results earned him a place in the first prime time Republican presidential debate, Thursday.

which candidates will be allowed on stage for their televised events.

Fox News is the host of Thursday’s event, the first of six party-sanctioned debates before primary voting begins in February. The network says it used a selection of national polls to make this week’s cut.

Republican officials were particularly concerned about Fiorina’s status, hoping she would help balance Hillary Rodham Clinton’s push to rally women to her candidacy. Trump’s recent surge in the polls was particularly damaging to Fiorina.

The reality television star’s rapid rise has surprised many Republican officials, some of whom fear his rhetoric on immigration and other divisive issues could hurt the party. In a Tuesday interview, Trump said he’s been defying expectations all his life.

“I think people are tired, they’re sick and tired of incompetent politicians,” he said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” when asked to explain his rise.

Fox didn’t say before Tuesday’s announcement which polls it would use to determine its top 10. Many candidates are grouped together in

the single digits, most separated by a number smaller than the margin of error.

For example, in a Monmouth University survey released Monday, Kasich was the 10th candidate with the support of 3.2 percent of voters.

But after taking the margin of error into account, Monmouth noted that Kasich’s support could be as low as 1.5 percent, while almost any of the candidates who polled lower could be that high or higher.

Monmouth found that only five candidates — Trump, Bush, Walker, Cruz and Huckabee — were definitely in the top tier of candidates, while just two — Pataki and Gilmore — would not make it into the top 10 even when margin of error was taken into account.

Some candidates looked at the polls on Tuesday, and then looked past the first debate and aimed for the second.

“This first debate is just one opportunity of many,” Amy Frederick, an aide to Fiorina, wrote to supporters. “With many more debates to come, we fully expect that Carly will soon stand on the stage and show America what real leadership looks like.”

Shackling video ignites debate on school discipline

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The boy sat in a chair, the sound of his whimpering interrupted briefly by the clank of metal handcuffs closing around his arms.

“You don’t get to swing at me like that,” a deputy says to the 8-year-old child, the interaction caught by a video camera. “You can do what we asked you to, or you can suffer the consequences.”

The video — entered as Exhibit A in a lawsuit the ACLU filed against the school, the sheriff and the officer — rocketed across the Internet on Tuesday and was shown again and again on cable news, reigniting a fierce debate over aggressive policing in public schools.

The sheriff defended his deputy while experts insisted that children shouldn’t be treated like adult criminals and bemoaned the lack of standardized regulations for restraining children.

“It was hard to breathe,” David Shapiro, who leads the National Juvenile Defender Center’s campaign against child shackling, said of his reaction when he first saw the video. “As someone who has acted out in class before, I really felt for that child. That’s not the way to treat any child, in school, in court, or anywhere.”

“Oh my goodness. Oh, no, this is not good,” groaned Steven C. Teske, a Georgia juvenile court judge who has led the charge to reduce restraints in schools, as he watched the video for the first time while on the phone with The Associated Press.

The lawsuit filed by two mothers alleges that school resource officer Kevin Sumner, a Kenton County deputy sheriff, handcuffed two children, the 8-year-old boy in the video and another 9-year-old girl in schools the Covington Independent Public Schools district. Both children have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and are identified in court records only by their initials. It’s also not clear who took the video, which was filmed in August.

The handcuffs were too big for the children’s wrists,



American Civil Liberties Union via AP
In this image made from video taken in August 2014, and provided by the American Civil Liberties Union on Aug. 4, an 8-year-old boy struggles and cries out as he sits in a chair with handcuffs around his biceps and his arms locked behind him while a school resource officer stands nearby, at an elementary school in Kentucky.

so Sumner put the cuffs around their biceps, the lawsuit alleges.

In the video, the boy, who weighed 52 pounds, cried. “Ow, that hurts,” he says.

The boy had been removed from class for failing to follow his teacher’s instructions, the lawsuit says. He tried to leave the principal’s office, so administrators stopped him until Sumner arrived. The officer took him to the bathroom and the boy tried to hit Sumner with his elbow.

Officials with the Covington Independent Public Schools said in a statement that they were cooperating with investigators, but declined to discuss the incident out of privacy concerns.

Kenton County Sheriff Chuck Korzenborn defended his deputy, who he described as a respected and skilled officer valued by the community.

School administrators asked for his help after their “efforts to deescalate and defuse a threat to others had proven unsuccessful,” Korzenborn said in a statement. “Deputy Sumner responded to the call and did what he is sworn to do and in conformity with all constitutional and law enforcement standards.”

Kentucky state regulations ban school officials from restraining students in a public school unless the “students’ behavior poses an imminent danger of physical harm to self or others.” It also forbids personnel from

restraining students that they know have disabilities that could cause trouble.

The lawsuit says officials at both schools were aware of the students’ disabilities, which include “impulsivity, and difficulty paying attention, complying with directives, controlling emotions and remaining seated.”

“An 8-year-old’s job description is to be impulsive,” said Julian Ford, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Connecticut.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder compounds that problem, he said, struggling to think of a scenario where handcuffing an 8-year-old might be necessary.

In the video, the boy kicks his legs in the chair.

Sumner bends down and puts his hand on his shoulder.

“Look at me for a minute, look at me,” he says. “If

you want the handcuffs off, you’ve got to stop kicking. Do you want them off or not? It’s up to you if you want them off.”

“I’m devastated to see a child treated this way,” said Lisa H. Thureau, founder Strategies for Youth, an organization meant to improve the relationship between children and police. “But this is not an isolated case. We’ve heard of these cases before.”

Districts across the county began placing officers in school in the early 1990s and the practice exploded in 1999, after two teenagers massacred their fellow students at Columbine High School in Colorado.

In the years since, the line between police officer and school administrator had been muddled, experts say. Schools now commonly call on their in-house officers to implement routine discipline.

At the same time, there has been no uniform method of training officers, no universal oversight or standardized guidelines, Thureau said.

Children with disabilities make up 12 percent of the public school population. But they make up 25 percent of all school arrests.

Thureau hopes that the video might spur the public to demand change.

“The video makes it very clear what’s happening out there,” she said. “And I think that there’s an increasing awareness among folks that this has really, really got to stop.”

BRIEFLY

Sandra Bland’s family sues state trooper, wants answers

HOUSTON (AP) — The family of a black woman found dead in a Texas jail three days after a confrontation with a white state trooper filed a wrongful-death lawsuit Tuesday against the officer and other officials, saying it was a last resort after being unable to get enough information about the case.

Sandra Bland, a Chicago-area woman, died by what authorities say was suicide in her Waller County jail cell on July 13. Her family and others previously questioned that, and criticized the trooper who stopped her for failing to signal a lane change.

“The bottom line is she never should have been inside the jail cell. Period,” Bland’s mother, Geneva Reed-Neal, said at a news conference. Reed-Neal, her Bible within reach, said she was confident Bland “knew enough about Jesus” that she wouldn’t hang herself, and her feelings as a mother say her daughter didn’t. But “anything is possible,” she said.

“Now I’m the first one to tell you, if the facts ... show without a doubt that that was the case, I’ll have to be prepared to deal with that,” she said.

Bland’s death came after nearly a year of heightened national scrutiny of police and their dealings with black suspects, especially those who have been killed by officers or die in police custody.

More fights ahead on Planned Parenthood after Senate vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — After the Senate’s derailing of Republican legislation halting federal dollars for Planned Parenthood, one thing seems clear: Many on both sides think they can ring up gains from the battle.

Abortion-rights groups are already releasing TV ads attacking GOP supporters of the measure for stomping on women’s health care needs. Conservatives are accusing Democrats of voting to protect taxpayer funds for an organization whose campaign contributions tilt lopsidedly to Democratic candidates.

And each party was bracing to revisit the fight next month, when Congress returns from its summer recess and considers legislation keeping government agencies open after their budgets expire Oct. 1.

Conservatives see that as an opportunity to keep Planned Parenthood money out of those bills. GOP leaders, concerned that their party could be blamed, would prefer to avoid a government shutdown battle with President Barack Obama.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., repeated that sentiment Tuesday, telling reporters that while congressional investigations of Planned Parenthood were just beginning, “No more government shutdowns.”

The Republican drive was prompted by graphic videos

secretly recorded by anti-abortion activists that show Planned Parenthood officials coolly describing how they sometimes provide fetal tissue to medical researchers. Abortion opponents say the recordings caught Planned Parenthood illegally selling the organs for profit, while Planned Parenthood officials — while apologizing for their workers’ businesslike words — say they’ve abided by laws that let them recoup the procedures’ costs.

Sheriff: 2 men fire at soldiers in Mississippi

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — Authorities are searching for two men who fired gunshots from a vehicle at soldiers at a military facility in Mississippi, although no one was reported wounded, a sheriff said Tuesday.

Perry County Sheriff Jimmy Dale Smith told WDAM-TV that the soldiers were training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg.

Mississippi’s National Guard said soldiers training at Camp Shelby reported hearing shots fired at 11:45 a.m. along Peret Tower Road, near the training facility. The facility is secure and all personnel accounted for and unharmed, the guard said in a news release.

Lt. Col. Christian Patterson said the shots were fired from a fringe road that runs along the eastern side of the base.

“We had soldiers who were training in the area and heard the shots. They reported it to their chain of command and then we reported it to the local authorities,” Patterson said.

The guard made no mention of whether the shots were believed to have been fired at troops but made clear that the shots are believed to have been fired from outside Camp Shelby.

More than 380 in U.S. sickened by cilantro-linked infection

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — More than 380 people in 26 U.S. states have been diagnosed with a stomach illness tied to Mexican cilantro contaminated by human waste, two federal agencies said Tuesday.

It’s the fourth consecutive summer in which the intestinal infection cyclosporiasis has been reported in the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration are investigating the cause of the latest outbreak, which appears to have begun after May 1.

The FDA said it suspects the contamination came from “contact with the parasite shed from the intestinal tract of humans” in the growing fields, contaminated water or harvesting, processing and packing activities. It causes diarrhea, nausea and fatigue which can last several weeks to a month or more if untreated.

Preliminary results indicate cases can be traced to cilantro from the state of Puebla, Mexico, supplied to restaurants.



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Event dates were incorrectly posted in the Umatilla County Fair Exhibitor's Guide, these are the correct dates for the events