

Trump's open path causes agony for some in GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's last Republican foe, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended his quixotic presidential campaign Wednesday, cementing Trump's remarkable triumph as his party's presumptive nominee and launching him toward a likely fall battle with Hillary Clinton. Some Republican leaders began reluctantly rallying around Trump, but others agonized over their party's future.

The billionaire businessman vowed to unite the splintered GOP, even as he was bitingly dismissive of members who have been critical of his campaign.

"Those people can go away and maybe come back in eight years after we served two terms," he said on NBC's "Today" Show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want."

Trump's challenge in uniting Republicans was abundantly clear Wednesday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell issued a frosty statement saying he had committed to backing the GOP nominee and noting Trump's "obligation" to bring the party together. And in a remarkable move, the last two Republicans to occupy the Oval Office — President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush — made clear they would not be helping Trump win the White House.

Clinton, in her first remarks since Trump's new status was crystalized, said she was more than prepared to handle the kind of deeply personal attacks that helped defeat Trump's Republican rivals.

"To me, this is the classic case



AP Photo/Seth Perlman

In this May 1 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump reacts to a song during a campaign rally at the Indiana Theater in Terre Haute, Ind.

of a blustering, bullying guy," the all-but-certain Democratic nominee told CNN.

The long and chaotic Republican primary came to an abrupt end after Trump's decisive victory Tuesday in Indiana. His win pushed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, his closest rival, out of the race, with Kasich following on Wednesday.

"The people of our country changed me," Kasich said during an emotional speech announcing the end of his campaign. "They changed me with the stories of their lives."

Trump's takeover of the GOP marks one of the most stunning political feats in modern political history.

A first-time candidate, he eschewed traditional fundraising and relied more on his own star power than television advertising

to draw attention. He flouted political decorum with controversial statements about women and minorities, leaving some Republicans convinced he won't be able to cobble together the diverse coalition needed to win the general election.

"It's his party between now and November, but I don't think it's going to be his party after November," said Peter Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush. Wehner is among the Republicans vowing to never vote for Trump, even if that means essentially handing Clinton the presidency.

Bob Vander Plaats, an influential evangelical leader who backed Cruz, withheld his support for Trump Wednesday, saying the real estate mogul needs to prove his conservative credentials with his vice presidential pick and more information

about what kind of judges he would appoint. "It's kind of a wait-and-see moment with Mr. Trump," he said.

Vander Plaats and a handful of other Republicans are clinging to the hope that an alternative option might yet emerge. Operatives have floated former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse and former Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn as possible candidates for a third-party or independent bid. But that is a long shot at best, with filing deadlines for getting on state ballots fast approaching.

There was notable silence from House Speaker Paul Ryan, who has spoken critically of Trump. Aides to both Ryan and McConnell said the Republican leaders had not spoken with Trump since his Indiana victory.

A spokesman for George W. Bush said the former president "does not plan to participate in or comment on the presidential campaign." And a spokesman for Bush's father said simply, "At age 91, President Bush is retired from politics."

Still, several GOP governors and senators said they would support Trump, according to a survey by The Associated Press.

"Our first and foremost goal is to elect a conservative, pro-business, strong on national defense, a man who will stand behind our freedoms and our rights, and that person is Donald Trump," Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin said. "It is not Hillary Clinton."

Clinton has yet to shake Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the democratic socialist who has energized young people and liberals with his calls for sweeping government-run health care and

education programs. Still, Clinton has 93 percent of the delegates she needs to clinch the Democratic nomination and now is focusing her attention on Trump.

"He is a loose cannon and loose cannons tend to misfire," Clinton said Wednesday.

Both Clinton and Trump head into the general election with historically high unfavorable ratings. But Clinton is generally popular within her own party, particularly with women and minority voters who are crucial to winning general election battleground states like Florida, Colorado and Nevada.

Some Republicans fear Trump's poor standing with those voters will not only cost the party the White House for a third straight term but the GOP's Senate majority as well. Some Republican senators in tough races struggled Wednesday to position themselves in a party with Trump at the helm. One, New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, said that while she would support him in the election, she would not endorse his candidacy.

Trump turned quickly to the general election, saying he's planning to work with the Republican National Committee to fundraise, a departure from his largely self-funded primary campaign. "We're going to try over \$1 billion, which is what's going to be necessary," he told NBC. He also said he was starting to vet potential running mates.

He later said he could consider Kasich, predicting the Ohio governor would be helpful this fall in any role given his state's significance in the general election.

BRIEFLY

U.S. government: North Carolina LGBT law violates civil rights

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina law limiting protections to LGBT people violates federal civil rights laws and can't be enforced, the U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday, putting the state on notice that it is in danger of being sued and losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

The law, which requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that conform to the sex on their birth certificate, has been broadly condemned by gay-rights groups, businesses and entertainers. Some have relocated offices or canceled shows in the state. Several other states have proposed similar laws in recent months limiting protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

In a letter to Gov. Pat McCrory, the Justice Department said federal officials view the state law as violating federal Civil Rights Act protections barring workplace discrimination based on sex. Provisions of the state law directed at transgender state employees violate their anti-discrimination protections, the letter said.

"The State is engaging in a pattern or practice of discrimination against transgender state employees and both you, in your official capacity, and the state are engaging in a pattern or practice of resistance" of their rights, the letter said.

The DOJ notification appeared to be an attempt by President Barack Obama's administration to extend a new requirement involving which bathrooms and locker rooms transgender people will be allowed to use, McCrory said.

U.S. declares Aleppo cease-fire

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Sporadic violence persisted in Aleppo on Wednesday as U.S. officials announced an agreement had been reached with Russia to extend Syria's fragile cease-fire to the deeply contested northern city. The Syrian military said the truce would last only 48 hours.

Restoration of a partial truce would bring relief to residents on both sides of Syria's largest city after two weeks of relentless violence that has killed nearly 300 people, destroyed hospitals and brought it to the brink of humanitarian disaster.

It was not immediately clear whether the new effort will be observed or for how long. The U.S. and Russia finalized a nationwide cease-fire in late February, but have struggled to make it stick.

The agreement was reached late Tuesday and took effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday Damascus time, Secretary of State John Kerry said.

The U.S. and Russia have been working to salvage the cease-fire they brokered together, which held surprisingly well until two weeks ago amid an alarming uptick of violence around Aleppo. Shells slammed into hospitals and residential areas on both sides of the divided city, plunging it into renewed violence that quickly escalated to levels unseen in months.

The agreement on Aleppo follows an earlier deal to reaffirm the truce in the Damascus suburbs and in coastal Latakia province.

The Syrian military confirmed the truce but said it would not take effect until 12:01 a.m. Thursday and last for only 48 hours. It did not elaborate and there was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

New rule would permit thousands of eagle deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is revising a federal rule that allows wind-energy companies to operate high-speed turbines for up to 30 years, even if means killing or injuring thousands of federally protected bald and golden eagles.

Under the plan announced Wednesday, wind companies and other power providers could kill or injure up to 4,200 bald eagles a year without penalty — nearly four times the current limit. Golden eagles could only be killed if companies take steps to minimize the losses, for instance, by retrofitting power poles to reduce the risk of electrocution.

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said the proposal will "provide a path forward" for maintaining eagle populations while also spurring development of a pollution-free energy source that's intended to ease global warming, a cornerstone of President Barack Obama's energy plan.

Ashe said the 162-page proposal would protect eagles and at the same time "help the country reduce its reliance on fossil fuels" such as coal and oil that contribute to global warming.

Fires threaten Canada oil sands town

FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta (AP) — A raging wildfire emptied Canada's main oil sands city, destroying entire neighborhoods of Fort McMurray, Alberta, where officials warned Wednesday that all efforts to suppress the fire have failed.

About 88,000 residents successfully evacuated as flames moved into the city surrounded by wilderness in the heart of Canada's oil sands. No injuries have been reported.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said all 105 patients at the local hospital had been safely airlifted to other care centers. She said, so far, the fire had destroyed or damaged an estimated 1,600 structures.

Unseasonably hot temperatures combined with dry conditions have transformed the boreal forest in much of Alberta into a tinder box.

Danielle Larivee, Alberta's Minister of Municipal Affairs, said the province has declared a state of emergency and said the fire is actively burning in residential areas. Over 200 firefighters are battling the blaze. Fatalities have been reported from a collision on a nearby highway but she was unaware if it was related to the evacuation.

"This is a nasty, dirty fire. There are certainly areas of the city that have not



Jason Franson/The Canadian Press via AP

An evacuee puts gas in his car on his way out of Fort McMurray, Alberta, as a wildfire burns in the background Wednesday.

been burned, but this fire will look for them and it will find them and it will want to take them," Fort McMurray Fire Chief Darby Allen

Officials estimated the fire at 18,500 acres and said they expect it to worsen Wednesday as strong winds and high temperatures "create explosive conditions."

Firefighters were working to protect critical infrastructure, including the only bridge across the Athabasca River and Highway 63, the only major route to the city in or out, said Scott Long of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency.

"It's a possibility that we may lose a large portion of the town," Long said.

EAST OREGONIAN Hermiston Herald

BUTTE CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

5K RUN, 5K WALK, 10K RUN, KID'S BUTTE SCOOT

All races begin & end at Hermiston's Butte Park

DRAWINGS • FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Sign Up Now!

Online registration & race information at

WWW.BUTTECHALLENGE.COM

All proceeds benefit

THE HERMISTON CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

Thank you for your support!