

The Florida Times-Union

Tuesday
JULY 19, 2016
\$2

STATE ATTORNEY CHALLENGER AHEAD IN FUNDRAISING

Metro, B-1

SHARKS COACH FIRED AHEAD OF PLAYOFFS

Sports, C-1

AND THEN THEY WERE CLOSED

Much-heralded eatery Sbraga & Co. abruptly ends operations in Jacksonville

Money, B-8

Election 2016

Speakers pitch Trump as the secure choice

GOP opens convention in Cleveland, but with some of its stars missing

By Julie Pace & Alan Fram
Associated Press

CLEVELAND | Painting a bleak picture of America's future, Republicans promised a new era of security with Donald Trump as president as they opened a four-day convention against the backdrop of an unsettling summer and deep party divisions.

The doom-and-gloom message was expected

to be offset later Monday night by the candidate's wife, Melania Trump, who was taking a rare turn in the political spotlight to show a kinder, gentler side of her brash husband. In an unusual step for a candidate, Trump announced he would come to Cleveland and introduce her.

Mrs. Trump was the first of several family members and friends who will take the stage in Cleveland dur-

MORE INSIDE
Warning: If election were held today, Clinton wins, pollster Luntz insists. B-1

ing the convention, which officially kicks off the businessman's general election battle with Democrat Hillary Clinton. But many of the party's past and future stars are glaringly missing from the lineup, underscoring the concerns GOP leaders have with closely aligning themselves with Trump.

CONVENTION continues on A-3



Dana Daugherty, a delegate from Florida, displays her Trump doll on the first day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. The day's events included a loud floor fight over the convention's rules.

Olivier Douliery
Abaca Press

City Budget

Money for cops, roads



Mayor Lenny Curry presents his budget Monday to the Jacksonville City Council. The council will have the final say.

\$83.3M capital plan for parks and drainage

By Nate Monroe & Christopher Hong
The Times-Union

Mayor Lenny Curry doubled down Monday on the law-and-order platform that got him elected one year ago, delivering a \$1.18 billion city spending plan that would hire 40 more police officers even as he says the city is increasingly constrained by soaring annual pension costs and must deny more money for other services.

Curry's budget sets aside about \$4.5 million to allow Sheriff Mike Williams to hire and equip those additional deputies as well as 40 community service officers, civilians empowered to handle minor call-outs such as traffic accidents so police officers can concentrate on more serious crimes.

BUDGET continues on A-3

WHERE THE FUNDS WILL GO

Among the spending planned for public works, parks and libraries:



\$1 million+
In library maintenance and improvements (Trust Fund fines)



\$2.25 million
For countywide Parks and Recreation. This includes \$250,000 for Hemming Park



\$5.5 million
For sidewalk curb-cuts and ramps (JTA \$7 million)



\$12 million
For roadway resurfacing



\$6 million
For countywide drainage system improvements



\$11.5 million
For Trail Ridge landfill expansion

Prosecutors: Limit release of documents in Brown case

Ruling on sharing discovery material in Corrine Brown case to come this week

By Steve Patterson
steve.patterson@jacksonville.com

Federal prosecutors asked Monday for a court order limiting how U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown's attorneys use material the government releases to them before her trial on fraud charges.

Brown's attorneys have opposed the idea, saying she should be able to share material that undercuts prosecutors' claims before the Aug. 30 Democratic primary.

"If we were to receive exculpatory information in the process of discovery, Brown would be hamstrung from disclosing exonerating evidence," defense attorney Jesse Wilkison told prosecutors in a letter Friday.

That letter was attached to a motion prosecutors filed Monday asking for an order limiting discovery material "solely for the preparation, trial, direct appeal ... and collateral attack" on prosecutors' case.

The request was sent to U.S. Magistrate James Klindt, who didn't immediately rule on the request. Prosecutors asked for a ruling by Friday.

BROWN continues on A-3

Turkey's ongoing purge worrisome for the West

Restraint urged after arrests, and possible return of death penalty

By Suzan Fraser & Dominique Soguel
Associated Press

ANKARA, TURKEY | The purging of thousands of alleged plotters of a failed coup raised tensions Monday between Turkey and the West, with U.S. and European officials urging restraint, while Ankara insisted Washington extradite an exile accused of orchestrating the plot.

Authorities have fired nearly 9,000 police officers, bureaucrats and others, while detaining thousands more alleged to have been involved in Friday night's attempted coup, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

Former air force commander Akin Ozturk, alleged to be the ringleader of the uprising, was put under arrest following questioning by a magistrate along with 25

TURKEY continues on A-3

Weather
Tropical sun/shower
Forecast on A-2

91 Today's high

76 Wednesday morning's low

DAILY DEAL!

Homemade Hounds: Choose between two types of dog treats Details, A-2

Classified C-5
Comics D-2
Crosswords D-2, D-6
Editorials A-6
Legals B-4
Money B-8
Obituaries B-5
Prime Time D

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NO. 201
151ST YEAR
4 SECTIONS
30 PAGES

6 5486 00100 4

TURKEY

Continued from A-1

other suspects, the news agency said. Ozturk, who has denied involvement and insisted he had tried to suppress the rebellion, appeared in video from Turkish TV looking bruised with a bandage over his ear.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan refused to rule out bringing back the death penalty, telling broadcaster CNN in an interview via a government translator, "There is a clear crime of treason." He added that it would be up to parliament to decide.

Anadolu said 8,777 employees attached to the Interior Ministry were dismissed, including 30 governors, 52 civil service inspectors and 16 legal advisers. Other media reports said police, military police and members of the coast guard also were removed from duty.

During the uprising by a faction of the military, warplanes fired on government buildings and tanks rolled into the streets of major cities before the rebellion was put down by forces loyal to the government and civilians who took to the streets. The top brass did not support the coup.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said 232 people — 208 government supporters he called "martyrs," as well as 24 coup plotters — died in the unrest. His voice cracked and he wept as he spoke with reporters after a Cabinet meeting and repeated a question his grandson had put to him: "Why are they killing people?"

He said he had no answer, but that Turkey would make the coup plotters answer "in such a way that the whole world will see."

As Western officials expressed alarm at the rapid roundup of so many by their key NATO ally, Turkish government officials explained that the plotters in the military had been under investigation and launched their ill-planned operation out of panic.

The swift move against so many reflected the prior investigation, the government said. It alleged the coup conspirators were loyal to moderate cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former Erdogan ally who lives in exile in Saylorsburg, Pa., and espouses a philosophy that blends a mystical form of Islam with democracy.

Erdogan has often accused Gulen of trying to overthrow the government, and Turkey has demanded his extradition, labeling his movement a terrorist organization and putting him on trial in absentia. Gulen strongly denies the government's charges and has suggested that Friday's attempted coup could have been staged, as a pretext for the government to seize even more power.

U.S. officials have said

that the U.S. will consider extraditing Gulen, if the Turkish government offers evidence that he was involved in the plot or committed crimes. White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the U.S. would follow procedures in a decades-old extradition treaty and called Turkish charges that the U.S. was harboring Gulen "factually incorrect."

But Yildirim said the normal U.S. legal processes would not be good enough.

"We would be disillusioned and would question our friendship if our friends were to say to us, 'Show us the evidence' — despite all the efforts ... to eradicate the elected government and the national will of a country," he said, while adding that the Justice Ministry was preparing documents to send to the United States.

Over the weekend, Turkey responded to the coup attempt by rounding up some 6,000 people, including hundreds of judges and prosecutors.

Reacting to the large number of arrests in the military and the judiciary, as well as Erdogan's suggestion that Turkey could bring back the death penalty, Western officials were urging Turkey to maintain the rule of law.

Earnest said President Barack Obama would call Erdogan soon to reiterate U.S. support for Turkey's democratically elected civilian government and make the case for restraint and respect for the freedoms enshrined in the Turkish constitution.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said at a news conference with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that the coup "is no excuse to take the country away from fundamental rights and the rule of law, and we will be extremely vigilant on that."

Kerry added that Turkey must "uphold the highest standards for the country's democratic institutions and the rule of law."

While he recognized the need to apprehend the coup plotters, Kerry said: "We caution against a reach that goes beyond that."

Mogherini said the talks on Turkey's bid to join the European Union would end if Ankara restores the death penalty. That message was echoed by Germany, the EU's biggest state.

"The institution of the death penalty can only mean that such a country could not be a member," Steffen Seibert, spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel, said in Berlin.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who said he spoke to Erdogan, praised the Turkish people for showing "great courage," but also said it was essential for the alliance member to "ensure full respect for democracy and its institutions, the constitutional order, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms."

CONVENTION

Continued from A-1

The theme of the opening night was "Make America Safe Again" and a parade of speakers told emotional stories about loved ones killed while serving in the military or at the hands of people in the United States illegally.

Republicans also highlighted at length the deadly 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya, while Clinton was serving as secretary of state. The mother of one of the victims choked back tears as she personally blamed Clinton for her son's death and giving a false explanation for the attack.

"If Hillary Clinton can't give us the truth, why should we give her the presidency," Pat Smith said.

The convention comes amid a wrenching period of violence and unrest, both in the United States and around the world. In a matter of weeks, Americans have seen deadly police shootings, a shocking ambush of police in Texas and escalating racial tensions, not to mention a failed coup in Turkey and gruesome Bastille Day attack in Nice, France. Three police officers were killed in Baton Rouge, La., on the eve of the convention's opening day.

Convention speakers relentlessly cast the troubling times as a result of ineffective leadership by President Barack Obama and Clinton, who spent four years in his administration.

"Hillary Clinton cannot be trusted. Her judgment and character are not suited to be sitting in the most powerful office in the world," said Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, according to excerpts of her speech released in advance.



Carolyn Kaster Associated Press

The theme of the opening night was "Make America Safe Again," with speakers telling stories of loved ones killed while serving in the military or at the hands of immigrants.

FLOOR FIGHT OVER RULES

A floor fight erupted as delegates opposed to Donald Trump's nomination loudly protested during a fight over the gathering's rules.

Utah Sen. Mike Lee stood up for the Never Trump rebels, saying that it was "unprecedented" that the convention chairman walked off the stage rather than allow a roll call vote on the rules.

"A roll call vote is our right as delegates," said Lee, as protesters chanted "roll call vote!"

The uproar was a blow to Trump's claim that his team had "crushed" the uprising as the GOP struggled to unify.

"Those who are calling for unity need to keep that in mind — if they want unity, treat us respectfully as delegates," Lee said.

Tribune News Service

Clinton, during remarks Monday at the NAACP's annual convention, said there was no justification for directing violence at law enforcement.

"As president, I will bring the full weight of the law to bear in making sure those who kill police officers are brought to justice," she said.

Trump has been vague about how he would put the nation on a different course, offering virtually no details of his policy pre-

scriptions despite repeated vows to be tough.

Campaign chairman Paul Manafort said Trump would "eventually" outline policy specifics but not at the convention. However, Trump said in a Monday night interview with Fox News that his convention speech Thursday would discuss a "major, major" tax cut, immigration, getting rid of burdensome regulations and taking care of veterans.

While Trump has been

a highly unorthodox candidate, his convention opened in a traditional manner. Sign-waving delegates decked out in patriotic colors filled the arena, leaping to their feet in frequent bursts of applause.

Yet the line-up of speakers and no-shows for the four-night convention was a visual representation of Trump's struggles to unify Republicans. From the party's former presidents to the host state governor, many leaders were staying away from the convention stage, or Cleveland altogether, wary of being linked to a man whose proposals and temperament have sparked an identity crisis within the GOP.

That left Trump with an eclectic array of validators, including Scott Baio and Willie Robertson, star of "Duck Dynasty," who took the stage with an American flag bandanna wrapped around his head.

"No matter who you are, Donald Trump will have your back," Robertson said as he opened the evening program.

BROWN

Continued from A-1

To ensure a fair trial, prosecutors are required to show evidence to the defense before it's brought to a jury. The process for that information exchange is called discovery.

In a motion filed Monday, prosecutors said they want to limit how discovery material can be used to prevent "improper use of sensitive and personal information contained in the discovery material."

They said evidence in the trial could include account numbers, Social Security numbers and other private information about people the government says donated to a sham charity.

"At issue here ... is whether the defendants, at their discretion, should be permitted to disseminate discovery material ... where such material contains sensitive and private information," the motion said.

Court rules already tell attorneys not to release in-

formation for "public communication" if there's a reasonable chance that doing so would interfere with a fair trial.

The prosecutors argued that not granting their motion would let Brown "use criminal discovery as an extrajudicial campaign tool," but didn't say exactly what information they thought Brown would want to publicize.

Brown's attorneys told prosecutors last week they wouldn't object to an order affecting only "personally identifying information," such as account numbers, but weren't ready to swear they wouldn't use anything from discovery.

"Until we have actually seen the discovery, we cannot agree to a blanket protective order," Wilkison said in a letter sent on behalf of lead defense attorney Bill Sheppard.

PRIVACY AND PROCESS

Brown was indicted two weeks ago on 22 charges that centered around claims that she used an obscure Virginia organization, One Door for Education, as a slush fund that collected about \$800,000 and used most of the money for personal or profes-

sional purposes. Her chief of staff, Ronnie Simmons, was indicted on 18 charges.

Both pleaded not guilty during a July 8 hearing attended by politicians and pastors while people held up signs supporting Brown outside Jacksonville's federal courthouse. The motion Monday said Simmons also opposed the order prosecutors want.

The two are scheduled to stand trial Sept. 6, unless the case is delayed. Klindt on Monday issued an order scheduling a "general status hearing" on July 26.

Prosecutors told the judge they expect to produce copies of reports on investigators' interviews, transcripts of grand jury testimony and other information for the defense "well in advance" of a Sept. 1 deadline for presenting some material.

The motion said discovery material will likely also include bank and credit card statements, business records that aren't normally public and personal emails between Simmons and One Door President Carla Wiley, who pleaded guilty in March to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and is cooperating with prosecutors. However

they added that no redacting has started yet for discovery.

The defense team letter also showed that Brown's attorneys tried to get the indictment delayed until after voters in the redrawn 5th Congressional District decided whether they wanted to return Brown to the office she has repeatedly won since being elected in 1992.

"These very sorts of complications were what we hoped to avoid when we sought to have the indictment postponed until after the election," Wilkison wrote, adding that privacy concerns have to be balanced against "preserving the integrity of the electoral and legislative process."

He repeated an assertion by Brown's team that prosecutors had wrongly leaked information to reporters, saying that "neither the privacy of the parties nor the democratic process have been respected by the unlawful disclosures made to the press."

The letter said confidentiality of grand jury proceedings was "blatantly ignored," but didn't say what was leaked or to whom.

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BUDGET

Continued from A-1

His proposal also includes an \$83.3 million capital budget — the largest such allocation in six years — that would pay for a range of maintenance and upgrades: \$1 million in library maintenance and improvements, \$2.25 million for parks and recreation projects, \$12 million for roadway resurfacing, \$2.5 million in sidewalk construction and repair, millions more in drainage improvements throughout the city and \$11.5 million to expand the Trail Ridge landfill.

The group that runs Hemming Park — which has come under scrutiny by City Council members for how it is spending and managing city money — would be put on a get-well plan of sorts. Curry proposes giving the group \$250,000, half of what it requested, that would be paid monthly and monitored by mayoral staff.

The proposed budget does not call for a property tax increase — taxes would remain at 11.4419 mills — but the city is projected to

reap about a \$28 million windfall because property values are going up.

Curry is warning residents the city is heading down a financially ruinous path if voters Aug. 30 do not approve his plan to pay down the city's \$2.8 billion pension debt, a message he reiterated Monday.

But his proposed budget in many respects spotlights the degree to which City Hall's finances have significantly stabilized since 2011, when falling property values and exploding pension costs forced scarce investment in capital improvements, public safety and quality-of-life issues. Although annual pension costs remain high and will continue to grow, some of Jacksonville's crippling budgetary and economic conditions have reversed or improved, allowing for higher investments in city services and infrastructure than in the recent past.

"Lean," said City Council President Lori Boyer when asked to describe Curry's spending plan. "I would not say as austere as some budget proposals where we had to cut substantially ... We're not where we are prior to those cuts being

made, that's why I'd call it lean."

While there are no major cuts in the budget, Curry said growing annual pension payments are nonetheless reducing the city's ability to address backlogged needs.

"It is the most important issue facing our city right now and failure to act poses a very serious threat to our city's future," he said during his rollout of the budget Monday morning.

Curry said there is still no money to help incentivize downtown development deals at the Shipyards, the Laura Street Trio or Berkman Plaza, and he denied other requests for building new fire stations, increased countywide mowing and expanded library hours.

When it comes to public safety, Curry said he would not settle for "doing more with less."

PENSION STILL ISSUE

As a candidate for mayor, Curry pledged to hire 147 new police officers. Last year, in his first budget, Curry set aside money to hire 40 more deputies and community service officers.

In addition to the 80 new

hires he wants to authorize this year, Curry also wants to set aside millions more for public-safety needs: \$2.7 million to replace the 911 system, \$14 million for police cruisers and \$7.5 for fire vehicles.

Curry said money for Jacksonville Journey, the city's crime-prevention program, would be the same as this year under his proposed spending plan.

The relatively large \$83.3 million capital plan is being financed by a combination debt and about \$33.8 million in cash.

Another \$15 million from JEA — which the city is getting under a financial aid package negotiated last year — would be used for a septic tank phaseout program.

Ultimately, Curry made the day about pension costs. The city's annual contribution to all three of its employee retirement plans is projected to reach about \$280 million next year and will continue to climb.

Curry wants voters to approve a half-cent pension sales tax that would take effect after a current half-cent sales tax that pays for infrastructure ex-

pires in 2030. The pension tax, by state law, could only be used to pay for pension debt.

The idea has met with some opposition, particularly by Northside residents who say they have little confidence any savings under such a plan would be put to good use in their neighborhoods.

On Monday, however, Curry rolled out a group of several influential black pastors who support the tax, including John Guns, John Newman, Gary Williams, Fred Newbill, Rudolph McKissick Jr. and Nat Glover, president of Edward Waters College.

Curry set aside \$3.5 million to be put in a pension reserve account "in the event pension reform is not put in place." He said if voters approve his plan, that money can be used for other needs in the city.

The budget now moves to the City Council, which has the final say.

Boyer said she agrees with Curry that public safety is a high priority.

While Curry's budget calls for more money to hire police officers but no additional funding for the Jacksonville Journey, she

expects the council to discuss whether it believes that's the most effective approach.

"I don't have any reason to believe it's not, it's just we haven't had that discussion yet," Boyer said. "The first thing we have to do is get a hand on public safety and violence in the community. How we do that is the part that's not entirely clear yet."

Boyer also expects the council to discuss whether to spend more money to address the city's significant infrastructure problems. Curry set aside the minimum amount required by council for those improvements.

"There's concerns about deteriorating roads and drainage we may have, but there may be enough in the budget to address that," Boyer said. "It's too early to say until we review it."

The council Finance Committee will begin reviewing the budget Aug. 11. It must approve a budget by the end of September.

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