

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 10/11/2017 10:46:46 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: NBC: Trump wanted nearly tenfold increase in nuclear arsenal, leading to Tillerson's 'moron' comment -- BIG MONEY: 36.5 billion for disaster relief -- SCOOPS: HOWIE KURTZ'S new book ... Josh Pitcock to ORACLE

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman))

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Driving the Day

BIG NBC SCOOP -- "Trump Wanted Dramatic Increase in Nuclear Arsenal in Meeting With Military Leaders," by Courtney Kube, Kristen Welker, Carol Lee and Savannah Guthrie: "President Donald Trump said he wanted what amounted to a nearly tenfold increase in the U.S. nuclear arsenal during a gathering this past summer of the nation's highest ranking national security leaders, according to three officials who were in the room.

"Trump's comments, the officials said, came in response to a briefing slide he was shown that charted the steady reduction of U.S. nuclear weapons since the late 1960s. Trump indicated he wanted a bigger stockpile, not the bottom position on that downward-sloping curve.

"According to the officials present, Trump's advisers, among them the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, were surprised. Officials briefly explained the legal and practical impediments to a nuclear buildup and how the current military posture is stronger than it was at the height of the build-up. In interviews, they told NBC News that no such expansion is planned. The July 20 meeting was described as a lengthy and sometimes tense review of worldwide U.S. forces and operations. It was soon after the meeting broke up that officials who remained behind heard Tillerson say that Trump is a 'moron.'" <http://nbcnews.to/2yYtoMX>

-- ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER: A rare Savannah Guthrie byline.

E TU, TOM BARRACK?-- "'He's better than this,' says Thomas Barrack, Trump's loyal whisperer," by WaPo's Michael Kranish in New York: "Barrack, in interviews with

The Washington Post, said he has been 'shocked' and 'stunned' by some of the president's rhetoric and inflammatory tweets. He disagrees with some of Trump's proposals, including his efforts to ban immigrants from certain Muslim countries and his push for a border wall with Mexico. He wonders why his longtime friend spends so much of his time appealing to the fringes of American politics.

"He thinks he has to be loyal to his base," Barrack said. 'I keep on saying, 'But who is your base? You don't have a natural base. Your base now is the world and America, so you have all these constituencies; show them who you really are.' In my opinion, he's better than this.' I tell him all the time: I don't like the rhetoric,' Barrack, who runs a large real estate investment company, said at his Manhattan office." <http://wapo.st/2quINhc>

-- WHAT TRUMP WANTS TO FOCUS ON: @realDonaldTrump at 6:21 a.m.: "Stock Market has increased by 5.2 Trillion dollars since the election on November 8th, a 25% increase. Lowest unemployment in 16 years and.....if Congress gives us the massive tax cuts (and reform) I am asking for, those numbers will grow by leaps and bounds. #MAGA" ... **at 6:31 a.m.:** "It would be really nice if the Fake News Media would report the virtually unprecedented Stock Market growth since the election.Need tax cuts" ... **at 6:36 a.m.:** "The Democrats want MASSIVE tax increases & soft, crime producing borders.The Republicans want the biggest tax cut in history & the WALL!"

-- TO BE SURE: Some Republicans don't want the wall.

Good Wednesday morning. QUICK BULLETIN -- 2017 GENIUS GRANT WINNERS -- The MacArthur Foundation awards \$625,000 grants each year to a group of people they think exhibits "exceptional creativity." Here is the list of the 2017 winners <http://nyti.ms/2quJB5R>

SCOOP -- HOWARD KURTZ is writing a book about the relationship between **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** and the news media. Regnery expects to publish the book early next year.

CONGRESS PONYING UP ... -- BLOOMBERG: "House to Add \$36.5 Billion for Hurricane Relief, Puerto Rico Aid," by Kevin Whitelaw: "House lawmakers unveiled a bill Tuesday night that would provide \$36.5 billion in emergency funding for hurricane and wildfire relief requested by the Trump administration. With Congress under pressure to provide urgent help to storm victims in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, the House measure includes \$18.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, as well as \$16 billion to replenish the nation's flood insurance program." <https://bloom.bg/2g1fHW8>

WILDFIRES RAVAGING NORCAL -- L.A. TIMES: "Toll from Northern California firestorms sharply rise: 2,000 structures destroyed, at least 17 dead," by Paige St. John, Phil Willon, Louis Sahagun, Sonali Kohli, and Nina Agrawal: "The toll from Northern California's ranging wildfires continued to grow Tuesday evening as officials said the fires destroyed up to 2,000 structures and killed at least 17 people. The

devastating losses establish firestorms among the most destructive in California history. The estimated losses of homes, businesses and other buildings jumped from 1,500 to 2,000, and officials fear the death toll will also continue to rise.

"Sonoma County alone has received about 200 reports of missing people since Sunday night, and sheriff's officials have located 45 of those people, said county spokeswoman Maggie Fleming. The majority of the fatalities are from Sonoma County, where huge swaths of the city of Santa Rosa were leveled by the Tubbs fire. Eleven people have died in Sonoma County as of 7 p.m. Tuesday, officials said. Two people have died in Napa County, three in Mendocino County and one in Yuba County, Cal Fire officials said." <http://lat.ms/2y6qAAJ>

-- **"Seen From Above: Entire California Communities Reduced to Ash,"** by NYT's Josh Haner, Troy Griggs and Anjali Singhvi: <http://nyti.ms/2fZ9LNa>

WHAT D.C. WILL BE TALKING ABOUT TODAY -- Nationals vs. Cubs, 4 p.m., TBS. If the Nats lose, the season is over. Dusty is going with Tanner Roark over Stephen Strasburg. If you don't know about baseball and someone asks you what you think, tell them you think this is a really ... well ... curious decision. Blame Jake if you get yelled at. (You likely won't.) Today is the kind of day that could shape the D.C. sports psyche for years. The Nationals have become part of the fabric of our city. Cross your fingers.

WHAT TRUMP IS READING -- **@NBCNews:** "JUST IN: In letter to NFL owners, Roger Goodell says: 'We believe that everyone should stand for the National Anthem.'" <http://bit.ly/2yZERpb>

OUR ALLIES ...

-- **"Wall Street Journal Reporter Sentenced to Prison by Turkish Court,"** by WSJ's Thomas Grove: "A Turkish court sentenced Wall Street Journal reporter Ayla Albayrak to two years and one month in prison Tuesday, declaring her guilty of engaging in terrorist propaganda in support of a banned Kurdish separatist organization through one of her Journal articles. ... Ms. Albayrak ... is currently in New York ... 'This was an unfounded criminal charge and wildly inappropriate conviction that wrongly singled out a balanced Wall Street Journal report,' said Wall Street Journal Editor in Chief Gerard Baker. 'The sole purpose of the article was to provide objective and independent reporting on events in Turkey, and it succeeded.'" <http://on.wsj.com/2yf4GuC>

-- **"How Israel Caught Russian Hackers Scouring the World for U.S. Secrets,"** by NYT's Nicole Perlroth and Scott Shane: "It was a case of spies watching spies watching spies: Israeli intelligence officers looked on in real time as Russian government hackers searched computers around the world for the code names of American intelligence programs. What gave the Russian hacking, detected more than two years ago, such global reach was its improvised search tool -- antivirus software made by a Russian company, Kaspersky Lab, that is used by 400 million people worldwide, including by officials at some two dozen American government agencies. The Israeli officials who

had hacked into Kaspersky's own network alerted the United States to the broad Russian intrusion, which has not been previously reported, leading to a decision just last month to order Kaspersky software removed from government computers."

<http://nyti.ms/2yfWwBQ>

JOSH ROGIN in WaPo, "**The Dalai Lama speaks on Trump and 'America first'**":

"Your ancestors really considered the importance of liberty, freedom, democracy, these things,' the Dalai Lama said in response to my question about his current view of the United States. 'The present president, in the very beginning he mentioned 'America first.' That sounded in my ear not very nice.' The Dalai Lama is concerned that the United States, despite being 'the leader of the free world,' was becoming more 'selfish, nationalist,' he said." <http://wapo.st/2ygblir>

THE LATEST ON IRAN DEAL -- "Democrats brace for Iran deal upheaval," by Elana Schor and Nahal Toosi: "Democrats and other defenders of the Iran nuclear deal have all but given up on President Donald Trump as he prepares to push the pact to the brink. So they've adopted a new strategy, if you can call it that: Appeal to cooler heads in Trump's orbit who want to keep the agreement in place, their boss' rhetoric notwithstanding.

"The aim is to avoid further inflaming tensions with U.S. allies or slowly strangling the deal after Trump declares Tehran out of compliance, which is expected to happen as soon as Thursday. European diplomats, former U.S. officials and like-minded activists are joining in with a ramped-up lobbying effort designed to dissuade the GOP-led Congress from responding to Trump by reimposing sanctions that are likely to destroy the deal." <http://politi.co/2hBj1Yk>

***** **A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat-buckwheat. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2y5XNvF> *****

NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- STEVEN SHEPARD -- "Majority backs stricter gun control laws after Vegas shooting": "A new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll shows that a majority of voters support stricter gun control laws in the wake of last week's mass murder of 58 concertgoers in Las Vegas by a single man with nearly two dozen firearms shooting from the window of his 32nd-floor hotel room.

"On most of the proposals to regulate gun ownership -- including background checks, restrictions on where Americans can carry firearms and prohibitions against accessories like the 'bump fire' stocks used by the Las Vegas gunman -- large majorities express support in the poll, conducted last Thursday through Monday.

"But despite those findings, voters still don't think the chances are high that Congress will act to strengthen federal firearm laws, even after the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history. And slightly more voters still say it's more important to protect Americans' right to own guns than it is, in general, to limit gun ownership."

<http://politi.co/2quDZbE>

MORE QUESTIONS ON ZINKE TRAVEL -- "Zinke's travels: Ski resort and Alaskan steakhouse," by Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre: "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has attended at least two additional political fundraisers while traveling for official business, including a weekend ski getaway less than three weeks after he was sworn in where donors paid up to \$3,000 to attend, according to sources and documents reviewed by POLITICO.

"Zinke's previously undisclosed attendance at the events adds to scrutiny he is facing over his habit of mixing political activities with official business when traveling outside of Washington, D.C., and to questions over travel expenses incurred by members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet. In addition to the fundraisers, Zinke has held at least a half-dozen other events with big donors or influential conservative organizations while on official trips.

"Zinke, a former Montana congressman who became secretary March 1, started his fundraising appearances even before attending a March 30 Virgin Islands Republican Party fundraiser in St. Croix that POLITICO reported last week, at which donors paid up to \$5,000 per couple for a photo with him. The Justice Department's Office of Special Counsel, which is investigating Zinke's use of travel and political activities in office, has been asked by a watchdog group to look into his appearance there."

<http://politi.co/2xw560K>

MURPHY TAKES A PASS ... -- "Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy says he's ruling out a 2020 presidential run" - CBS News: <http://cbsn.ws/2wNDUGa>

2018 WATCH -- "Senate Democrats worry Russia could jeopardize reelection bids," by Kyle Cheney, Elana Schor, and Cory Bennett: "Democratic senators fighting to hold on to their seats next year are increasingly worried about a troubling reality: Russia appears set to mess with U.S. elections - again. ... Democratic senators such as Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Jon Tester of Montana - who hail from states President Donald Trump won in 2016 - know they're already facing stiff reelection challenges.

"Now they're concerned the Trump administration is dragging its feet on thwarting sophisticated Russian cyber operations that could have significant impact on their races - and could even sway which party wins control of the Senate. The red- and purple-state Democratic seats are top targets for Republicans hoping to expand their two-seat majority in the Senate; Democrats likely would have to hold all of them if they are to have any hope of retaking the chamber. 'If there isn't some effort to take steps against Russian interference, every campaign is going to have to be on guard and working against it,' said Casey, describing himself as 'very concerned.'" <http://politi.co/2g0MwT4>

DACA UPDATE ...

-- **"Meet the Republican who might cut a Dreamers deal,"** by Seung Min Kim: "As Donald Trump was pressing his hardline immigration platform en route to the GOP nomination last year, Republican Sen. Thom Tillis decided to go in a different direction entirely. Tillis, a reliable Republican on most issues, approached the No. 2 Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin, to discuss the fate of hundreds of thousands of 'Dreamers.' Sooner or later, Tillis thought, they would be at risk - a view that's come to life after Trump announced last month that nearly 700,000 young immigrants would begin losing legal protections early next year unless Capitol Hill intervenes.

"The freshman senator from North Carolina is now making his biggest immigration play yet, unveiling a plan to provide permanent relief to the undocumented immigrants who came here as minors. If a deal can be done to win over the warring parties and a president who has swung back and forth on the issue, it might start with Tillis, who has methodically carved out a profile as a pro-immigration Republican at a time when the GOP has swerved sharply to the right." <http://politi.co/2g0oyrf>

RUSSIA WATCH -- "Carter Page says he won't testify before Senate Intelligence panel in Russia probe," by Ali Watkins: "Carter Page, a former foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign, informed the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday that he will not be cooperating with any requests to appear before the panel for its investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and would plead the Fifth, according to a source familiar with the matter. A former naval-officer-turned-energy consultant, Page came under fire last year after reports emerged that he had met with high-level associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in 2016. While Page denied those meetings occurred, the Trump campaign distanced itself from the adviser not long after, with former officials saying that Page and Trump had never met." <http://politi.co/2zcViFP>

ON PUERTO RICO -- "Trump's Puerto Rico video tells positive story but leaves a lot on cutting-room floor," by WaPo's Jenna Johnson: "The 8-minute-48-second video provides the kind of narrow, positive view of relief efforts in Puerto Rico that the president has been trying to convey amid the humanitarian crisis there -- a montage of stacks of bottled water, helicopters moving concrete slabs and supplies, boats carrying medical items and trucks hauling diesel. There are many more federal workers and military members featured than Puerto Ricans in need of aid, and there is no mention of the fact that 84 percent of the island is still without power and more than one-third of residents do not have access to clean drinking water. The last 81 seconds are devoted to documenting Trump's four-hour visit to the island last week." <http://wapo.st/2yfLtJ1> ... **The video** <http://bit.ly/2zeJmn0>

-- **"José Andrés, Patrick O'Connell, and Aaron Silverman Will Cook a Michelin All-Star Dinner at Pineapple and Pearls,"** by Washingtonian's Anna Spiegel: "ThinkFoodGroup restaurateur José Andrés, chef Patrick O'Connell of the Inn at Little Washington, and Pineapple and Pearls chef/owner Aaron Silverman are teaming up at the latter restaurant on October 18 to raise funds for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico, and those affected by the earthquakes in Mexico. ... Tickets are \$595 per person ...

[and] the chefs are thinking nine dishes, or three each ... Online reservations will go live on the Pineapple and Pearls website on Wednesday, October 11 at 10 a.m. Only 56 seats are available for two seatings." <http://bit.ly/2ycPKeG> ... **Where to try to get tickets at 10 a.m.** <http://bit.ly/2yg9akf>

-- **ANOTHER INTERESTING TAKE AWAY** from the POLITICO/Morning Consult Poll: Only 32% believe the federal government has done enough for Puerto Rico compared to 47 percent for Texas and Louisiana and 46 percent for Florida. **AND...** 47% believe Puerto Rico should be a state while 26% disagree. The breakdown on party lines: 60% of Democrats say yes, while 17% say no. 36% of Republicans say yes, while 38% say no.

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "U.S. flies bombers over Korea as Trump discusses options," by Reuters' Christine Kim in Seoul and Eric Beech in Washington: "The U.S. military flew two strategic bombers over the Korean peninsula in a show of force late on Tuesday, as President Donald Trump met top defense officials to discuss how to respond to any threat from North Korea." <http://reut.rs/2zeqPqY>

-- **"Navy fires two officers over USS McCain collision, says deadly accident was 'preventable,'"** by WaPo's Andrew deGrandpre: "The U.S. Navy on Tuesday fired the USS John S. McCain's top two officers, calling the warship's deadly August collision with an oil tanker 'preventable.' Cmdr. Alfredo J. Sanchez, the McCain's commander, and Cmdr. Jessie L. Sanchez, its executive officer, were relieved of their duties and reassigned, Navy officials announced in a statement. Both were fired due to a lack of confidence, officials said. The McCain, a guided-missile destroyer, collided with the merchant vessel Alnic MC on Aug. 21 near Singapore. Ten American Sailors died and five others were injured." <http://wapo.st/2ybDTNT>

-- **"McMaster: 'We have devolved responsibility back to the departments,'"** by Bryan Bender: "National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster [on Tuesday] said he is steadily seeking to return more power to the Pentagon, State Department and other Cabinet agencies after what he characterized as a misuse of the National Security Council in recent years. McMaster, at an appearance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies marking the 70th anniversary of the NSC, said he believes too much operational authority was centralized in the White House body - originally designed as the president's principal forum for addressing security and foreign policy matters but not to carry out policy. 'It did cross a line,' the three-star Army general said, 'into an execution arm of the government.'"

-- **"Experts: North Korea Targeted U.S. Electric Power Companies,"** by NBC News' Andrea Mitchell and Ken Dilanian: "The cybersecurity company FireEye says in a new report to private clients, obtained exclusively by NBC News, that hackers linked to North Korea recently targeted U.S. electric power companies with spearphishing emails. The emails used fake invitations to a fundraiser to target victims ... A victim who downloaded the invitation attached to the email would also be downloading malware into his or her computer network ... The company did not dispute NBC's characterization of the report,

but declined to comment." <http://nbcnews.to/2yX8xK1>

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- Trump will meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He will travel to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to give a speech on tax reform and talk to Sean Hannity. He will then return to Washington.

-- **On the agenda:** Trump and Trudeau will talk trade and international security and "discuss strengthening the excellent bilateral relationship between our two countries by creating new opportunities for economic growth on both sides of the border," according to a Trudeau spokesman. **TRUDEAU** is also going to Capitol Hill.

THE JUICE ...

-- **JOSH PITCOCK**, former chief of staff to VP Mike Pence, is joining Oracle's government affairs team, Nancy Cook and Anna report. <http://politi.co/2zdqaGt>

-- **PARTY TIME:** POLITICO's annual 50 List party is here. Sign up for more information on the Oct. 12 event. <http://bit.ly/2kEvzTM> ... **The full list** <http://politi.co/2wBYXOw>

-- **HOT ONLINE:** **EMINEM**'s verses on Donald Trump <http://bit.ly/2yXAu4g>

-- **"Twitter reverses decision, will allow Blackburn to promote Senate ad,"** by Kevin Robillard: <http://politi.co/2i20jqt>

SPORTS BLINK -- **"USA Misses World Cup as Domsday Scenario Plays Out Across CONCACAF,"** by Sports Illustrated's Grant Wahl in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago: "On the most surreal and embarrassing night in U.S. soccer history, the U.S. men's national team lost 2-1 to Trinidad and Tobago (the worst team in the CONCACAF Hexagonal) and was eliminated from contention for World Cup 2018. ... All the U.S. needed to do to qualify for the World Cup was to win or tie. And they lost, a deserving defeat that ended a miserable qualifying campaign-three wins in 10 Hexagonal games-and will raise enormous questions about the overall direction of the U.S. Soccer Federation, the players and coach Bruce Arena." <http://on.si.com/2ycPoob>

#WOMENRULE PODCAST -- Anna sat down with SoulCycle CEO Melanie Whelan to talk about politics in the studio, how she doesn't believe work-life balance is a thing, why yellow is the new color for millennials and how women can succeed in their careers. **Listen to the podcast** <http://politi.co/2olmtJ7>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: The sun rises through a cloud of smoke after a wildfire swept through the area in Sonoma County on Oct. 10 in Santa Rosa, Calif. | Paul Kitagaki Jr./The Sacramento Bee via AP

REVOLVING DOOR -- "Trump hires Hogan Gidley as a White House spokesman," by WaPo's Phil Rucker: "President Trump has hired Hogan Gidley, a longtime Republican campaign operative with deep roots in the conservative movement, to serve as a deputy White House press secretary ... This will be a reunion of sorts for [Sarah Huckabee] Sanders and Gidley, who worked together on campaigns for the press secretary's father, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee. Gidley served as a communications strategist on two presidential campaigns, Huckabee's in 2016 and former senator Rick Santorum's (Penn.) in 2012, logging tens of thousands of miles with both candidates." <http://wapo.st/2zeGJlo>

--**SPOTTED:** Hogan Gidley celebrating his new job with friends last night at Bluejacket in Navy Yard

GABE DEBENEDETTI in Bozeman, Montana: "Steve Bullock and the Lost Art of Political Persuasion": <http://politi.co/2yfgCwr>

HOLLYWOODLAND -- TMZ: "Harvey Weinstein Flying to Europe Tonight for Sex Addiction Rehab" <http://bit.ly/2yg163B>

--**"Ronan Farrow on Harvey Weinstein Story: 'I Was Threatened With a Lawsuit,'"** by Variety's Brian Steinberg: "Ronan Farrow didn't break the first story of shocking allegations about movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, but his New Yorker piece published Tuesday has added a new sordid dimension to the scandal. Farrow discussed his story Tuesday evening on MSNBC's 'The Rachel Maddow Show,' and there's good reason: He started the story under NBC's auspices. Asked why the story ran in the New Yorker rather than on NBC, Farrow told Maddow, 'You would have to ask NBC and NBC executives about the details.'

"I will say that over many years, many news organizations have circled this story and faced a great deal of pressure in doing so," he continued. 'There are now reports emerging about the kind of pressure news organizations have faced. That is real. And in the course of this reporting, I was threatened with a lawsuit personally by Mr. Weinstein.' He also challenged NBC's statement that the version of the story they saw wasn't publishable. 'I walked into the door at the New Yorker with an explosively reportable piece that should have been public,' he said. 'Immediately the New Yorker recognized that and it was not accurate to say that it was not reportable. In fact, there were multiple determinations at NBC that it was reportable.'" <http://bit.ly/2yaLVsy> ... **Ronan's piece** <http://bit.ly/2yEUf4r>

--**"Harvey Weinstein's Wife Georgina Chapman Is Leaving Him: 'My Heart Breaks for All the Women Who Have Suffered,'"** by People's Mary Green and Jodi Guglielmi: <http://bit.ly/2yXu7hw>

--**@CBSNews:** "DCCC says they will donate all of Harvey Weinstein's donations to non-

profit Futures Without Violence, @edatpost reports on Red & Blue." <http://bit.ly/2zfFimD>

--"NYPD Was Ready to Arrest Harvey Weinstein in 2015 After Model Said She Was Groped," by The Daily Beast's Michael Daly: <http://thebea.st/2g0Xnwx>

***** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2y5XNvF> *****

MEDIAWATCH -- **Jessica Bennett** is the new gender editor of the New York Times. She is the author of "Feminist Fight Club," and has been a columnist for Time.com and also worked for Newsweek and Tumblr. ... **Ashley Feinberg** has been hired as a senior reporter at HuffPost. She most recently has been a senior writer at Wired and is also a Gawker alum.

Playbookers

SPOTTED at Capitol Lounge last night for a party in honor of former Rep. Jason Altmire's (D-Pa.) book, "Dead Center: How Political Polarization Divided America and What We Can Do About It" -- **\$19.33 on Amazon** <http://amzn.to/2i2W7gt> ... **Staff reunion pics** <http://bit.ly/2yace2o>: Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), Val Demings (D-Fla.), Darren Soto (D-Fla.), Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.), Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.), and Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.), former Reps. Nick Rahall, Jack Kingston, Jim Moran, Bob Carr, Jeff Miller, Cliff Stearns, Allen Boyd, and Earl Pomeroy, Tom Scully, Rachael Heisler, Bob Cusack, Reid Wilson, Greg Giroux, Justin Sayfie, Fred Graefe.

-- **SPOTTED:** Chelsea Clinton keynoting the Girl Scouts National Convention: G.I.R.L. 2017 over the weekend in Columbus, Ohio -- **pic** <http://bit.ly/2guRkAT>

TRANSITIONS - **Former Rep. Joe Garcia (D-Fla.)** is the new co-chairman of Mercury and will be based in the firm's Miami office. ... **Fabion Seaton** is the new communications director of the Maryland Democratic Party. He most recently was press secretary for Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) and also worked for former Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

... **Marcus Reese** is joining Crosscut Strategies as a senior adviser. He is former VP of government affairs at Herbalife and is an alum of the Bush-Cheney 2004 campaign and was also chief of staff at Tusk Strategies.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: **Charlie Black**, chairman of the Prime Policy Group, is 7-0. **How he's celebrating:** "My wife Judy and I are going on a cruise ship around the Greek

Islands next week, with good friends, including Trisha and Trent Lott." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2gbDy9p>

BIRTHDAYS: USTR Robert Lighthizer is 7-0 ... Katie Boyd, comms director for Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) ... Maura Gillespie, comms director for Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) ... Veronica Walsh ... Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) is 67 ... former Defense Secretary William Perry is 9-0 ... Jamie Weinstein, founding partner of JMW Strategies, is 34 ... Ron Prosser ... Tishman and Speyer CEO Rob Speyer ... Joel Riethmiller ... Trey Bohn ... Bruce DePuyt ... Bruce Bartlett is 66 ... Wendy Riemann ... USA Today alum Cooper Allen ... Mike Riggs, reporter at Reason magazine ... BuzzFeed's Tarini Parti ... Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.) is 55 ... Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Tex.) is 87 ... Politico's Sara Smith ... John Lipp ... Ben Mendelson ...

... **Lauren Culbertson**, public policy manager at Twitter ... Kristina Costa, CAP senior fellow ... Mandy Frohlich, COO of the American Physical Therapy Association (h/t Michael Frohlich) ... John Robinson, a Gore and Edwards alum (h/t Ryan Morgan) ... Bill Triplett ... Ashley Drummond Garcia ... Jennifer Williams ... Rachel Deahl ... ProPublica's Talia Buford ... former Rep. Bob Inglis (R-S.C.) is 58 ... Meaghan Gilmore ... Maggie Fly ... Alice Berman ... Marcus Veazey ... Ken Danieli ... Sandra Klassen ... Frank Lucician ... Mike Wolfe ... Karen Sommer Shalett ... Jessica Lerner ... Amanda Cooper (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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