

FOREIGN AID BENEFITS THE U.S.: "You call it foreign aid and it feels like it goes far away. But one of the things that brought this close to home is the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

... The kind of work that organizations like the WHO, the CDC in the U.S. do on pandemic preparedness ... is such a good reminder of how much an outbreak anywhere is a health threat everywhere. In 2014 Americans were deeply scared and nervous about Ebola."

CUTS COULD THREATEN HIV/AIDS FUNDING: "America and PEPFAR [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief] are literally known around the world. PEPFAR provides life saving medicine - HIV/AIDS therapy - for more than 11 million people who are living with HIV. In countries when PEPFAR has a presence, we actually know between 2004 and 2014, there was a 40 percent drop in political instability. In non-PEPFAR countries, political instability dropped only 3 percent. PEPFAR countries grew three times faster. It's good for American businesses and it is good for the world economy."

FRIENDS ON THE HILL: "We're heartened by members of Congress. A lot of members of Congress have spoken up in their support of these foreign aid programs and many members of Congress have actually seen for themselves how powerful the U.S. is - soft power."

MEDIAWATCH -- "Trump seizes the advantage in war with media: White House staffers were 'elated' when they heard that three CNN journalists had resigned over a botched story," by Hadas Gold: <http://politi.co/2toK2G3>

-- **Joseph Lichterman (@ylichterman):** "NYT is hiring a pets reporter. Required: 'Pet ownership experience-dog and/or cat at minimum, other animals a plus'" **See the job posting** <http://bit.ly/2sjVcwD>

--**"I Have to Ask: The Maggie Haberman Edition"** - Slate podcast: "The New York Times White House correspondent on what she has learned covering Trump."
<http://slate.me/2ts5V8o>

-- The Atlantic has named **Amy Zegart** and **Kori Schake** as contributing editors. They'll write about national security and international affairs.

**PLAYBOOK
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SUNDAY SO FAR - NBC's "Meet the Press": Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.).

SPOTTED: at Boxcar Tavern sitting together last night: Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Angus King (I-Maine), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Chris Coons (D-Del.) and James Lankford (R-Okla.) ... Chris Matthews having dinner last night on the patio at the Monarch steakhouse in Aspen ... Speaker Paul Ryan dining at Acadiana last night with lots of security ... Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.) last night at Harris Teeter in Navy Yard buying white wine ... Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) and Rep. Crist were also spotted at Sonoma on Capitol Hill ... Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) driving a red Chevy truck at Second and C St. SE last night ... the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. on the 7 p.m. Acela in first class from WAS to NYP.

SPOTTED last night at Global Strategy Group's annual summer cocktail party at Bar Deco: Rep. Denny Heck (D-Wash.), Adrienne Elrod, Lu, Jenna Kruse, Mike Collins, Robby Mook, Mickey Ibarra, Jason Bresler, Mindy Myers, Paul Kane, Xochitl Hinojosa, Eloy Martinez, Isaac Dove, Jason Bresler, Rob Jesmer, Patrick McHugh, Clay Schroers, Matt House, Kyle Herrig, Sabrina Singh, Pat Burgwinkle, Scott Mulhauser, Kara Carscaden, Adam Temple, Holly Jackson, Jon Vogel, Navin Nayak, Josh Raymond, Jorge Silva, Ted Mann.

OUT AND ABOUT IN LONDON - The Financial Times last night hosted its annual FT summer party, bringing together more than 400 guests from business, finance, politics and media. Pool report: "In the room filled with flowers from Wild at Heart, the crowd enjoyed Laurent Perrier champagne and canapés surrounded by the restaurant's signature feature of 218 contemporary paintings and custom FT branding. Guests left with with goody bags that included a FT branded Aspinall journal, Hotel Chocolat treats, FT 'A World Transformed' Rubik's Cubes, Molton Brown toiletries, FT Weekend Summer Menus and a Best of FT Weekend supplement." **Pix** <http://bit.ly/2t3uYLT>

-- **TRANSITIONS** -- Brian Darling, former senior communications director and counsel for Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), is launching Liberty Government Affairs.

<http://bit.ly/2t3bl6p> ... **Joel Leftwich** is joining Glover Park Group's government relations practice as a managing director and will be part of GPG Food, the firm's food and agriculture practice. Leftwich most recently was the Republican majority staff director for Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) on the Senate Agriculture committee. ... **Amelia Breinig** has been hired as press secretary for the U.S. Trade Representative. She previously was deputy press secretary for the Senate Finance Committee. ... Rep.