

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Hadas Gold - POLITICO Media
Sent: Tue 8/8/2017 10:21:09 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Trump's vacation tweets -- Coalition campaigns against Sinclair merger -- Kayleigh McEnany named RNC spokesperson

By Hadas Gold | 08/08/2017 06:19 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TWEETED 13 TIMES ON MONDAY, 6 OF THEM ABOUT THE MEDIA. The president is at his Bedminster, New Jersey golf club on a working vacation, during which he clearly had some time for tweets about the media. He sent off screeds about the "fake news" ignoring his success and incorrectly reporting about the strength of his base, and he tweeted about The New York Times and other "Fake News" ignoring North Korean sanctions.

--**This has become rote, but we'll do it again.** Trump was wrong on a few points. At the same time he tweeted that "The Fake News Media will not talk about the importance of the United Nations Security Council's 15-0 vote in favor of sanctions on N. Korea!" CNN was covering those exact sanctions (their segment started about two minutes before the tweet).

--**Trump slammed The New York Times several times** as "totally inept" and asked "How much longer will the failing nytimes, with its big losses and massive unfunded liability (and non-existent sources), remain in business?" Let's assume Trump is responding to the Times' recent story about Republicans (and specifically Vice President Mike Pence) running a shadow 2020 primary. Jonathan Martin, one of the reporters on that piece, noted on [Twitter](#) that their story did not have a single anonymous quote. And, The New York Times has been having a bit of a Trump business boom as they also noted on [Twitter](#): revenue is up 9 percent and subscriptions are growing 69 percent faster than same quarter last year, the newspaper announced last month. The stock was recently at its highest level since May of 2008.

TRUMP BASHES THE "MAINSTREAM MEDIA," BUT PAYS A STAFFER \$89,000 TO SPOT AND DISTRIBUTE POSITIVE STORIES FROM THEM via my colleague Annie Karni: "The White House director of rapid response, Andrew Hemming, 31, spends his days immersed in cable television, Twitter, print and online media to suss out positive stories about Trump, which he blasts back out to his list of more than 1,000 influencers - mainly reporters, but also television talking heads - who together craft the overall story of Trump's presidency. There's nothing new about an administration trying to promote its wins. But in the Trump White House, where Hemming's job is not to discredit the mainstream media but to celebrate stories the administration likes, it can seem like he is trying to bail out a sinking boat with a teacup." Read the full piece, including White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders saying the media doesn't "always get it wrong," [here](#).

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media! I always want to hear from you -- hgold@politico.com / [@Hadas_Gold](https://twitter.com/Hadas_Gold). Morning Media is edited by **Alex Weprin** ([@alexweprin](https://twitter.com/alexweprin) / alexweprin@gmail.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from

Cristiano Lima. (clima@politico.com / [@ludacristiano](#)). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

KAYLEIGH MCENANY IS THE RNC'S NEWEST NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON, my Playbook colleagues scooped yesterday. McEnany had just ditched her CNN contract and started filming videos for Trump's campaign arm as a pseudo-anchor showcasing the positive news from the Trump administration.

--The Trump TV initiative is being run by Trump's daughter-in-law Lara Trump, [the Daily Beast reports](#). But, the RNC said they are not involved in producing the "Trump TV" videos, adding that they "think it's a great idea for the campaign to be putting out videos that talk about the president's accomplishments." It's not clear yet whether McEnany will continue making the "Trump TV" videos. The Daily Beast also reports that the Tomi Lahren, a former anchor for right-wing media network The Blaze and a current spokeswoman for pro-Trump nonprofit Great America Alliance, had been "strongly considered" for a position with the Trump TV production.

AT&T SAYS IT WON'T SELL CNN, by **Alex Weprin**: A top AT&T executive said that the company has no interest in selling CNN, alleviating concerns many inside the channel had about what would happen once AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner is approved by the federal government. John Stankey, who will lead Time Warner's businesses once the deal closes, told [The Hollywood Reporter](#) "It would be a strategically missed opportunity if we weren't in that [the news] business." Stankey also said that AT&T would not interfere with CNN's editorial content, noting "you can't run a national news organization with that importance to our society without maintaining its editorial independence."

--On a related note: CBS execs also poured cold water on the idea they might be interested in buying CNN. "We feel strategically complete," CBS COO Joseph Ianniello said on the company's earnings call Monday. CBS [did announce](#) that it plans to launch a 24/7 streaming sports channel, similar to CBSN, later this year.

PREET BHARARA PODCAST GETS PUBLIC RADIO PICKUP, by **Alex Weprin**: Former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara is joining the ranks of the mainstream media. Bharara's podcast, "Stay Tuned with Preet," has [been picked up](#) by WNYC Studios, the podcast and public radio show collective that also produces "Radiolab" and Alec Baldwin's "Here's the Thing." Sun Spider Studios, founded by Bharara's brother Vinit, will also produce, as will Pineapple Street Media, best known for "Missing Richard Simmons."

COALITION CAMPAIGNS AGAINST SINCLAIR-TRIBUNE MERGER, my colleague Margaret Harding McGill reports for [POLITICO Pro](#). A group comprised of One America News Network's president, a former FCC commissioner, and satellite TV giant DISH network among others is banding together to fight against Sinclair Broadcasting Group's proposed expansion. In a call with reporters on Monday OANN President Charles Herring argued that Sinclair is already too powerful and growing larger could shut out independent sources of programming (such as his channel), and will lead to higher prices for customers.

--"The concern is that with the market strength Sinclair will have post-merger, it could take pretty much any channel it wants, regardless of the merit of that channel with the consumers or

the cable company, and basically force it on the cable company and thus the consumers," Herring said.

TRUMP ISN'T HAPPY WITH JOSHUA GREEN'S NEW BOOK ABOUT STEVE

BANNON: According to [the Daily Caller](#), President Donald Trump is not pleased that Green's new book "Devil's Bargain" says Steve Bannon had a major role in Trump's electoral victory. "A source who spoke with the president recently told TheDC that Trump complained about the new book as well as the cover of a November copy of Forbes that claims Jared Kushner was the campaign's mastermind. 'I hate it when people take credit for an election I won,' Trump said, according to the source.

VOX STUDIED 17 MONTHS OF TRUMP'S FAVORITE SHOW "FOX & FRIENDS"

and found that the show has increasingly changed its role as giving advice to the president. "An analysis of the show's transcripts reveal that about 8 to 9 percent of sentences before Trump's election were imperative sentences, which instruct or advise. In the first few months of his presidency, that number increased more than 50 percent." Read the full study [here](#).

INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY RENEWS MARIA ELENA SALINAS' SHOW "The Real

Story with Maria Elena Salinas." The news comes just days after Salinas announced last week she's leaving Univision after more than 30 years with the Spanish-language network. Sources suggested to me last week that Salinas may be looking to branch into more English-language anchor work, like the ID show. The second season will have 10 episodes and will follow Salinas as she "uncovers new evidence, unheard perspectives, and updates to national headline-making crimes to see what the media originally missed."

REVOLVING DOOR:

--Esquire is [ending its digital features program](#).

--Twitter's former VP of global media, Katie Stanton, [is joining](#) the board of directors at Time Inc.

--[Joe Yerardi](#) is now a new data reporter at The Center for Public Integrity.

--On the homefront, POLITICO announced that Christine Haughney is joining the POLITICO newsletter family to run Morning Agriculture, and Jane Norman is joining as a multi-vertical editor for the pro side. The business side also announced that Rick Robinson has been hired as VP of Product and Judy Diaz has joined as VP of Marketing.

SOUNDBITES: "I'm with the news, dude!" [[A Washington NBC reporter to a driver who dressed as a car's seat in order to make it look like the van he was driving was driverless](#)].

"Circle of life: Trump cites a story broken by the NYT to call out Blumenthal in same Twitter frenzy that he called the paper 'totally inept'" [[Justin Green](#)]

TIL: A whopping 97 percent of digital-native news outlets have newsletters. [[Pew](#)]

EXTRAS:

--Fox News Senior VP and creative director Richard O'Brien, who helped create the look of the network, has died. [[Fox News](#)]

--The Financial Times is returning to the Apple App store six years after it abandoned the platform following disagreements with Apple over revenue and data sharing. [[Wall Street Journal](#)]

--Details are starting to be released about BuzzFeed's upcoming hour-long morning show, which will air on Twitter [[Poynter](#)]

--The AP's Hannah Dreier was the last U.S. journalist to get a work visa to cover Venezuela, she tells Susan Glasser what it was like watching the country breakdown. [[POLITICO](#)]

--"Facebook and Google Algorithms Are the New 'Useful Idiots'" [[Bloomberg Businessweek](#)]

-- Public radio saw revenue gains in 2016, and other new findings on public media from Pew Research [[Pew](#)]

-- Fox News' Seth Rich debacle could doom Rupert Murdoch's Sky dream. [[Daily Beast](#)]

-- And the channel's viewers are loyal, no matter what scandals are rocking Fox News internally. [[Washington Post](#)]

-- A CBS News crew was accused of being U.S. government agents while traveling in Russia. [[CBS](#)]

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/08/08/trumps-vacation-tweets-coalition-campaigns-against-sinclair-merger-kayleigh-mcenany-named-rnc-spokesperson-001327>

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