

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 11/15/2017 11:25:32 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: IN GERMANY: Trump takes a beating on climate, but world moves on -- TAX CHANGES, and the politics that surround -- HANNITY: Moore has 24 hours to get story straight -- MENENDEZ jury still deliberating

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

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

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Driving the Day

THE GLOBAL MOOD -- DAVID SIDERS, EMILY HOLDEN and KALINA OROSCHAKOFF in Bonn, Germany: **"Trump is blasted at climate talks, but Paris accord lives on":** "President Donald Trump is taking a beating at the United Nations climate conference here.

"Politicians from across the globe mischievously pose for photographs beside a sign at a French pavilion that reads 'Make Our Planet Great Again.' Climate activists repeatedly chastise Trump in panel conversations and throughout the convention halls. The leaders of Mexico and Canada formalized an agreement to circumvent the president and work directly with mostly Democratic governors of climate-minded states.

"Yet despite the vitriol and disregard for Trump -- and his announced withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement -- the diplomats and other officials in Bonn are breathing a sigh of relief. Climate advocates had feared the worst - that the White House would make moves to undercut the pact, a disruptive posture that might do serious damage to the international accord.

"Instead, the Trump administration made no notable efforts other than to hold a single public event promoting clean coal, leaving hope here that the Paris agreement would endure. 'They haven't thrown a bomb yet, have they?' said California Gov. Jerry Brown, who was at the conference promoting state- and regional-level efforts to address climate change. 'So that's good.'" <http://politi.co/2zDzG8P>

Good Wednesday morning. BREAKING... "China sending envoy to North Korea following Trump visit," by AP's Christopher Bodeen in Beijing: "Following President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, China said Wednesday that it would send a high-level

special envoy to North Korea amid an extended chill in relations between the neighbors over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and missile programs." <http://bit.ly/2AI9jLM>

CEOS YAWN AT GOP TAX PLAN -- NATALIE ANDREWS (@natalieWSJ): "VIDEO: CEOs asked if they plan to increase their company's capital investments if the GOP's tax bill passes. A few hands go up. 'Why aren't the other hands up?' Gary Cohn asks. #WSJCEOCouncil". **20-second video** <http://bit.ly/2yErBgo>

IMPORTANT TAX REFORM DEVELOPMENTS -- "New Hatch plan makes host of individual tax cuts temporary," by Brian Faler: "A host of tax cuts for individual taxpayers would now be temporary, expiring after 2025, under a major revision late Wednesday to the Senate tax reform plan by Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch. It's an effort to bring the legislation into compliance with arcane budget rules in the Senate barring the legislation from adding to the government's long-term debt. But because Hatch would simultaneously make tax cuts for businesses permanent, it's certain to be attacked by Democrats as siding with big business over average Americans." <http://politi.co/2jrFYC4>

-- **OTHER CHANGES:** "He is beefing up the child tax credit more than he had proposed, to \$2,000 per child, while reducing the income threshold at which it would begin to phase out to \$500,000 from \$1 million. Hatch is also tweaking the rates and incomes at which his various tax brackets would kick in. And he's added provisions allowing people to set up 529 education savings accounts for unborn children. The revised plan drops provisions related to deferred compensation opposed by Silicon Valley. Other provisions would make it easier for businesses known as 'pass-throughs' to claim his reduced business rate."

ABOUT THAT CHILD TAX CREDIT -- A GOP aide notes: "Hatch's revised version also doubles the child tax credit to \$2,000 from the current \$1,000 -- a change that presidential daughter Ivanka Trump has pushed for. The credit would rise to \$1,600 under the House bill."

-- **"Hatch adds repeal of Obamacare mandate to tax bill,"** by Jen Haberkorn, Seung Min Kim and Bernie Becker: "Senate Republicans have added the repeal of Obamacare's individual mandate to the latest version of their tax bill, with several key swing votes saying they're open to the idea. Late on Tuesday, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Orrin Hatch of Utah, released a new bill that would eliminate the mandate's fines beginning in 2019. The addition was discussed at a closed-door party lunch meeting earlier in the day, and several Republican senators said no one spoke out publicly against repealing the mandate. The GOP views the repeal as both a down payment on its campaign pledge to undo the Affordable Care Act and as a source of revenue: It would generate \$338 billion to help pay for changes in the tax plan." <http://politi.co/2zFT0lw>

NEW YORK REP. PETER KING -- @RepPeteKing: "From Sandy aid to tax reform @MickMulvaneyOMB tries to screw New York. Probably feels inferior because New

York subsidizes his state of South Carolina."

TAX POLITICS -- REPUBLICANS' TOUGH SQUEEZE -- The Senate's decision to add the individual repeal to their tax plan is not a sure-fire winner. Here's why: House conservatives are wary of Alexander-Murray, which props up insurance payments for low-income earners. The big question is whether they'll be OK voting for a tax plan with the individual repeal, all while propping up the health-care law. After a quick round of conversations last night, we think the answer is no. **REMEMBER:** The Senate and House bills need to be reconciled and meshed together. That will happen down the road.

NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- "Poll: Voters think Trump will benefit from tax plan," by Steven Shepard: "Majorities of voters think President Donald Trump and the company he built will benefit from proposed changes to the tax code, but fewer than three in 10 expect those changes to help them. And voters still want to see Trump's tax returns before a tax bill moves forward. That's according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, conducted last week, that also shows opposition to the plan continuing to increase modestly among voters familiar with it, even though a plurality support the proposal." <http://politi.co/2htSxbw>

-- **DON'T FORGET! JUST 23 DAYS** until Congress needs to lift the debt limit and fund the government.

WALL ST. NOT BANKING ON TAX REFORM -- "One of Wall Street's biggest titans gives President Donald Trump minimal credit for the past year's surge in stock prices. And he's not as worried as many investors about a reckoning if the GOP fails to deliver tax cuts. 'An awful lot of it is not related to Trump,' said Hamilton 'Tony' James, president of private equity giant Blackstone Group, in an interview for the latest 'POLITICO Money' podcast. 'We've had nine years of run-up and he's been president during one of them.'

"While stock prices have built in some expectation for corporate tax cuts, James said he doesn't think Wall Street will tank if the Republican effort to overhaul taxes falls apart - a warning offered even by Trump's own Treasury secretary. 'If we don't get it, I think it's a modest negative for the market,' the Blackstone executive said. 'But I don't think it's a huge driver for the market. I don't think the market is going to tank by any means.'" <http://politi.co/2zEp21K+>

***** **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/2ArlBXv> *****

TRUMP IS BACK ON EAST COAST TIME -- @realDonaldTrump at 5:40 a.m.:

".@foxandfriends will be showing much of our successful trip to Asia, and the friendships & benefits that will endure for years to come!" ... **at 5:45 a.m.:** "While in the Philippines I was forced to watch @CNN, which I have not done in months, and again

realized how bad, and FAKE, it is. Loser!"

-- **THE PRESIDENT** appears to have first-hand knowledge of the broadcast plans of "Fox and Friends."

STEVE SHEPARD: " Poll: Biden leads Trump in prospective 2020 matchup": "Only 35 percent of voters would choose to reelect Trump in 2020, the poll shows - substantially fewer than the 46 percent who would vote instead for Biden, who said Monday that he is 'not closing the door' on a third attempt at the presidency in 2020. One in 5 voters are undecided." <http://politi.co/2mt0sex>

OUR MAN IN NEWARK -- MATT FRIEDMAN: "No verdict in Menendez case; jury will resume deliberations Wednesday": "Jurors in the federal corruption trial of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez went home Tuesday without reaching a verdict, a day after telling the court they were deadlocked on all charges. Jurors sent no notes and asked no questions during their 5 1/2 hours of deliberations on Tuesday, giving no clue as to whether they were any closer to reaching a verdict on the 12 counts against Menendez, a Democrat and New Jersey's senior senator, and the 11 counts against his co-defendant, Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen." <http://politi.co/2zLn7pD>

THE LATEST ON MOORE ...

-- **WHAT MCCONNELL IS THINKING: "McConnell predicts expulsion if Moore wins,"** by Seung Min Kim and John Bresnahan: "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans say that Alabama Senate GOP candidate Roy Moore is virtually certain to face a formal ethics complaint - which would lead to expulsion proceedings - should he be elected next month. ... One option that McConnell floated during the meeting was for a Democrat, such as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, to initiate the process by filing the complaint, according to the sources. Democrats are not entertaining that option before the Dec. 12 special election because the party's candidate, Doug Jones, could win." <http://politi.co/2hzaoBF>

-- **"McConnell: 'Roy Moore Should Withdraw,'"** by WSJ's Siobhan Hughes: "At The Wall Street Journal CEO Council, the Kentucky Republican suggested he wanted Attorney General Jeff Sessions to run as a write-in candidate instead for his old seat ... 'His campaign is collapsing," said Mr. McConnell, who said that President Donald Trump had called him from Vietnam on Friday mostly to discuss the dilemma the party was facing. 'Obviously we're in a discussion here about how to salvage this seat if possible.'" <http://on.wsj.com/2iXvoPg>

-- **DECISION TIME FOR THE WHITE HOUSE:** Alex Isenstadt, Eliana Johnson and Josh Dawsey: "White House officials plan to convene a meeting to talk through their options soon, and Trump is widely expected to address the predicament publicly when he returns from abroad. In order for the president to get involved, some aides to the president say, he would need an airtight plan that limits his political exposure to any fallout. Trump spoke with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell from Asia last week,

and the Senate leader made an urgent plea: Please help push Moore out of the contest." <http://politi.co/2jsdKqT>

-- **THE PARTY COMMITTEE: "RNC cuts off Moore,"** by Alex Isenstadt: "The [RNC] is withdrawing its support for besieged Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, leaving him increasingly isolated as he confronts charges of sexual misconduct with teenagers. The RNC is pulling out of a joint fundraising agreement it had with Moore, according to a senior party official briefed on the decision. It is also canceling a field program it had set up ahead of the state's Dec. 12 special election. The committee had about a dozen paid canvassers in Alabama working for Moore. It will no longer transfer any money to the race." <http://politi.co/2AJ8IKJ>

-- **THE RIGHT FLANK RECEDES: "Hannity gives Moore '24 hours,'"** by Akela Lacy: "Fox News host Sean Hannity walked back Tuesday night his original remarks insinuating that the five women accusing Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore of sexual assault when they were teenagers might be lying. 'For me, the judge has 24 hours,' Hannity said. 'You must immediately and fully come up with a satisfactory explanation for your inconsistencies that I just showed.'" <http://politi.co/2AHCRJD>

-- **"Steve Bannon and Allies Have Second Thoughts About Roy Moore, Sources Say,"** by The Daily Beast's Lachlan Markay and Asawin Suebsaeng: "Over the past few days, Bannon has begun privately taking the temperature of those in his inner circle to see what they think of the Moore allegations and to get their sense of how to proceed, according to four knowledgeable sources. Late last week, the Breitbart chairman said, 'I will put him in a grave myself,' if he determines that Moore was lying to him about the numerous accusations, a source close to Bannon relayed. ... Bannon is currently in Japan, where he went to deliver a speech. He is scheduled to fly back at the end of the week." <http://thebea.st/2AJFFpg>

-- **@ABC:** "Asked whether he believes Roy Moore over his accusers, Rep. Mo Brooks tells @TomLlamasABC, 'I believe the Democrats will do great damage to our country.'" <http://bit.ly/2htTb9i>

DEPT. OF DIRTY TRICKS -- "He said he was a Washington Post reporter offering a reward for dirt on Roy Moore. But it wasn't true," by WaPo's Marwa Eltagouri and Herman Wong: "A pastor in Alabama said he received a voice mail Tuesday from an individual falsely claiming to be a reporter with The Washington Post and seeking women 'willing to make damaging remarks' about Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore in exchange for money. ... Pastor Al Moore of Creola, Ala., said that he received the call on his cellphone a little after 7 a.m. Tuesday from a private number, which he did not answer. The caller, claiming to be 'Bernie Bernstein,' left a 27-second voicemail, which Moore played for local CBS-affiliate WKRG.

"I'm a reporter for the Washington Post calling to find out if anyone at this address is a female between the ages of 54 to 57 years old, willing to make damaging remarks about candidate Roy Moore for a reward of between 5,000 and 7,000 dollars,' the caller

said in the voice mail." <http://wapo.st/2zFck8Z>

TAKING STOCK OF TRUMP'S ASIA SWING -- "Trump returns home from Asia with few clear wins: The president says he strengthened his friendships and pointed to billions in new deals - but he failed to extract major concessions from China and others abroad," by Andrew Restuccia: "And yet, as he flies home to Washington, former diplomats and Asia experts were talking about how China came out ahead - and they noted he is returning to Washington largely empty-handed. 'The principal takeaway from Trump's big Asia trip: virtually zero progress on any issue that matters to the Americans,' Eurasia Group president Ian Bremmer wrote in a report. 'Ultimately, that's the biggest win for China.'" <http://politi.co/2hA70GK>

--"**Trump in Asia: A 'Very Epic' Charm Offensive,**" by NYT's Julie Hirschfeld Davis: "Like most things that Mr. Trump undertakes, the president treated the grueling 12-day trip through Asia that he wrapped up here on Tuesday as a test of his own personal charisma and stamina, a marathon charm offensive that he vowed would yield quick results. Never mind that it is not at all clear what he actually achieved." <http://nyti.ms/2hBPbqZ>

DOJ INTERFERENCE WATCH -- "'Lock Her Up' Becomes More Than a Slogan," by NYT's Peter Baker: "President Trump did not need to send a memo or telephone his attorney general to make his desires known. He broadcast them for all the world to see on Twitter. The instruction was clear: The Justice Department should investigate his defeated opponent from last year's campaign. However they were delivered, Mr. Trump's demands have ricocheted through the halls of the Justice Department, where Attorney General Jeff Sessions has now ordered senior prosecutors to evaluate various accusations against Hillary Clinton and report back on whether a special counsel should be appointed. ...

"The request alone was enough to incite a political backlash, as critics of Mr. Trump quickly denounced what they called 'banana republic' politics of retribution, akin to autocratic nations where election losers are jailed by winners." <http://nyti.ms/2ih51UQ>

WAP0'S DEVLIN BARRETT: "Appointing a second special counsel could rattle Justice Department": "Peter R. Zeidenberg, who once served as deputy special counsel in the probe of former White House aide Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, said 'the best-case scenario' is that the attorney general is trying simply to mollify an angry president and doesn't really plan to name a special counsel. If one is appointed to probe Clinton matters, 'I think the vast majority of people at DOJ would be completely disgusted and demoralized by it," said Zeidenberg, referring to the Justice Department. 'They don't like feeling that they are political tools to be used by the president.'" <http://wapo.st/2hACMTW>

-- **@MattGertz:** "Shep Smith just took apart the Uranium One conspiracy theory in what amounts to a methodical annihilation of his own network's coverage of the story." <http://bit.ly/2yDMiJd>

-- **"Clinton aides try to keep focus on Trump over special counsel threat,"** by Annie Karni: "'Democrats' response needs to be broader than defending Hillary Clinton on Uranium One,' said Ron Klain, a former Clinton campaign adviser who was also the final pick to serve as White House chief of staff in the Clinton administration that never was. 'It needs to convey that - if Trump makes good on this threat - any person out marching with their sign is at risk of having the Justice Department come and get them. That is a dangerous turn in American politics.'" <http://politi.co/2A09Kol>

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Zimbabwe army has Mugabe, wife in custody, controls capital," by AP's Farai Mutsaka in Harare: "Zimbabwe's army said Wednesday it has President Robert Mugabe and his wife in custody and is securing government offices and patrolling the capital's streets following a night of unrest that included a military takeover of the state broadcaster. The night's action triggered speculation of a coup, but the military's supporters praised it as a 'bloodless correction. For the first time, this southern African nation is seeing the military oppose Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state and one of the longest-serving authoritarian rulers." <http://bit.ly/2mtGJvd>

-- **AP at 5:55 a.m.:** "HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - South Africa president speaks with Mugabe, is 'fine' but confined to his home."

-- **"The Upstart Saudi Prince Who's Throwing Caution to the Winds,"** by NYT's Ben Hubbard in Riyadh and David D. Kirkpatrick in London: "The crown prince has moved so quickly that American officials and others worry that he is destabilizing the region. Signs of potential blowback are growing. Investors, nervous about his plans, have been moving money out of the kingdom. Prince Mohammed has sought to counter the capital flight by squeezing detainees and others to surrender assets.

"He has presented the arrests as a campaign against corruption, but his targets call it a shakedown, and he has turned for advice to a former Egyptian security chief who has been pilloried at home for brutality and graft. Prince Mohammed's supporters say he is simply taking the drastic measures needed to turn around the kingdom's graft-ridden and oil-dependent economy while pushing back against Iranian aggression." <http://nyti.ms/2Al1yWa>

RUSSIA WATCH -- "Secret Finding: 60 Russian Payments 'To Finance Election Campaign Of 2016,'" by BuzzFeed's Jason Leopold, Anthony Cormier and Jessica Garrison: "On Aug. 3 of last year, just as the U.S. presidential election was entering its final, heated phase, the Russian foreign ministry sent nearly \$30,000 to its embassy in Washington. The wire transfer, which came from a Kremlin-backed Russian bank, landed in one of the embassy's Citibank accounts and contained a remarkable memo line: 'to finance election campaign of 2016.' That wire transfer is one of more than 60 now being scrutinized by the FBI and other federal agencies investigating Russian involvement in the US election. The transactions, which moved through Citibank accounts and totaled more than \$380,000, each came from the Russian foreign ministry and most contained a memo line referencing the financing of the 2016 election."

<http://bzfd.it/2AHaPOr>

-- **HMM: "U.S. Hires Company With K.G.B. Link to Guard Moscow Embassy,"** by NYT's Andrew Higgins in Moscow: "To make up for the loss of security guards axed in the Russian-mandated staff cuts, Washington has hired a private Russian company that grew out of a security business co-founded by Mr. Putin's former K.G.B. boss, an 82-year-old veteran spy who spent 25 years planting agents in Western security services and hunting down their operatives. Under a \$2.8 million no-bid contract awarded by the Office of Acquisitions in Washington, security guards at the American Embassy in Moscow and at consulates in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok will be provided by Elite Security Holdings, a company closely linked to the former top K.G.B. figure, Viktor G. Budanov, a retired general who rose through the ranks to become head of Soviet counterintelligence." <http://nyti.ms/2junUqZ>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump walks off Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House after returning from an 12-day Asia on Nov. 14. | Andrew Harrer/Pool/Getty Images

DATA DU JOUR -- "Donald Trump Has Nominated 480 People So Far in His Presidency. 80% of Them Are Men," by the Daily Beast's Joanna Purpich and Sam Stein: "Since he assumed office, Donald Trump has sent 480 nominations to the U.S. Senate for positions in the judicial branch and executive branches. Of those, The Daily Beast found, 387 were men-constituting just over 80 of all of Trump's nominees. The trend goes across government, though it is truly accentuated in certain fields. For example, Trump has nominated 282 men for high ranking cabinet positions compared to 77 women. He has nominated 55 men for tax, armed forces, veterans claims, district, appellate, and supreme court judgeships compared to 13 women. And he has nominated 50 men to U.S. attorney posts compared to just three women." <http://thebea.st/2iqQXeb>

COREY'S D.C. DIGS -- "Inside the 'Lewandowski embassy,'" by Theo Meyer, Daniel Lippman, and Josh Dawsey: "Corey Lewandowski has a new base of operations in Washington: an elegant, century-old rowhouse that resembles his own version of the 'Breitbart embassy.' Just as Steve Bannon does at the rowhouse a dozen blocks away where Breitbart sometimes holds meetings and hosts parties, Lewandowski, Donald Trump's former campaign manager, stays upstairs when he's in town, according to five people familiar with the arrangement. The lower floors serve as his workspace, as well as the offices of Turnberry Solutions, a lobbying firm started this summer by another Trump campaign veteran.

"Lewandowski has said he has nothing to do with Turnberry, but the firm lists the

rowhouse's address on all of its lobbying disclosures, and a Turnberry nondisclosure agreement recently sat on a desk in the front room. Signs of Lewandowski's presence also abounded when a POLITICO reporter visited the house last month, including framed copies of articles about Lewandowski in the print editions of POLITICO and The Sun of Lowell, Mass., his hometown. ... Lewandowski [has] held discussions with the BGR Group, a top Washington lobbying firm, about working together ... according to a person familiar with the talks. But it's unclear whether those talks are going anywhere or exactly what Lewandowski's role would be." <http://politi.co/2AlkHr0>

BUSINESS BURST -- "Airbus, Boeing Seal More Than \$75 Billion in Plane Orders," by WSJ's Doug Cameron: "Airbus and Boeing Co. secured more than \$75 billion in single-aisle plane commitments Wednesday, demonstrating unrelenting appetite for their most popular planes from discount carriers as the airlines lock in deals to support growth for years to come. Airbus secured what it called one of the biggest aircraft deals in its history with a 430-jet agreement with airlines linked to Indigo Partners LLC, a U.S. private-equity group with stakes in some of the fastest-growing low-cost carriers on three continents." <http://on.wsj.com/2zLXncM>

POLITICO EXPLAINS ... NET NEUTRALITY 101: The long-running fight over net neutrality, which pits telecom giants against tech companies, is heating up at the Federal Communications Commission. To understand what the fight is all about and where it's headed, check out POLITICO's latest explainer video featuring Technology Reporter Margaret McGill and the artwork of Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Matt Wuerker. <http://politi.co/2zZz4uC>

PAGE SIX: "The Mooch shops new book on his 10 days in the White House": "Sources tell Page Six exclusively that the shortest-ever-tenured White House communications director has been meeting with publishers about a planned tome that's being repped by Trident Media Group, the firm whose clients include Jon Stewart, Paris Hilton, Robin Cook and Deepak Chopra. While the Mooch has previously penned finance books, a source tells us of the new project: 'It's about his time at the White House - all 10 days of it!'" <http://pge.sx/2ihxZ7a>

--"Jeffrey Toobin to Publish Book on Russia Probe," by NYT's Concepción de León "The project [for Doubleday] will cover special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged collusion between members of the Trump campaign and Russian officials in an attempt to skew election results." <http://nyti.ms/2zHUonK>

***** **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/2ArlBXv> *****

MEDIAWATCH -- "NBC Fires Top Booking Exec for 'Inappropriate Conduct' With Women," by The Wrap's Jon Levine: "NBC Universal fired Senior Vice President for

Booking, News & Entertainment Matt Zimmerman, following accusations of sexual misconduct, the company announced Tuesday. 'We have recently learned that Matt Zimmerman engaged in inappropriate conduct with more than one woman at NBCU, which violated company policy,' a company spokesperson told TheWrap. 'As a result he has been dismissed.' The network declined to comment on the number of accusers or the nature of their accusations; Zimmerman could not be reached for comment."
<http://bit.ly/2yE4aUk>

--@yashar: "Per Insider: NBC Universal policy says that relationships with underlings/direct reports must be reported to human resources...in at least one case, Zimmerman failed to do this."

--"Arianna Huffington Ignored Sexual Misconduct at The Huffington Post," by Melanie Ehrenkranz in Gizmodo: "One former staffer said that on one or two occasions while [Jimmy] Soni was managing editor, he tried to kiss or make-out with her. ... She described Huffington as someone who may value portraying herself as a feminist, but ultimately prioritizes a ruthless work ethic over issues of sexual harassment, or what she believed Huffington viewed as 'the softer side of things.'" <http://bit.ly/2jqvfYI>

--Kevin Sieff (@ksieff), WaPo Africa bureau chief: "Some personal news: I'm heading to Mexico next year to cover Latin America for the @washingtonpost."

-- NEIL CAVUTO on FOX News last night, discusses why he won't invite Trump on his shows to interview him these days: "I see little to be gained getting him for the customary 10 minutes now or adding my name to the long and impressive list of people who've already interviewed the President, including a lot of great people here." **4-min. video** <http://bit.ly/2iiQoAp>

SPORTS BLINK -- "Fox Sports Bribed Officials, Says Prosecution Witness In FIFA Trial," by BuzzFeed's Ken Bensinger: "A key witness in the FIFA trial testified Tuesday that major media companies - including Fox Sports - bribed officials for soccer broadcasting rights. Alejandro Burzaco, a witness for the prosecution in the case, said in court that he was aware of six media companies involved in bribes, including Fox, O Globo from Brazil, Media Pro from Spain, and Televisa from Mexico. Fox Sports is by far the largest of the group, however, and is owned by 21st Century Fox, the multinational conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch." <http://bzfd.it/2hBJ5XI>

Playbookers

SPOTTED -- Valerie Jarrett having a birthday dinner last night with her daughter CNN correspondent Laura Jarrett at Cafe Milano. ... Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) last night at RPM Italian. ... former Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) entering a private dining room last night at Casa Luca ... Ohio Gov. John Kasich in first row yesterday on a Southwest flight from BWI to Columbus.

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Brianna Manzelli, press secretary for Senate Commerce and "the best travel and lifestyle blogger Massachusetts has ever produced" (hat tips: Jake Wilkins and Caroline Anderegg)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Robert Draper, author and writer for the N.Y. Times Magazine and National Geographic. Draper was spotted in the Capitol Tuesday. **A fun fact from Draper:** "Hunter S. Thompson asked me to ghostwrite his memoirs in the early '90s. I declined on mental health grounds." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2hz735H>

BIRTHDAYS: Jen Palmieri ... Amanda Renteria ... Gail Gitcho ... Bill Richardson is 7-0 ... Davan Maharaj, former L.A. Times editor-in-chief and publisher (h/ts Ben Chang) ... Fox News' John Roberts is 61 ... Alexandra Lippman, a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA (h/t proud brother Daniel) ... AP's Zeke Miller, also a pilot ... Liz Hunger, director for U.S. public policy at Walgreens ... Reid Kaplan ... Tim Keating ... Madge Bush ... Robert McCreary ... John Easton, partner at EFB Advocacy ... Lee Cochran, who works on comms at Bloomberg Philanthropies ... Jennifer Jones ... Tim Keating ... Chris Doherty (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Helen Brosnan, executive director of Rise to Run ... Adam Snider, director of public affairs at American Association of Airport Executives, is 38 ... CNN's Laura Bernardini ... Sarah Novascone ... Eugene Mulero ... Tammy Sun ... Talbot Digital's Courtney Holsworth, celebrating "with her boyfriend this weekend by taking a trip to Chicago and winning a regional tennis tournament" (h/t Chris Talbot) ...

... **former Rep. Ellen Tauscher** (D-Calif.) (h/t Tammy Haddad) ... Tomos Lewis ... Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-Ga.) is 51 ... Emily Schlichting, MBA/MPP candidate at Harvard ... Elliott Phaup ... Politico Europe's Silvia Sciorilli Borrelli ... James Boyle ... Joe Valenti, director of consumer finance at CAP, five-time marathoner, CFPB defender, and Virginian progressive, is 35 (h/t Jenny Hopkinson) ... Ben Goodman, of the Council for a Strong America, celebrating at Joe Biden's American Promise tour on Friday (h/ts Rachel Wein and Jordan Wells) ... Cyril Dadd of Level 3 Communications ... Bert McCarthy ... Mike Mills ... Mark Naymik ... Erin Shaw Stinner... Ryan Miner is 32 ... Bryant Johnson ... Nancy Kohn ... Chris Fluhr ... Joe Sandler (h/t Teresa Vilmain)

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