

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Sat 8/5/2017 1:53:29 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: MUELLER seeking info from the W.H. on Flynn -- SESSIONS' media attack just for Trump -- KELLY's new strict West Wing rules -- RYAN critiques Trump's immigration plan -- JOSH and BLAIR HOLMES welcome a son

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Morgan Stanley  
08/05/2017 09:49 AM EDT

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

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## Driving the Day

**Good Saturday morning. WELCOME TO THE LULL**, hopefully. Congress is gone. The president is in Bedminster. The sleepy D.C. August is in full swing. Enjoy.

**BREAKING - AP at 8:56 a.m.:** "OKINAWA, Japan (AP) - U.S. Marine officials say a search is underway for service members after the 'mishap' of an aircraft off Australia coast."

**INCOMING! -- NYT A1, "Mueller Seeks White House Documents on Flynn,"** by Matt Rosenberg, Matt Apuzzo and Mike Schmidt: "Investigators working for the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, recently asked the White House for documents related to the former national security adviser Michael T. Flynn, and have questioned witnesses about whether he was secretly paid by the Turkish government during the final months of the presidential campaign, according to people close to the investigation. Though not a formal subpoena, the document request is the first known instance of Mr. Mueller's team asking the White House to hand over records. In interviews with potential witnesses in recent weeks, prosecutors and F.B.I. agents have spent hours poring over the details of Mr. Flynn's business dealings with a Turkish-American businessman who worked last year with Mr. Flynn and his consulting business, the Flynn Intel Group.

**"The company was paid \$530,000** to run a campaign to discredit an opponent of the Turkish government who has been accused of orchestrating last year's failed coup in the country. Investigators want to know if the Turkish government was behind those payments - and if the Flynn Intel Group made kickbacks to the businessman, Ekim Alptekin, for helping conceal the source of the money. The line of questioning shows that Mr. Mueller's inquiry has expanded into a full-fledged examination of Mr. Flynn's

financial dealings, beyond the relatively narrow question of whether he failed to register as a foreign agent or lied about his conversations and business arrangements with Russian officials." <http://nyti.ms/2ubct7K>

**JOSH GERSTEIN with a REALITY CHECK -- "Sessions' broad attack on leaks aimed at an audience of one: Trump":** "Dozens of reporters and a horde of photographers turned out for Attorney General Jeff Sessions' news conference Friday to announce a crackdown on leaks, but the most important target for his message wasn't in the room: President Donald Trump. Sessions' eight-minute broadside against leaks and his stern warning to leakers seemed to be aimed at trying to repair his badly frayed relationship with Trump, who has expressed regret for selecting Sessions and who has specifically complained that he was doing too little to fight the tidal wave of leaks that have swamped the Trump White House. ...

**"Friday's event at Justice Department headquarters** was carefully structured to ensure that Sessions' message reached Trump with the fewest distractions possible. If reporters had the chance to question the attorney general about the Russia investigation, he might have demurred because he has recused from the probe. But with the recusal at the core of Trump's complaints about Sessions, any televised scene of the attorney general broaching the subject could send the president into a blue rage. So, Sessions filed out after he spoke. Cameras were then shut off at Justice officials' insistence before Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein returned to take reporters' questions about the nitty-gritty of the leak crackdown." <http://politi.co/2wuqqys>

-- **"Leak Investigations Triple Under Trump, Sessions Says,"** by NYT's Charlie Savage and Eileen Sullivan: "[T]he Justice Department is pursuing about three times as many leak investigations as were open at the end of the Obama era, a significant devotion of resources to hunt down disclosures that have plagued the Trump administration." <http://nyti.ms/2utCMpc>

-- **@chucktodd:** "If DoJ media source threat is real (I assume it's not; just a show presser to please WH) then I look forward to ignoring that subpoena".

**SHORING UP MCMASTER -- PETER BAKER** in the NYT, **"Trump Defends McMaster as Conservatives Seek His Dismissal":** "President Trump defended Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, his embattled national security adviser, on Friday in the face of a full-bore campaign by the nationalist wing of his political coalition accusing him of undermining the president's agenda and calling for his dismissal. General McMaster has angered the political right by pushing out several conservatives on the national security staff and cautioning against ripping up the nuclear agreement with Iran negotiated by President Barack Obama without a strategy for what comes next. ... [A]fter two days of unrelenting attacks on General McMaster by conservative activists and news sites, complete with the Twitter hashtag #FireMcMaster, the president weighed in to quash such talk. 'General McMaster and I are working very well together,' he said in a statement emailed to The New York Times. 'He is a good man and very pro-Israel. I am grateful for the work he continues to do serving our country.' ...

"At one point on Friday, Breitbart News ... had close to a dozen headlines on its home page about General McMaster, like 'McMaster "Deeply Hostile to Israel and to Trump.'" The #FireMcMaster hashtag was tweeted more than 50,000 times since Wednesday." <http://nyti.ms/2vBxtsV>

**BELOW THE SURFACE -- "National security adviser attempts to reconcile Trump's competing impulses on Afghanistan,"** by WaPo's Greg Jaffe and Phil Rucker: "In a disorderly West Wing in which decisions are evaluated not by ideology but by their impact on the Trump brand and their fealty to the president's campaign-trail promises, McMaster has struggled to become a dominant foreign policy force. ... Among his biggest challenges was holding the attention of the president. ... Trump had little time for in-depth briefings on Afghanistan's history, its complicated politics or its seemingly endless civil war.

"Even a single page of bullet points on the country seemed to tax the president's attention span on the subject, said senior White House officials. 'I call the president the two-minute man,' said one Trump confidant. 'The president has patience for a half-page.' ... The fight over the Afghanistan strategy points to a larger problem with the relationship between McMaster's NSC and the West Wing." <http://wapo.st/2vBY88O>

--**REVEALING NUGGET:** "A Pentagon strategy aimed at defeating the Islamic State was completed in early March but still has not been approved by the president, officials said."

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Morgan Stanley:** The Path After Paris: President Trump moved to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement. Now what? [Read more.](#) \*\*\*\*\*

**THE NEW REGIME -- "Kelly's Rules for Trump's West Wing: Stop Bickering, Get in Early, Make an Appointment,"** by WSJ's Mike Bender and Rebecca Ballhaus: "Staffers no longer loiter outside an open Oval Office door, hoping to catch the president's eye to be waved in for a chat or the chance to pitch a new idea. That door is now closed. Aides can't linger outside the chief of staff's office, either. White House staff waiting to see Mr. Kelly -- or other senior advisers in nearby suites -- are asked to remain in the lobby, where White House visitors sit on couches and can read a selection of daily newspapers. ... 'The problem here is that he won't have anyone to talk to, and he'll get frustrated,' said one person who regularly speaks with Mr. Trump. 'I give General Kelly four months.' ...

"Mr. Trump was impressed by Mr. Kelly's presentations at DHS, at times describing him as 'a killer.' He is also taken, said one official, by the 'presence' of his chief of staff, who stands about 6-foot-2 and tends to dominate the room. ... Mr. Trump kept Mr. Priebus on a shorter leash, expressing his irritation when his former chief of staff would hover in Oval Office meetings. At times, Mr. Trump charged him with menial tasks such as organizing small groups of reporters to glimpse the first few moments of a meeting with the president. ... People who have known Mr. Kelly for years describe his style as

no-nonsense. He introduces himself on phone calls and in emails to people he knows simply as 'Kelly.' 'If you're in a 10-minute meeting with him, he'll be quiet for the first nine minutes,' listening before making a decision or a pronouncement, said one person close to him. ...

**"Running one of his first senior staff meetings,** Mr. Kelly laid down clear lines of authority and ordered aides to stick to their assigned areas. Discussions with senators, U.S. House members or others on Capitol Hill must be reported to the White House's legislative affairs director, Marc Short. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Mr. Kelly said, must know about meetings with foreign diplomats. ... Mr. Kelly moved senior staff meetings to 8 a.m., instead of 8:45, and holds them around the long mahogany table of the Roosevelt Room. His predecessor, Mr. Priebus, held the meetings in his office, where the television was often turned on and where staff could often redirect the discussion away from the agenda." <http://on.wsj.com/2wurimF>

**-- JOSH DAWSEY, "John Kelly's big challenge: Controlling the tweeter in chief":** "[K]elly has said he would like to know what Trump is planning to tweet before he does so and would prefer that big decisions not be announced on Twitter -- but has privately conceded there will be late-night or early-morning missives he cannot review. Kelly is trying to put together a system in which top aides don't learn of decisions on Twitter, one where policy and personnel decisions are not first tweeted without having procedures in place to make them happen. ... Ironically, the announcement of Kelly's new role foreshadowed the challenges he faces. Kelly knew he was going to be named chief of staff, officials said. But he didn't know that Trump, sitting on the tarmac aboard Air Force One on July 28, would announce it on Twitter. Other senior administration officials first learned of the news through a buzzing phone, several officials said." <http://politi.co/2uaX47H>

**-- STEP BACK AND THINK ABOUT THIS:** The White House chief of staff has to develop a system to try to ensure his own senior White House aides don't learn about decisions through Twitter.

**DELAYED -- "Trump's attack on Chinese trade gets sidelined over North Korea,"** by Andrew Restuccia, Eliana Johnson, Josh Dawsey and Nahal Toosi: "The White House had been preparing for a Friday announcement in which Trump planned to urge his administration to open a trade investigation into China's alleged violations of U.S. intellectual property rights and forced technology transfers, three administration officials said. But on Thursday afternoon, senior administration aides postponed the announcement at the urging of United Nations and State Department officials, who are in the sensitive final stages of convincing China to sign on to a U.N. resolution that would impose new sanctions on North Korea. U.N. and State Department officials warned that the trade announcement could kill their chances of winning Beijing's buy-in." <http://politi.co/2vzJCxz>

**COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Trump may host visiting leaders at his N.J. golf club during upcoming U.N. gathering,"** by WaPo's Anne Gearan: "President Trump is

planning to host foreign leaders at his New Jersey golf club when he attends the annual U.N. General Assembly session next month, breaking decades of precedent for U.S. presidents, said people familiar with preparations for the gathering. The State Department is getting ready for an unspecified number of foreign meetings at the Bedminster, N.J., golf club over several days during the week of Sept. 18. ... Trump is expected to make his first presidential address to the General Assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 19. He is also likely to meet U.N. Secretary General António Guterres at the U.N. headquarters." <http://wapo.st/2v8qhBu>

-- **"Trump's trip to Bedminster prompts protesters to get creative,"** by Jake Lahut: "One idea is to go beyond the golf course, town to town, with vehicles blasting sound from speakers, such as former FBI director James Comey's Senate testimony or Trump's recent Boy Scout speech. 'There are literally too many soundbites to choose from,' said Dominae Leveille, an organizer with We the People." <http://politi.co/2utXCVp>

**RYAN AGAINST TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION PLAN ... -- "House Speaker Paul Ryan casts doubt on President Donald Trump's plan to cut legal immigration,"** by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Mary Spicuzza and Jason Stein: "'I just think arbitrary cuts to legal immigration don't take into effect the economy's needs as the boomers are retiring,' Ryan said in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 'With baby boomers leaving the workforce, we're still going to have labor shortages in certain areas and that is where a well-reformed legal immigration system should be able to make up the difference.'

**"Ryan cautioned he has yet to fully review the proposal** and said he does want to overhaul the immigration system to focus on economic needs like dairy farms and research and engineering work. But he questioned the wisdom of actually cutting the number of immigrants entering the United States. 'I think legal immigration is good for our country. I'm a supporter of legal immigration,' Ryan said." <http://bit.ly/2uaCULb>

**FLAGGING FOR STEPHEN MILLER -- Craig Romney**, one of Mitt's sons, posted on Instagram yesterday (he has the handle @crackyenmor): "Grateful to the immigrants who spoke many languages, worshipped many ways, and made this country great. #ellisland". *Instapic* <http://bit.ly/2utDVNq>

**RNC DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- "Three more RNC staffers set to exit,"** by Alex Isenstadt: "Less than a year into the midterm campaign season, the [RNC] is experiencing a wave of staff-level departures. Over the next several weeks, three RNC aides -- deputy chief data officer Liam O'Rourke, director of political data support Ashley Burns, and director of business intelligence Patrick Stewart -- are expected to leave. The exits, confirmed by three RNC officials, have surprised the tight-knit world of Republican operatives and signaled a broader upheaval within the committee's data department." <http://politi.co/2vrBPSR>

**CLINTON WORLD -- "Hillary Clinton Hires Two Former Campaign Aides For 'Resistance' PAC,"** by BuzzFeed's Ruby Cramer: "Hillary Clinton has hired two political

operatives from her 2016 presidential campaign to help manage Onward Together, the project she founded this spring with former governor Howard Dean to fund and support a coalition of Democratic groups led by activists and organizers. The new additions, Emmy Ruiz and Adam Parkhomenko, held central roles on Clinton's campaign ... Clinton's new group, registered in May as a 501c4 organization with an affiliated super PAC, is working to establish a small but diverse cooperative of about 10 to 12 grassroots efforts, each one focused on a different area of the energy and activism set off by Donald Trump's election and presidency." <http://bzfd.it/2wuyPlz>

**CNN'S BRIAN STELTER: "Other presidents paused to meet the press before going on vacation -- not Trump":** "Trump will reach the 200-day mark in his presidency on Monday. He has held just one solo press conference, back on February 16, when he was less than one month into his presidency. ... At this point in 2009, President Obama had held 9 solo pressers, many of them about the country's economic recovery. At the same point in their respective presidencies, George W. Bush had held 3 solo pressers; Bill Clinton had held 8; George H.W. Bush had held 18; Ronald Reagan had held 3; and Jimmy Carter had held 12." <http://cnnmon.ie/2v8jGH7>

**HOLLYWOODLAND - "Norman Lear plans to boycott Kennedy Center Honors reception hosted by Trump,"** by LATimes' Greg Braxton: "Legendary producer Norman Lear, one of the honorees of the upcoming Kennedy Center Honors, said he will not attend the pre-awards reception hosted by President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in protest of some of the president's policies. Lear said he will attend the award ceremony at the Kennedy Center on Dec. 3 but won't go to the reception beforehand." <http://lat.ms/2hwUkzN>

## Playbook Reads

**PHOTO DU JOUR** -- President Donald Trump reacts on seeing visitors to the White House before boarding Marine One en route to Bedminster, N.J., for vacation Aug. 4, 2017, in Washington, D.C. | Jacquelyn Martin/AP Photo.

**SHOVEL READY HOLD UP -- "Why are these billions in pipeline projects stalled?,"** by Eric Wolff and Darius Dixon: "Billions of dollars' worth of shovel-ready infrastructure projects have been held up by a bureaucratic morass that President Donald Trump helped to create. Trump's slowness to fill vacancies at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is one reason for a growing backlog of natural gas pipelines and a gas export terminal awaiting approval from the agency, which has been unable to conduct major business since February. The waiting list has grown to at least \$13 billion worth of projects expected to generate more than 23,000 construction jobs, according to a POLITICO analysis - largely in states Trump won in November."

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

**FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Martin Shkreli Found Guilty on Three Counts in Securities-Fraud Trial:** Jury acquits 34-year-old former pharmaceutical executive on five counts, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud," by WSJ's Rebecca Davis O'Brien: "The 34-year-old Mr. Shkreli -- dubbed the Pharma Bro after his brash defense of the 2015 drug-price increase -- had taunted prosecutors during the trial as 'junior varsity' in comments to reporters and on his social-media accounts. As the verdict was read, Mr. Shkreli, dressed in a black polo shirt and khaki pants, twisted in his chair with his arms crossed. Mr. Shkreli was convicted of three counts related to securities fraud but acquitted of five other charges." <http://on.wsj.com/2vrAiMF>

**HIGH TIMES -- "Huff, puff, pass? AG's pot fury not echoed by task force,"** by AP's Sadie Gurman: "The betting was that law-and-order Attorney General Jeff Sessions would come out against the legalized marijuana industry with guns blazing. But the task force Sessions assembled to find the best legal strategy is giving him no ammunition, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. The Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, a group of prosecutors and federal law enforcement officials, has come up with no new policy recommendations to advance the attorney general's aggressively anti-marijuana views. The group's report largely reiterates the current Justice Department policy on marijuana." <http://bit.ly/2ub5GuP>

**FUTURE OF MEDIA - "Google Is Developing Technology for Snapchat-Like Media Content,"** by WSJ's Amol Sharma and Jack Marshall: "Google is developing technology to let publishers create visual-oriented media content along the lines of Snapchat's 'Discover,' according to people familiar with the situation, upping the ante in a race among tech giants to dominate news dissemination on smartphones. Alphabet Inc.'s Google has been in discussions with several publishers, including Vox Media, CNN, Mic, the Washington Post and Time Inc., to participate in the project, which is dubbed 'Stamp' ... It could be announced as early as next week, one of the people said. Google is building the service around its 'AMP' mobile webpages, which are designed to load faster than regular webpages. The 'St' in Stamp stands for 'stories.'" <http://on.wsj.com/2v6mvu0>

**MEDIAWATCH - "Fox News Host Sent Unsolicited Lewd Text Messages To Colleagues, Sources Say,"** by Yashar Ali in HuffPost: "Eric Bolling, a longtime Fox News host, sent an unsolicited photo of male genitalia via text message to at least two colleagues at Fox Business and one colleague at Fox News, a dozen sources told HuffPost. ... The women, who are Bolling's current and former Fox colleagues, concluded the message was from him because they recognized his number from previous work-related and informal interactions. The messages were sent several years ago, on separate occasions. The women did not solicit the messages, which they told colleagues were deeply upsetting and offensive. One of the recipients said that when she replied to Bolling via text, telling him never to send her such photos again, he did not respond.

**"Reached Friday by HuffPost** about the accusations against Bolling, a Fox spokesperson said, 'We were just informed of this and plan to investigate the matter.' When asked whether Bolling at any point had sent unsolicited lewd or inappropriate text messages or emails (including an image of a man's genitalia) to Fox News or Fox Business colleagues, his attorney Michael J. Bowe responded, 'Mr. Bolling recalls no such inappropriate communications, does not believe he sent any such communications, and will vigorously pursue his legal remedies for any false and defamatory accusations that are made.'" <http://bit.ly/2wuE4St>

**--"AT&T Mulling Sell-Off Of Major Assets Under Turner After Time Warner Merger,"** by Deadline's Anita Busch and David Lieberman: "There are rumblings at the highest executive levels that AT&T's top executives are considering divesting some Time Warner assets -- including news organization CNN and celebrity gossip site TMZ -- after they merge. AT&T expects the Justice Department to approve its \$85 billion acquisition of Time Warner, and for the deal to close, by year end. ... CBS has long had its eye on CNN. The broadcast company's CEO, Les Moonves, said at Herb Allen's Sun Valley retreat last month that he would be interested if the cable news network became available. ... For TMZ, Deadline was told that AT&T is considering a sale to a private equity company." <http://bit.ly/2v8yAgy>

**\*\*\*\*\* A message from Morgan Stanley:** Now that President Trump has announced his intention to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement, what does it mean for the stated goals of the accord, and what might be the impact on markets and investors? [Read more from Morgan Stanley.](#) \*\*\*\*\*

**CLICKER - "The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics,"** edited by Matt Wuerker -- **12 keepers** <http://politi.co/2vzK7HV>

**GREAT WEEKEND READS,** curated by Daniel Lippman:

-- **"The New Yuppies:** How the aspirational class expresses its status in an age of inequality," by J.C. Pan in TNR: "This new elite is typified by the brownstone-dweller traipsing through Whole Foods with a yoga mat peeping from the top of her NPR tote; the new Prospect Heights mother who stops in at the lactation consultant before her Y7 class; the tech startup employee with the neatly trimmed beard and Everlane button-down who announces on Facebook that he's 'bumping the new Kendrick.'" <http://bit.ly/2vzL3Mw> (h/t ALDaily.com)

-- **"Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?"** by Jean Twenge in the September issue of The Atlantic: "More comfortable online than out partying, post-Millennials are safer, physically, than adolescents have ever been. But they're on the brink of a mental-health crisis." <http://theatlantic.com/2v6O9Hd>

**"The Big Sick,' South Asian Identity and Me,"** by NYT's SOPAN DEB: "I never told my Bengali parents about my first kiss. ... They never knew about my high school crushes, my dates at Applebee's, or my first couple of girlfriends. I hid all this because I knew my

parents wouldn't approve. They had an arranged marriage. In India, where they grew up, choosing your life partner was uncommon." <http://nyti.ms/2v8shckK>  
... **Trailer** <http://bit.ly/2vC36IX>

-- **"The Secret Life of the City Banana,"** by NYT's Annie Correal: "Millions of bananas arrive every week in New York City. It takes a lot to get them from the boat to the bodega." <http://nyti.ms/2vrDCaB>

-- **"The Secret Economic Lives of Animals,"** by Ben Crair in Bloomberg Businessweek: "If Adam Smith had strapped on a bee suit - or a safari jacket, or a scuba mask - he could have discovered that the animal kingdom is, in fact, a chamber of commerce." <https://bloom.bg/2wuiOfi>

-- **"She Was Convicted of Killing Her Mother. Prosecutors Withheld the Evidence That Would Have Freed Her,"** by Emily Bazelon in the N.Y. Times Magazine: "By the time Noura Jackson's conviction was overturned, she had spent nine years in prison. This type of prosecutorial error is almost never punished." <http://nyti.ms/2v8tj8X>

-- **"A Baccarat Binge Helped Launder the World's Biggest Cyberheist,"** by Alan Katz and Wenxin Fan in Bloomberg Businessweek: "How do you make \$81 million stolen from the Bangladesh central bank disappear? Run it through an Asian laundromat." <https://bloom.bg/2v8I4bT>

-- **"Notes from a Baby-Names Obsessive:** My son was almost due. What would I call him?" by Lauren Collins in The New Yorker: "[W]e were going to call him Louis, but Louis turned out to be the tenth most popular boys' name in France, and the seventh most popular in Paris, where we live, and, even in this age of nominative nonconformity, we worried that he might enter school and find it crawling with more Louises than a chart of Bourbon monarchs." <http://bit.ly/2vrzKpZ>

-- **"After the Shooting: A year in the life of Gwen Woods,"** by Jaeah Lee in California Sunday Magazine: "Mario Woods was the 906th person in the United States to be shot and killed by police in 2015 - 228 of whom were black men - according to a count maintained by The Washington Post." <http://bit.ly/2hw5q7U> (h/t Longform.org)

-- **"Finding Darko,"** by Sam Borden in ESPN The Magazine - per Longform.org's description: "The NBA's greatest draft bust. Darko Milicic is now an enthusiastic farmer of cherries in his native Serbia." <http://es.pn/2ud7tDH>

-- **"All the Greedy Young Abigail Fishers and Me,"** by Jia Tolentino in Jezebel: "This job-writing college essays for Abigail Fishers-was the only job I have ever been truly ashamed of, and I am so ashamed of it now that it hurts." <http://bit.ly/29i2vdy>

-- **"Losing It in the Anti-Dieting Age,"** by Taffy Brodesser-Akner on the cover of the NYT Magazine: "The agonies of being overweight - or running a diet company - in a culture that likes to pretend it only cares about health, not size." <http://nyti.ms/2vrzeJ1> ...

**The cover** <http://politi.co/2hlUV78>

-- "**How Two Brothers Turned Seven Lines of Code Into a \$9.2 Billion Startup,**" by Bloomberg Businessweek's Ashlee Vance: "Now, Stripe's Patrick and John Collison are teaming with Amazon to grab even more control over the global flow of commerce." <https://bloom.bg/2fhQGcd>

-- "**When Should a Child Be Taken from His Parents?**" by The New Yorker's Larissa MacFarquhar: "In family court, judges must decide whether the risks at home outweigh the risks of separating a family." <http://bit.ly/2wutCtW>

-- "**Shot in the Dark,**" by Patrick Blanchfield in Esquire: "Spending six days in a cave without any light means hallucinations, hypothermia, and the potential for fatal falls. Why would anyone volunteer for one of the most extreme reality shows ever?" <http://bit.ly/2vCaHB3> (h/t Longreads.com)

## Playbookers

**SPOTTED:** Marc Lotter at the bar at Fiola Mare last night. Sally Quinn was also seen with son Quinn Bradlee eating lobster and oysters on the outside deck of the restaurant (her favorite in D.C.) ... Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) dining at Millie's yesterday in Spring Valley.

**BUSH ALUMNI -- JOEL KAPLAN** has been named to the board of directors of the George W. Bush Presidential Center. **Henry Hager**, Jenna Bush Hager's husband, also joined the board.

**ENGAGED -- Amanda Gonzalez**, communications director for Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) and House Oversight and Government Reform, got engaged Friday afternoon to **William Thompson**, policy analyst at the Charles Group, a small boutique firm. "We met through mutual friends in D.C. He proposed at Ambar where we had our first date." She posts on Instagram: "Completely overwhelmed with love and joy. We're engaged!" **Instapic** <http://bit.ly/2v6MvWg>

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Blair Latoff Holmes**, VP of media and external comms at the U.S. Chamber, and **Josh Holmes**, president and founding partner of Cavalry and longtime aide and adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, posts on Facebook: "We are overjoyed to announce the birth of our son, William Wade Holmes. He was born [Thursday morning] at 9:42 weighing in at a healthy 8 lbs 3 oz. and a rangy 21 inches. P.S. In case anyone wondered whether the grandchild of William S. Latoff had a full head of hair, as you suspected, he does." **Pics** <http://politi.co/2urxPNI> ... <http://politi.co/2uqRugG>

**OUT AND ABOUT -- IRAQI AMBASSADOR FAREED YASSEEN** hosted a cocktail

party on Thursday night to honor Amb. Stuart Jones who retires at the end of August. Canapés and mostly Iraqi-inspired finger food, including slices of Mosul kibbeh, were served. **SPOTTED:** Robin Wright, Kim Dozier, Ben Kesling, Ken Pollack and Andrea Koppel, Oman Amb. Hunaina al-Mughairy, Yemen Amb. Ahmed Bin Mubarak, Palestinian Amb. Dr. Husam Zomlot, Brig. Gen. Joseph Rank, Will Bohlen, Nahal Toosi, Trudy Rubin, Laura Rozen, Glen Howard, Caryle Murphy, Dr. Zuhair Humadi, Gina Chon, Margaret Warner, Dr. Mike Bell, Tony Pfaff, Joel Rayburn, Derek Harvey, Brett McGurk, Doug Ollivant, Ken and Elizabeth Close, Yael Lempert, Terry Wolff, Timothy Lenderking, Richard Albright, Jonathan Cohen, Rochdi Younsi, Alison Hills, Karan Bhatia and cellist Karim Wasfi, head of the Iraqi symphony orchestra.

**BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday):** Sean Cox, aspiring political pundit and eventual CA politician someday, turned 18 (hat tip: Joe Brettell)

**BIRTHDAYS:** Ryan Wrasse, comms director for Sen. Thune ... Taylor Griffin ... Blackstone spokesman Matt Anderson ... Sharon Weber, DSCC Midwest finance director and a Duckworth and Durbin alum ... Jeremy Flantzer ... Matt Mandel ... Heidi Nel, principal at the Raben Group and partner at the Truman Project (h/t Jen Nedeau) ... Rufus Gifford, former U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, is 43 ... Bloomberg congressional reporter James Rowley ... Kris Eisenla ... Nicolas Boulet, founder and managing director of First Growth Capital Management ... Nev. Gov. Brian Sandoval is 54 ... Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) is 64 ... POLITICO alum Lila Cohn, now getting her masters at UPenn ... CBS News' Alicia Amling ... Cary Gibson, VP at Farragut Square Group ... RNC national deputy political director Molly Donlin O'Driscoll ...

... **Pete Snyder** is 45 ... Cicely Simpson ... Colleen Fisher ... WaPo's Michael Chandler ... Donte Donald ... James Franklin Blue III ... Christine Forester ... LATimes' Jim Puzanghera ... Jenniffer González is 41 ... Ashley Pitts ... Kathy Rust ... Obama WH alum Monique Dorsainvil ... Monica Thompson ... Dana Ferreira ... Nicholas Rodman ... Steven Leraris ... Scott Vance ... Kristy Huxhold ... Jeff Kupfer ... Mary Beth Bakke ... POLITICO alum Abby Milberg ... ABC News' Luis Martinez ... Patrick Ewing ... Julie Hughes ... Corey Johnson ... Katie Vlietstra Wonnenberg ... Jason Pollock is 36 ... Ron Bouchard is 51 ... Topf Wells ... Dennis Lonergan ... Tom Healy ... Miguel and Alejandro Balkin (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

**THE SHOWS**, by @MattMackowiak, filing from Austin:

-- **NBC's "Meet the Press":** Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) ... Gov. Jerry Brown. Panel: Dan Balz, David French, Heather McGhee and Andrea Mitchell

-- **ABC's "This Week":** HHS Secretary Tom Price ... John Podesta ... Sergei Ryabkov. Panel: Mary Bruce, Alex Castellanos, Matthew Dowd and Julie Pace

-- **CBS's "Face the Nation":** Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) ... Gov. John Kasich and Gov. John Hickenlooper... Jeh Johnson. Panel: Jamelle Bouie, Jennifer Jacobs, Susan Page and Reihan Salam

-- **"Fox News Sunday"**: Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.). Panel: Jason Riley, Rachel Bade, Rich Lowry and Charles Lane

-- **Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures"**: Leon Panetta ... Ayaan Hirsi Ali ... Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Panel: Brad Blakeman and Democratic strategist Jessica Tarlov

-- **Fox News' "MediaBuzz"**: Ellison Barber ... Mollie Hemingway ... Joe Trippi

-- **CNN's "Inside Politics"**: Perry Bacon, Karoun Demirjian, Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Michael Shear (substitute anchor: CNN's Dana Bash)

-- **CNN's "State of the Union"**: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) ... Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisc) ... Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.). Panel: Nina Turner, Rick Santorum, Amanda Carpenter and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)

-- **CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS"**: Al Gore. Panel: Julia Ioffe, Gideon Rose and Dan Senor

-- **CNN's "Reliable Sources"**: Richard Tofel, Jeff Greenfield and Kathleen Hall Jamieson ... Matt Schlapp and Trevor Timm ... Margaret Talev ... Oliver Darcy

--**Univision's "Al Punto"**: Carlos Diaz-Rosillo ... Antonio Ledezma's daughter Oriette Ledezma ... Al Gore ... actor Cristián de la Fuente

-- **C-SPAN: "The Communicators"**: Jeff Moulton ... **"Newsmakers"**: Rep. Richard Neal (D-Mass.), questioned by Richard Rubin and Rachel Bade ... **"Q&A"**: Cate Lineberry

-- **Hearst / Sony's "Matter of Fact"** with Soledad O'Brien: Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) and Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.) ... former HUD Assistant Secretary and the Urban Institute's Erika Poethig ... Silver State Health Insurance Exchange's Heather Korbolic ... report on the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity ... a reflection from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on her friendship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia

-- **Washington Times' "Mack on Politics"** weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at <http://bit.ly/2r37J6h>): Reagan Legacy Foundation president Michael Reagan

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Morgan Stanley**: What's the real impact of President Trump's move to pull the U.S. out of the global accords to combat climate change? Current country commitments are insufficient to hold global warming to under 2° Celsius from preindustrial levels, the stated goal of the accords, so little changes in the immediate future. Meanwhile, countries abroad in Europe and China have doubled down on their investments to combat climate change. Trump's decision diverges from what many companies and investors have been signaling lately, and Morgan Stanley's view is that

most sectors are currently driven by economics and technology rather than policy. Read more from Morgan Stanley. \*\*\*\*\*

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