

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Fri 9/8/2017 10:47:24 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Hewlett Packard Enterprise: MEXICO hit by biggest earthquake in 100 yrs -- House will vote to send Trump debt-ceiling, gov't-funding and aid package -- CLINTON to Colbert -- EVAN OSNOS' N. Korea dispatch -- B'DAY: Jim Ma...

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Hewlett Packard Enterprise

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

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Driving the Day

BULLETIN -- AP: "President: Mexico hit by biggest quake in century, 5 killed," by Christopher Sherman and E. Eduardo Castillo in Mexico City: "A major earthquake off Mexico's southern coast killed at least five people, with the president saying Friday it was the biggest in a century to hit the country. Houses toppled and the quake produced tsunami waves and sent people running into the streets in panic.

"The U.S. Geological Survey reported the earthquake's magnitude as 8.1, but President Enrique Pena Nieto says it was 8.2, making it the largest in Mexico in 100 years. He also said it was bigger than the 8.1 quake in 1985, which killed thousands and devastated large sections of Mexico City. ... The death toll could rise as authorities assess the damage. The president said that 62 aftershocks followed the quake and it's possible that one as strong as 7.2 could strike in the next 24 hours. Pena Nieto also said that serious damage had been caused and that 1 million customers initially had been without power following the quake, but that electricity had been restored to 800,000 of them." <http://bit.ly/2wNB4nM>

-- IN JUST THE LAST FEW WEEKS there have been widespread fires in Montana, Los Angeles and Oregon. Two historic hurricanes have barreled toward the United States and the Caribbean, leaving mass devastation in their wake. And the worst earthquake in a century just hit Mexico, bringing with it tsunami-like waves.

Happy Friday. THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE is expected to clear President Donald Trump's debt-ceiling, government-funding and Harvey-aid deal by noon today. **EMAIL FROM THE WHIP'S OFFICE:** "In order to ensure Members from the Southeast can travel home safely ahead of Hurricane Irma, Members are advised that last votes for the week will now be called at approximately 12:00 PM [Friday] on the Senate Amendment

to H.R. 601 (Harvey disaster relief package)."

-- **THIS** is truly Donald Trump's first legislative deal. And it was done with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. It is expected to pass the House with mostly Democratic votes. **WHAT REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP THINKS:** They are annoyed, not angry. They see it as a self-inflicted wound for a president with big legislative plans that only Republicans can execute. If he wants to govern with Democrats, good luck, one senior GOP aide told us. Most Republicans and Democrats say they think this is a short-term phenomenon, though.

GREAT JOHN MCCAIN QUOTE in the Washington Post: "'Haven't seen anything like it before,' said Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who has served in the Senate for three decades. Of Trump, McCain said: 'I have no way of divining his motives. I'm a pretty intelligent guy, but I don't understand this.'" <http://wapo.st/2eLdmy2>

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 40 LEGISLATIVE DAYS until this deal expires, and Congress has to renew government funding and pass another increase of the debt limit. **THERE ARE ROUGHLY 45** legislative days until the end of 2017, when Republicans say tax reform will be passed. We have not seen a bill. It's being written behind closed doors.

SNEAK PEEK -- THE WHITE HOUSE is hosting principals from conservative groups today to talk about the administration's plans for tax reform. Kellyanne Conway, Tony Sayegh and Sarah Huckabee Sanders also met with staffers from conservative outside groups Thursday to discuss tax reform messaging. "They were mainly pushing top-line messaging -- fairness, simplicity and 'un-rigging' the system. No policy details at all," said one attendee at Thursday's meeting.

-- **MEANWHILE -- @jimmykimmel:** "Dear @seanspicer - if I promise to look AT the camera this time, will you come to my show next week?" <http://bit.ly/2xgsizi> ... **@seanspicer:** "It's a deal, does next Wednesday work?" ... **@jimmykimmel:** "Perfect! I have no further comment."

TRUMP THE BACKSLAPPER -- "Trump, jovial after debt deal, turns meeting into a freewheeling affair," by Josh Dawsey: "In an Oval Office meeting with the New York and New Jersey congressional delegations, he repeatedly shook Schumer's hand and kept him after for a private session, his third chat with the Democrat in 30 hours. He praised Gov. Andrew Cuomo - who also attended the meeting and who has often torched Trump but without mentioning his name - for his work on the Tappan Zee Bridge and other New York projects. 'My governor!' he said to Cuomo, according to Rep. Peter King, a New York Republican.

"He told the room that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie coached him in the 2016 presidential debates against Hillary Clinton, and that 'Hillary was easy' after dealing with 'Chris.' He wished Christie, whose birthday was Wednesday, a happy one. 'You should give him a tunnel for his birthday,' Schumer said, drawing laughs from the room, referring to the Gateway rail-expansion project. ... The president, though, had one gripe,

after his visit from the emir of Kuwait on Thursday afternoon. He was very impressed by the emir's plane but noted that it was longer than his - maybe even by 100 feet."

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

-- **"Trump gets cozy with Democrats, and Republicans say 'I told you so,'"** by Eliana Johnson, Burgess Everett and Heather Caygle: "Just like that, he went from 'Cryin' Chuck' to the president's pal 'Chuck,' and she went from an 'incompetent' shepherd of House Democrats who has 'done a terrible job' to just 'Nancy.' ... Trump tends to govern more by sentiment than by substance, and he likes Schumer and Pelosi more than House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who have stomached him but never done a good job disguising the fact that he makes them nauseous." <http://politi.co/2wNQXYV>

WAPO's BOB COSTA and ASHLEY PARKER -- "Gingrich or Santorum as speaker? House conservatives plot mischief for the fall": "Several influential House conservatives are privately plotting ways to use the legislative calendar this fall to push their hard-line agenda - including quiet discussions about possibly mounting a leadership challenge to House Speaker Paul D. Ryan.

"The group has gone so far as to float the idea of recruiting former House speaker Newt Gingrich or former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum as potential replacements for Ryan (R-Wis.) should there be a rebellion. The Constitution does not require that an elected member of the House serve as speaker. While the chances that a non-House member could mount a credible threat to Ryan are exceedingly slim, the fact that the group has even toyed with the idea underscores their desire to create trouble for GOP leaders if they believe their demands are not being addressed." <http://wapo.st/2vS7eif>

-- **IF YOU'RE PAUL RYAN**, you feel pretty good about this.

WHAT GARY COHN IS READING -- "White House Considering at Least Six for Fed Chair," by Bloomberg's Craig Torres and Jen Jacobs: "The breadth of the search goes against the narrative that has taken hold in Washington and on Wall Street that the Fed chair nomination is a two-horse race between National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn and current Fed Chair Janet Yellen, whose term expires in February. Some of the other possible contenders include former Fed Governor Kevin Warsh, Columbia University economist Glenn Hubbard and Stanford University professor John Taylor, one of the people familiar said. Lawrence Lindsey, a former economic adviser to President George W. Bush, has been discussed. Former US Bancorp CEO Richard Davis and John Allison, the former CEO of BB&T Corp., have also been considered." <https://bloom.bg/2wMfqAm>

-- **"McCaul emerges as a leading candidate for DHS secretary,"** by Eliana Johnson and Anna Palmer: <http://politi.co/2xTyVER>

JOHN KELLY is continuing to put his stamp on the White House. Quinn Jones started Tuesday as executive assistant in the office of the White House chief of staff. Jones

previously served as special assistant in the office of the secretary of DHS.

***** **A message from Hewlett Packard Enterprise:** How are Hewlett Packard Enterprise's supercomputers helping create the future in science, medicine and national security? Learn more: hpe.com/supercomputing *****

THE LATEST ON HURRICANE IRMA -- "Hurricane Irma slams Turks and Caicos on path to Florida," by AP's Evens Sanon and Danica Coto in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti: "Hurricane Irma battered the Turks and Caicos Islands early Friday as the fearsome Category 5 storm continued a rampage through the Caribbean that has killed at least 11 people, with Florida in its sights. Waves as high as 20 feet were expected in the Turks and Caicos. Communications went down as the storm slammed into the islands, and the extent of the devastation was unclear. The first hurricane warnings were issued for parts of southern Florida as the state braced for what could be a catastrophic hit over the weekend. Following in Irma's wake was Hurricane Jose, with some of the islands hit hardest by Irma in its expected path." <http://bit.ly/2eKRKBV>

-- **"It's like someone with a lawn mower from the sky has gone over the island,"** by WaPo's Anthony Faiola, Lindsey Bever and Andrew deGrandpre: <http://wapo.st/2wO3yeM>

-- **"Former presidents band together in call for Harvey, Irma relief aid,"** by Cristiano Lima: "The online campaign, called the 'One America Appeal,' brought together former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter in a singular plea for donations to ongoing recovery efforts in Texas and likely future efforts in Florida and U.S. territories in the Caribbean in the wake of Irma." <http://politi.co/2vQWMHY> ... **The campaign** <http://bit.ly/2wN8XnO>

WHAT BEN RAY LUJAN IS READING -- "Rep. Dent won't seek re-election in 2018, according to source," by Alex Isenstadt and Kyle Cheney: "Pennsylvania Rep. Charlie Dent, a Republican who occupies a swing district, will not seek reelection in 2018, a source close to him confirmed. Dent's retirement comes the day after another swing district Republican, Washington Rep. Dave Reichert, announced he was calling it quits. Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, another moderate, is also retiring. Democrats are certain to target all three seats in next year's midterms. Dent's announced departure comes one day after state Rep. Justin Simmons said he would challenge him in a primary." <http://politi.co/2xh7XtL>

THE TROUBLE WITH BERNIE... -- "Bernie backers' attacks on Democrats infuriate the party," by Gabe Debenedetti: "Prominent Democrats are increasingly riled by attacks from Bernie Sanders' supporters, whose demands for ideological purity are hurting the party ahead of the 2018 midterms and 2020 presidential election, they say. But it's not just the outside agitators that Democratic lawmakers, operatives, and activists are annoyed with: They're tired of what they see as the senator's hesitance to confront his own backers, either in public or through back channels.

"Tensions boiled over recently when a handful of Sanders loyalists bashed freshman Sen. Kamala Harris - a rising star in the party and potential 2020 hopeful - as an establishment tool. Democrats were also rankled that other prominent Sanders allies said support for single-payer health care should be a litmus test for candidates. In response, Democratic senators and outside groups have begun telling Sanders and friendly intermediaries that if he wants to be a leading figure for Democrats ahead of 2020's presidential election, he needs to get his supporters in line - or at least publicly disavow their more incendiary statements." <http://politi.co/2xaQVg8>

--SANDERS on COLBERT last night -- "What Bernie Sanders Wants Hillary To Do Next" -- 9-min. video <http://bit.ly/2xbkBd3> ... **"Bernie Sanders Tries To Say Something Nice About Trump" -- 4-min. video** <http://bit.ly/2wPg1Pu>

THE AMERICANS -- "The Fake Americans Russia Created to Influence the Election," by NYT's Scott Shane: "Sometimes an international offensive begins with a few shots that draw little notice. So it was last year when Melvin Redick of Harrisburg, Pa., a friendly-looking american with a backward baseball cap and a young daughter, posted on Facebook a link to a brand-new website. 'These guys show hidden truth about Hillary Clinton, George Soros and other leaders of the US,' he wrote on June 8, 2016. 'Visit #dcleaks website. It's really interesting!' Mr. Redick turned out to be a remarkably elusive character. No Melvin Redick appears in Pennsylvania records, and his photos seem to be borrowed from an unsuspecting Brazilian. But this fictional concoction has earned a small spot in history: the Redick posts that morning were among the first public signs of an unprecedented foreign intervention in American democracy. ...

"On Twitter, as on Facebook, Russian fingerprints are on hundreds or thousands of fake accounts that regularly posted anti-Clinton messages. Many were automated Twitter accounts, called bots, that sometimes fired off identical messages seconds apart - and in the exact alphabetical order of their made-up names, according to the Fireeye researchers. On Election Day, for instance, they found that one group of twitter bots sent out the hashtag #waragainstdemocrats more than 1,700 times." <http://nyti.ms/2jaJoZ5>

RUSSIA UPDATE -- "Mueller seeks interviews with WH staff over Trump Tower meeting statement," by CNN's Pamela Brown, Gloria Borger and Jeremy Diamond: "Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team has approached the White House about interviewing staffers who were aboard Air Force One when the initial misleading statement about Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower was crafted ... The special counsel's discussions with the White House are the latest indication that Mueller's investigators are interested in the response to the Trump Tower meeting. Mueller wants to know how the statement aboard Air Force One was put together, whether information was intentionally left out and who was involved." <http://cnn.it/2vKje1m>

-- BETTER LATE THAN NEVER -- "The DNC Begins Cybersecurity Effort To Try To

Make Sure 2016 Doesn't Happen Again," by BuzzFeed's Ruby Cramer: "On his second day at [the DNC], sitting in a meeting at the party's headquarters south of Capitol Hill, Raffi Krikorian looked around the room and realized he was the only technology staffer at the table. ... It's about a 'culture change inside the building' - to 'get everyone's guard up' and create an instinctive, daily cybersecurity reflex. ... Krikorian, 39, said he felt his 'continuous poking and prodding' was starting to work when the chair of the DNC, Tom Perez, walked into the CTO's office one day and announced that he had downloaded the encrypted messaging app, Signal. ... Later, Perez stood up at an all-staff meeting and told aides, "'If you guys talk to me, you're going to use Signal,' Krikorian recalled." <http://bzfd.it/2wNfu31>

COMING ATTRACTIONS? -- CNN's Jeremy Herb: "On Thursday, [Sen. Mark] Warner suggested that congress could play a role by passing legislation to put disclosure requirements on social media advertising similar to those for television commercials. 'An American can still figure out what content is being used on TV advertising ... but in social media there's no such requirement,' Warner said. 'There may be a reform process here. I actually think the social media companies would not oppose, because I think Americans, particularly when it comes to elections, ought to be able to know if there is foreign-sponsored content coming into their electoral process.'" <http://cnn.it/2gMNaUp>

WHAT CHRIS LICHT IS SMILING ABOUT -- "Hillary Clinton to Discuss Campaign and New Book on Colbert's 'Late Show'," by NYT's Matt Stevens: "The appearance will come one week after the book hits shelves. And the network promises that Mrs. Clinton will sit down with Mr. Colbert to discuss her writing, as well as 'her run for the White House in 2016' and 'her thoughts on the current administration.'" <http://nyti.ms/2xTHqzX>

THE JUICE ...

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: MATT VISER** has joined CNN as a political analyst. He's remaining at the Boston Globe as deputy Washington bureau chief. **MOLLY BALL** of The Atlantic and **MARGARET TALEV** of Bloomberg have also been named as CNN political analysts.

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: A Sept. 7 photo provided by the Dutch Defense Ministry shows storm damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in St. Martin. | Gerben Van Es/Dutch Defense Ministry via AP

THIS IS A BIG DEAL -- "Sara Netanyahu Expected to Be Indicted for Fraud in Pocketing \$110,000 in Goods," by Haaretz's Gidi Weitz: "Sara Netanyahu is expected to be indicted, pending a hearing, on charges of fraudulently receiving items worth

400,000 shekels (\$111,851), Haaretz has learned. Attorney General Avichai Mendelblit is expected to inform Netanyahu, wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of the charges against her in a few weeks.

"Sara Netanyahu is suspected of ordering chef's meals at the prime minister's official residence, which is against regulations, and concealing the fact that she did so. She and her husband have accused the former chief caretaker of the official residence, Meni Naftali, who is currently leading protests against the prime minister, of inflating the residence's expenses." <http://bit.ly/2gP5FLt>

-- **ANSHEL PFEFFER (@AnshelPfeffer)**, Haaretz writer and Economist correspondent: "Took 3 years to indict Sara N on defrauding state of 400k worth of gourmet food. Investigation-indictment-trail of Bibi will take longer ... Even assuming Bibi is guilty, it will take the courts until 2020's to force him out of office. The Israeli public will judge him first. ... 2 ways Netanyahu is forced out of office before election: 1 His coalition partners (Kahlon, Bennett) say like Barak in '08 he has to go. ... 2. Netanyahu realizes he could be facing jail and signs plea bargain, resigns, gets reduced sentence. Both possible but for now unlikely."

THIS GUY -- "Prosecutors Seek to Revoke Martin Shkreli's Bail for Hillary Clinton 'Threats': Convicted former drug executive urged followers to 'grab a hair' from Clinton," by WSJ's Rebecca Davis O'Brien: "Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn have asked a judge to revoke bail for Martin Shkreli, the former pharmaceutical executive convicted last month on securities-fraud charges, citing Mr. Shkreli's 'escalating pattern of threats and harassment,' including an apparent threat to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"In a court filing late Thursday night, prosecutors asked U.S. District Judge Kiyo A. Matsumoto to have Mr. Shkreli detained until his sentencing. The filing came several days after Mr. Shkreli posted a message on his Facebook page in which he urged his followers to "grab a hair" from Mrs. Clinton while she is on her coming book tour. In the post, he offered \$5,000 per strand of hair.

"'[T]he defendant's threats create a risk of danger to the community,' prosecutors wrote, adding that his 'egregious public behavior shows that he has no respect for the law and will not abide by any conditions or combination of conditions for release.'" <http://on.wsj.com/2xaYjbk>

BUSINESS BURST -- "Equifax hack hits credit histories of up to 143 million Americans," by WaPo's Craig Timberg, Elizabeth Dwoskin and Brian Fung: "The credit reporting agency Equifax said Thursday that hackers gained access to sensitive personal data - Social Security numbers, birth dates and home addresses - for up to 143 million Americans, a major cybersecurity breach at a firm that serves as one of the three major clearinghouses for Americans' credit histories." <http://wapo.st/2xglxwn>

-- **WOW: "Three Equifax Managers Sold Stock Before Cyber Hack Revealed,"** by Bloomberg's Anders Melin: "Three Equifax Inc. senior executives sold shares worth

almost \$1.8 million in the days after the company discovered a security breach that may have compromised information on about 143 million U.S. consumers. The trio had not yet been informed of the incident, the company said.

"The credit-reporting service said late Thursday in a statement that it discovered the intrusion on July 29. Regulatory filings show that three days later, Chief Financial Officer John Gamble sold shares worth \$946,374 and Joseph Loughran, president of U.S. information solutions, exercised options to dispose of stock worth \$584,099. Rodolfo Ploder, president of workforce solutions, sold \$250,458 of stock on Aug. 2. None of the filings lists the transactions as being part of 10b5-1 scheduled trading plans."

<https://bloom.bg/2eS9H53>

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OOPS -- "Trump lawyer Ty Cobb, fooled by 'email prankster,' asks for 'drone' in private emails slamming reporter," by Business Insider's Natasha Bertrand: "White House special counsel Ty Cobb engaged in a lengthy email exchange with a prankster posing as White House social media director Dan Scavino, during which Cobb asked whether there was 'any drone time left' when discussing a Business Insider reporter he described as 'insane.' ... A half hour later, the prankster reached out again -- this time to ask about 'the whole Russia situation.' ... 'I have great confidence there is nothing there implicating the President or the White House,' Cobb wrote. 'Manafort and Flynn have issues separate and apart from the WH that will cause the investigation to linger but am hoping we get a clean bill of health soon. Best, Ty.'" <http://read.bi/2vKgils>

DAVID IGNATIUS -- "Tillerson is working with China and Russia -- very, very quietly": "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has often been the silent man in the Trump foreign policy team. But out of the spotlight, he appears to be crafting a broad strategy aimed at working with China to resolve the North Korea crisis and with Russia to stabilize Syria and Ukraine. The Tillerson approach focuses on personal diplomacy, in direct contacts with Chinese and Russian leaders, and through private channels to North Korea. His core strategic assumption is that if the United States can subtly manage its relations with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin - and allow those leaders to take credit for successes - complex regional problems can be solved effectively. Tillerson appears unfazed by criticism that he has been a poor communicator and by recent talk of discord with President Trump."

<http://wapo.st/2wdJGju>

IF YOU READ ONE THING - EVAN OSNOS in The New Yorker, **"The Risk of Nuclear War with North Korea:** On the ground in Pyongyang: Could Kim Jong Un and Donald

Trump goad each other into a devastating confrontation?": "A few days after the July 4th missile test, [North Korean diplomat Pak Song Il] told me that I could book a flight to Pyongyang. I submitted a list of people I wanted to interview, including diplomats and Kim Jong Un himself. About the latter, Pak only laughed. (Kim has never given an interview.) After Pak stopped laughing, he said I could talk to other officials. ... James Clapper, the former director of National Intelligence, who visited Pyongyang in 2014, told me, 'The North Koreans are not going to give up their nuclear weapons. It's a non-starter.' The American national-security community is now nearly unanimous on this point, but the government cannot say so openly, because that would cede leverage in a future negotiation, and raise the risk that other countries will try to follow North Korea's example. ...

"In an e-mail, [H.R.] McMaster told me, 'Their provocations seem likely to increase-not decrease-over time. The North Koreans have also proliferated just about every capability they've ever produced, including chemical weapons and a nuclear reactor. Then there's the matter of what other countries do-in the region and beyond-when they see that a rogue regime developed nukes and got away with it.' ... "On the way to lunch one afternoon in Pyongyang, I noticed that the latest American threats had already been inscribed on the cityscape. A full-color billboard depicted a barrage of missiles descending on a bombed-out shell of the U.S. Capitol." <http://bit.ly/2wNmE7r>

WEST COAST WATCH -- "New primary challenger to Feinstein emerges," by California Playbooker Carla Marinucci: "Add another name to the list of progressive Democrats seriously considering a primary challenge to California's senior Senator Dianne Feinstein: wealthy financial entrepreneur Joseph N. Sanberg. Sanberg, 38 - co-founder of Aspiration.com, a socially-conscious investment firm, and a founding investor in Blue Apron ... Raised in Orange County by a single mom before he earned a fortune on Wall Street, Sanberg had been mulling a governor's run, sources familiar with his planning told POLITICO, and he delivered a speech to the last state Democratic convention that appeared to lay out a rationale for that race." <http://politi.co/2wNdC9G>

MEDIAWATCH -- MICHAEL CROWLEY'S NEW JOB -- Carrie Budoff Brown emails the POLITICO staff this morning at 4:25 a.m.: "We're thrilled to announce that Michael Crowley will take on the role of national security editor. Michael has established himself as one of the preeminent foreign policy thinkers in Washington in his nearly three years as Politico's senior foreign affairs correspondent and at Time Magazine before that. ... During the 2016 campaign, Michael was among the first reporters to explore the connections between Trump and Russia and his stories on the subject repeatedly broke fresh ground later revisited by others. ... Michael will continue to write in his new role and retain the title of senior foreign affairs correspondent."

-- **DEBORAH SOLOMON** has been hired as economics editor in the Washington bureau of the New York Times. She is currently a director at Brunswick Group and earlier spent 15 years at the WSJ._

LEWANDOWSKI TALKS TO PRESTON -- Corey Lewandowski sits down with CNN

senior political analyst Mark Preston on his SiriusXM show, "Full Stop with Mark Preston." Lewandowski talks about his relationship with Trump, the Russia investigation and the president's recent dealmaking with Democrats. The show airs Saturday at noon and Sunday at 5 p.m. on Sirius XM channel 124. ***Listen to him talk about the Russia investigation*** <http://bit.ly/2xQT5OX> ... ***And dealmaking with Democrats*** <http://bit.ly/2gPoJZO>

JAVELIN UPDATE -- "The Upstart D.C. Agents Making Waves in New York," by Rachel Deahl in Publishers Weekly: Keith "Urbahn" and [Matt] Latimer are no longer the new kids on the block. They have an 11-person-agency called Javelin in Arlington, Va., that has been behind some of the biggest nonfiction deals of the summer, including rumored seven-figure agreements for James Comey ... and Tucker Carlson ... And, although they both worked for Republicans in D.C., Latimer and Urbahn stressed that they are eager to work with liberals and conservatives. The deal they struck this summer for former DNC strategist Donna Brazile, selling her forthcoming book 'Hacks' to Hachette, may go a long way in proving this to potential Democratic clients." <http://bit.ly/2wOpeY6>

HAPPENING TONIGHT - JAKE TAPPER will be given the John F. Hogan Distinguished Service Award at the Radio Television Digital News Association's annual Excellence in Journalism conference in Anaheim. <http://bit.ly/2xRYwxS>

THE GLOBAL POLICY LAB: POLITICO Europe is launching Global Policy Lab, a first-of-its-kind experiment in collaborative journalism that is expected to produce new policy solutions and inform the public debate on key issues. POLITICO readers are among the most engaged and educated in the world, and the Global Policy Lab will tap into their experience and knowledge to develop solutions to pressing challenges. POLITICO is partnering with GE on the first installment, titled Engineering Growth, to look at the rise of digital manufacturing in Germany, Europe's largest economy, and explore ways to improve the economies of France and the United Kingdom. ***Sign up for the weekly newsletter*** <http://politi.co/2xaxcwS>

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Sean Spicer last night at Wolf Trap rocking out to Sting. He was with OMB's Jessica Anderson and Jim Herz and Brandt Anderson of Rep. Jim Banks' (R-Ind.) office. Spicer took numerous selfies with fellow patrons ... Shaun Donovan yesterday at Penn Station ... Star Wars/Indiana Jones actor Harrison Ford having lunch at il Canale in Georgetown, on Thursday. ***Pic with hostess Alona Nedorezova and Alessandro Farruggio (the son of il Canale's owner)*** <http://bit.ly/2eR9hfd> ... James Comey at McLean High for parents' night last night ...

... **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.)** at DCA carrying his own bags and talking on his cellphone "using the old shoulder/head lean" ... Sen. Bernie Sanders

(I-Vt.) last night in the TSA line at Newark airport - *pic via @OliverDarcy, who headed to Miami last night to cover the media angle of the storm* <http://bit.ly/2gNZ9AW> ... Karen Knutson, global government affairs and policy leader for Baker Hughes, a GE Company, serving as a preliminary judge last night at the Miss America pageant <http://bit.ly/2xhuCpY>

THE FINANCIAL TIMES held an anniversary party last night at the Observatory at America's Square hosted by Lionel Barber, Gillian Tett and Demetri Sevastopulo, whose birthday was yesterday. The food included lamb chops, seared tuna and roast beef and boozy pink lemonade was also served. **SPOTTED:** Ambassadors of Belgium, Japan, India and Ireland, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), Norm Ornstein, Steve Clemons, Coach Kathy Kemper, Sally Quinn, Jane Harman, Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan, Gary Cohn, Wilbur Ross, Steve Case, Sidney Blumenthal, UAE Ambassador Yousef Al-Otaiba, Juleanna Glover, Becca Glover, David Bolger, Paul Beckett, Dan DeLuce, Kevin Madden, Spencer Abraham.

SPOTTED at a Meridian International Center reception to honor and welcome newly credentialed Ambassadors and their spouses to Washington: Ambassadors from Bahrain, Colombia, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Swaziland and Togo. President Stuart Holliday, Meridian Chair Carlos Gutierrez, Linda Douglas and John Phillips, Adrienne Arsht, Patrick Steel, Capricia Marshall, Catherine Stevens, Mitch Rose, Brian Toohey, Dan and Aviva Rosenthal, Josh Rogin, Tom Korologos, Megan Beyer, Ann Stock, Lloyd Hand, Hani and Cheryl Masri, Dwight Bush and Cam Henderson.

SUNDAY SO FAR -- NBC's "Meet the Press": Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Panel: David Brody, David Brooks, former Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.), Hallie Jackson

--CNN's "State of the Union": Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.)

-- "Fox News Sunday": Panel: Brit Hume, Mo Elleithee, Gillian Turner, Juan Williams

TRANSITIONS -- PHIL MUSSER has accepted a new position with Boeing as SVP for communications. He is leaving as CEO of IMGE while **Phil Cox** has joined as the chairman of its board. **Gerrit Lansing, Gary Coby, Ethan Eilon, and Megan Foote** are also joining as partners at the firm. **Marty Obst** has joined as senior adviser.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- Peter Velz has moved to Albany and this week joined the State University of New York system as assistant vice chancellor for external affairs in the office of Chancellor Kristina Johnson. Velz served nearly five years in the Obama White House, mostly as a press staffer, and finished Jan. 19 as special assistant to the communications director.

-- Alexandra Nunez Costello, Obama State Department alum and former Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) political director, is joining the Center for Law and Social Policy as its first-ever director of legislative affairs.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Scott Bland, editor of Politico's Campaign Pro and host of the Nerdcast, and **Gina Bland**, an elementary school teacher, welcomed Samuel Bland, who was born on Eclipse Day. "He and mom are doing great." **Pic** <http://politi.co/2gNQiiS>

-- **Jennifer Wishon**, White House correspondent for CBN News, and **C. Todd Gilbert**, House Majority Leader designee for the Virginia House of Delegates and attorney in the Shenandoah Valley, recently welcomed Christopher "Grant" Gilbert, who was "born with a healthy set of lungs." **Pic** <http://politi.co/2f9IZCY>

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): DCCC staffer Sam Iacobellis, pride of Manchester, Conn. and UPenn (hat tip: Lisa Moody, who was on time)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Steve McMahon, co-founder and CEO at Purple Strategies, celebrating with Cynthia and "a quiet dinner at our neighborhood Italian bistro, Pulcinella's in McLean. It's the local Italian haunt not just for us, but also for Gingrich, Comey and Ovechkin, all of whom we've seen there repeatedly and recently." **A fun fact about Steve:** "Whenever I can, I try to sneak off and play ice hockey, which is maybe the only thing I enjoy as much as politics. And now that I'm an empty-nester, with more time to skate, I'm hoping my play will improve-and so are my teammates." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2wOXDWO>

BIRTHDAYS: Defense Secretary Jim Mattis ... Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) ... Richard Cullen, EVP of public affairs at FP1 Strategies (h/t Ryan Williams) ... Madigan Schmidt ... Jonathan Rosen, de Blasio adviser and principal at BerlinRosen ... Morgan Hook, SVP at SKD Knickerbocker ... Jeremy Kirkpatrick ... Will Brunelle ... Sharon Páez, partner at Hilltop Public Solutions ... Harry Liberman ... Politico's Rhea Beal and Judy Diaz ... former Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) ... Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) ... Jillian Harding ... Andrei Berman ... Matthew McGregor, director of digital at Precision Strategies ... Michael Pratt ... WSJ's Akane Otani ... Zack Ford ... Jason Mattera ... Lex Wexner, owner of L Brands ... Howard Mark Lorber, chairman of Douglas Elliman (h/ts Jewish Insider) ...

... **Ali Pardo**, Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) spox and GW, Rubio and RNC alum (h/ts Rebecca Coffman and Ninio Fetalvo) ... Samantha Osborne Reynolds, chief digital officer at the RNC (hubby tip: Matthias) ... Andrew Golis ... Jill McClain ... Dan Gurley ... Dylan McDowell ... Will Batson ... Axios' Alayna Treene ... Marco Romeo ... Kim Coalter ... Mike Danylak ... former Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) ... Steph Tong, co-founder of Juva Therapy and a McKinsey alum ... Jaime Lennon ... Jasi Edwards ... Janelle Kovacevich ... Sara Fellenz ... former Clinton aide Lenore Cho ... Nick Bouknight ... Al Hubbard ... Brookly McLaughlin ... Andrea Hoffman ... Diedra Henderson ... Paul Fletcher ... Charlotte Spears Ivancic ... Jillian Wikler Black ... Michael Johns ... Brandon Wright ... JoAnne Anton ... David Dixon ... Gail Leftwich Kitch ... Don Schimanski (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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