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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 11/20/2017 11:16:18 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation: HAPPY THANKSGIVING WEEK -- Hot in Palm Beach: Marine One lands at PBI -- MERKEL in trouble -- JMART IN LITTLE ROCK: CLINTON gathering drifts toward last year's loss -- B'DAY: Joe Biden

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation

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Driving the Day

Good Monday morning and welcome to Thanksgiving week. The president is leaving D.C. for Palm Beach tomorrow. Congress is gone. Might we get a quiet week?

HOT QUESTION IN PALM BEACH -- PALM BEACH POST: "Trump in Palm Beach: President's helicopter arrives. Will he use it?" by Christine Stapleton and Mahima Singh: "A huge Air Force transport plane flew over Mar-a-Lago Sunday afternoon before landing at Palm Beach International Airport where it delivered the presidential helicopter.

"But the delivery of the helicopter does not mean that President Donald Trump will use it to fly back and forth to Mar-a-Lago, where a new helipad was built on the back lawn of the estate. The helicopter, along with his black armored vehicle, travels with the president in the U.S. and overseas. ...

"Locals are anxious to learn how the president will make the two-mile trip between the airport and Mar-a-Lago. The trip from the estate to Trump's golf club, which is near the airport, also is about two miles. Earlier this year, the president's motorcade brought traffic to a standstill for hours as an army of local, state and federal law enforcement closed roads near the route along Southern Boulevard." <http://pbpo.st/2zTkuEr>

FRONT PAGE, ABOVE THE FOLD of the BOSTON GLOBE: "Why evangelicals are again backing a Republican despite allegations of sexual misconduct," by Astead Herndon: "None of the nearly 10 pastors reached by phone said the allegations of sexual misconduct changed their views about Moore. Several said the allegations made them more proud to vote for the former judge. ...

"I don't know how much these women are getting paid, but I can only believe they're getting a healthy sum,' said pastor Earl Wise, a Moore supporter from Millbrook, Ala. Wise said he would support Moore even if the allegations were true and the candidate was proved to have sexually molested teenage girls and women. 'There ought to be a statute of limitations on this stuff,' Wise said. 'How these gals came up with this, I don't know. They must have had some sweet dreams somewhere down the line. 'Plus,' he added, 'there are some 14-year-olds, who, the way they look, could pass for 20.'" <http://bit.ly/2zRCkl9>

GOOD CATCH -- AP'S KEN THOMAS and CATHERINE LUCEY: "Bush administration alums rising in Trump's orbit": "The Bush influence has only grown stronger recently, as Trump nominated Alex Azar to lead the Health and Human Services Department, where he served under the Bush administration, and tapped Jerome 'Jay' Powell to be chairman of the Federal Reserve. Powell served in the Treasury Department under President George H.W. Bush. ...

"The Bush alums in the administration include Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who served as Bush's labor secretary, and Dina Powell, a deputy national security adviser who oversaw White House personnel and later served in Bush's State Department under Condoleezza Rice. Even the president's schedule and day-to-day operations are overseen by a former member of Bush's inner circle: Joe Hagin, who served as deputy White House chief of staff." <http://bit.ly/2B3yeu6>

WAPO'S DAVE WEIGEL in HOLLIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Democrats see backlash over Republicans' tax bill as a key to winning in the suburbs": "'Do you think it's right to raise taxes on millions of hard-working Americans?' asked Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) at a Friday night Democratic fundraiser. 'Do you want to risk a \$25 billion yearly cut to Medicare to give the wealthiest few a tax cut?' The crowd of about 600 Democrats bellowed 'no,' still shocked by the party's recent political gains. Coming off Election Day wins from Seattle to Long Island, Democrats are starting to see the shape of a new majority, built on a potential suburban backlash to changes in the tax code." <http://wapo.st/2B4C8mq>

JONATHAN MARTIN in LITTLE ROCK on A14 of the NYT: "Celebrating a 25-Year-Old Clinton Win, but Still Stung by a More Recent Defeat": "It was billed as a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Clintons' ascension to the White House, held in some of the same haunts of the Arkansas capital where it all began.

"Yet the election that Bill and Hillary Clinton were most eager to revisit here was not Mr. Clinton's triumph of a quarter-century ago. It was the one that Mrs. Clinton lost last year -- one that the former first couple and many of their supporters have clearly not gotten over. For the first part of a 90-minute conversation with the Clintons on Saturday moderated by James Carville, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton made all manner of references, both direct and indirect, to the man who denied their bid to reclaim the White House, Donald J. Trump.

"However, it was not until Mr. Clinton invoked his wife's losing campaign -- "I'm proud of her for getting caught trying to put people first," he said -- that her admirers rose to their feet in what was an obvious emotional release. ... Explaining how she had tried to cope with what she called a 'very painful' loss, she said she had taken to mystery novels 'because the bad guy always got it in the end.'" <http://nyti.ms/2zV06CR>

TWEETER IN CHIEF -- "Donald Trump takes the bait, and LaVar Ball's Big Baller Brand wins again," by USA Today's Sam Amick: "LaVar Ball has done it again. ... Never mind the threat of North Korea, the GOP tax reform plan or the accusations of collusion with Russia, the leader of the free world took a moment on Sunday to focus on a man who is nothing short of a marketing genius.

"Now that the three basketball players are out of China and saved from years in jail, LaVar Ball, the father of LiAngelo, is unaccepting of what I did for his son and that shoplifting is no big deal,' Trump tweeted to his 42-million-plus followers about the incident in which three UCLA basketball players were caught shoplifting and later allowed to return home. 'I should have left them in jail!' Then about six hours later, Trump tweeted again: 'Shoplifting is a very big deal in China, as it should be (5-10 years in jail), but not to father LaVar, Should have gotten his son out during my next trip to China instead. China told them why they were released. Very ungrateful!'" Take a bow, LaVar." <https://usat.ly/2zQisVZ>

PROBLEMS FOR MERKEL IN GERMANY -- POLITICO EU'S MATTHEW

KARNITSCHNIG: "Germany was thrust into political disarray late Sunday as talks to form a new government collapsed, raising the prospect of a new election while clouding Angela Merkel's future as chancellor. Negotiations between Merkel's conservatives, the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and Greens ended abruptly just before midnight after FDP leader Christian Lindner said he saw no hope the parties could break a stalemate that had dogged the discussions for days. ...

"The failure means Germany is unlikely to have a stable government for months, hobbling Berlin's ability to make pressing strategic decisions on everything from foreign policy to eurozone reform. With Europe facing a host of serious challenges, including disputes over the rule of law in Poland and Hungary and Brexit, the political instability in the EU's largest country could hardly have come at a worse moment."

<http://politi.co/2iwqM38>

******* A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** As Washington debates tax reform, there's talk of tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress, tax reform should grow the economy. Not the debt.

www.pgpf.org/tax-reform *****

INSIDE 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE -- "'A long winter': White House aides divided over scope, risks of Russia probe," by WaPo's Ashley Parker and Carol D. Leonnig: "Six months into a special counsel's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016

presidential election, White House aides and others in President Trump's close orbit are increasingly divided in their assessments of the expanding probe and how worried administration officials and campaign aides should be about their potential legal peril, according to numerous people familiar with the debate. Some in the West Wing avoid the mere mention of Russia or the investigation whenever possible.

"Others take solace in the reassurances of White House lawyer Ty Cobb that special counsel Robert S. Mueller III will be wrapping up the probe soon and the president and those close to him will be exonerated. ... [S]ometimes, gallows humor creeps into the West Wing. 'When the staff gather in the morning at the White House now, they jokingly say: "Good morning. Are you wired?"' one person close to the administration said." <http://wapo.st/2AWg6S5>

-- "Special Counsel sends wide-ranging request for documents to Justice Department," by ABC News' Mike Levine: "Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating whether President Donald Trump sought to obstruct a federal inquiry into connections between his presidential campaign and Russian operatives has now directed the Justice Department to turn over a broad array of documents, ABC News has learned. In particular, Mueller's investigators are keen to obtain emails related to the firing of FBI Director James Comey and the earlier decision of Attorney General Jeff Sessions to recuse himself from the entire matter, according to a source who has not seen the specific request but was told about it. Issued within the past month, the directive marks the special counsel's first records request to the Justice Department, and it means Mueller is now demanding documents from the department overseeing his investigation." <http://abcn.ws/2hNASPR>

JEN HABERKORN and PAUL DEMKO: "Obamacare mandate repeal may not deliver predicted blow": "Repealing Obamacare's individual mandate might not be the devastating blow to health insurance markets that supporters of the law fear. Because the tax penalty for not having insurance is far less costly than what many Americans would have to pay for coverage, many have chosen to take the fine. Eliminating it, therefore, might not radically change behavior -- or fulfill the dire predictions of spiking premiums and vast increases in uninsured people that economists, health providers and politicians once predicted." <http://politi.co/2zV4eTn>

NEW POLICY ALERT -- "Trump Administration Tightens Scrutiny of Skilled Worker Visa Applicants," by WSJ's Laura Meckler: "The Trump administration is adding hurdles and increasing scrutiny in the employment-visa application process, making it harder for businesses to hire foreign workers, and companies and immigration attorneys are bracing for more changes soon. ... The administration is more closely scrutinizing applications for the high-skilled visa program known as H-1B, sending back more than one in four applications between January and August via 'requests for further evidence,' according to data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, known as USCIS, which administers the program. A year earlier, fewer than one in five were sent back." <http://on.wsj.com/2B3aXbH>

-- **"What EPA chief Scott Pruitt promised - and what he's done,"** by Alex Guillen and Emily Holden. <http://politi.co/2jGrZZ4>

LAST NIGHT ON "KASIE DC" -- @KasieDC: "So, what happens when you file a sexual harassment claim on Capitol Hill? Let's walk through it ..." <http://bit.ly/2mJSwpB>

TRUMP'S MONDAY -- THE PRESIDENT is holding a Cabinet meeting, lunching with VP Mike Pence and HUD Secretary Ben Carson. In the afternoon, Trump will meet with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley.

THE JUICE ...

-- **FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY JACK LEW** is joining the private equity firm Lindsay Goldberg. He will still be a visiting professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Zimbabwe's Mugabe passes deadline to resign; now impeachment," by AP's Chris Torchia and Farai Mutsaka in Harare: "Longtime President Robert Mugabe ignored a midday deadline set by the ruling party to step down or face impeachment proceedings, while Zimbabweans stunned by his lack of resignation during a national address vowed more protests to make him leave. "Arrogant Mugabe disregards Zanu PF," one newspaper headline said. Opposition activists and the influential liberation war veterans association announced more demonstrations to pressure the 93-year-old Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state, to step down after 37 year in power. ... Zimbabweans were astonished that Mugabe, flanked by the military in his national address Sunday night, remained defiant." <http://bit.ly/2z0zNYk>

--**"Behind Mugabe's Rapid Fall: A Firing, a Feud and a First Lady,"** by NYT's Norimitsu Onishi: <http://nyti.ms/2zRPTH7>

CHARLES MANSON IS DEAD -- AP's John Rogers: "In the summer of 1969, a scruffy ex-convict with a magnetic hold on young women sent some of his disciples into the night to carry out a series of gruesome killings in Los Angeles. In so doing, Charles Manson became the leering face of evil on front pages across America and rewrote the history of an era. Manson, the hippie cult leader who died of natural causes Sunday at age 83 after nearly half a century behind bars, orchestrated the slayings of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six other people, butchered at two homes on successive August nights by intruders who scrawled 'Pigs' and 'Healter Skelter' (sic) in the victims' blood.

"The slaughter horrified the world. To many, the collateral damage included the era of peace, love and flower power. The Manson Family killings, along with the bloodshed later that year during a Rolling Stones concert at California's Altamont Speedway, seemed to expose the violent and drug-riddled underside of the counterculture and sent a shiver of fear through America." <http://bit.ly/2zXGKLI>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci talks during an interview with the Associated Press in Jerusalem on Nov. 20. Scaramucci told the AP that although he has not spoken to Donald Trump in over a month, he talks to the president's inner circle "regularly" and considers himself a media "surrogate" for the administration. | Ariel Schalit/AP Photo

SUSAN GLASSER: "How Trump Is Driving Democrats and Republicans Together"
<http://politi.co/2hPIZwy> ... *Transcript of her conversation with Sen. Ben Cardin*
<http://politi.co/2B4ycSX>

MARC CAPUTO and MATT DIXON - "Sex scandals wreak havoc on Florida politics: 'Florida is on fire. And it's not a controlled burn,' said one top Democrat': "The Florida Democratic Party chairman resigned Friday in shame. A Republican state senator faces possible expulsion for sexual harassment. The state Senate's top Democratic leader abruptly stepped down after admitting an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. Even amid the flood of sexual misconduct revelations that have rocked state capitals across the country, the nation's biggest swing state has lived up to its reputation for political drama and excess over the past month, with major implications for next year's contested U.S. Senate and gubernatorial elections - and the next presidential race. ...

"The biggest shock to the system unfolded Friday when the state's Democratic Party chair, Stephen Bittel, quit after POLITICO Florida reported numerous women and men complained he created an uncomfortable work environment for young women ... Bittel's resignation was a major blow to U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson - Florida's only statewide elected Democrat - who spent political capital on his friend and longtime donor to become chair of the state party in a bitterly contested race this year." <http://politi.co/2AewiC7> ...
Subscribe to Florida Playbook <http://politi.co/2jHSZY1>

IN ISRAEL -- JERUSALEM POST: "POLICE QUESTION NETANYAHU FOR THE SIXTH TIME IN CORRUPTION PROBE: Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer questioned in Netanyahu probe ... Police arrive at Netanyahu's residence to question him in corruption probe," by Udi Shoham: "The questioning focused mainly on Case 1000, the 'gifts affair,' in which it is suspected that the prime minister received expensive gifts from various businessmen." <http://bit.ly/2mKHfoX>!

***** **A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** Washington is debating tax reform. There's talk of substantial tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress is right to pursue tax reform - the code

is outdated, complex and unfair. Tax reform done right should be permanent, because businesses and individuals need certainty to plan and invest. It should be based on realistic, independent projections and assumptions about the effect on our economy and our fiscal outlook. And it should enjoy bipartisan support, so that it's durable over time. Lawmakers should use the valuable opportunity presented by tax reform both to improve our fiscal outlook and strengthen the economy at the same time. Learn more about fiscally responsible tax reform at www.pgpf.org/tax-reform. *****

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "As Silicon Valley Gets 'Crazy,' Midwest Beckons Tech Investors," by NYT's Steve Lohr: "The rationale for investing in the Midwest combines cost and opportunity. A top-flight software engineer who is paid \$100,000 a year in the Midwest might well command \$200,000 or more in the Bay Area. The Midwest, the optimists say, also has ample tech talent, with excellent engineers coming out of major state and private universities in the region. But they also point to technology shifts. As technology transforms nontech industries like health care, agriculture, transportation, finance and manufacturing, the Midwest investors argue that being close to customers will be more important than being close to the wellspring of technology." <http://nyti.ms/2B4PTSb>

MEDIAWATCH -- DAVID GURA to MSNBC -- per Talking Biz News' Chris Roush: "Gura has joined MSNBC as an anchor and correspondent. Gura had been with Bloomberg TV since March 2015. He has been the anchor of 'Bloomberg Markets: The Trump Economy' on Bloomberg Television and also co-anchor of 'Bloomberg Surveillance' on Bloomberg Radio. ... Previously, he was a senior reporter for, and the principal back-up host of, 'Marketplace.'" <http://bit.ly/2ziYyn5>

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) walking into Dulles Sunday, carrying his own bags.

WEEKEND WEDDING -- NATALIE BUCHANAN, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's member services director, married **SEAN JOYCE**, former chief of staff to Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-N.C.) Saturday night in Charleston, South Carolina. The ceremony was at St. Mary's Catholic Church and the reception was at Governor Thomas Bennett House. **SPOTTED:** House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), Mike and Katie Shields, Rob Simms, Barrett Karr, James Min, Freddy Barnes, Tim Berry, Todd and Jessica Johnson, Brian O. and Natasha Walsh, Tim and Holly Pataki and Tori Emerson Barnes.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of PBS "NewsHour". **How she got her start in journalism:** "After college, I worked in Atlanta as a TV newsroom secretary; that combined with a short stint as weekend 'weather girl' (like Cinderella, I cleaned film and answered phones during the week; did weather on

Sunday nights) led to my first reporting job: covering the Georgia state legislature and Atlanta politics for another station: an opening created after the only woman reporter left to have a baby." **Read her Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2zi9Ojf>

BIRTHDAYS: former Vice President Joe Biden is 75 ... former U.N. Amb. John Bolton is 69 ... Charlie Cook ... Politico's Sushant Sagar, Dan Goldberg, Ian Kullgren, Jeff Amster and Margaret Rives ... Philip Ewing, national security editor at NPR ... Jay Lefkowitz ... Don Baker is 85 ... Ryan Struyk, a data reporter and mobile producer for CNN (h/t Mariam Khan) ... Carlton Owen, president and CEO of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities ... Cecelia Prewett, SVP at SKDKnickerbocker, former FTC and Hill staffer (h/t Jon Haber) ... Matt Miller ... Jayne Sandman, principal at BrandLinkDC ... Bloomberg TV's Julie Hyman ... Parita Shah, "a huge 90s hip hop fan" (h/ts Ben Chang and Adrienne Elrod) ... Shawn Hils, a DNC research alum ... Deborah Adler ... Aaron Harison, president of the Washington Free Beacon ... Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) is 58 ... Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) is 38 ... Boyd Bailey ... Robert Edmonson, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's chief of staff, is 33. He celebrated over the weekend with brunch at The Bird with friends (h/t Mitchell Rivard) ...

... **Brian Reisinger**, senior adviser to Scott Walker, alum of Ron Johnson and Lamar Alexander, and "always a Sauk County gentleman" is 33 (h/t William Allison) ... Cassie Gerhardstein of McConnell's leadership shop (h/t Steve Bradford) ... Emily Matthews, a digital strategist at Saguaro Strategies (h/t Andy Barr) ... HFA alum Courtney Corbisiero ... John Darnton ... Linda Bowman ... Vincent Coppola ... Elizabeth O'Connor ... Ciara Torres-Spelliscy ... Toni Nissi ... Jenevieve Newman Beavers ... Nikki Buffa, Obama Interior alum now counsel at Latham & Watkins ... Alex Navarro-McKay, a managing director at BerlinRosen ... Alexis Weiss ... Al Baldasaro ... Ciara Torres-Spelliscy ... Beth Foster (h/t Teresa Vilmain)

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