

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Sat 8/26/2017 12:12:12 AM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trump pardons former Sheriff Arpaio

President Donald Trump pardoned attorney former Sheriff Joe Arpaio on Friday.

Arpaio had been convicted of federal contempt. The outspoken immigration opponent has long backed Trump. The president teased a pardon during a campaign rally in Phoenix on Tuesday.

The White House cited a lifetime of public service in announcing Arpaio's pardon.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/08/25/trump-pardons-former-sheriff-arpaio-242053>

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Thur 8/31/2017 10:31:49 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by American Bankers Association: BREAKING: Chemical plant explodes outside Houston -- BEHIND THE SCENES of the GOP call on Harvey aid -- SPOTTED: Gary Cohn unwinds at Fiola Mare after presidential snub -- B'DAY: Tom Kaplan

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by American Bankers Association

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

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Driving the Day

BREAKING at 5:02 a.m. -- **HOUSTON CHRONICLE: "Explosions reported at flooded Crosby chemical plant,"** by Keri Blakinger, Matt Dempsey and Andrew Kragie: "The Harris County Emergency Operations Center is reporting two explosions and black smoke coming from the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, according to a statement from the company.

"Arkema said Harris County officials notified the company about the explosions around 2 a.m. Thursday ... The company said it had agreed with local authorities that, because of the volatile chemicals involved, 'the best course of action is to let the fire burn itself out.'

"Within two hours of the explosions, sheriff's deputies were dispatched to block off roads in the area. One deputy was taken to the hospital after inhaling fumes, the Harris County Sheriff's Office tweeted about 4 a.m. Thursday. ... A spokeswoman for the county fire marshal's office warned that it's not clear whether all residents had followed the evacuation order given for the area with 1.5 miles of the plant." <http://bit.ly/2wV21GB>

SPOTTED -- GARY COHN with two other gentlemen and a bottle of red wine sitting outside at Fiola Mare just hours after the president failed to mention him in his tax reform speech. **SUSAN RICE** was sitting at a table nearby.

Good Thursday morning and happy final day of August. **BEHIND THE SCENES OF LAST NIGHT'S GOP LEADERSHIP CALL ON HARVEY AID -- COMING IN SEPTEMBER** -- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) organized a call yesterday to help get lawmakers on the same page on Hurricane Harvey aid. One Republican on the call told us afterwards that **THE PRICE TAG MIGHT EXCEED**

KATRINA, a sentiment shared by many lawmakers and members of the administration.

HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP STEVE SCALISE (R-La.) -- who was shot two-and-a-half months ago -- joined in on the call with OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, officials from FEMA and DHS, members of the Texas delegation and House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey. Mulvaney talked about the massive package that Congress would need to pass to rehab Houston after the storm, and noted it would be complicated because the U.S. government is nearing the end of a fiscal year, and the debt ceiling is approaching. Whatever Congress spends might impact the time frame with which Congress needs to lift the debt ceiling, multiple people on the call told us.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO GET SOMETHING DONE IN SEPTEMBER -- that was the message on the call. Aid is likely to come in installments, because officials are not sure about the extent of the damage.

REP. TED POE (R-TEXAS), who represents a slice of western, northwestern and northeastern Houston, said on the call that it was very helpful that President Donald Trump came to Texas to show that Washington is acting. *More details from Rachael Bade, John Bresnahan and Sarah Ferris* <http://politi.co/2erFYQo>

GOP CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS still want to marry a government funding bill, Harvey aid and the debt ceiling. We'll see if that's possible.

TRUMP is meeting with H.R. McMaster in the morning and OMB Director Mick Mulvaney in the afternoon.

THE NEXT BATTLE -- "Trump Administration Wants to Stabilize Health Markets but Won't Say How," by NYT's Robert Pear: "A Trump administration official said Wednesday that the administration wanted to stabilize health insurance markets, but refused to say if the government would promote enrollment this fall under the Affordable Care Act or pay for the activities of counselors who help people sign up for coverage.

"The official also declined to say whether the administration would continue paying subsidies to insurance companies to compensate them for reducing deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs for low-income people. Without the subsidies, insurers say, they would sharply increase premiums. The administration, the official suggested, will do the minimum necessary to comply with the law, which Mr. Trump has called 'an absolute disaster' and threatened to let collapse. 'I don't think we can force people to sign up for the program,' the official said." <http://nyti.ms/2x8oKOC>

-- **WE KEEP HEARING** about the prospect of some sort of fall health care deal. No one knows what would be in a package like that. But Republicans, when they're being honest, would say they want to continue CSR payments to stabilize Obamacare markets, but need some serious reforms to the law. The politics of taking up a health care bill after failing to repeal and replace Obamacare for Republicans is tricky to say the least.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE A1 -- "THREATS RISE FROM RESERVOIRS, RIVERS: As sun finally returns, a devastated region tallies the damage." <http://bit.ly/2eInIEB>

HOUSTON CHRONICLE -- "More than 30 people reported dead from Harvey, and officials expect toll to rise" <http://bit.ly/2grYQzI>

THE LATEST ON HARVEY -- "The Sun Came Out in Houston. Here's What Residents Saw," by NYT's Monica Davey in Houston: "The water has receded in some parts of the city, leaving cakes of mud, branches and garbage baking in the heat wherever the current dropped them. Abandoned cars, too, appear every so often, left where they were in the moment the storm overtook them. The downtown streets are dry now, but the gleaming office towers are mostly empty and the wide sidewalks oddly quiet. Some streetlights flash red. Along neighborhood streets, long strips of businesses sit shuttered, darkened and with stools atop tables and handwritten signs promising to reopen soon. On one dry block, a jogger ran by in the steamy Houston heat, as neighbors collected debris that had grown tangled in their lawns.

"Not far away, barricades marked off a street where darkened houses and cars suddenly vanished into a murky brown soup that showed no sign of retreat. In the silence, a shredded tree bobbed in the water near the tops of submerged cars. Such were the scenes of Houston on Wednesday, as the sun appeared at last - the first sign of blue sky in nearly a week - and as some in the city began to come out of their homes to see what was left. The images were a study in contrast in this vast city: of neighborhoods moving on and of others doing anything but that." <http://nyti.ms/2vup2Qx>

-- **"Birds-eye view of flooded Houston captures Harvey's totality,"** by AP's Paul J. Weber: "Flying over the Houston area most days is a postcard of America: crisscrossing highways, skyscrapers, hulking shopping plazas, oil refineries, big houses, cattle pastures. Then there's the view after Harvey. 'I had an idea, but once you can get up there and actually physically see it, the water is never-ending,' said David Phillip, an Associated Press photographer who has called Houston home for two decades. Phillip got a bird's-eye view this week after Harvey dumped more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain in and around the nation's fourth-largest city. His photographs show rows of suburban streets turned into canals and brownish floodwaters creeping up to rooftops. In one photo, a mansion's long cul-de-sac driveway resembles a drawbridge over a moat." **With 14 pix** <http://bit.ly/2gl6Le9>

-- **"How Harvey Will Change Texas: The storm's most lasting legacy might be the end of the Lone Star State's rugged individualism,"** by Richard Parker in POLITICO Magazine: "Texans might pride themselves on their rugged individualism, but this time, they'll have no choice but to accept years of state and federal help for the recovery. By the time Harvey leaves the city on Wednesday, Greater Houston will have been drenched with 1 trillion gallons of water and an estimated 30,000 people will be living in temporary housing. [FEMA] expects to receive at least 450,000 claims for damage caused by the storm. And early estimates point to at least \$150 billion in total economic

losses." <http://politi.co/2xP3gUg>

***** **A message from the American Bankers Association:** The banking industry is the single most important supplier of credit to the nation's agriculture sector, providing nearly 50 percent of all loans to America's farmers and ranchers. Learn how banks are helping farmers grow. <http://politi.co/2wwho81> *****

THE BIG PICTURE -- "The reality beneath Trump's tax reform talk," by Brian Faler: "President Donald Trump's tax plans hardly match his populist rhetoric. Though he sold his plan to rewrite the tax code as a boon to the average American worker in a speech Wednesday, he mostly focused on the taxes paid by America's largest corporations. Trump argued that his plans to cut the 35 percent corporate tax rate for the first time in 30 years would benefit regular wage earners by putting more money in corporate coffers, which he said business leaders would then use to hire more people and raise wages.

"But most economists say companies' shareholders would be the primary beneficiaries of a corporate tax rate cut. That's because it would make companies more profitable, which would boost their stock price while also leaving them with more money to pay out dividends. The official Joint Committee on Taxation, as well as the Treasury Department and the independent Tax Policy Center, all say shareholders bear roughly three-quarters of the burden of the corporate tax, and therefore would be the main winners were it cut." <http://politi.co/2vumf9T>

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Federal judge blocks Texas' tough 'sanctuary cities' law," by AP's Paul J. Weber and Will Weissert in Austin: "A federal judge late Wednesday temporarily blocked most of Texas' tough new 'sanctuary cities' law that would have let police officers ask people during routine stops whether they're in the U.S. legally and threatened sheriffs with jail time for not cooperating with federal immigration authorities. The law, known as Senate Bill 4, had been cheered by President Donald Trump's administration and was set to take effect Friday. It was widely viewed as the toughest immigration measure in the nation since Arizona passed what critics called a 'Show Me Your Papers' law in 2010, which was later partially struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court." <http://bit.ly/2xArvWY>

SPLIT -- "Top advisers in more displays of disagreement with Trump," by Reuters' Jonathan Landay and Jeff Mason: "Defense Secretary Jim Mattis openly differed with his commander in chief over North Korea on Wednesday, the latest example of a once-rare public display of disagreement by top U.S. aides that has become more frequent under President Donald Trump. 'We are never out of diplomatic solutions,' Mattis told reporters, just hours after Trump said in a tweet that 'talking is not the answer' to the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs." <http://reut.rs/2wkmjli>

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU on DONALD TRUMP to DANIELLE WEISBERG and CARLY ZAKIN of theSKIMM: "It may be surprising to some that he's

... [long pause] ... he's authentic in that the person he is on-camera, in public, is very true to the person he is in private. There's a consistency there that one can work with."

THE LATEST ON RUSSIA -- "Russian lobbyist testifies to Mueller grand jury," by FT's Katrina Manson: "Rinat Akhmetshin, the lobbyist and former Soviet army officer who met senior Trump campaign aides at a controversial meeting last year, has given evidence before a grand jury investigation, according to two people familiar with the matter. Mr. Akhmetshin gave testimony under oath for several hours on Friday August 11, in a sign that special counsel Robert Mueller is looking at the 2016 meeting as part of his investigation into links between Donald Trump's election campaign and Russia. ... In an interview with the Financial Times, Mr. Akhmetshin refused to comment on the grand jury appearance. 'I don't know what you're talking about ... I'm not commenting on anything,' he said, adding he has 'deference' for Mr Mueller's probe and promises 'full co-operation' with any investigations. Peter Carr, spokesman for the special counsel's office, also declined to comment." <http://on.ft.com/2ekN2uj>

-- "Trump Lawyer 'Vehemently' Denies Russian Collusion," by NYT's Maggie Haberman and Matt Apuzzo: "President Trump's longtime lawyer, Michael D. Cohen, has given Congress a point-by-point rebuttal of a dossier alleging that he has deep ties to Russian officials - an effort to clear his name as the Justice Department and congressional committees investigate Russia's attempts to disrupt last year's election. ... In an eight-page letter to the House Intelligence Committee, a lawyer for Mr. Cohen offered a full-throated rejection of any suggestion that Mr. Cohen was involved in an effort to work with Russia to disrupt the election. 'We have not uncovered a single document that would in any way corroborate the dossier's allegations regarding Mr. Cohen, nor do we believe that any such document exists,' wrote the lawyer, Stephen M. Ryan. 'Mr. Cohen vehemently denies the claims made in the dossier about him, which are false and remain wholly unsubstantiated.'" <http://nyti.ms/2elhPai>

JOSH DAWSEY SCOOP -- "Mueller teams up with New York attorney general in Manafort probe": "Special counsel Robert Mueller's team is working with New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on its investigation into Paul Manafort and his financial transactions, according to several people familiar with the matter. The cooperation is the latest indication that the federal probe into President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman is intensifying. It also could potentially provide Mueller with additional leverage to get Manafort to cooperate in the larger investigation into Trump's campaign, as Trump does not have pardon power over state crimes.

"The two teams have shared evidence and talked frequently in recent weeks about a potential case, these people said. One of the people familiar with progress on the case said both Mueller's team and Schneiderman's have collected evidence on financial crimes, including potential money laundering. No decision has been made on where or whether to file charges. 'Nothing is imminent,' said one of the people familiar with the case." <http://politi.co/2x74Xzq>

-- "Paul Manafort's Overseas Political Work Had a Notable Patron: A Russian

Oligarch," by WSJ's Brett Forrest: <http://on.wsj.com/2il2xRW>

AT FOGGY BOTTOM -- "With Departure of Top Lawyer, State Department Exodus Continues," by Foreign Policy's Colum Lynch and Robbie Gramer: "A senior State Department lawyer, Todd Buchwald, is stepping down in the coming weeks, joining scores of career civil and foreign service officers fleeing an administration that critics say has diminished the standing of U.S. diplomacy, according to friends and colleagues. ... Buchwald's imminent resignation follows last week's exodus of three other top career diplomats who oversee the department's policies on Europe, the United Nations, and narcotics and law enforcement, respectively." <http://atfp.co/2wpUgFx>

LAST CHANCE! -- PLAYBOOK ON THE ROAD -- Send us a photo of yourself, or others reading Playbook during your travels this month. Email photos to Daniel daniel@politico.com, or tweet photos with #PlaybookLoyal for a chance to be featured tomorrow in our last Playbook on the Road installment and be entered into a contest to win a signed Matt Wuerker cartoon.

REMEMBERING ROLLIE MASSIMINO -- Philadelphia Inquirer: "Rollie Massimino, the crafty little coach whose successful and sometimes controversial career at Villanova will be colored forever by the Wildcats' startling 1985 NCAA championship and by his role in the downfall of a beloved Philadelphia basketball institution, died Wednesday. Mr. Massimino, 82, had been battling lung cancer for several years." <http://bit.ly/2vHvq2N>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Evacuees from Tropical Storm Harvey fill the Max Bowl as others continue to pour in for shelter at the business in Port Arthur, Texas, on Aug. 30. | Kim Brent/The Beaumont Enterprise via AP

THE OPPOSITION -- "Dems' 2020 dilemma: Familiar 70-somethings vs. neophyte no-names," by Isaac Dove in Manchester, N.H.: "Old but well-known vs. fresh but anonymous: That's how the 2020 Democratic presidential field is shaping up so far - and it's causing anxiety within a party starting to acknowledge that President Donald Trump could be harder to beat for reelection than the base would like to admit. The older generation - Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders-would be tested and experienced on the national stage, with high name recognition and built-in support. They'd also all be in their 70s, people who've been around forever for Donald Trump to use as perfect foils for exactly what he stands against.

"Then there's everyone else looking at a White House run who could embody a new start, separate from the Washington and political establishment that repel voters. But they're virtually unknown, and they'd be running against the most famous man in the world who's proven he can dominate every news cycle. If only, Democrats say, there was some person under 55 who had any profile. 'That person doesn't exist,' said

Howard Dean, the 2004 presidential candidate and former [DNC] chair. Dean, who's 68, is clear on which option he wants: 'I have nothing against any of the people my age who will run, but I really do believe that if we're going to appeal to the younger generation, we've got to change the party.'" <http://politi.co/2x7XZdp>

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THE FAM -- "Kushners' China Deal Flop Was Part of Much Bigger Hunt for Cash," by Bloomberg's David Kocieniewski and Caleb Melby: "Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law and top adviser, wakes up each morning to a growing problem that will not go away. His family's real estate business, Kushner Cos., owes hundreds of millions of dollars on a 41-story office building on Fifth Avenue. It has failed to secure foreign investors, despite an extensive search, and its resources are more limited than generally understood. As a result, the tower poses a significant challenge to the company. Over the past two years, executives and family members have sought substantial overseas investment from previously undisclosed places: South Korea's sovereign-wealth fund, France's richest man, Israeli banks and insurance companies, and exploratory talks with a Saudi developer, according to former and current executives. These were in addition to previously reported attempts to raise money in China and Qatar." <https://bloom.bg/2wLioFI>

IVANKA WATCH - "Ivanka Trump supports rollback of Obama's policy to close gender pay gap," by The Guardian's Sabrina Siddiqui: "Ivanka Trump, who came into her father's administration vowing to fight for women in the workplace, has blessed a White House plan to roll back an Obama-era policy aimed at eliminating the gender pay gap. The initiative, which was unveiled by Barack Obama in January 2016, would have required employers to collect data on how much they pay their workers, broken down by gender, race and ethnicity. ... 'Ultimately, while I believe the intention was good and agree that pay transparency is important, the proposed policy would not yield the intended results,' Trump said in a statement." <http://bit.ly/2qqVIDN>

HMM -- "The Militarization of the Hamptons: Why is a heavily armed counterterrorism force patrolling the parties of the rich and famous?" by Joe Nocera in Bloomberg View: "Yes, it's true, the town of Southampton, New York, with its 55,000 year-round residents -- and its deserved reputation as a summer playground for the rich and famous -- now has its very own counterterrorism squad. Its members were first sighted in April, when cops wearing bulletproof vests and carrying fully loaded AR-15s showed up at the Bridgehampton Half Marathon, where they spent most of their

time milling around the finish line." <https://bloom.bg/2xA5TtU>

CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY's big 3 story package on campaign finance reform - "Democrats say 'Citizens United' should die. Here's why that won't happen," by Sarah Kleiner: <http://bit.ly/2xzUkTk> ... "Statehouses, not Congress, hosting biggest political money fights," by Ashley Balcerzak: <http://bit.ly/2wkrEil> ... "Campaign regulation foes targeting state-level restrictions," by Ashley Balcerzak: <http://bit.ly/2x8vagQ>

Playbookers

SPOTTED: OMB's Douglas Sellers at Joe's Stone Crab yesterday celebrating his departure from OMB to join the OPIC team (h/t Craig Crutchfield).

TRANSITIONS -- Nate Tibbits has been promoted to be Qualcomm's SVP of global government affairs and public affairs. Nate most recently served as the acting head of government affairs at the company. ... **John Collison** has been named Of Counsel at gov't relations firm Ervin Hill Strategy. He most recently was a senior staffer to Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.).

... **Jennifer Mullin** started as director of public advocacy at Exelon. She's a Tom Vilsack and Tom Harkin alum and was most recently at Uber as a senior member of the public affairs team. ... The Atlantic Council has named **Jason Marczak** as the new director of its Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Scott Jennings, principal at RunSwitch Public Relations in Louisville and a Bush WH alum, and **Autumn Jennings**, senior accountant for American Society of Oncology in Alexandria, email friends and family: "Autumn and I are pleased to announce that baby #4 has arrived! Our latest came this morning (August 30) at 9:25 a.m. He weighed seven pounds and is 19 and ¾ inches long (the smallest of the four Jennings brothers). Mama and baby are resting comfortably at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville, KY. The baby came quickly [Wednesday] morning - we walked into this place at 8 a.m.! This baby has a name: Harlan Lowell Mitchell Jennings." **Pic** <http://politi.co/2wV4a5l>

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: NYT congressional correspondent **Thomas Kaplan**. How he's celebrating: "This is my first birthday in Washington - I moved here at the start of the year - and I'll be getting drinks with friends in Shaw. This should be a big improvement over my birthday last year, when my celebration consisted of sitting around for hours in the Cincinnati airport after covering a Hillary Clinton speech." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2ilwFwH>

BIRTHDAYS: Tommy Vietor, cohost of "Pod Save America," host of "Pod Save the World" and founder of Crooked Media ... NYT's Patrick Healy ... Michael Finnegan ... Ryan Stanton, director of U.S. gov't affairs and comms at Rio Tinto and a Sphere and

Levick alum (hat tip: Jim Courtovich) ... Hillary DeParde ... Lauren Fine, press secretary for Whip Scalise ... former Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) ... Politico's Kim Hefling and Paul Demko ... Ed Goeas, president and CEO of the Tarrance Group ... Rachel Oliver ... Lenny Stern, co-founder of SS+K (h/t Jon Haber) ... Politico Europe's Mathilde Ciocci ... Alison Schwartz ... Paul Garrahan ... Scott Shalett ... Jennifer Shutt ... Christopher Dickey, Paris-based foreign editor for The Daily Beast ... Ryan Ellis, tax consultant and Akin Gump consultant ... Mattie Duppler, who celebrated her 30th with a training ruck last night with her friends as they prepare for their October GORUCK to raise money for the Third Option Foundation ...

... **Alex Schriver**, SVP of public affairs at Targeted Victory ... Brian Johnson, aka the Hungry Lobbyist, federal affairs director at American Petroleum Institute, who celebrated with friends at Dacha in Shaw yesterday, the one year anniversary of his engagement -- he gets married to Morgan Gress in a month ... Meghan Barr ... Jess Levin ... Nick Horowitz ... Fox News' Leland Vittert ... Justin Meyers ... Alison Fox ... Ramzi Nemo ... Jordan Ball ... Kaylin Minton ... Sam Merchant ... Ida Rukavina ... Brian Garcia ... Lori Stith ... Deadspin editor Tim Marchman ... Adam Dolin, associate at the Global Impact Investing Network (h/t Michael Knopf) ... West Foster ... Neil Alpert ... Bennett Resnik, manager of gov't relations/regulatory affairs at Cardinal Infrastructure ... Elizabeth Pemmerl ... Elizabeth Whitehouse ... Kent Klein ... Jill Rackmill ... Beth Roberts ... Iris Krasnow ... John Leary ... Liz Kurantowicz ... Steve Smith (Calif.) ... Tricia Yates ... Karisa Johnson ... Ethan Gray ... Barb Helmick ... Philip Smucker ... Gabbrealle Allen (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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