

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 12/6/2017 11:33:40 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by PhRMA: WILDFIRES RAVAGE California -- POPE urges Trump to keep status quo in Israel, as REX gets a chilly reception in Europe -- THREE DAYS UNTIL GOV'T SHUTDOWN -- Holes in Trump's political operation -- B'DAY: Don Nickles

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by PhRMA

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

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Driving the Day

JUST POSTED -- AP'S JOSH LEDERMAN: "Doctors identify brain abnormalities in Cuba attack patients": "Doctors treating the U.S. Embassy victims of mysterious, invisible attacks in Cuba have discovered brain abnormalities as they search for clues to explain the hearing, vision, balance and memory damage, The Associated Press has learned.

"It's the most specific finding to date about physical damage, showing that whatever it was that harmed the Americans, it led to perceptible changes in their brains. The finding is also one of several factors fueling growing skepticism that some kind of sonic weapon was involved." <http://bit.ly/2Ay35S2>

Good Wednesday morning. REMEMBER: The government shuts down Friday. Neither chamber of Congress will have a government funding bill on the floor today -- the House delayed its funding vote until Thursday. Congressional leaders go to the White House tomorrow. Rep. Al Green, Democrat from Texas, says he will force a vote on impeaching **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** today. Watch that vote. It could be a tough one for some Democrats. House Republicans are expected to be united in opposition.

-- **STEVEN SHEPARD,** with the latest POLITICO/Morning Consult poll: "Sixty-three percent say members of Congress should avoid a shutdown at all costs. Only 18 percent of voters surveyed say members should allow a temporary government shutdown if it helps them achieve their policy goals. The remaining 19 percent of voters are undecided." <http://politi.co/2knFs8r>

IN CALIFORNIA -- "Ventura County wildfire rages over 50,000 acres, reaches

Pacific Ocean as it jumps 101 Freeway," by L.A. Times' Ruben Vives, Laura Nelson, Sarah Parvini, Matt Hamilton and Sonali Kohli: "The destructive Thomas fire finally met a fire line it could not jump: the Pacific Ocean. The fast-moving, wind-driven wildfire continued to rage through the city of Ventura on Tuesday evening, jumping Highway 33 and burning through oil fields before crossing the 101 Freeway into Solimar Beach, authorities said.

"The blaze has consumed 50,500 acres on its journey to the ocean. The 101 remains open, but authorities warned drivers to be cautious traveling through the area. Thousands of homes were still threatened by flames, 27,000 people were forced to flee, a firefighter was injured and Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency, as some 1,100 personnel continued to battle the blaze." <http://bit.ly/2BKEOWS>

HAPPENING TODAY -- "Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital," by Nahal Toosi and Andrew Restuccia: "President Donald Trump will announce Wednesday that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and will eventually relocate its embassy there - a declaration that could spur violent protests in the Middle East and undermine the White House's effort to strike a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

"Trump is making the announcement despite criticism from numerous U.S. allies, including France, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which have urged him to avoid the extremely sensitive topic. The president is still open to the possibility of a two-state solution, and he understands that the final borders of Israel and a future Palestinian state remain subject to negotiations, senior administration officials told reporters Tuesday. Trump will also not declare that Jerusalem must be the 'undivided' capital of Israel, an official told POLITICO." <http://politi.co/2jW1FGJ>

-- **SPOTTED** at the Israeli Embassy Hanukkah party last night: Jason Greenblatt, Trump's Middle East negotiator.

-- **NYT'S GARDINER HARRIS in BRUSSELS:** "Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson's reception in Brussels was distinctly chilly, as disappointment among European diplomats in President Trump's nationalistic tone and insulting messages on Twitter built into quiet fury on the eve of an expected announcement that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Such a move could infuriate the Palestinians, who want East Jerusalem to be their capital in a future Palestinian state. ... 'We believe that any action that would undermine these efforts must absolutely be avoided,' said Federica Mogherini, the European Union's top diplomat. 'A way must be found through negotiations to resolve the status of Jerusalem as a future capital of both states.' ...

"Mr. Tillerson's spokesman, R.C. Hammond, acknowledged the less-than-warm reception. 'Allies have been very frank today in sharing some of their views,' Mr. Hammond said." <http://nyti.ms/2AAcbM1>

DISSENT -- "VATICAN CITY (AP) - Pope Francis urges status quo for Jerusalem, calls for 'wisdom and prudence' to avoid further conflict." ... **BARAK RAVID (@BarakRavid):** "Chinese foreign ministry: We are concerned by Trump's intention to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This decision might lead to an escalation" ... "French president Macron called Jordan King Abdullah to discuss Trump's upcoming speech on Jerusalem. The king told Macron Trump's will have dangerous consequences of security and stability in the region".

-- **GLOBE AND MAIL's** Michelle Zilio in Ottawa: "A government official told The Globe and Mail on Tuesday that Canada will keep its embassy in Tel Aviv. The official also said Canada still does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital city, despite reports Mr. Trump will declare the U.S. does during a speech on Wednesday."
<https://tgam.ca/2is7tHJ>

-- **U.S. AND PHILIPPINES ON THE SAME PAGE: @DanWilliams:** "Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte tells Israel he's interested in moving his country's embassy to Jerusalem - @ReshetBet".

-- **REUTERS: "Palestinian envoy says U.S. recognition of Jerusalem is 'declaring war'"**: "'If he says what he is intending to say about Jerusalem being the capital of Israel, it means a kiss of death to the two state solution,' Manuel Hassassian said in a BBC radio interview. 'He is declaring war in the Middle East, he is declaring war against 1.5 billion Muslims (and) hundreds of millions of Christians that are not going to accept the holy shrines to be totally under the hegemony of Israel' Hassassian added."
<http://reut.rs/2B4tZBY>

-- **@KhaledAbuToameh:** "HAMAS declares Friday a DAY OF RAGE to protest Trump's intention to move US embassy to Jerusalem and calls for confrontations with Israel after Friday prayers."

SHOT -- @joshledermanAP: "Here in Brussels, British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson just called on Trump administration to offer a Mideast peace plan quickly following Trump's #Jerusalem move".

CHASER -- Senior Trump administration official: "The President will reiterate how committed he is to peace. While we understand how some parties might react, we are still working on our plan which is not yet ready. We have time to get it right and see how people feel after this news is processed over the next period of time."

SHELDON ADELSON'S PAPER -- ISRAEL HAYOM FRONT PAGE: "The eyes are on Jerusalem" -- *Front page, with photo of Trump at the Wailing Wall*
<http://bit.ly/2iYPwAZ>

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- An 11:30 a.m. cabinet meeting, followed by a 1 p.m. statement on Jerusalem.

AROUND THE TAX HORN ... "Holy crap': Experts find tax plan riddled with glitches," by Brian Faler: "Republicans' tax-rewrite plans are riddled with bugs, loopholes and other potential problems that could plague lawmakers long after their legislation is signed into law. Some of the provisions could be easily gamed, tax lawyers say. Their plans to cut taxes on 'pass-through' businesses in particular could open broad avenues for tax avoidance.

"Others would have unintended results, like a last-minute decision by the Senate to keep the alternative minimum tax, which was designed to make sure wealthy people and corporations don't escape taxes altogether. For many businesses, that would nullify the value of a hugely popular break for research and development expenses. Some provisions are so vaguely written they leave experts scratching their heads, like a proposal to begin taxing the investment earnings of rich private universities' endowments." <http://politi.co/2Ax1ax1>

-- **"Trump pressuring congressional Republicans to speed up on tax reform,"** by Nancy Cook and Aaron Lorenzo: "We want it to proceed as quickly as possible, and we've communicated that to the Hill in a lot of ways,' said Marc Short, White House director of legislative affairs. 'There are not a lot of outstanding issues remaining, and we're not looking to open up Pandora's box.'" <http://politi.co/2AcMsw7>

THE HOUSE AND SENATE TAX BILLS handle nearly every single issue in a different way. There actually are a lot of outstanding issues remaining. The issues appear to be solvable, according to sources involved in the talks.

-- **"California Republicans Push to Preserve Income-Tax Deduction,"** by WSJ's Rich Rubin and Siobhan Hughes: "Though the House and Senate have voted to repeal the deduction for state income taxes in Republican tax overhaul plans, it isn't dead yet. California Republicans are pushing for an income-tax deduction in the final tax bill being worked out by lawmakers in a House-Senate conference committee on tax legislation. ... California Republicans would like the \$10,000 cap to be higher. And they want at a minimum to let taxpayers deduct \$10,000 against either property or income taxes, said Rep. Mimi Walters (R-Calif.)." <http://on.wsj.com/2k15F9g>

-- **"Tax Plan Crowns a Big Winner: Trump's Industry,"** by NYT's Patricia Cohen and Jesse Drucker: <http://nyti.ms/2AyTo3r>

***** **A message from PhRMA** : A medicine's path from the biopharmaceutical company to the patient involves many entities across the supply chain. A new report examines how money flows through this system - which includes wholesalers, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies and insurers - and how that impacts what patients pay at the pharmacy. Read more. <http://onphr.ma/2kqd6Nu> *****

UP NEXT! ... -- "After Push on Taxes, Republicans Line Up Welfare Revamp Next: Trump and GOP lawmakers ready to kick off fight to overhaul social programs," by WSJ's Louise Radnofsky: "The president didn't offer specifics about which of the dozens

of welfare programs he was seeking to change, or how. But congressional Republicans who have been pushing him for months to pursue the issue have proposed layering tougher work requirements on beneficiaries of programs such as food stamps, which are used by around 43 million Americans, and the cash benefit known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, which is received by around 3.5 million people. ...

"A spokesman for Mr. Ryan said the goals for 2018 would be set at a conference retreat in January. But Mr. Jordan, a head of the conservative House Freedom Caucus who often has the ear of the president, has argued in recent weeks that the issue is one of the most winning ones with Mr. Trump's voters and should take center stage next year." <http://on.wsj.com/2nxdMzn>

-- **"Food stamp changes may usher in welfare reform push,"** by Helena Bottemiller Evich: "USDA signaled on Tuesday plans to give states greater flexibility over how they administer food stamps, potentially opening the door to stricter work requirements or drug testing on recipients. The announcement comes as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker announced that he would move ahead with drug testing on able-bodied adults applying for food stamps, something the Obama administration had successfully blocked in the past. The Trump administration is also expected to announce that it would allow states to impose work requirements for Medicaid recipients - moves that anti-poverty advocates see as an assault on the safety net for vulnerable Americans." <http://politi.co/2nx5HK>

-- **BEHIND THE SCENES**, there is a lot of trepidation about taking up a massive entitlement overhaul within months of a midterm election that could be bruising for the Republican Party, especially in the House. Welfare reform is something that could deeply divide House Republicans.

NYT'S JONATHAN MARTIN and MAGGIE HABERMAN: "Trump's Endorsement of Roy Moore Points Up a G.O.P. Problem: Chaos": "In a departure from every modern White House, Mr. Trump himself largely dictates whom to back and how to support his preferred candidates. Even before tensions between the president and Senate Republicans flared back up over Mr. Moore's candidacy, there was little regular communication between West Wing officials and Republicans overseeing the 2018 races, Republicans say.

"The scheduled meetings between the White House, the Republican National Committee and the House and Senate campaign committees stopped months ago. Congressional officials find it difficult to get presidential signoffs for even small requests like using Mr. Trump's name in direct-mail appeals, according to party officials. And less than a month until the election year begins, he has not scheduled a single fund-raiser for a candidate running for the House, Senate or governor. ...

"Yet the president does not completely understand his role as a principal, Republicans say, and his political operation does not have enough sway with him to make him fully grasp that he is the leader of the Republican Party. For example, he is

still telling his friends who attend high-dollar committee fund-raisers that they do not need to pay, the sort of favoritism that can create endless headaches for staff."

<http://nyti.ms/2BEzZh2>

-- **"The RNC's Silent Decision To Back Roy Moore Again - And How It Upset Everyone,"** by BuzzFeed's Henry J. Gomez and Alexis Levinson: "The [RNC's] renewed support for Roy Moore comes with a peculiar caveat: No one at the RNC is actually defending the decision publicly. The news broke late Monday, via Breitbart, the far-right website that never wavered in its support for Moore, even after accusations that the Alabama Senate candidate dated teenage girls as an adult and made sexual advances on a minor. Moore denies the allegations. RNC officials subsequently confirmed the move to BuzzFeed News and others on the condition that they not be identified in the stories.

"On Tuesday -- as the national party took a beating for the decision -- including from many fellow Republicans, the RNC remained silent. Several RNC committee members acknowledged frustrations but would not speak on the record. Senior party leaders punted questions to spokespersons who declined to comment. 'Oh man,' said a source close to the RNC. 'It's embarrassing.'" <http://bzfd.it/2knuDDI>

-- **"Bannon welcomes Moore back to the GOP fold at Alabama rally,"** by Kevin Robillard in Fairhope, Alabama: "Roy Moore is fully back in the Republican fold, and Steve Bannon was here to greet him. Moore, the GOP Senate candidate to replace Attorney General Jeff Sessions, has faced multiple accusations of predatory sexual behavior aimed at young women and girls. (Moore has denied the allegations.) The NRSC, RNC and a slew of elected officials pulled their support.

"Bannon held firm, and now President Donald Trump, the RNC and the GOP base are all back with the twice-ousted former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. At a rally here in a barn at Oak Hollow Farm, in an affluent suburb on the eastern shore of the Mobile Bay, Bannon, Moore and a host of other staunch backers of the president took turns taking shots at the media, the GOP establishment, and Moore's Democratic opponent, former U.S. Attorney Doug Jones. The rally here was a replay of a rally Bannon and a host of other conservative figures held for Moore on the eve of the September runoff." <http://politi.co/2knvJyX>

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Congress to Grill Trump's Data Guru and His Longtime Assistant," by The Daily Beast's Betsy Woodruff: "Alexander Nix, the data guru who offered to help Julian Assange distribute Hillary Clinton's emails, is scheduled to testify before the House intelligence committee on Dec. 14, according to a source familiar with the committee's interview schedule. The committee is also scheduled to interview Rhona Graff, Trump's longtime personal assistant, on Dec. 22. Rob Goldstone-the music publicist who helped arrange the notorious June 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, Donald Trump Jr., and Kremlin-linked Russian operatives-offered to send information on the meeting to Trump himself through Graff." <http://thebea.st/2Aww8W7>

-- "**Donald Trump Jr. asked Russian lawyer for info on Clinton Foundation,**" by NBC News' Ken Dilanian and Natasha Lebedeva: "Donald Trump Jr. asked a Russian lawyer at the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting whether she had evidence of illegal donations to the Clinton Foundation, the lawyer told the Senate Judiciary Committee in answers to written questions obtained exclusively by NBC News.

"**The lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, told the committee** that she didn't have any such evidence, and that she believes Trump misunderstood the nature of the meeting after receiving emails from a music promoter promising incriminating information on Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump's Democratic opponent. Once it became apparent that she did not have meaningful information about Clinton, Trump seemed to lose interest, Veselnitskaya said, and the meeting petered out." <http://nbcnews.to/2krExnm>

-- **JOSH MEYER: "Investigators probe European travel of Trump associates":** "Several people close to then-candidate Trump visited Europe during and after the campaign, including his son Donald Trump Jr., Trump lawyer Michael Cohen and foreign policy advisers Carter Page, George Papadopoulos and Jeffrey Gordon. Their known destinations include London, Paris, Budapest and Athens. But their explanations of those trips have not always been forthcoming, and some congressional investigators find their stories suspect." <http://politi.co/2jkgEuy>

THE JUICE...

-- **DANIELLE BURR** of Peck Madigan Jones is joining Uber as its new head of federal affairs.

--**HOT TICKET -- STEVE BANNON, NEWT GINGRICH, LAWRENCE KADISH and ED ROGERS** are hosting a book launch party for Corey Lewandowski and Dave Bossie's new book "Let Trump Be Trump" tomorrow night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Trump hotel. **See the invite** <http://politi.co/2irQ2aa>

--**PLAYBOOK HOLIDAY PARTY GUIDE -- Tonight:** The Hoover Institution is hosting its annual holiday party titled "A Winter Wonderland" at its D.C. office. ... **Tomorrow:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has its annual holiday reception at its HQ. ... CBS is having its annual holiday press party at Black Rock in NYC. ... The Economist is hosting a party to celebrate the publication of "The World in 2018" at Delicatessen in Soho in NYC. ... Sonoran Policy Group has a holiday party at the rooftop of the Graham in Georgetown.

...

... **Saturday:** Sara and Ron Bonjean will host their annual massive party this year titled "T'Was the 16th Night Before Christmas Party" at their home in Alexandria. ... **Sunday:** Lynne Weil and Nils Bruzelius have their annual Glogg party at their house on Capitol Hill.

YOU'RE INVITED -- Our first live podcast taping is **TOMORROW** night at 7 p.m. at

Sixth and I. Our inaugural guests: **MICHAEL BARBARO**, host of the New York Times' hit podcast "The Daily," **DCCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAN SENA** and **NRCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN ROGERS**. And a panel of **POLITICO** stars: **RACHAEL BADE**, **SEUNG MIN KIM** and **ANNIE KARNI**. Get your tickets now!
<http://bit.ly/2hWK7tF>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Former President Barack Obama shares a laugh with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel after Emanuel introduced Obama at a summit on climate change involving mayors from around the globe On Dec. 5 in Chicago. | Charles Rex Arbogast/AP Photo

CLICKER - "READ: The Op-Ed Manafort Is Accused Of Ghostwriting With A Russian Asset" - TPM: <http://bit.ly/2jY5QCc>

THE RESISTANCE -- "Consumer Bureau's New Leader Steers a Sudden Reversal," by NYT's Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Stacy Cowley: "Some employees, including a few of the bureau's top officials, have welcomed their new leader. Others, pointing to [Mick] Mulvaney's earlier hostility toward the agency and its mission, are quietly resisting. One small group calls itself 'Dumbledore's Army,' according to two of the people who were familiar with their discussions. The name is a reference to a secret resistance force in the 'Harry Potter' books. An atmosphere of intense anxiety has taken hold, several employees said. In some cases, conversations between staff that used to take place by phone or text now happen almost exclusively in person or through encrypted messaging apps." <http://nyti.ms/2zQKAEV>

BIG WEINSTEIN PIECE -- NYT'S MEGAN TWOHEY, JODI KANTOR, SUSAN DOMINUS, JIM RUTENBERG and STEVE EDER: "Weinstein's Complicity Machine: The producer Harvey Weinstein relied on powerful relationships across industries to provide him with cover as accusations of sexual misconduct piled up for decades": "A master of leverage, Mr. Weinstein parlayed his films into relationships across the worlds of entertainment, politics, publishing and beyond, achieving a stature that at times proved useful in intimidating others and protecting himself. 'I know the president of the United States. Who do you know?' Mr. Weinstein, a Democratic fund-raiser, would say during the years Barack Obama was in the White House, adding expletives. 'I'm Harvey Weinstein,' he used to say. 'You know what I can do.'

"In late September, emails show, he was discussing a documentary television show he was working on with Hillary Clinton. He had long raised campaign cash for her, and her feminist credentials helped burnish his image -- even though Tina Brown, the magazine editor, and Lena Dunham, the writer and actress, each say they had cautioned Mrs. Clinton's aides about his treatment of women. Now, Mr. Weinstein

exchanged questions about distribution rights for the show. 'I am hopeful we can get a good price for this,' Robert Barnett, Mrs. Clinton's lawyer, replied. ...

"In 2016, Lena Dunham, the writer and actress, said she was troubled by the producer's visible presence during Mrs. Clinton's presidential run, hosting fund-raisers and appearing at campaign events. She had heard stories, both directly and secondhand from other actresses, about disturbing encounters with him, she said. So in March last year, Ms. Dunham, a vocal Clinton supporter, said she warned the campaign." <http://nyti.ms/2AwCrsD>

LISTEN IN -- Anna talks with Centrolina chef Amy Brandwein in the latest Women Rule podcast. **Listen** <http://bit.ly/2irRyJo>

***** **A message from PhRMA** : A medicine's path from the biopharmaceutical company to the patient involves many entities across the supply chain. A new report examines how money flows through this system - which includes wholesalers, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies and insurers - and how that impacts what patients pay at the pharmacy. Read more. <http://onphr.ma/2kgd6Nu> *****

MEDIAWATCH -- "Behind the Murdochs' Sale Talks: Scale, Price and Family Dynamics," by WSJ's Amol Sharma, Joe Flint and Keach Hagey: "[T]he power-sharing arrangement instituted by Mr. Murdoch, 86 years old, in 2015 with the elevation of his sons, James and Lachlan, has faced stresses. The power-sharing setup made James Murdoch, 44, the chief executive of 21st Century Fox. Lachlan Murdoch, 46, is co-executive chairman of the company alongside his father and is viewed as the first among equals. At times, James has felt like a CEO in title only, according to some people who know him. These people say James was never keen about the setup, is ready for a new chapter in his career and has sometimes been on a different page from his father and brother. Despite having stepped down as CEO, the elder Mr. Murdoch has deepened his involvement in Fox, partly because he took the helm at Fox News last year to stabilize the network in the wake of a sexual-harassment scandal." <http://on.wsj.com/2AWxA4I>

-- **SCOOPLET -- FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE** was planning on including **SEN. AL FRANKEN** (D-Minn.) on its annual "Global Thinkers" list that was released this week. But they took him off the list when the sexual harassment allegations surfaced. A magazine spokeswoman told us: "[W]e were planning to make him an awardee but removed him from the list when we heard of his inappropriate behavior." Franken's office did not reply to a request for comment. **The list** <http://atfp.co/2AyyBNA>

Playbookers

SPOTTED: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi having dinner last night at Tosca with her husband Paul ... Susan Rice dining last night at La Piquette ... Sean Spicer walking

off a plane at DCA at 8:35 Tuesday evening, "wearing a sporty vest, earbuds in," per our tipster.

HOLIDAY PARTY CIRCUIT -- SPOTTED at the French Embassy's annual holiday gala at Ambassador Gérard Araud's residence in Kalorama: Justice and Mrs. Stephen Breyer, Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), and Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Tammy Haddad, Michael LaRosa, Phil Rucker, Jesse Rodriguez, Ryan Williams, Susan Glasser, Kevin Baron, Virginia Coyne, Eric Fanning, Neera Tanden, Wolf Blitzer, Jim Lehrer, Christine Lagarde, Vinoda Basnayake, Andrea Mitchell, Indira Lakshmanan, Ashley and Ben Chang, Suzanne Kianpour, David Sanger, Francesca Craig, Rima Al Sabah, Amb. Kim Darroch, Bob Barnett and Rita Braver, Amb. Dina Kavar, Fred and Ginny Ryan, Kristen Soltis Anderson, Elizabeth Thorp, Kathleen Biden, Steve Clemons, Paula Dobriansky, Ben Rhodes and Ann Norris, Jonathan Silver and Melissa Moss.

SPOTTED at Microsoft's annual Holiday Open House at the Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center on Tuesday night: Victoria Espinel, Mike Gallagher, Nuala O'Connor, Tammy Haddad, Dr. Bruce Gellin, Fred Humphries, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Reps. Jim Himes (D-Conn.), Lacy Clay (D-Mo.), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), Anthony Brown (D-Md.), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), Lou Correa (D-Calif.), Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.), Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.), Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), and Rick Larsen (D-Wash.).

TRANSITIONS -- Tim Cameron and Kegan Beran are launching a media strategy firm focused on helping Republicans with their paid media and digital efforts. Cameron previously served as the top digital strategist for the NRSC, former Speaker Newt Gingrich, and House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Beran previously served as president of Strategic Media Placement where he advised clients including Mike Pence, John Kasich, NRSC, Sens. John Boozman (R-Ark.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), and Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

BIRTHWEEK (was Monday): former Transportation Secretary Mary Peters turned 69.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE DAY: former Sen. **Don Nickles** (R-Okla.), now chairman and CEO of the Nickles Group. He's celebrating by "having lunch with kids at Nobu ... dinner with spouse at Chez Francois." **His assessment of how the Trump presidency is going:** "His tweets are undermining the office ... and his chances of success." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2B62Dv9>

--**Julian E. Zelizer**, professor of history and public affairs at Princeton and a CNN political analyst. **How he got his start in his career:** "My academic career started when I finished my Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University writing a dissertation about Wilbur Mills -- the congressman who wrote Medicare but was more famous for dipping into the Tidal Basin with an Argentine stripper named Fanne Fox. Early on, I also caught the

journalism bug. I earned my chops by appearing on the local CBS morning news show in upstate New York (once the hosts were dressed in Survivor costumes) and talking with callers about the NFL on the local ESPN radio as 'the professor.'" **Q&A:**
<http://politi.co/2kmVsHM>

BIRTHDAYS: N.Y. Gov. Andrew Cuomo is 6-0 ... former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is 72 (hat tip: Jill Zuckman) ... National Law Journal's Cogan Schneier (h/t roommate and former colleague Eliza Collins) ... Dave Lugar ... Shareblue Media's Eric Boehlert ... Craigslist's Craig Newmark is 65 ... Hugo Gurdon, editorial director at the Washington Examiner ... Maia Johnson ... Mike Scotto ... Meg Reilly ... Angelica Annino, director of scheduling for Sen. Michael Bennet (h/t fiancé Joe Walsh) ... Rep Mia Love (R-Utah) is 42 ... WashTimes' Maria Stainer ... Mike Johnson ... Mike Netherton ... Nickie Titus ... ABC7 alum Cynné Simpson ... Bruno Florio ... Dana Brisbane of Twitter ... John Dogero ... Boehner alum Bill Greene ... Trav Robertson ... Amb. Nancy Brinker ... Edelman's Brendan Daley ...

... **Roy Milan Schultheis**, COS for Rep. Curbelo (h/t fiancée Ruth Guerra) ... Dan Levitan of BerlinRosen ... WSJ's Sara Germano ... Michael Greenstone, economics professor at University of Chicago ... Francis Brennan, the co-founder of the NTK Network and an alum of Mitt Romney, the Free Beacon and America Rising, is 28 (h/t Colin Reed) ... Evelyn Chang of the Open Society Foundations and a DNC alum (h/t Jonathan Kaplan) ... Bennett Roth ... Rouben Gregorian (h/t Nika Nour) ... Peg Bailey ... Amy Call Well of Ernst & Young ... CNN aviation editor Jon Ostrower ... Jack Gocke ... Smyth Fleming ... VOA's Jamie Dettmer ... Amy Well ... Oliver Willis ... Julianne Prok ... Ryan Sellinger ... Emily Barocas Carruth ... Lisa Antonelli Bacon ... Jeff Parcher ... Michael Johnson ... Jack Gocke ... Greg Butler is 6-0 ... Anne Crosson McMenamin ... Erin Rapp ... Kimberlin Love ... Gina Acosta ... Casey Fitzpatrick ... Luke Letlow ... Jerad Reimers ... Glenn Rushing ... Sera Alptekin ... JoAnna Richard ... Jeff Mayers ... Tim Brown ... JD Stier (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

***** **A message from PhRMA** : In the competitive marketplace for medicines, negotiations between pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and biopharmaceutical companies result in substantial rebates and fees. According to a new report, in many cases, this system often creates incentives for PBMs to prefer medicines with higher list prices and higher rebates. Read more about how money flows through the supply chain here: <http://onphr.ma/2kgd6Nu> *****

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