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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 8/7/2017 10:27:50 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): TRUMP'S 200TH DAY -- TILLERSON: U.S. will respond to Russia expelling diplomats by Sept. 1 -- House D's eye gov slots -- PLAYBOOK ON THE ROAD -- RODELL MOLLINEAU's ...

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
08/07/2017 06:25 AM EDT

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

Good Monday morning. Welcome to the 200th day of President Donald Trump's presidency. **THE PRESIDENT** has no public events scheduled today. He's in Bedminster, New Jersey.

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: THE DCCC hits the GOP: "House Republicans' 200 Day Agenda Goes Down in Spectacular Failure"** <http://politi.co/2wyOEry>

WAPO OPINIONS FEATURE -- "PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SECOND 100 DAYS: In his words and ours" <http://wapo.st/2vEV630>

WHAT TRUMP IS FOCUSED ON -- @realDonaldTrump at 9:22 p.m.: "Just completed call with President Moon of South Korea. Very happy and impressed with 15-0 United Nations vote on North Korea sanctions." ... **at 9:18 p.m.:** "The Fake News refuses to report the success of the first 6 months: S.C., surging economy & jobs, border & military security, ISIS & MS-13 etc."

BREAKING OVERNIGHT -- "MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Tillerson says he's told Russia that U.S. will respond by Sept. 1 to Moscow's move to expel U.S. diplomats."

WAPO'S CAROL MORELLO in MANILA: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday that North Korea could show it is ready for negotiations by stopping missile launches, and said he told Russian diplomats that the Kremlin's meddling in U.S. elections had created 'serious mistrust' of them among Americans.

"In remarks to reporters at a regional conference in which North Korea's missile and

nuclear tests have dominated discussions, Tillerson held out an olive branch to Pyongyang by saying the United States will sit down for talks 'when conditions are right' to discuss denuclearization and steps to ensure North Korea can feel secure and prosperous. 'The best signal that North Korea could give us that they're prepared to talk would be to stop these missile launches,' he said. 'We've not had any extended period of time where they have not taken some type of provocative action by launching ballistic missiles. I think that would be the first and strongest signal they could send to us, would be to stop these missile launches.'" <http://wapo.st/2ug2GNM>

NOT SO FAST ... -- AP at 5:36 a.m.: "**North Korea vows harsh retaliation against new UN sanctions**": "North Korea vowed Monday to bolster its nuclear arsenal and launch 'thousands-fold' revenge against the United States in response to tough U.N. sanctions imposed after its recent intercontinental ballistic missile launches." <http://bit.ly/2vwwfOY>

FOR YOUR RADAR -- BREITBART is continuing to go after H.R. McMaster: "**McMaster Worked at Think Tank Backed by Soros-Funded Group that Helped Obama Sell Iran Nuclear Deal**" <http://bit.ly/2vdC3dO>

THE WASHINGTON POST and the **NYT** both have stories today about mistruths coming from the White House. **WAPO's MARGARET SULLIVAN**, in the style section: "**Here's a sword, General Kelly. Use it on the White House lies.**" <http://wapo.st/2vaUbXg> ... **NYT's SHERYL STOLBERG**: "**Many Politicians Lie. But Trump Has Elevated the Art of Fabrication.**" <http://nyti.ms/2vbDRWt>

A TAX REFORM SPEED BUMP -- "Tax writers see peril in Trump's Obamacare persistence," by Bernie Becker and Aaron Lorenzo: "Republicans acknowledge that the aggressive timeline they have set up for overhauling the tax code this fall leaves them little room for error. There could be one problem with that: Obamacare isn't going away. President Donald Trump has dropped hints that he might stop the Affordable Care Act's cost-sharing reduction payments, through which federal funds flow to insurance companies to keep down coverage costs for low-income people. At the same time, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), the health committee chairman, is working with Democrats on potential measures to shore up the health care law.

"That's left key Senate tax writers frustrated that there's potentially another issue to take precious time away from their tax reform efforts. Senators left Washington on Thursday for a monthlong recess and will return to a September already overloaded with legislative deadlines. With key Trump administration officials and some congressional leaders having said they want to get a tax revamp signed into law this year, tax writers believe they'll need to make serious progress starting next month." <http://politi.co/2wyRY5U>

-- A REMINDER: Congress has still not passed a budget. That's a key precursor for tax reform.

-- ON THE HOMEFRONT: "Congressional Recess, Full Plate Keep the Heat on GOP Lawmakers: Pressure from constituents over health care could make it hard to focus on a tax overhaul," by WSJ's Siobhan Hughes and Janet Hook: "Congressional Republicans plan to use the next four weeks away from Washington making a public case for a sweeping rewrite of the tax code, an ambitious legislative undertaking they hope will heal divisions that opened when the party's signature health-care bill collapsed.

"But at home in their districts, they face pressures that could make it hard to focus on taxes. Many of their constituents and party activists blame Congress, more than President Donald Trump, for the health-care stalemate and are pressing them to find a resolution. And before they can do anything, lawmakers face a load of time-sensitive fiscal business: hashing out a budget, funding the government and raising the federal debt limit. The result is a party sent home for a month-long recess to face mixed messages from voters and an uncertain path forward in the fall.

"How Republican lawmakers respond to such frustration-and whether they move past the health defeat or get swept back into that fight-will determine whether the GOP-led Congress returns as a unified force. August is the longest recess of the year, and constituents can both energize and draw energy from lawmakers who appear at town halls and other meetings." <http://on.wsj.com/2vw7LFG>

-- ONE NOTE: It's not really constituents who need convincing that rewriting the tax code is the right thing. Most people who file taxes think it's confusing and burdensome. It's individual lawmakers who will get tripped up on the details of rewriting the code.

2018 WATCH -- "Chance to be governor lures members from House," by Heather Caygle and Kevin Robillard: "Fully half of the 18 members leaving the House next year jumped in order to run for governor in their states, looking to trade in legislative gridlock for executive orders - and the chance to play a dominating role in redrawing their colleagues' districts in four years.

"One House member, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.), has since dropped out of the governor's race in his state. But even so, more representatives are already seeking governorships than the seven who ran in 2010, the last time there were as many open gubernatorial races as there will be next year. A handful of others are also mulling runs of their own.

"But most of the aspiring governors are vacating the comfy confines of safe congressional districts for what, historically, has been a bad bet. The last time this many sitting representatives ran for governor, in 2006, twice as many lost as won. Lawmakers are motivated partly by the quest for more power - being one in a village of 435, especially in the Democratic minority, only gets you so far. They are also seeking the chance to assist or resist the Trump administration, depending on their party, in implementing new policy throughout the states. For Democrats in particular, the choice between another term in the House minority or the chance to lead their home states can

be an easy one." <http://politi.co/2vbBXVT>

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** If you know only one fact about rising drug costs, know this one: drug makers set prices for prescription drugs. To help manage nearly double-digit price increases, employers, unions and government programs use PBMs to negotiate lower net prices to help curb costs for employers and patients. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *****

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- POLITICO'S ADAM BEHSUDI in EAGLE GROVE, IOWA: "Trump's Trade Pullout Roils Rural America": "On a cloud-swept landscape dotted with grain elevators, a meat producer called Prestage Farms is building a 700,000-square-foot processing plant. The gleaming new factory is both the great hope of Wright County, which voted by a 2-1 margin for Donald Trump, and the victim of one of Trump's first policy moves, his decision to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"For much of industrial America, the TPP was a suspect deal, the successor to the North American Free Trade Agreement, which some argue led to a massive offshoring of U.S. jobs to Mexico. But for the already struggling agricultural sector, the sprawling 12-nation TPP, covering 40 percent of the world's economy, was a lifeline. It was a chance to erase punishing tariffs that restricted the United States -- the onetime 'breadbasket of the world' -- from selling its meats, grains and dairy products to massive importers of foodstuffs such as Japan and Vietnam.

"The decision to pull out of the trade deal has become a double hit on places like Eagle Grove. The promised bump of \$10 billion in agricultural output over 15 years, based on estimates by the U.S. International Trade Commission, won't materialize. But Trump's decision to withdraw from the pact also cleared the way for rival exporters such as Australia, New Zealand and the European Union to negotiate even lower tariffs with importing nations, creating potentially greater competitive advantages over U.S. exports." <http://politi.co/2wm05n4>

PROMISE KEPT -- NYT A1, "Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life on U.S. Lands," by Eric Lipton and Barry Meier in Decker, Montana: "The Trump administration is wading into one of the oldest and most contentious debates in the West by encouraging more coal mining on lands owned by the federal government. It is part of an aggressive push to both invigorate the struggling American coal industry and more broadly exploit commercial opportunities on public lands. The intervention has roiled conservationists and many Democrats, exposing deep divisions about how best to manage the 643 million acres of federally owned land - most of which is in the West - an area more than six times the size of California.

"Not since the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion during the Reagan administration have companies and individuals with economic interests in the lands, mining companies among them, held such a strong upper hand. ... During the Obama administration, the Interior Department seized on the issue of climate change and temporarily banned new coal leases on public lands as it examined the consequences for the environment. The

Obama administration also drew protests from major mining companies by ordering them to pay higher royalties to the government.

"President Trump, along with roundly questioning climate change, has moved quickly to wipe out those measures with the support of coal companies and other commercial interests. Separately, Mr. Trump's Interior Department is drawing up plans to reduce wilderness and historic areas that are now protected as national monuments, creating even more opportunities for profit." <http://nyti.ms/2ugvRAu>

GOING SOLO -- "Trump's unprecedented hands-on messaging carries risks," by AP's Jonathan Lemire: "For the third time in six months, President Donald Trump is on the hunt for a new communications director. But in practice, the job is filled. It's Trump who's the White House's leading expert and the final word on what and how he communicates with the public. Despite decrying most negative media coverage as 'fake news' and personally insulting members of the media, he has inserted himself into the White House's press operations in an unprecedented fashion for a president.

"Trump has dictated news releases and pushed those who speak for him to bend the facts to bolster his claims. He has ignored the advice of his legal team and thrown out carefully planned legislative strategies with a single 140-character tweet. His direct, hands-on style helped him win the White House and still thrills his supporters. It also, however, poses increasing political and potentially legal risks. The clearest example is his involvement in crafting a statement for son Donald Jr. about a meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer. That declaration was quickly proven erroneous and raised questions about whether the president was trying to cover for his son." <http://bit.ly/2uy2tF2>

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S NEW MANDATE -- BuzzFeed's Jason Leopold (@JasonLeopold): "[H]ere is a media leak questionnaire agencies fill out and send to DOJ when classified info is published" <http://bit.ly/2vEwXJY>

-- NYT: "Reporters Not Being Pursued in Leak Investigations, Justice Dept. Says" <http://nyti.ms/2uhLjQL>

FOGGY BOTTOM READ -- NYT A1, "Diplomats Question Tactics of Tillerson, the Executive Turned Secretary of State," by Gardiner Harris: "Several times a week the State Department sends a greeting to a foreign country on the occasion of its national day. By tradition, the salutations have been written by low-level diplomats and routinely approved by their superiors. But not anymore. Now the messages go through Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson's office, where his top assistants insist on vetting them, and where they often sit for weeks before coming back with extensive editing changes, according to several department officials. To these officials, it is a classic case of micromanagement - and emblematic of the way Mr. Tillerson has approached running the State Department. ...

"[H]e has failed to nominate anyone to most of the department's 38 highest-ranking

jobs, leaving many critical departments without direction, while working with a few personal aides reviewing many of the ways the department has operated for decades rather than developing a coherent foreign policy. ... Mr. Tillerson's diplomatic accomplishments have been mixed at best. His biggest achievement came Saturday when the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to impose sanctions on North Korea for its recent tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles, which required bringing along the Russians and the Chinese. But his effort to resolve the struggle between Saudi Arabia, along with other Sunni powers, and Qatar has made little progress; his department is considered dysfunctional by the Europeans; and policy is entrusted to a tiny group. ...

"Senior diplomats have left in droves, depleting the building of historical memory. ... In another example of just how much Mr. Tillerson is sweating the details, he recently insisted that his staff members submit a memorandum justifying each proposed hiring of a diplomatic spouse in the embassies in Baghdad and Kabul, Afghanistan. Such spousal jobs are an important means of encouraging diplomats to take hardship posts and generally save the department the expense of sending and housing another American independently. Mr. Tillerson personally reviewed the necessity for every one of those jobs." <http://nyti.ms/2vFUaMK>

PLAYBOOK ON THE ROAD -- With everyone headed out of town on vacation, or back to their districts, we are starting a new August feature: Playbook on the Road. Send us a photo of yourself, or others reading Playbook during your travels this month and we will feature five photos every Friday. Participating Playbookers will automatically be entered into a drawing to win an original cartoon by POLITICO's Pulitzer winning cartoonist Matt Wuerker. Email photos to Daniel at daniel@politico.com. Or, Tweet them to @playbookplus with the hashtag #PlaybookLoyal.

DAILY MAIL -- "Cheery Hillary and Bill attend hedge-fund billionaire daughter's wedding alongside guests Huma Abedin AND Tiffany Trump in NYC": "The former President and First Lady were all smiles while at the wedding of Sophie Lasry, the daughter of Avenue Capital Group founder Marc Lasry, on Sunday night." Sophie Lasry, in business development at her father's firm, married investor Alex Swieca, a former college quarterback for the University of Michigan Wolverines. **20 pix on one page** <http://dailym.ai/2hBOi0L>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: State Secretary Rex Tillerson links arms with ASEAN foreign ministers before the 10th Lower Mekong Initiative Ministerial Meeting, part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, in Manila, Philippines on Aug. 6. | Mohd Rasfan/Pool Photo via AP

IMPORTANT READ -- "U.S. Troops Train in Eastern Europe to Echoes of the Cold War," by Eric Schmitt in the Novo Selo Training Range, Bulgaria: "After more than a decade spent fighting Islamic insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States Army is scrambling to relearn Cold War-era skills to confront potential threats from Russia here in Eastern Europe, territory formerly defended by the Soviet Army. The adjustments to the new threats are wide ranging. Hundreds of desert-tan battle tanks and armored fighting vehicles must be repainted dark green to blend into European terrain. Soldiers accustomed to operating from large, secure bases in Iraq and Afghanistan must now practice using camouflage netting to disguise their positions and dispersing into smaller groups to avoid sophisticated surveillance drones that could direct rocket or missile attacks against personnel or command posts.

"American troops no longer have unfettered right of way in the air or priority access on the ground, as they did across Iraqi river valleys and Afghan mountain ranges. In today's Europe, borders count in all matters military. On a recent Friday, an American Army supply convoy rushing ammunition from Germany to Romania was held up at the Austrian border until the next Monday by restrictions on military convoys during busy summer vacation travel periods." <http://nyti.ms/2vaPc90>

REMEMBERING MARK WHITE -- HOUSTON CHRONICLE: "Former Texas Gov. Mark White dead at 77": "As the 43rd governor of Texas, Mark White ushered in education reforms that still impact schools, including limits on elementary class size, 'no pass, no play' policy for high school athletes, and the first-ever statewide testing standards. For White, who died at his Houston home on Saturday at 77, those accomplishments were the highlight of a political career guided by a principle taken from Sam Houston: 'Do right and risk the consequences.'" <http://bit.ly/2flDcww>

LAW AND ORDER -- "With rising homicides in big cities, Republican governors intensify police patrols," by WaPo's Tim Craig and Emma Ockerman in St. Louis: "On orders from [Missouri] Republican Gov. Eric Greitens ... about two dozen troopers have laid claim to St. Louis highways that slice through some of America's most dangerous neighborhoods, a move that has sparked concern among residents wary of heavy policing. It's the first time in decades that state troopers have patrolled the city, Greitens said. ... [I]n an era of increasingly polarized views on policing, Missouri's intervention is unsettling some local residents who question the governor's strategies and tone. How elected leaders define a 'gang,' use the word 'criminal' and deputize outside law enforcement agencies are emerging as flash points. The debate threatens to drive another wedge between some officials in heavily Democratic cities and GOP leaders in statehouses and in Washington." <http://wapo.st/2hBbXhF>

SUSAN GLASSER -- "What's It Like to See a Democracy Destroyed?": "Hannah Dreier spent years covering the implosion of Venezuela [for the AP]. Her takeaway is a sobering one: There's no rule that says that a miserable situation has to end, just because it's too miserable." <http://politi.co/2vwzXZj> ... *Dreier's last piece for the AP -- "Departing AP reporter looks back at Venezuela's slide"* <http://bit.ly/2vdThb7> ... **Subscribe to Glasser's podcast "The Global Politico"** <http://apple.co/2ki98RY>

-- **"Maduro vows 'maximum penalty' for attack on Venezuela base,"** by AP's Juan Carlos Hernandez in Valencia, Venezuela: "President Nicolas Maduro vowed that a band of anti-government fighters who attacked a Venezuelan army base will get the 'maximum penalty' as his administration roots out his enemies. Troops killed two of the 20 intruders who slipped into the Paramacay base in the central city of Valencia early Sunday, apparently intent on fomenting a military uprising, Maduro said in his weekly broadcast on state television. One of the invaders was injured, seven captured and 10 got away, the embattled leader said." <http://bit.ly/2vwtvRK>

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** Pharmacy benefit managers negotiate the lowest net price for prescriptions on behalf of employers and other health care purchasers; however, the list price - the important starting point for those negotiations -- continues to rise, at a rate of nearly ten percent in 2016 alone. Increased competition, faster reviews of generics and biosimilars and ending anti-competitive practices can also bring down the cost of medications for patients. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *****

WHAT WALL STREET IS READING -- "Regulators' Penalties Against Wall Street Are Down Sharply in 2017," by WSJ's Jean Eaglesham, Dave Michaels and Danny Dougherty: "Wall Street regulators have imposed far lower penalties in the first six months of Donald Trump's presidency than they did during the first six months of 2016, a comparable period in the Obama administration, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis. Lawyers who defend financial cases said a shift to a business-friendly stance at regulatory agencies in the Trump administration is one of several reasons for the decrease. Other factors include delays resulting from the change in administrations and the winding down of cases from the financial crisis.

"Penalties levied against firms and individuals by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in the first half of 2017 were down nearly two-thirds compared with the first half of 2016-putting regulators on track for the lowest annual level of fines since at least 2010, the Journal found. Fines of \$489 million in the first half of 2017 compared with \$1.4 billion in the 2016 period." <http://on.wsj.com/2hBRTM2>

BEZOS CHANGES A NEIGHBORHOOD -- BOSTON GLOBE: "With Amazon and GE moving in, empty Fort Point storefronts gain interest," by Janelle Nanos: "Since Amazon announced its plans to bring 900 employees to Fort Point, real estate brokers say there's been an uptick in interest from companies looking to fill empty storefronts near Amazon's new office on Summer Street. It's evidence, they say, that the western corner of Fort Point is poised to undergo a transformation as corporate towers teeming with new workers drive foot traffic on the streets below." <http://bit.ly/2wz582Y>

VALLEY TALK -- "Google employee's anti-diversity memo prompts company rebuke," by Reuters' Sam Forgione: "Google executives over the weekend rushed to denounce an engineer's memo that ascribed gender inequality in the technology

industry to biological differences, a view that sparked outrage at the internet giant and inflamed tensions over sexual harassment and discrimination in Silicon Valley. The unnamed engineer asserted in the 3,000-word document that circulated inside the company last week that 'Google's left bias has created a politically correct monoculture' which prevented honest discussion of the issue. 'Distribution of preferences and abilities of men and women differ in part due to biological causes and that these differences may explain why we don't see equal representation of women in tech and leadership,' he wrote.

"The memo stoked the heated debate over treatment of women in the male-dominated Silicon Valley that has boiled for months following sexual harassment scandals at Uber and several venture capital firms. Google's recently hired vice president of diversity, integrity and governance, Danielle Brown, sent a memo in response to the furor, saying the engineer's essay 'advanced incorrect assumptions about gender.'" <http://reut.rs/2vGnS3R> ... **Brown's memo** <http://bit.ly/2vEMEkH>

--GIZMODO: "Here's The Full 10-Page Anti-Diversity Screed Circulating Internally at Google": <http://bit.ly/2ugx4HW>

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- "In traffic-choked Adams Morgan, a proposal to get rid of cars," by WaPo's Paul Schwartzman. <http://wapo.st/2wm1j1R>

MEDIAWATCH -- @yashar: "WATCH: @kayleighmcenany left CNN yesterday....today, she made her debut on Trump TV sharing 'the real news'." **90-second video** <http://bit.ly/2vduVOq> ... **@Evan_McMullin** replies: "This is the type of propaganda you'd see in North Korea. It erodes the people's ability to discern truth and hold government accountable."

--@KFILE: "Per closed caption searches, 'Hillary Clinton' was mentioned 211 times on Fox over last week. 'Mike Pence' only 56 times."

FUN STORY -- THE GUARDIAN: "David Cameron: from prime minister to reluctant festival-goer: Former PM's glum expression in a couple's selfie at the Wilderness festival in Oxfordshire indicates it was not to his liking" <http://bit.ly/2hBVx8X>

KUDOS -- Phish just completed a 13-night run at Madison Square Garden without repeating a single song.

Playbookers

WEEKEND WEDDING -- RODELL MOLLINEAU, a partner at Rokk Solutions and a Daschle, Pryor and Reid alum, and **SHEENA ARORA**, a senior manager at PwC and former SVP at the Revolution Agency, were married in a beachside ceremony at sunset on Saturday evening at The Wharf in Grand Cayman. Friends and family from Dayton,

Chicago, New Jersey, and as far as India, attended the wedding and spent the weekend celebrating on Seven Mile Beach. Pool report from Paul Kane: "They met through Susan McCue, Harry Reid's former chief of staff, whose firm had office space on the same floor as American Bridge in 2011-12, when Rodell ran Bridge.

"Their first trip together while dating was to the Grand Cayman, where they've since come at least once a year every year since, culminating in Saturday's wedding. Officiating the wedding was Bob Russell, the former chief of staff to Mark Pryor, the Arkansas Democrat who Rodell worked for early last decade. During that stint Pryor sent Rodell to South Carolina to work the presidential campaign of a fellow Arkansan, Wesley Clark, where he met a guy named Matthew Miller, the future DOJ spokesman/NBC contributor who served as best man.

"Arora first worked for McCue at the ONE Campaign, where she met Chandler Smith, the future communications director for the Senate Republican Conference, who served as maid of honor. After the couple's first dance, to 'Purple Reign', the crowd danced into the night, some feeding the tarpon fish gathered on the dock's edge while some went shirt optional. The reception ended, as others before have, with Doug Heye grabbing the mic when Sinatra's 'My Way' was played and taking over on vocals." **Pics** <http://bit.ly/2hBhsgj> ... <http://bit.ly/2fllt7V> ... <http://bit.ly/2vEA9oQ> ... <http://bit.ly/2vdP4nC> ... **2.5 min. video of Doug singing** <http://bit.ly/2wlrc1J>

SPOTTED: Bridesmaids Liesl Hickey, Cacki Barnard and Veronica Johnson, groomsmen Matt Miller, Kimani Little, Dave DuBois, and Ian Wasek, usher Mark Paustenbach, Ron and Sara Bonjean, Brian Walsh, Dan Ronayne, Michael and Mary Kathryn Steel (whose birthday is today), Kyle Downey, Jess McIntosh, Jenny Towns, Ben Clark, Steve Rochlin and Christina Sevilla, Jennifer Jose, Kasper Zeuthen, Christine Delargy, Nick Massella, Tyrone Gayle and Beth Foster, Chris Harris and Kate Conway, Ashley Spillane, Susan McCue, Anthony Coley and Robert Raben, Jay Newton Small, Sara DuBois, Kelli Farr and Megan Bartley, Kimani Little, Bob Russell, Chris Vandeventer, Jenny Townes.

ENGAGED -- Bruce Nilson, VP of Trump campaign's FEC compliance firm Red Curve Solutions and a Romney alum, proposed to **Nancy Weindruch**, VP of communications at the Council for Responsible Nutrition. Pool report from Charlie Spies: "He popped the question in Bishop's Garden after Sunday morning church at the National Cathedral. Friends and family gathered for Tex Mex and Margaritas at Cactus Cantina to celebrate afterwards. Among those spotted were Elizabeth Dexheimer of Bloomberg, Mark Stephenson of Red Oak, and Ashlee Rich Stephenson of WPA Intelligence." The couple met at Kramer Books in DuPont. **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2fmb0HJ>

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): AP White House reporter Julie Bykowicz, who celebrated last night with an evening that included cupcakes, pool time and dinner at Kevin Plank's new Sagamore Pendry hotel in Baltimore's Fells Point neighborhood (hat tip: Annie Linskey)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Matt Dornic, VP of comms at CNN. **How he's celebrating:**

"Perfecting my Instagram game, getting obnoxiously tan, and consuming alarming amounts of rum and seafood. It's going down at the Tryall Club in Jamaica with Jack and Susanna Quinn and a group of our friends." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:

<http://politi.co/2vbClY1>

BIRTHDAYS: Special counsel Robert Mueller is 73 ... Jonathan Swan, national political reporter at Axios, is 32 ... Mary Kathryn Steel, who does corporate comms at AbbVie ... Reason's Nick Gillespie is 54 ... CNN's Dan Merica is 29 (h/t birthday girl Sara Fischer) ... Andrew Gradison ... John Mayo ... Maggie Goodspeed ... Dallas GOP bundler and investor Ray Washburne ... Axios media reporter Sara Fischer is 27 ... Politico's James Whitlock ... Elizabeth Brandler ... Alan Keyes is 66 ... Scott Stossel, editor of The Atlantic (h/t Annie Linskey) ... Dan Groch ... Kristin Leary ... Politico Europe's Hans von der Burchard ... Alisa Wolking is 29 ... Kimberly Ellis, principal at Monument Policy Group ... Hollie Tracz of MSNBC media relations (h/t Errol Cockfield) ... Jordan Heiliczer, gov't affairs director for AAHOA (h/ts Zoe Heiliczer and Brandon VerVelde) ... Four Bush alumni: Meredith Beaton Didier, COS at UNC ... Caroline Huddleston Haley ... Felicia Knight ... Daniel Lerner ...

... **Bruce Friedrich**, executive director of The Good Food Institute ... Breanne Deppisch of WaPo's Daily 202 (h/t Riley Brands) ... Côte d'Ivoire turns 57 on its Independence Day (h/t @BCIU) ... Eric Dinallo ... George Kelemen ... Andrew DeSouza ... Susan Feeney, partner at GMMB ... Caitlin Legacki, director of Precision Strategies and the pride of Anchorage (h/t colleague Jeff Solnet) ... Chad Phillips (h/t Eli Yokley) ... TJ Londagin ... Alexis Glick ... Kirsten Borman ... Obama alum Matt Lehner, now doing comms at Uptake, is 31 ... former Rep. Edwin Edwards (D-LA) is 9-0 ... Ryan Pettit ... Anthony Ratekin ... Daryn Frischknecht ... Tim Foster ... Aissa Canchola ... Tamika Day ... Kimberly Willingham Hubbard ... Meredith Griffanti ... M. Allyn Brooks-LaSure ... Bill Lawrence ... Juven Jacob ... Cynthia Wieland-Meyer ... Kim Rogers ... Kim Molstre (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

******* A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD) :**

The high prices that drug makers set for prescription drugs can put financial strain on patients, employers, unions and others who provide health care coverage to more than 50 percent of Americans. Pharmacy benefit managers negotiate the lowest net price for prescriptions on behalf of employers, unions and government programs. But, as list prices - the starting point for those negotiations -- continue their nearly double-digit increases, the effects ripple throughout the system. The key to ensuring greater access and affordability lies in fostering greater competition. Facilitating faster reviews of generics and biosimilars, identifying off-patent drugs with little or no generic competition, and ending anti-competitive practices that keep safe, effective alternatives out of the market are also key to abating rising drug costs for patients. Learn more at

affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *****

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