

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Wed 10/4/2017 10:37:48 AM  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Koch Industries: About that NICK AYERS conversation ... -- THE LATEST IN LAS VEGAS: Trump heading to Nevada as police search for motive -- ELIANA JOHNSON on Trump's Iran plan -- OBAMAS dine at Fiola for 25th anniversary

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Koch Industries

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## Driving the Day

**Good Wednesday morning. WAR BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE HILL ...**

**ANDREW RESTUCCIA and MATT NUSSBAUM's** incredible scoop

(<http://politi.co/2g9ovd1>) that VP Mike Pence's chief of staff Nick Ayers called for a "purge" of Republican lawmakers who oppose President Trump, urged donors to withhold cash from Republican lawmakers and openly mused about being in the minority on Capitol Hill has reignited a long-simmering war between the White House and Capitol Hill. The Trump White House and Republicans on the Hill have tried repeatedly to get on the same page. One Ayers quote that's particularly painful for the 292 Republican lawmakers on Capitol Hill is when Pence's top aide seemingly encouraged donors to stop donating to everyone besides the RNC if they didn't get something done before the end of 2017. This is no small thing, according to top Republicans that we spoke to on both sides of the Capitol.

**TEXT FROM A TOP REPUBLICAN ABOUT AYERS:** "Fair to say both sides of the capitol are perturbed. ... Not because we see an actual threat, but because who the f\*\*k are you?"

-- **WHITE HOUSE INSIDERS TELL US** that Trump's circle was not at all bothered by the Ayers remarks.

-- **ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR:** This didn't make it into Andrew and Matt's piece, but Ayers said infrastructure and tax reform might be "a combined effort." We checked in with all of our sources involved in this issue on whether this was true. They all said there was no effort afoot at all to pair the issues.

**NBC NEWS SCOOP -- CAROL LEE, KRISTEN WELKER, STEPHANIE RUHLE and**

**DAFNA LINZER:** "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was on the verge of resigning this past summer amid mounting policy disputes and clashes with the White House, according to multiple senior administration officials who were aware of the situation at the time.

**"The tensions came to a head around the time** President Donald Trump delivered a politicized speech in late July to the Boy Scouts of America, an organization Tillerson once led, the officials said.

**"Just days earlier, Tillerson had openly disparaged** the president, referring to him as a 'moron,' after a July 20 meeting at the Pentagon with members of Trump's national security team and Cabinet officials, according to three officials familiar with the incident. While it's unclear if he was aware of the incident, Vice President Mike Pence counseled Tillerson, who is fourth in line to the presidency, on ways to ease tensions with Trump, and other top administration officials urged him to remain in the job at least until the end of the year, officials said." <http://nbcnews.to/2xh2lQu>

**GET READY FOR THIS: "More GOP senators willing to tell Trump to take a hike:** An increasing number of Republicans have nothing to lose in crossing the president and Mitch McConnell -- a warning sign for tax reform," by Burgess Everett and Seung Min Kim: <http://politi.co/2yH0ZuV>

**BIG SCOOP -- ELIANA JOHNSON: "Trump prepares to decertify Iran deal - and then save it":** "Donald Trump's national security team has unanimously recommended that he decertify the Iran nuclear deal - but that he stop short of pushing Congress to reimpose sanctions on Tehran that could unravel the agreement. Trump's team plans to work with Congress and European allies to apply new pressure on the Iranian regime, according to a strategy developed in an Iran policy review led by National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster. But the strategy assumes the nuclear deal will remain intact for now.

**"The deliberations ahead of an October 15 deadline** to certify Iran's compliance with the deal, a centerpiece of President Barack Obama's foreign policy agenda, were described by a half-dozen sources inside and outside the administration who have participated in the internal debate.

**"As a candidate, Trump described the agreement** as 'catastrophic' and 'the worst deal ever.' But the strategy represents a nuanced approach to one of the most important foreign policy decisions of his early presidency. The goal is to allow the president to demonstrate contempt for the agreement and broadcast a new level of toughness toward the Iranian regime-without triggering the international chaos several of his advisers warn would follow from a total withdrawal from the 2015 deal." <http://politi.co/2xPozsu>

**THE LATEST IN LAS VEGAS ...**

**BREAKING AT 12:32 A.M. -- L.A. TIMES: "Girlfriend of Las Vegas gunman, a 'person of interest' in mass shooting, has landed in Los Angeles,"** by Joel Rubin and Richard Winton: "Marilou Danley, the girlfriend of the gunman who shot and killed 59 people at a country music concert in Las Vegas, returned Tuesday night to the United States from the Philippines, according to multiple law enforcement sources. Danley was met by federal agents at Los Angeles International Airport, said the officials, who were not authorized to discuss the case publicly. Danley was not placed under arrest and it was not known when, or if, she would agree to be interviewed about Stephen Paddock, who killed himself in the Las Vegas hotel room from which he launched his deadly shooting spree."

**-- NYT, A1: "Meticulous Planning by Las Vegas Gunman Before He Opened Fire":** "Before he mowed down concertgoers from a perch high in a hotel tower, Stephen C. Paddock created a ring of surveillance around him, with video cameras in his suite and in the hallway, law enforcement officials said on Tuesday. But investigators were still at a loss to offer a motive for the massacre. ... Police officials said that Mr. Paddock, 64, had set up two cameras in the hallway, including one on a service cart, and a third camera over the suite door peephole." <http://nyti.ms/2fPcs7N>

**-- LEAKED PHOTOS** from inside Paddock's hotel room. <http://dailym.ai/2hM9Gkk>

**-- "Frantic switchboard calls, geometry of fire, led police to killer on Mandalay Bay's 32nd floor,"** by WaPo's Scott Wilson and Lynh Bui: "The journey to the room at the end of the 32nd floor began at the switchboards of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, a tropical fantasy in the Nevada desert. As the noises began, scores of confused guests pressed zero on their room phones almost all at once. The first callers asked about what sounded like a sustained burst of fireworks. Others wondered: Was it something else? The hotel operators realized that for callers on some floors, the popping was louder than for guests phoning in from others." <http://wapo.st/2kmdNVf>

**-- "Las Vegas Shooter Stephen Paddock Gambled With at Least \$160K in Recent Weeks,"** by NBC News' Tom Winter, Pete Williams and Andrew Blankstein: "There were 16 Currency Transaction Reports, or CTRs, filed for Paddock in recent weeks. The Treasury Department and the IRS mandate that casinos file the reports for 'each transaction in currency involving cash-in and cash-out of more than \$10,000 in a gaming day.' ... A source familiar with the investigation told NBC News that Paddock was a frequent player 'with the highest status' at Caesars Entertainment properties in Las Vegas." <http://nbcnews.to/2yH71LL>

**-- "Las Vegas Strip shooter prescribed anti-anxiety drug in June,"** by the Las Vegas Review-Journal's Paul Harasim: "Stephen Paddock, who killed at least 58 people and wounded hundreds more in Las Vegas on Sunday with high-powered rifles, was prescribed an anti-anxiety drug in June that can lead to aggressive behavior, the Las Vegas Review-Journal has learned. ...

**"Records from the Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program** obtained Tuesday

show Paddock was prescribed 50 10-milligram diazepam tablets by Henderson physician Dr. Steven Winkler on June 21. A woman who answered the phone at Winkler's office would not make him available to answer questions and would neither confirm nor deny that Paddock was ever a patient. Paddock purchased the drug -- its brand name is Valium -- without insurance at a Walgreens store in Reno on the same day it was prescribed. He was supposed to take one pill a day." <http://bit.ly/2wxqE8E>

-- **"As the wounded kept coming, hospitals dealt with injuries rarely seen in the U.S.,"** by WaPo's Tim Craig, Felicia Mello and Lena Sun: "So many patients poured into the city's hospitals that pediatric surgeons were operating on adults and obstetricians were attending to trauma patients. Many of the most critically wounded patients arrived at the 541-bed University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, the state's only Level One trauma center. Over about four hours, it received 104 patients. More than 80 percent were gunshot victims. Douglas R. Fraser, the hospital's chief of trauma surgery, struggled with other doctors there to deal with bullet wounds in torsos and limbs that had shredded human flesh into 'unusual patterns,' caused 'extreme fractures' and bounced through bodies with horrific force." <http://wapo.st/2xRTgL2>

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**THE POLITICS OF GUN CONTROL -- "Dems lower their outrage on guns after massacre,"** by Heather Caygle and Elana Schor: "The last record-setting shooting spree on U.S. soil - at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, last year - prompted Democrats to occupy the House floor for a full day in protest of the GOP's refusal to take up new gun control laws. This time, the minority party is employing tamer tactics, tamping down talks of another sit-in and demanding primarily that Republicans drop a gun silencer bill they've been pushing.

**"The difference in approach** speaks to the tricky, shifting politics of guns for Democrats. It's easy for them to lambaste Republicans for failing to take action after mass shootings. But elevating the issue heading into a midterm election next year - something Democrats said this week they have no plans to do - could repel the very voters they need to woo to regain control of Congress. Not to mention make their vulnerable red-state Democrats prime for Republican attacks.

**"There's also a growing sense of futility** in the debate. Gun control was a lost cause even under divided government, let alone when Republicans control both chambers of Congress and the White House." <http://politi.co/2hNc8Hg>

-- **@StevenTDennis:** "Asked about bump stocks, Senator John Kennedy [R-La.] said this: 'I do not think that the United States Congress can legislate away evil.'"

**SCOOP -- JOSH DAWSEY and RACHAEL BADE: "Ryan asked White House to reconsider ousting Price":** "Speaker Paul Ryan last week urged the White House to reconsider ousting Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, his longtime friend who had come under fire for often using taxpayer-funded private jets for travel, according to two people with knowledge of the call. John Kelly, the White House chief of staff, called the Wisconsin Republican minutes before the departure was announced Friday afternoon. It was a heads-up call ... Ryan urged Kelly to reconsider and touted the Georgia Republican's experience in Congress and work in the administration ... Price has long had the speaker's ear on policy matters and was part of Ryan's old 'Jedi Council,' a group of fiscally conservative rabble-rousers who used to powwow when Republicans were in the minority." <http://politi.co/2ynO4lf>

**UP NEXT -- "White House to seek \$29B disaster aid package,"** by AP's Andy Taylor: "The Trump administration is finalizing a \$29 billion disaster aid package that combines \$16 billion to shore up the government-backed flood insurance program with almost \$13 billion in new relief for hurricane victims. The huge request is expected to be officially sent to Congress on Wednesday, but its outlines were characterized by officials who demanded anonymity because the \$29 billion measure is not yet public.

**"The request would address two pressing needs.** The first is to pump money into the flood insurance program, which is rapidly running out of cash to pay an influx of claims from victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. At the same time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to spend money for disaster relief operations at a high rate and requires more money." <http://bit.ly/2xq1fjr>

**-- TRUMP: FORGIVE PUERTO RICO'S DEBT:** "In an interview with Fox News, Mr. Trump said his administration would help Puerto Rico 'wipe out' the debt to help it recover from the extensive damage left by Hurricane Maria two weeks ago. He did not offer specifics. 'We're going to do something. We're going to get it back on its feet,' the president said. 'We have to look at their whole debt structure,' he told Geraldo Rivera, a Fox News correspondent, on 'Hannity.' 'You know, they owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street, and we're going to have to wipe that out. You can say goodbye to that. I don't know if it's Goldman Sachs, but whoever it is, you can wave goodbye to that.' ...

**"Reached late on Tuesday,** investors who hold Puerto Rico's debt and their advisers said they were taken aback and unwilling to comment. One said it was not clear how seriously they should take the remarks, citing promises like Mr. Trump's so-far-unsuccessful pledge to end the Affordable Care Act, the health care plan passed under President Barack Obama." <http://nyti.ms/2xTE9AS>

**GOOD NEWS FOR TRUMP: NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- "Poll: 48 percent approve of Trump's tax proposal,"** by Steven Shepard: "Voters are receptive to President Donald Trump's proposed tax overhaul, with nearly half of those who have heard about the plan supporting it, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll. But as Congress begins to draft tax legislation, the poll also shows that some elements

of the outline released by the Trump administration last week are more popular than others. And voters are skeptical they will benefit from any changes to the tax code. ...

**"The most popular elements of the initial proposal** are doubling the standing deduction from \$12,000 to \$24,000 (62 percent of voters say that should be in the eventual tax bill), reducing the maximum small-business tax rate from 39.6 percent to 25 percent (61 percent), creating a \$500 tax credit for all dependents (61 percent) and increasing the child tax credit (60 percent).

**"Among the least popular elements of the proposal:** reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent (39 percent of voters say that should be in the bill) and no longer taxing overseas profits of U.S. companies." <http://politi.co/2fJ6xNK>

**SOAK THE RICH ... -- "Conservatives defy GOP orthodoxy on cutting top tax rate,"** by Rachael Bade and Aaron Lorenzo: "House conservatives -- desperate for a win on tax reform -- are open to nixing some newly proposed tax cuts on the wealthy, challenging the GOP's tax-cuts-for-all orthodoxy. Multiple House Freedom Caucus members said they'd support maintaining the 39.6 percent tax rate on upper-income earners instead of reducing it to 35 percent under the current GOP plan. President Donald Trump, concerned about Democratic accusations that his tax proposal would be seen as a boon to the wealthy, urged Hill Republicans to consider keeping the current top rate as is to preempt those attacks.

**"The Freedom Caucus** is typically the first to cry foul on any legislation they deem too accommodating to Democrats. And maintaining the top rate runs counter to Republicans' long-held desires to lower rates on all Americans, no matter their wealth. Conservatives don't seem to mind, however -- so long as it ensures passage of the party's main legislative priority." <http://politi.co/2kivhl8>

-- **WSJ'S RICH RUBIN** in a video with a straw hat on, standing next to cows: **"Talking Taxes: The Sacred Cows of the Tax Code:** GOP plan aims to eliminate some major breaks, but that could prove difficult": "The dilemma -- which Republicans are colliding with right now -- is that many of the biggest tax breaks, especially for individuals, are popular and hard to dislodge. Among the most entrenched are the benefits for employer-sponsored health insurance, state and local taxes, home mortgage interest and charitable donations.

**"Those big tax breaks are where the money is.** In 2018, households will save about \$110 billion by deducting state and local tax payments and about \$59 billion by deducting charitable donations, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. The GOP would need to curtail breaks like those to get rates down as far as they want. Employer-sponsored health insurance, likely to be left alone, will lower federal revenue by about \$236 billion in 2018, according to the Tax Policy Center." ***With video***  
<http://on.wsj.com/2fPAP5a>

**TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY** -- Trump and the First Lady will leave this morning for Las

Vegas. The two will visit patients, doctors and "civilian heroes and first responders." They will then return to Washington.

## THE JUICE ...

-- **SPOTTED: FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA** and **MICHELLE OBAMA** celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary last night on Fiola's rooftop at 601 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. *Instapic by Fiola executive chef Ed Scarpone* <http://bit.ly/2xg7Kr5> ... **2-min. Facebook video of President Obama's anniversary message** <http://bit.ly/2xPS5hF>

-- **FORMER SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER** was spotted heading into Russell Tuesday afternoon by himself, in a blazer and slacks sans tie, walking past security. The surprised Capitol Police greeted him as Mr. Speaker, to which he responded, "Just coming in for a haircut. Nothing more."

## Playbook Reads

**PHOTO DU JOUR:** President Donald Trump tosses paper towels into a crowd as he hands out supplies at Calvary Chapel on Oct. 3 in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

**NOT THE ONION - "IRS awards multimillion-dollar fraud-prevention contract to Equifax,"** by Steven Overly and Nancy Scola: "The IRS will pay Equifax \$7.25 million to verify taxpayer identities and help prevent fraud under a no-bid contract issued last week, even as lawmakers lash the embattled company about a massive security breach that exposed personal information of as many as 145.5 million Americans. A contract award for Equifax's data services was posted to the Federal Business Opportunities database Sept. 30 - the final day of the fiscal year. The credit agency will 'verify taxpayer identity' and 'assist in ongoing identity verification and validations' at the IRS, according to the award." <http://politi.co/2yn6F00>

**DRIP DRIP -- "Russian-linked Facebook ads targeted Michigan and Wisconsin,"** by CNN's Manu Raju, Dylan Byers and Dana Bash: "A number of Russian-linked Facebook ads specifically targeted Michigan and Wisconsin, two states crucial to Donald Trump's victory last November, according to four sources with direct knowledge of the situation. Some of the Russian ads appeared highly sophisticated in their targeting of key demographic groups in areas of the states that turned out to be pivotal ... The ads employed a series of divisive messages aimed at breaking through the clutter of campaign ads online, including promoting anti-Muslim messages ... [A] large number of ads appeared in areas of the country that were not heavily contested in the elections, [but] some clearly were geared at swaying public opinion in the most heavily contested battlegrounds." <http://cnn.it/2yHaB8J>

-- "**Rep. Tim Murphy, popular with pro-life movement, urged abortion in affair, texts suggest,**" by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Paula Reed Wards: "A text message sent in January to U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy by a woman with whom he had an extra-marital relationship took him to task for an anti-abortion statement posted on Facebook from his office's public account. 'And you have zero issue posting your pro-life stance all over the place when you had no issue asking me to abort our unborn child just last week when we thought that was one of the options,' Shannon Edwards, a forensic psychologist in Pittsburgh with whom the congressman admitted last month to having a relationship, wrote to Mr. Murphy on Jan. 25, in the midst of an unfounded pregnancy scare. A text from Mr. Murphy's cell phone number that same day in response says, 'I get what you say about my March for life messages. I've never written them. Staff does them. I read them and winced. I told staff don't write any more. I will.'" <http://bit.ly/2xf6p3S>

**LEGAL, BUT STRANGE -- "Steve King employs family as year-round campaign staff, an unusual approach in Congress,"** by Des Moines Register's Jason Noble: "U.S. Rep. Steve King employs his son and daughter-in-law as full-time campaign staffers, and has paid them more than \$805,000 since 2004, records show. Although typically legal, an arrangement paying close family members year-round for congressional campaign work for more than a decade is unusual in several respects, experts said. While holding various campaign manager and chairman titles, King's son, Jeff King, has received a steady paycheck dating to at least 2004, the earliest year for which electronic records are available from the Federal Election Commission." <http://dmreg.co/2xfvLys>

**LATEST IN THE AARON SCHOCK CASE -- "Judge complains prosecution 'misled' him in Aaron Schock case,"** by Josh Gerstein: "The federal judge overseeing the criminal case against former Rep. Aaron Schock leveled an unusual public complaint Tuesday that he was misled by a prosecutor on the case. Judge Colin Bruce, of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, also ordered the prosecution to conduct a review of all its court filings in the matter for potential inaccuracies." <http://politi.co/2hLpNyE>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Koch Industries:** According to the World Health Organization, 633 million people lack access to safe water worldwide. At Koch, we are addressing this global crisis with innovative membrane filtration technologies to help turn surface and wastewater back into clean drinking water. It's already making a difference in places such as São Paulo, Brazil, one of the world's largest cities. This is one of the many challenges that our more than 70,000 employees across America are working on each day. From water and agriculture, to renewable fuels, energy efficiency and other advancements that help people improve their lives, our team members are encouraged to think like entrepreneurs and challenge the status quo. Here, everyone is encouraged to speak up with ideas to create greater long-term value for society, our customers and businesses, while also reducing waste so more natural resources are available to meet future needs. Go behind the scenes at [ChallengeAccepted.com](http://ChallengeAccepted.com). \*\*\*\*\*

**HMM -- "One Of Trump's Judicial Picks Received A Rare 'Not Qualified' Rating From Top Legal Group,"** by BuzzFeed's Zoe Tillman: "Charles Goodwin, who serves as a federal magistrate judge in Oklahoma City, is the first of Trump's judicial nominees to receive a 'not qualified' rating from the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which vets all federal court nominees. It's also the first time that a lower court nominee has received that rating since 2006. The ABA committee evaluates judicial nominees on their integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament." <http://bzfd.it/2yVL4K5>

**-- "Sebelius believed Menendez wanted her to 'take some action,'"** by Matt Friedman in Newark: "Former Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified Tuesday that two things stuck out to her about an August 2012 meeting she had with U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez and then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. One was that she couldn't recall Reid ever arranging a meeting with her and a member of Congress. The other was that she had never been called on to discuss an issue she said lower ranking staff members would normally handle.

**"I think it's the only time** I was asked to discuss a practice involving a billing issue before [the Centers for] Medicare and Medicaid Services. That is not something I was personally involved in on a basis like this,' Sebelius said under questioning at Menendez's federal corruption trial. The issue, as Sebelius understood it via briefings from her own staff, was Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen's overbilling of Medicare by nearly \$9 million -- money Melgen, now Menendez's co-defendant, was fighting to not have to pay back." <http://politi.co/2wwtEBX>

**BREAKING ... BLOOMBERG: "Amazon Faces ???250 Million Bill for Unpaid Taxes, EU Says":** "The EU ordered Amazon to pay ???250 million in back taxes to Luxembourg, saying the company had received illegal state aid." <https://bloom.bg/2hM4BZe>

**OY - "Yahoo Triples Estimate of Breached Accounts to 3 Billion,"** by WSJ's Robert McMillan and Ryan Knutson: "A massive data breach at Yahoo AABA 1.95% in 2013 was far more extensive than previously disclosed, affecting all of its 3 billion user accounts, new parent company Verizon Communications Inc. said on Tuesday. The figure ... is three times the 1 billion accounts Yahoo said were affected when it first disclosed the breach in December 2016. The new disclosure, four months after Verizon completed its acquisition of Yahoo, shows that executives are still coming to grips with the extent of the security problem in what was already the largest hacking incident in history by number of user accounts." <http://on.wsj.com/2xT7NGg>

**ON TO MOSCOW -- "New Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Cuts Price on McLean Mansion,"** by Realtor.com's Lisa Gordon: "The red brick estate, which came on the market last year at \$4.2 million, recently had its price reduced to \$3.6 million ... The seven-bedroom, five-bath home sits on a half-acre lot down the street from the CIA headquarters, the biggest tourist attraction in McLean. Built in 1985, the 8,852-square-foot home features a mahogany-paneled library, huge master suite, backyard pool, and

outdoor kitchen. Huntsman, a former Utah governor and a 2012 Republican presidential hopeful, bought the property for \$3.1 million in 2014 from U.S. Sen Fred Thompson, who was a GOP presidential contender in 2008." **With 3 pix of the house**  
<http://bit.ly/2yH5SEe>

**MEDIAWATCH -- "The press, branded the 'enemy' by Trump, increasingly trusted by the public: Reuters/lpsos poll,"** by Reuters' Chris Kahn: "The poll of more than 14,300 people found that the percentage of adults who said they had a 'great deal' or 'some' confidence in the press rose to 48 percent in September from 39 percent last November. Earlier this year, Trump branded the entire industry as the 'enemy of the American people.' The percentage of those who said they had 'hardly any' confidence in the press dropped to 45 percent from 51 percent over the same period. Confidence in Trump's administration moved in the opposite direction." <http://reut.rs/2xXf2i7>

-- **"'Megyn Kelly Today' Ratings Not All Sunshine for NBC's New Morning Host,"** by NYT's John Koblin: "Megyn Kelly, the new host of the 9 a.m. hour of NBC's 'Today' show, is off to a soft start in the ratings. In her first week as a cheerful morning personality, Ms. Kelly, a former Fox News anchor, drew an average of 2.5 million viewers, according to Nielsen, with 765,000 of them in the 25-to-54-year-old demographic prized by advertisers and network executives.

**"The total audience for 'Megyn Kelly Today,'** Ms. Kelly's portion of the show, was roughly in line with what 'Today' was reaching in the same hour before making the change, when it was hosted by Al Roker, Dylan Dreyer and Sheinelle Jones. In the coveted age bracket, the show's audience for Ms. Kelly was 5 percent smaller than it was the previous week." <http://nyti.ms/2xgmpxw>

--**Per Michael Calderone's Morning Media: KELSEY SNELL**, most recently with The Washington Post, is returning to NPR as a Congressional reporter. She once worked as an intern and production assistant on the weekend edition of "All Things Considered."

**LIST DU JOUR -- "Variety's New Power of New York List 2017" -- BEN SMITH on MAGGIE HABERMAN** <http://bit.ly/2xZUZAm>

## Playbookers

**SPOTTED** last night at the 2017 German Unity Day celebration at the residence of the German Ambassador -- **pic** <http://bit.ly/2xTfPix> : German Ambassador Peter Wittig and Huberta von Voss-Wittig, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Hilary Geary, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser, Belgian Ambassador Dirk Wouters, Nancy Brinker, Michelle Jaconi, Mary Beth Albright, Conrad and Ludmila Cafritz, Ray and Shaista Mahmood, Omar Oweiss, Michael Falcone, John McCarthy.

**OBAMA ALUMNI - MIKE FROMAN**, the U.S. trade representative in the Obama

administration, has joined the Miller Center at the University of Virginia as Schlesinger Chair.

**BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday):** Mariam Ehrari, formerly of the Clinton campaign and now the interim executive director of the Women's March (hat tip: Lisa Vedernikova)

**BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Norm Pearlstine**, retired vice chairman and chief content officer at Time Inc., is 75. **What he's up to these days:** "A bit of writing for Edward Felsenthal at TIME; consulting for several start-ups and young companies, including one run by a Toronto inventor, Steve Mann, best known for his work on wearable computing; serving on the board of InsideClimate News (a not-for-profit); and working as chief information architect at Money.Net, a small company using machine learning to provide data and news to financial professionals." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2xRmcVS>

**BIRTHDAYS:** Brynne Craig ... Steve Capus, CBS News exec. editor and Evening News EP and an NBC News alum, is 54 ... CBS News alum Sonya McNair ... Todd Malan of Rio Tinto ... AP's Holly Ramer ... Ret. Adm. Mike Mullen is 71 ... Annie Osborne ... ABC News' Santina Leuci ... Dana Mayber ... former SecDef Chuck Hagel is 71 ... Bill Gray of Issue One and FloorCharts fame (h/t Jenn Sherman) ... Rob Shapiro, co-founder and chairman of Sonecon and a Bill Clinton alum ... Elizabeth Bonner, associate at Glover Park Group ... Sean Hackbarth, senior editor at the U.S. Chamber ... Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) is 37 ... Wes McClelland ... Scott J. Frein, SVP of McGuireWoods Consulting ... BBC's Kasia Madera ... Miles Halpine ... Steve Picheny ... Tim Sparapani ...

... **Katie Waldman** ... Pervaiz Shallwani ... Pete Davis ... Eliza Adelson ... WaPo's Bridget Reed Morawski ... Rachel Berman ... Nick Binzoni ... Liz Wolgemuth, senior comms adviser and speechwriter at Senate HELP ... Chris Morris ... John Scott ... photographer Yan Bighetti de Flogny ... Ronald Tschetter ... Will von Meister ... Matt Roberts ... Margaret Hillmann ... Dane Waters ... Douglas McCain ... Ryan Donmoyer of Ernst & Young ... Maria Carrillo ... Paul Seymour ... Ted Miller ... Patrick Wilson ... Drew Willison, partner at Oldaker & Willison LLP and a Harry Reid alum ... ... Mirian Saez ... Phyllis Graham ... Rosemary Shore (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Koch Industries:** The Global Harvest Initiative estimates that the world's population will grow to 9 billion by the year 2050. Until then, the challenge is to find better ways to grow twice as much food on roughly the same amount of land that is used for farming today. At Koch, our scientists explore new natural ways to boost crop performance by harnessing tiny soil microbes that stimulate plant improvements and yield. This is one of the many challenges that our more than 70,000 employees across America work on each day. From agriculture and renewable fuels to energy efficiency and other advancements that help people improve their lives, our team members are encouraged to think like entrepreneurs and challenge the status quo. Here, everyone is encouraged to speak up with ideas to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and create greater long-term value for society, our customers and businesses. Go behind the scenes at [ChallengeAccepted.com](http://ChallengeAccepted.com). \*\*\*\*\*

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