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**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Wed 8/16/2017 5:09:13 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): TRUMP to hold rally in PHOENIX next week -- No W.H. aides have threatened to quit over Charlottesville -- HOPE HICKS named interim comms director

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)

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**NEW -- NYT's DAVID GELLES, LANDON THOMAS JR. and KATE KELLY: "Trump's Council of C.E.O.s in Disarray Following Remarks on Protest"** : President Trump's main council of top corporate leaders appeared on the verge of disbanding on Wednesday, said people briefed on the matter, following controversial remarks from Mr. Trump on Tuesday when he equated white nationalist hate groups with the protesters opposing them.

**"Late Wednesday morning, Stephen A. Schwarzman**, the chief executive of the Blackstone Group and one of Mr. Trump's closest confidants in the business community, organized a conference call for members of the president's Strategic and Policy Forum.

**"On the call, the chief executives of some of the largest companies** in the country were debating how to proceed. One option under serious consideration was disbanding the forum altogether. If the forum does survive, several C.E.O.s were expected to resign from it...

**"Inge Thulin, the chief executive of 3M, said in a statement Wednesday** that he would resign from the manufacturing council, joining a wave of defections since Monday, including the C.E.O.s of Merck, Under Armour and Intel."  
<http://nyti.ms/2waRkiW>

-- **@SaraElisen**: "Campbell Soup CEO Denise Morrison now resigns from manufacturing Council @realDonaldTrump" <http://bit.ly/2v1X0GI>

**Good Wednesday afternoon** and happy hump day. **THE PRESIDENT** will go to Camp David this week. From pooler SV Date of the HuffPo: "POTUS will travel to Camp David Friday: The President along with the Vice President will meet with the National Security Team on Friday at Camp David to discuss the South Asia strategy."

**ATTN. SENS. JOHN MCCAIN AND JEFF FLAKE -- TRUMP** will rally in Phoenix next week. Two paths the president can take: Trump can be conciliatory to McCain and Flake, which would likely give the White House more of a chance of getting things done on Capitol Hill. Or continue to poke them in the eye, inflaming two key votes in the Senate.

-- **ARIZONA REPUBLIC:** "Trump will take the stage at the Phoenix Convention Center on Tuesday at 7 pm., according to an announcement Wednesday morning. Attendees must register to obtain tickets." <http://bit.ly/2w1Cl4N>

**JOSH DAWSEY'S LATEST**, which he filed during vacation from his "beloved" South Carolina -- "**White House aides wrestle with their own futures after Trump's race comments**": "White House aides are wrestling with how to respond to President Donald Trump's defiant press conference on Tuesday in which he doubled down on his statement that 'both sides' are to blame for the Charlottesville violence and offered what some perceived to be overtures to white supremacists. No aides had yet threatened to resign as of Wednesday morning, according to White House officials and advisers, but a number of White House staffers had private conversations on Tuesday night about how terribly the day went. ...

"**Trump, however, was in 'good spirits'** on Tuesday night, according to a White House adviser who spoke to him, who said that the president felt the news conference went much better than his statement on Monday ... The president was not alone in his pleasure at the news conference. Chief strategist Steve Bannon, whose nationalistic views helped shape Trump's presidential campaign, was thrilled with the remarks, according to a friend of Bannon. Even though Trump on Tuesday failed to offer full-throated confidence in Bannon, saying, 'We'll see what happens with Mr. Bannon,' the controversy has brought some additional job security for the strategist, who has been on the outs with Trump and other White House aides. In an attempt to shore up support for Trump, White House senior adviser Stephen Miller was planning to hold a call with surrogates later on Wednesday." <http://politi.co/2v1ITCt>

-- **@GlennThrush:** "A reminder: For all the personnel churn, no WH staffer has yet resigned in protest of Trump's conduct, Tweets and racial/ethnic attitudes."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY** -- Susan Bro, the mother of Heather Heyer, the protester killed in Charlottesville: "They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her." *Video* <http://bit.ly/2uIA9VL>

**MITCH MCCONNELL'S STATEMENT ON HATE GROUPS** -- "We can have no tolerance for an ideology of racial hatred. There are no good neo-nazis, and those who espouse their views are not supporters of American ideals and freedoms. We all have a responsibility to stand against hate and violence wherever it it raises its evil head."

**FROM 41 AND 43** -- Former Presidents George W. Bush and George H. W. Bush: "America must always reject racial bigotry, anti-Semitism, and hatred in all forms. As we

pray for Charlottesville, we are reminded of the fundamental truths recorded by that city's most prominent citizen in the Declaration of Independence: we are all created equal and endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights. We know these truths to be everlasting because we have seen the decency and greatness of our country."

**A REPUBLICAN THAT DOES EXPLICITLY MENTION TRUMP?** Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a longtime thorn in the president's side. Graham's statement: "Mr. President, I encourage you to try to bring us together as a nation after this horrific event in Charlottesville. Your words are dividing Americans, not healing them."

**"Through his statements yesterday,** President Trump took a step backward by again suggesting there is a moral equivalency between the white supremacist neo-Nazis and KKK members who attended the Charlottesville rally and people like Ms. Heyer. I, along with many others, do not endorse this moral equivalency."

**IN NAME AND NOW IN TITLE -- HOPE HICKS** will be the interim White House communications director, via pooler S.V. Date of HuffPost. From the White House: "Hope Hicks will work with White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders and all of the communications team and serve as the Interim White House Communications Director. We will make an announcement on a permanent communications director at the appropriate time."

\*\*\*\*\* **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](http://affordableprescriptiondrugs.org) \*\*\*\*\*

**AFTERNOON READ -- "Angry White Boys** : What do the white nationalists actually want?," by National Review's Kevin Williamson: "The angry white boys do not have a serious political agenda. They don't have any straightforward demands like the Teamsters or PETA [groups Williamson uses as an example of protests he's witnessed before] do, and they do not have a well-developed ideological position like the Communists do, though it would be inaccurate to say that they lack an ideology entirely. Their agenda is their anger, an anger that is difficult to understand. Middle-class white men in the United States of America in anno Domini 2017 have their problems, to be sure. Life is full of little disappointments. But their motive is not to be found in their exterior circumstances, which are pretty good. ...

**"What does an angry white boy want?** The fact that they get together to play dress-up - to engage in a large and sometimes murderous game of cowboys and Indians - may give us our answer. They want to be someone other than who they are. That's the great irony of identity politics: They seek identity in the tribe because they are failed individuals. They are a chain composed exclusively of weak links. What they are engaged in isn't politics, but theater: play-acting in the hopes of achieving catharsis."

<http://bit.ly/2uLRLPQ>

**PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- "The Trump Administration Removed the White House's Capital Bikeshare Station:** The 'secret' dock was only available to people who could get inside the White House perimeter," by Washingtonian's Benjamin Freed: "The station was removed earlier this week at the Trump Administration's request, District Department of Transportation spokesperson Terry Owens tells Washingtonian....Owens referred all other questions about the Bikeshare station's fate to the White House, which did not respond to questions about why it had the dock removed."

**ALL IN THE FAMILY -- "Could There Soon Be Another Pence in Washington?,"** by Roll Call's Simone Pathe: "Greg Pence starred in a recent candidate announcement video, but it wasn't for his own campaign -- at least not yet.

**"The older brother of Vice President Mike Pence** is the finance chairman of Indiana Rep. Luke Messer's Senate campaign, and on the day Messer tweeted he was getting in the race, Greg Pence was the one who addressed the camera. The eldest of the six Pence siblings has political ambitions of his own. He's widely expected to run for Messer's seat, in Indiana's now-open 6th District, though he won't yet talk publicly about those intentions. ...

**"I am the brother of the vice president** of the United States,' Greg said at Messer's annual family barbecue on Saturday, where the congressman officially launched his Senate bid. 'And no, I do not look like him, he looks like me. I'm the oldest.'" <http://bit.ly/2uIHmvi>

**COMING DOWN -- "Confederate monuments taken down in Baltimore overnight,"** by The Baltimore Sun's Sean Welsh and Colin Campbell: "Confederate statues in Baltimore were removed from their bases overnight by city contractors, who used heavy machinery to load them onto flat bed trucks and haul them away -- an abrupt end to more than a year of indecision on what to do with the memorials. Mayor Catherine Pugh, who made the decision, watched in person as the four statues linked to the Confederacy were torn from their pedestals. The Baltimore City Council unanimously passed a resolution to remove them, amid a renewed national conversation following a deadly terrorist attack by a white supremacist at a rally in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday." <http://bsun.md/2uIYjiH>

**ELENA SCHNEIDER -- "DCCC raised \$6.2M in July" :** "The DCCC raised \$6.2 million last month, the committee's best off-year July total, according to an announcement from the House Democratic group. The DCCC has nearly \$23 million in cash on hand at the close of the month, compared to July 2015, when the committee had \$16 million in the bank. Since the start of Trump's presidency, the DCCC has raised \$66 million in their effort to retake the House. The committee said 40 percent of its July contributions originated online." **For Pros** <http://politico.pro/2ulyzmzS>

**TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- San Diego mayor charts future of California GOP -- New Jersey Democratic gubernatorial candidate compares Trump's statements to Nazi Germany** <http://politi.co/2uluwqt>

**NEW WOMEN RULE PODCAST** -- In the latest Women Rule podcast, Ambassador of Rwanda Mathilde Mukantabana and Ambassador of Kosovo Vlora Çitaku provide deeply emotional, first-hand accounts of the genocide and ethnic cleansing that tore apart their homelands during their formative years. Having overcome violence and brutal oppression, the ambassadors tell POLITICO's Luiza Savage that women played a major role in the rebuilding and rebirth of their respective nations, each of which now mandate that 30 percent of government officials be women. <http://politi.co/2ulQsBK>

**WEEKEND WEDDING - OBAMA ALUMNI -- Amanda DeGroff**, senior account executive at Melwood Global and an Obama DHS and Interior alum, married **Kristopher Munger**, a research analyst at American Crossroads. "We met in 2010 through a program called The Fund for American Studies. We met the day we moved in for the summer (he was staying across the hall from me) and we've been together ever since. Our wedding was in Connecticut at the house I grew up in - it is a 300-year-old tavern. ... We got married in the gardens (thankfully it stopped raining in time for the ceremony!)" *Instapic* <http://bit.ly/2uO9T84> ... *Pic* <http://politi.co/2x3trpZ>

-- **SPOTTED:** Bridesmaids Marsha Catron and Erin Waters (former fellow Obama DHS appointees), Scott Shepard, Sharon McCoy, Leah Duran and Rebecca Matulka.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Alex Marston** on the House Homeland Security Committee Democratic staff and a TSA alum, and **Dana Harlan**, who teaches fourth grade at Wolftrap Elementary in Fairfax County, have welcomed Norah Rose Marston, who was born at 7:14 p.m. last Wednesday at 6 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 inches. *Pics* <http://bit.ly/2vHdarb> ... <http://bit.ly/2vCG7pD>

\*\*\*\*\* **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](http://affordableprescriptiondrugs.org) \*\*\*\*\*

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