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Here we are again with our weekly news update. We know that you are busy people, and you probably do have a lot of news to sift through, online, on social media, on news feeds. But we will bring you a weekly update of news we curate from major news sources that may be of interest to you. We may even be able to introduce you to some new news sources you will enjoy exploring.

So read these on your devices, or print them out for your morning coffee reading this weekend. (We do not expect you will read these all at once: this is slow news, not Facebook news. So explore, linger, and share with friends—we mean share the links with actual, physical, real friends!)

👉 *Important developing story:* **Trump is considering John Bolton for National Security Advisor.** Would fire McMaster. This is both very very important and very very bad. Several news outlets this week reported, reliably, that President Trump has interviewed John Bolton in the Oval Office and wants him on board. Here is how *Vanity Fair* reported on Wednesday: "Last Tuesday, Trump met with ultra-hawkish former U.N. ambassador **John Bolton** in the Oval Office to discuss a potential job offer. Bolton has for years argued that the United States should pre-emptively attack Tehran. In 2015, he [wrote](#) a *New York Times* op-ed headlined, 'To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran,' and last month, he [wrote](#) a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed outlining the legal case for a pre-emptive strike against North Korea. According to a person who spoke with Bolton after the meeting, Bolton recalled that Trump said he wanted him to join the administration: 'We need you in here, John.' Bolton responded that there were only two jobs he'd consider: secretary of state and national security adviser. Trump said, 'O.K, I'll call you really soon.' Sources added that Trump spent much of the time with Bolton fuming that McMaster was speaking privately with **Barack Obama's** former national security adviser **Susan Rice**. 'Trump kept saying, "Can you believe it? To Susan Rice? Can you believe it?'"' [emphasis in original]. <https://>

www.vanityfair.com/news/2018/03/trump-swinging-the-axe-at-tillerson-mcmaster-sessions-jared-and-ivanka.

According to *Vanity Fair*, **Trump is also considering replacing Attorney General Jeff Sessions with Scott Pruitt** and telling Jared and Ivanka to go back to New York. For those who do not know the name, *Vox* on Monday published a profile: "John Bolton, former ambassador to the United Nations in the Bush administration, is one of the most radically hawkish voices in the American foreign policy conversation. He has said the United States should declare war on both [North Korea](#) and [Iran](#). He was credibly accused of [manipulating US intelligence](#) on weapons of mass destruction prior to the Iraq war and of [abusive treatment](#) of his subordinates. He once 'joked' about [knocking 10 stories](#) off the UN building in New York. And now he seems poised to become President Donald Trump's next national security adviser, which would have significant — and frightening — implications for the future of Trump's foreign policy.... John Prados, a fellow at George Washington University's National Security Archives, came to an even broader conclusion in a study of [declassified Bush administration documents](#): Bolton bears a significant amount of blame for the politicized intelligence used to justify the decision to attack Iraq." Bolton has also advocated preemptive war on North Korea. He has aligned himself with anti-Muslim groups and extremist Robert Spencer and has spoken to groups claiming Islamic law was creeping into the US legal system. He advocates for Jordan to annex the West Bank and the tearing up of the Iran deal. He appears frequently on *Fox News*. Read the *Vox* piece here: <https://www.vox.com/world/2018/3/12/17091772/john-bolton-trump-national-security-adviser-war-iran-north-korea>. **Highly recommended reading.*

Other news outlets have reported on the possibility of a Bolton appointment, including CNN, which does suggest pushback against any Bolton nomination from Senate Republicans: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/15/politics/white-house-cabinet-turmoil/index.html>.

A fuller report appeared in the late edition of *The New York Times* on Thursday, suggesting that Keith Kellogg, chief of staff at the NSC, rather than Bolton, might also be considered as National Security Advisor. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/us/politics/trump-white-house-turnover.html>.

We report this as rumor and speculation—though it is widespread and from

reliable sources. It is possible, given the above CNN report, that the matter has been leaked to gauge Senate reaction to the proposed nomination. Still, this story is important to watch unfold. We encourage our readers to follow events carefully as Trump re-organizes his Cabinet.

1. *Lesson one: The truth shall set you free:* There were several instances of truth-telling in the Trump administration this week. All ended, as you know, in firings. First, we have **Rex Tillerson**, who was summarily fired just after supporting ally Teresa May of the UK in blaming Russia for the poisoning of a former Russian double agent in London. Of course, this had been building for a while. "The president was so eager to fire Tillerson that he wanted to do so in a tweet on Friday, but [chief of staff] John Kelly persuaded Trump to wait until his secretary of state was back in the United States from Africa, two people familiar with the conversation said. Kelly ... warned Tillerson to possibly expect a pejorative tweet from Trump over the weekend, a State Department official said. Tillerson failed to fully understand that the chief of staff was gently signaling to him that he was about to be fired. And so, just over four hours after Tillerson's government plane touched down at Joint Base Andrews on Tuesday morning, the secretary of state learned of his dismissal from a tweet Trump issued just minutes after *The Washington Post* first [reported the news](#)... 'Thank you to Rex Tillerson for his service!' Trump tweeted." So reported *The Washington Post* on Wednesday. Also precipitating the firing was, apparently, Trump's leaving his secretary of state out of the loop when he precipitously agreed to meet in person with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Tillerson had expressed his indignation.

They summarize the firing well: "For Tillerson, it was a humiliating end to a 14-month relationship defined by mutual animosity and frustration. In his departure statement Tuesday afternoon, Tillerson thanked career diplomats for their 'honesty and integrity' and the American people for 'acts of kindness' — but pointedly did not thank Trump or praise his leadership. Tillerson's firing was long-anticipated, yet the way it played out stunned official Washington and was classic Trump. The man who made his name by declaring 'You're fired!' on reality television is loath to actually fire people in person, outsourcing Tillerson's dismissal to Twitter."

The Post also offers some background on the growing feuds between an

arrogant and vulgar president and an equally arrogant but straight-arrow businessman from Texas: “[For example]... Tillerson was put off by Trump’s vulgarity. An Eagle Scout and former national president of the Boy Scouts of America, Tillerson told confidants he was appalled by Trump’s [freewheeling political speech](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/it-was-a-different-mind-set-how-trump-soured-on-tillerson-as-his-top-diplomat/2018/03/13/899b1fba-26d7-11e8-b79d-f3d931db7f68_story.ht) at the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia last summer.” https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/it-was-a-different-mind-set-how-trump-soured-on-tillerson-as-his-top-diplomat/2018/03/13/899b1fba-26d7-11e8-b79d-f3d931db7f68_story.ht.

Of course, [calling your boss a “moron”](#) is a truth too far for any employee, even if it is [to paraphrase a famous author] “a truth generally accepted that a man in possession of a large fortune is an asset to a Cabinet.”

Along with Tillerson, his "undersecretary of state for public affairs, **Steve Goldstein, was fired** after he issued a statement that seemed to contradict the White House.” He had reported truthfully that Tillerson was the last to know he had actually been fired, though as above, John Kelly had signaled Trump’s displeasure on Friday . <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/us/politics/trump-tillerson-pompeo-america-first.html>.

And another **truth-teller, ICE spokesman James Schwab, resigned**, after "saying that he could no longer 'bear the burden' of spreading falsehoods on behalf of the Trump administration. [Schwab] told news outlets Monday that his decision was prompted by false statements made by the agency on Feb. 27 and repeated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions last week. The statements criticized the mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaaf, for her [decision last month](#) to warn city residents that a raid by federal immigration agents targeting roughly 1,000 people was imminent. The agency’s deputy director, Thomas D. Homan, [said that Ms. Schaaf’s warning](#) had helped '864 criminal aliens and public safety threats' to evade capture in the raid." Neither number was true, and the announcement was only a political attack on the mayor: "I asked them to change the information,' he told The [San Francisco] Chronicle, referring to the 864 people to whom the statement alluded. 'I told them that the information was wrong, they asked me to deflect, and I didn’t agree with that. Then I took some time and I quit.'" So reports *The New York Times* on March 13. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/us/california-ice-spokesman-resigns.html>.

2. For a little **perspective, however, on Rex Tillerson**, we should heed

the words of *The Guardian*: “it is hard to shed a tear for Tillerson. He has been a good soldier in enabling a military-first foreign policy, in which the state department is relegated to an afterthought. He has worked aggressively to gut the state department, [not filling](#) key positions, and implementing [freezes on hiring](#), all of which have contributed to a hostile environment and low morale. The nation’s most senior diplomats have resigned over the last year, leading to a [wave of exits](#) of career diplomats at all levels that has depleted the ranks of the nation’s diplomatic corps. It will take years to rebuild the state department in the wake of the damage inflicted by Trump and Tillerson.”

Yet of course, that paper pointed out in an op-ed on Wednesday, “**If and when Pompeo replaces him, we should be [deeply concerned](#)** – both because of Pompeo’s more [hawkish views](#), and where they might take America on the critical foreign policy decisions coming down the pike. “The **fate of the Iran deal** is once again hanging in the balance, and with it potentially more conflict in the Middle East,” continues *The Guardian*. “Trump has set a 12 May deadline for getting European allies on board with changes to the Iran deal, and has [reportedly](#) said that he will exit the deal if those changes aren’t made.... This development **doesn’t bode well for diplomacy with North Korea**, either. As Trump prepares for a possible summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Tillerson’s exit could signal a much harder line on talks. Whereas Tillerson has been a proponent of diplomacy with North Korea, Pompeo’s public language on North Korea has been more aggressive, and he has openly [hinted](#) at regime change.... [Moreover,] at Trump’s request, **Pompeo met with a conspiracy theorist** peddling the falsehood that the hack of the Democratic National Committee’s emails in 2016 was an inside job, not Russian hacking. He **also [falsely claimed](#) that the CIA concluded that Russian meddling did not affect the election’s outcome**. As war rages in Syria and Ukraine, and Russia continues interfering in US politics, Pompeo will be a key player in leading US policy on all.” <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/mar/14/rex-tillerson-mike-pompeo-us-national-security> [emphasis added].

3. Who is Mike Pompeo? Well, let us hear from one of his fans, *Breitbart News*. In November, they published a tribute to the Tea Party Republican from Kansas. “[Pompeo] founded a company called Thayer Aerospace with some friends from his West Point days. After serving as Thayer CEO for more than a decade, he sold Thayer and became president of Sentry International, a Wichita-based company that sells oil field equipment. One

of the **minor investors in Thayer was Koch Venture Capital**. Given the Left's deranged obsession with the Koch brothers as the focus of big-money evil in modern politics, we can expect to hear a great deal about this, even though [Pompeo has said](#) their investment was less than 2 percent of Thayer's total funding. There will also be some caterwauling about Koch support for Rep. Pompeo's congressional campaign. Pompeo wrote an [op-ed in 2012](#) chastising Democrats for 'harassing the Koch brothers,' specifically on the Keystone XL pipeline issue. 'Democrats' obsession with the Kochs as a political target is, indeed, additional evidence of a truly Nixonian approach to politics,' he said.

"During a [breakfast](#) for Kansas delegates to the Republican National Convention in July, **he called Pence a 'friend and mentor'** whose 'values ... are very much like those of us in Kansas,'" the news site reported. Then Pompeo went on: "You have seen him make good decisions in his business life, his family life – with his children, so I am excited for a commander in chief who fearlessly puts America out in front,' Pompeo said of Trump at the same event."

Breitbart is happy to report that "He is a **strong critic of the Iran nuclear deal**, [remarking](#) just Thursday on Twitter that he is 'looking forward to rolling back this disastrous deal with the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.'"

And *Breitbart* also reports that "**Pompeo has been accused of 'Islamophobia' by the [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#)**, for statements such as this one, made after the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013: 'When the most devastating terrorist attacks on America in the last 20 years come overwhelmingly from people of a single faith, and are performed in the name of that faith, a special obligation falls on those that are the leaders of that faith.' He continued, 'Instead of responding, silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts and more importantly still, in those that may well follow.'" [emphasis added] <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/11/18/10-things-didnt-know-mike-pompeo/>.

And, to complete the picture, just to confirm his consistency, *The Guardian* adds, "**He has [defended waterboarding](#)** as a interrogation tactic, arguing that it is not torture and is therefore legal." [emphasis added] Pompeo did, however, say that he would not use "enhanced interrogation"

by the CIA in his confirmation hearing last year: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/mar/13/mike-pompeo-who-is-he-secretary-state-trump-new-rex-tillerson-from-cia>.

The Kochs were major contributors to Pompeo's campaign. *The Nation's* political reporter John Nichols details the Pompeo-Koch connection in an essay on March 13, "The Koch Brothers Get Their Very Own Secretary of State: Trump's pick to replace Rex Tillerson is an errand boy for billionaires." <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-koch-brothers-get-their-very-own-secretary-of-state/>.

4. Oh, and **on that matter of torture.** *The New York Times* editorializes, on Wednesday, Mar. 14, that "When it comes to torture, no American officials have been more practiced in those heinous dark arts than the agents and employees of the Central Intelligence Agency who applied it to terrorism suspects after 9/11. Few American officials were so directly involved in that frenzy of abuse, which began under President George W. Bush and was ended by President Barack Obama, as **Gina Haspel**. On Tuesday, in announcing that he had dismissed Rex Tillerson as secretary of state and was replacing him with Mike Pompeo, the C.I.A. director, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Pompeo's successor would be his deputy, Ms. Haspel." [emphasis added] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/opinion/cia-torture-gina-haspel.html>.

5. *Lesson two: the essence of magic is misdirection—keep the audience looking somewhere else.* While you were watching the news about Stormy, Trump, Rex, and the wild weather, **over 200,000 refugees faced deportation** from the US to "shithole countries" El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan. These people have been in the US for decades, under a program called "TPS," which was designed to offer refuge to people fleeing natural disasters, armed conflict, or epidemics, and permits such refugees to have "temporary protected status," allowing them to work for extended periods. Now the Department of Homeland Security has cancelled that status, according to *The Guardian*, affecting mostly Salvadorans, "[who] make up about two thirds of the total beneficiaries. In January, the Department of Homeland Security [said it cancelled TPS for them](#) because the dangerous conditions created by earthquakes in 2001, which killed more than a thousand people, no longer exist. The country has rebuilt from the damage but continues to suffer drought, gang violence and economic strife." And the effect? "Many of the TPS-holders have resided in

the US for 20 or more years, but will be forced to leave the country if the administration's new policy remains in effect. Tens of thousands of US citizen children will then be forced to either separate from their parents or leave the only country they have ever known." The ACLU has brought suit to stop the mass deportations, claiming in their suit that the new interpretation of the law is unconstitutional, and "was adopted to further the administration's anti-immigrant, white supremacist agenda." <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/mar/12/trump-lawsuit-tps-immigration-deportation>.

6. *Lesson three: March comes in like a lion, but goes out like...a Lamb?* It is now clear that a **Democrat, Conor Lamb, has narrowly (very narrowly) won the much-watched election in the conservative Trump district in Pennsylvania.** There is much to analyze here. It is worth pointing out that Lamb was a pro-gun-rights conservative Democrat who is personally opposed to abortion. But in his district, that may be what was needed; it may or may not apply to other districts in the country. Here are some take-aways, brought to you by *The Washington Post's* Greg Sargent:

First: "**The House map probably just got broader.** Given Lamb's success in a district of this type, Ben Ray Lujan, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and his aides are now reassessing whether there are more districts out there that are heavy on working-class white voters and went big for Trump that Democrats should contest beyond the [current DCCC target list](#) of around 100 districts, a source familiar with internal deliberations tells me." [emphasis in original] In many diverse, suburban districts with well-educated voters, the DCCC is contesting races where Republicans seem vulnerable. But will they have success in more working class areas?

Second: "**The Trump/GOP agenda may be a big albatross for Republicans.** Republicans had banked heavily on selling their tax cuts to voters as proof that they're getting things done for working- and middle-class people. But in the final days, Republicans [dialed down their messaging about the tax cuts](#), because it wasn't working. Lamb appears to have kept GOP foe Rick Saccone's margins down in the deep-red counties while also doing very well in the Pittsburgh suburbs, suggesting that the tax plan is not working as planned either among blue-collar white Trump voters or among more-educated suburban whites....he apparently *won back* large

numbers of disaffected blue-collar Democrats, or at least outperformed Hillary Clinton among them....These are exactly the people who are supposed to believe Trump when he tells them his tax plan is good for them — and the surge of suburban voters against Trump appeared to continue. In short: The pluto-populism isn't working." [emphasis in original] Recall that in the late stages of the campaign, all Saccone really had was an attack on "Pelosi" and the red-meat attacks on immigrants and drug-dealers in Trump's rambling rally speech. That may have brought out some die-hards in Trump's base, depressing Lamb's margin. But it was not enough.

Third, "**Democrats can do better among blue-collar whites.** In his speech to supporters last night, Lamb stressed the importance of organized labor to the future of the Democratic Party, spoke up for the value of unions and work, and emphasized the importance of maintaining bedrock programs such as Medicare and Social Security. He had also campaigned against the GOP tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich — and, importantly, blasted the tax cuts for creating deficits that would require deep cuts to entitlements, harming the middle class." [emphasis in original] True, Lamb is a moderate or conservative on social issues, but, even taking that into account, the Democrats may have more appeal than they think if they find the right candidates to run in working-class areas. They may not have to choose, says Sargent, between emphasizing educated suburbanites and the blue-collar whites. Read Sargent's report and analysis in *The Washington Post* for Mar. 14, here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2018/03/14/three-big-takeaways-from-trumps-humiliating-pennsylvania-loss/>. **Highly recommended reading.*

[Note: *The Washington Post*, like other periodicals, may limit your reading. You may be able to get around this by using different devices or changing browsers. For *The Post*, blocking cookies in your browser may work to prevent the site from knowing you have been there; this may interfere with other sites, so turn cookies on after reading. But the best solution is just to subscribe, and that is what we recommend.]

See also a 7-point summary, a bit briefer, on CNN's website: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/14/politics/pennsylvania-special-election-takeaways/index.html>.

Finally, do not believe the Republican spin that Trump's visit headed off an

even larger loss for Saccone. This is based on a misreading of the polls, as revealed by *Washington Post* analyst Philip Bump: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/03/14/did-trumps-visit-stave-off-a-rout-in-pennsylvania-the-republican-post-loss-spin-analyzed/>.

☞ Note, however, that "[w]hat's wild about that spending is this race was almost entirely for bragging rights. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has struck down the Republican-drawn map as unconstitutional and ordered redistricting. The district won't look anything like it currently does come November." As pointed out in *The Washington Post*, the election will be replayed in November (this was a special election to fill a seat), and Lamb will probably run again. But his district will probably be more blue, and his odds will be good. [emphasis in original] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2018/03/14/daily-202-pennsylvania-special-election-shows-gop-still-hasn-t-found-a-winning-midterms-message/5aa869a730fb047655a06c49/>.

7. *Lesson four: Money talks.* *Bloomberg News* reports that "**the political network backed by billionaires Charles and David Koch is planning to step up its advertising** to unseat Democratic Senators Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Joe Donnelly of Indiana, who are seen as vulnerable because they're from states President Donald Trump won in 2016. The Koch-affiliated group Americans for Prosperity says it will run almost \$4 million in television and online ads targeted at the two lawmakers. The spending follows a [similar](#) \$4 million ad buy announced by the group in February targeting them." <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-14/koch-group-ups-spending-to-oust-democrats-in-missouri-indiana> [emphasis added].

8. *Lesson five: Money talks but sometimes not loudly enough.* "Money was essentially no object in Pennsylvania. **National Republicans spent at least \$10.7 million to help Saccone, more than five times as much as their Democratic rivals.** They will not be able to do that in every close race this fall. [emphasis in original] (From article in *The Washington Post* quoted above, under "What's wild...".)

9. Remember *Lesson two, about misdirection?* While you were distracted, you may have missed what news there was about the **Mueller investigation**. On March 12, in a major summary, *Bloomberg*

News reported that "Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether President [Donald Trump](#) obstructed justice is said to be close to completion, but he may set it aside while he finishes other key parts of his probe, such as possible collusion and the hacking of Democrats, according to current and former U.S. officials. That's because Mueller may calculate that if he tries to bring charges in the obstruction case -- the part that may hit closest to Trump personally -- witnesses may become less cooperative in other parts of the probe, or the president may move to shut it down altogether.... Any clear outcome of the obstruction inquiry could be used against Mueller: Filing charges against Trump or his family could prompt the president to take action to fire him. Publicly clearing Trump of obstruction charges -- as the president's lawyers have requested -- could be used by his allies to build pressure for the broader investigation to be shut down."

The site goes on to discuss the areas being examined most closely by Mueller's team, including one recent area of inquiry: "Mueller's team recently began probing efforts by the United Arab Emirates to influence the Trump team, including a meeting the Gulf kingdom apparently helped organize in the Seychelles where an [informal Trump adviser](#) also met with a Russian banker." The Mueller team is said to be focusing on obstruction in three key areas: the firing of Comey; the drafting of the misleading statement about the 2016 meeting between Kushner and Don Jr. with the Russians in Trump Tower; and what Trump was planning when he decided to fire Mueller in June, which he did not do. This is the best summary so far: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-12/mueller-is-said-to-weigh-putting-off-trump-obstruction-decision>. **Highly recommended reading.*

And on Thursday, *The New York Times* reported that "[t]he special counsel, Robert S. **Mueller III, has subpoenaed the Trump Organization to turn over documents**, including some related to Russia, according to two people briefed on the matter. The order is the first known instance of the special counsel demanding records directly related to President Trump's businesses, bringing the investigation closer to the president." These records apparently relate to a Trump real estate deal in Moscow, which some evidence suggests may have been offered to aid the Trump presidential campaign. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/us/politics/trump-organization-subpoena-mueller-russia.html> [emphasis added].

For those who want to read a book **about the scope of the Russian investigation and Russian election meddling**, see [*Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump*](#), by Michael Isikoff and David Corn. It is reviewed by NPR correspondent Mary Louise Kelly in *The Washington Post* this weekend: https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/what-was-in-the-letter-putin-wrote-to-trump-in-2013/2018/03/08/1a651a8a-2158-11e8-badd-7c9f29a55815_story.htm. You can also **hear Isikoff and Corn** discuss the book and its findings **in an NPR Podcast** of Terry Gross's 40-minute interview with them on *Fresh Air*: <https://www.podbean.com/media/share/dir-zzhnu-3b2c6f7>. (Hear it online, or download it using a podcast app on your device.)

10. *New York Times* columnist and Nobel economist Paul Krugman answers readers' many **questions on tariffs and imports**. It is full of good facts and correctives to a lot of popular wisdom. Read his illuminating piece here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/opinion/paul-krugman-aluminum-steel-trade-tariffs.html>.

11. Of course, the big national protest story was the **walkout of tens of thousands of high school students on Wednesday**, all across the country, from Maine to Hawaii. See the reporting on gun issues in *The Guardian*, which reported on March 14, "Thousands of students poured out of classrooms in the US on Wednesday in an unprecedented expression of mourning and a demand for action to stem the country's epidemic of gun violence. In a stunning visual riposte to the public inertia that has followed mass shootings in the US, crowds of students at an estimated 3,000 schools across the country marched on running tracks, through parking lots and around building perimeters, carrying signs that read 'Enough' and chanting, 'Hey hey, ho ho, gun violence has got to go'.... In Chicago, public schools changed class schedules to accommodate the walkouts, while the archdiocese announced that about 80,000 students at 200 Catholic schools would participate in assemblies to discuss gun violence. The protesters called for new gun safety legislation, including a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and the introduction of universal background checks. They also opposed the additional fortification of schools with fences and armed guards, policies endorsed by the [NRA](#), America's powerful gun lobby group." <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/mar/14/walkout-students-gun-violence-parkland-florida>.

On **stalled national gun control measures**, *The Guardian* reports that “[t]he [Trump administration](#) has backed away from a proposal to raise the legal age to buy certain guns because of an NRA lawsuit, the president wrote on Monday. ‘On 18 to 21 Age Limits, watching court cases and rulings before acting,’ Donald Trump [tweeted](#), after weeks of voicing support for raising the age limit. He also said there was ‘not much political support (to put it mildly)’ for the policy. Recent polls of US adults have found that [more than two-thirds](#) of respondents favor raising the legal age to buy guns.” <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/mar/12/teachers-and-school-staff-to-be-given-weapons-training-white-house-says>.

12. *Lesson six: Be careful where you point a loaded gun....* The lead in *The Washington Post* says it all: “**A teacher** who is also a reserve police officer trained in firearm use **‘accidentally’ discharged a gun** Tuesday at Seaside High School in Monterey County, Calif., during a class devoted to public safety, school officials said [in a statement](#). A male student was reported to have sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The weapon, which was not described, was pointed at the ceiling, according to [a statement from the school](#), and debris fell from the ceiling...fragments from the bullet ricocheted off the ceiling and lodged in the boy’s neck.” [emphasis added] No one called the nurse or EMTs to help the bloodied student: he went home, and his parents took him to the hospital. He is recovering. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/03/14/teacher-accidentally-discharges-firearm-in-calif-classroom-he-was-trained-in-gun-use/>. [*The Times* reports [here](#) that two other students were hit by the debris, and that in Alexandria, VA, a similar gun firing by a school police officer did not injure anyone.]

13. This week we are happy to bring you a **report on the demonstration at Wheaton Warrenville South** from a high school teacher who summarized eyewitness accounts. He put together eyewitness reports and wrote to the Research Team. He writes, “*Today at 10 AM roughly 500-600 students at Wheaton Warrenville South High School quietly walked out of their classrooms and silently gathered on the football field to hear the reading of the names of the 17 victims of the Lakeland, Florida school shooting. A group of 17-20 students organized and conducted the solemn ceremony in which each victim's name and brief bio was spoken, followed by a 30 second silence. Many students in the crowd held hopeful, positive placards during the silent ceremony. After the reading of the last name and*

moment of silence, the student announcer told everyone to return to class. All returned within minutes of being released, and the school day resumed. Peace and solemnity reigned.” The teacher added, "All were struck by how respectful and mature the students were. When there was silence, you could hear a pin drop.”

Locally, several newspapers reported on the **anti-gun-violence walkouts**. *The Chicago Tribune* said, "At dozens of public and private schools from [Waukegan](#) to [Mokena](#), from Chicago’s lakefront to [Elgin](#), teens in the city and suburbs honored the 17 killed in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., one month ago, and called attention to the gun violence that has plagued their schools and communities.” Read the report here: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-school-walkouts-gun-reform-20180313-story.html>.

The Daily Herald reported that, "At some suburban high schools -- including Libertyville, Mundelein and Lake Park -- administrators supported students' rights to protest and worked to ensure safe, peaceful demonstrations. At others -- including Dundee-Crown, Hampshire and Wauconda high schools -- administrators cited safety concerns in holding indoor events and threatened disciplinary action against any teens who walked out of class or left the building. Walkouts also took place at some junior high schools, including Robert Frost in Schaumburg.” <http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180314/we-are-young-and-we-are-strong-suburban-teens-join-walkout-against-gun-violence#autoplay>.

Best wishes, and Peace,
The Indivisible DuPage Research Team

***“Rise like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number—
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many—they are few”***

—From "The Mask of Anarchy. Written on the Occasion of the [army] Massacre at Manchester [1819]", By British Romantic Poet Percy Shelley