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The Week That Was

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1. Grading the Gun Effort

Our Spin:

Dick's Sporting Goods received an "A plus" from Governor Cuomo this week after the retailer announced that they will no longer sell military-style rifles. The Governor commended their leadership in taking smart measures to keep weapons out of the wrong hands. On the opposite end of the spectrum was the federal government who received an "F" from Professor Cuomo... "In the aftermath of the Parkland tragedy, the American people are calling for action. And while the federal government shamefully does nothing, this state and this country will forge a path forward," Cuomo said in a statement. I wonder what letter grade the Governor gave his Republican pals in the state senate for voting down a series of hostile amendments on Wednesday that would have banned bump stocks and strengthened background checks.

The Story:

Earlier in the week, two of the nation's leading gun sellers, Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods, announced they were taking steps to limit their sales of firearms, engaging themselves into the middle of the national debate over gun control.

Walmart, the biggest gun seller, announced Wednesday afternoon that it would not sell any gun to anyone under 21 years of age. It also said it would no longer sell items resembling assault-style rifles, including toys and air guns.

Walmart's announcement came just hours after Dick's Sporting Goods said it was immediately ending sales of all assault-style rifles in its stores. The retailer also said that it

would no longer sell high-capacity magazines and would also require any gun buyer to be at least 21, regardless of local laws. The announcement was actually the second time Dick's has made such a promise.

After the December 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, the company halted sales of military-style rifles like the AR-15, which, along with AK-47s, are categorized by the gun industry as "modern sporting rifles."

Under federal law, a person must be at least 21 to buy a handgun from a firearms dealer. But 18-year-olds can buy semiautomatic rifles and other firearms. The dual announcements, made two weeks after students and staff members were killed in the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., were among the most significant actions taken on guns by corporate America. Both retailers said their decisions were a response to the shooting.

[The New York Times](#)

2. Dream Job or de Blasio Nightmare?

Our Spin:

Alberto Carvalho, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent, told Mayor de Blasio that the New York City School Chancellor position was his dream job. However, after a four hour public praise fest in Miami, new school chancellor became a nightmare as Carvalho publicly announced he was staying in the "city where the heat is on."

The Story:

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio received some surprising news on Thursday, when his choice to lead the city's school district publicly turned the job down on live television.

The news broke when an emergency meeting of the Miami school board was called, with parents and students pleading with Superintendent Alberto Carvalho to remain in the job and not move to New York City to replace Carmen Fariña as schools chancellor.

Mr. Carvalho made his announcement before his school board in Miami, leading to cheers in the packed meeting room and fury and confusion in New York City. "I am breaking an agreement," Mr. Carvalho said. "I shall remain in Miami-Dade as your superintendent."

Carvalho began with a speech tantalizing the crowd with hints he might leave, then interrupted his remarks to speak privately by telephone with Mayor de Blasio before coming back and delivering the news. In the end, Carvalho decided to keep his talents in South Beach.

"The decision that I have made, however, is a decision I can no longer sustain," he said after taking a second recess to call the mayor's office and inform him he was backing out of the job. "I am breaking an agreement between adults to honor an agreement and a pact I have with the children of Miami."

The decision to remain in Miami appeared to have caught the mayor's team off guard. De Blasio spokesman Eric Phillips at first on Twitter noted the soaring speech Carvalho was delivering was a good thing, but later told reporters to "give us a minute" in order to sort "through the weirdness" of Carvalho's Hamlet-on-the-beach display.

[CNN](#)

3. Sunny Forecast

Our Spin:

In a week that saw the Albany weather reach a high of almost 60 to a low of the second bomb cyclone now dumping over a foot of snow on the Capital city, Senate Republican's released a balmy revenue forecast with \$1.5

billion in extra cash. As the three parties march to a final budget agreement, let's hope sunny skies prevail.

The Story:

A number of economic reports were released by the Legislature this week relating to the Executive's budget proposal. On Wednesday the New York Senate GOP released a report that found an additional \$1.5 billion in extra cash than projected by Governor Cuomo, which lawmakers said would make the state's \$4.4 billion deficit "more manageable."

Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan in a statement noted the extra revenue would also alleviate the proposed \$1 billion hike in taxes and fees in Cuomo's \$168 billion spending plan.

"The simple fact is that New Yorkers pay enough in taxes already, and more than anything they need and deserve relief," Flanagan said. "Senate Republicans have put forward a comprehensive plan to encourage affordability and opportunity, and ensure the safety and security of our citizens. This plan invests in areas critical to the long-term health of our economy and our state, and it cuts taxes to create new jobs. It is a blueprint to a responsible budget and a stronger New York, and I am hopeful that the Governor and our partners in the Legislature will work with us to get it done."

Senate Independent Democratic Conference Leader Jeff Klein added the revenue would be able to provide property tax relief as well as more funding for education.

"New York's working- and middle-class families drive our economy forward. This revenue forecast shows we have nearly \$1.5 billion to invest in property tax relief for our middle-class and senior homeowners, increased education funding and college affordability for all," he said. "I look forward to passing an on-time budget that keeps New York a prosperous place for everyone."

[State of Politics](#)

