

EXCLUSIVE

Blackwater founder held secret meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel

The United Arab Emirates arranged the meeting — nine days before Donald Trump’s inauguration — between Blackwater founder Erik Prince and a Russian close to President Vladimir Putin as part of an apparent effort to establish a back-channel line of communication between Moscow and the president-elect, according to U.S., European and Arab officials. The White House said it was not aware of any meetings and Prince had no role in Trump’s transition.

By Adam Entous, Greg Miller, Kevin Sieff and Karen DeYoung

- **The Fix: The White House is a smoke machine when it comes to Russia**
- **Graphic: Here’s what we know so far about Team Trump’s ties to Russian interests**

Democrats secure enough votes to block Gorsuch, setting stage for ‘nuclear option’

Four more Senate Democrats confirmed they will support a filibuster, giving the minority party the requisite 41 votes to maintain their procedural roadblock. The rules change known as the ‘nuclear option’ would allow Republicans to proceed with this and potentially future Supreme Court nominations on a simple majority vote, upending a long-standing Senate tradition that forces the governing party to seek bipartisan support.

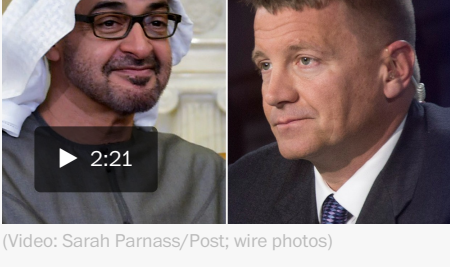
By Ed O’Keefe and Elise Viebeck

- **Graphic: See which Democrats have signed on for the filibuster**
- **The Fix: Democrats just took the filibuster off life support**
- **The Fix: How Republicans can break the Democratic filibuster**

Trump can quietly draw money from trust whenever he wants, new documents show

The filing reveals more evidence that the trust agreement — which the president used to put his adult sons in charge of his company — offers little barrier against President Trump making money from the hotels, golf courses, branding deals and other business interests that he has widely promoted during his presidency.

By Drew Harwell



(Video: Sarah Parnass/Post; wire photos)



Trump senior adviser Jared Kushner in Baghdad. (Reuters)

Kushner trip to Iraq underscores his singular role in Trump’s White House

The portfolio of Jared Kushner, President Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, has grown to encompass slices of everything from foreign policy to domestic issues to serving as the in-house mediator for the various feuding camps within the West Wing. But Kushner’s outsize role has led to larger-than-life sniping and resentments.

By Ashley Parker and John Wagner

- **White House violated protocol by announcing Kushner trip to Iraq before he had landed**

Search for suspect underway after 11 killed in explosion on a train in St. Petersburg

The blast tore apart a train as it traveled between two central metro stations in Russia’s second-largest city, injuring dozens. Authorities launched a terrorism investigation that centered on a single bomber who left an explosive device at one station before boarding a train and detonating a second device.

By Andrew Roth and David Filipov

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Opinions



A (probably futile) plea for sanity in the Senate

By Ruth Marcus



Trump’s court needs a fool

By Catherine Rampell



The one thing these senators can agree on: They’re about to do something very bad

By Dana Milbank



Fox serves up a fetid reminder that when you’re a star, you can still do anything

By Michael Gerson



Bringing peace to the Mideast is Kushner’s second-toughest job

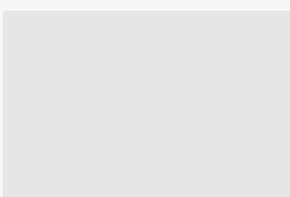
By Eugene Robinson



The Senate is on the brink of an historic mistake

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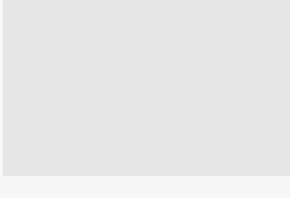
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Foreign tech workers on edge as lottery opens for ‘high skilled’ H-1B visas

The 85,000 visa slots are expected to fill in a matter of days, with nearly three-quarters of them expected to go to Indian workers, as they have in recent years. But the Trump administration injected new uncertainty in the process Monday with a warning to employers.

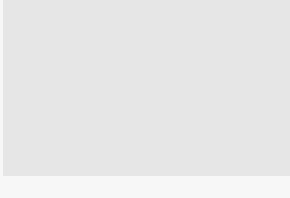
By Tracy Jan



‘It was hand-to-hand combat’: New details emerge about 2014 Russian hack of the State Department

One official described the attackers’ thrust-and-parry moves inside the network while defenders were trying to kick them out. Others fear the aggressive espionage tactics could spill over into the private sector.

By Ellen Nakashima



The left and right agree: Fox News destroyed EPA chief Scott Pruitt over climate change

“Fox News Sunday” host Chris Wallace grilled the controversial new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, whose responses earned the rare distinction of being panned by both climate change advocates and skeptics alike.

By Amy B Wang

- **These stunning timelapse photos show the effects of climate change**



(AP and Library of Congress)

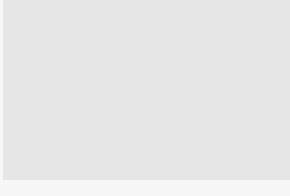
The Past, Rediscovered

Retropolis

The U.S. joined the ‘Great War’ 100 years ago. America and warfare were never the same.

Called to arms by the sinking of neutral ships and by German provocations, hundreds of thousands of Americans crossed the Atlantic to fight in World War I. Tens of thousands never came home. Those who did — such as a doughboy from Iowa and a nurse from Wisconsin, whose stories were recorded for posterity — would never be the same.

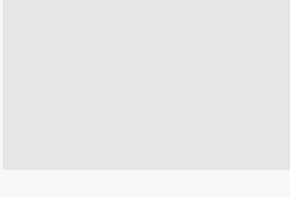
By Michael E. Ruane



Trump will donate his first-quarter salary — \$78,333 — to the National Park Service, White House says

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that the money would be put toward the maintenance of historic battlefields.

By David A. Fahrenthold

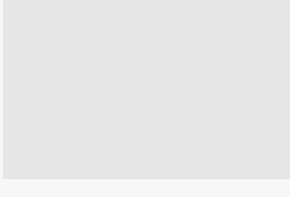


Georgetown hires star alumnus Patrick Ewing to replace John Thompson III as men’s basketball coach

Ewing will take over the program he helped lead to a national championship as a player in 1984.

By Gene Wang

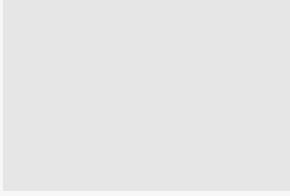
- **Looking back at the first time Ewing committed to Georgetown**



University mourns sorority member who died after pancake-eating contest

Thousands attended a Mass at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut in honor of the student, whose father died while trying to save people after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City.

By Susan Svrluga

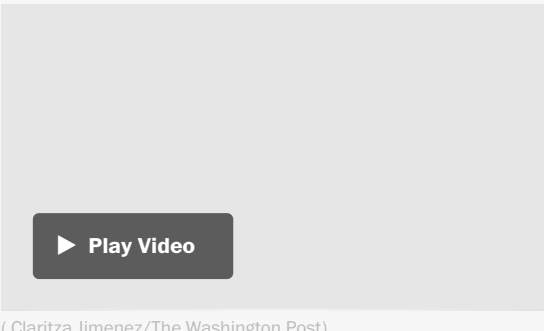


Storm chasers berated by their peers after driving into a tornado on purpose

The chasers set a dangerous example, critics said, after filming themselves speeding directly into a small twister in northern Louisiana.

By Jason Samenow

Video



(Claritza Jimenez/The Washington Post)

What we know about the Paris airport attack

What we know about the Russian subway bombing
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Shia LaBeouf’s battle with 4chan
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Robert Redford: 45 years after Watergate, the truth is again in danger
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10 moments from the 2017 Academy Country Music Awards
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Why is Trump flailing? Because Americans hate his agenda, and it’s based on lies.

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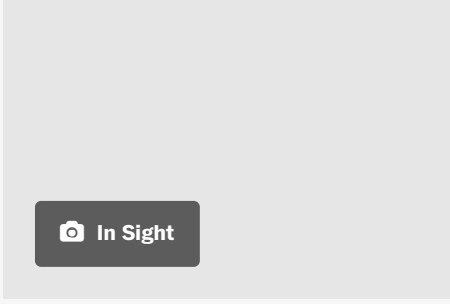
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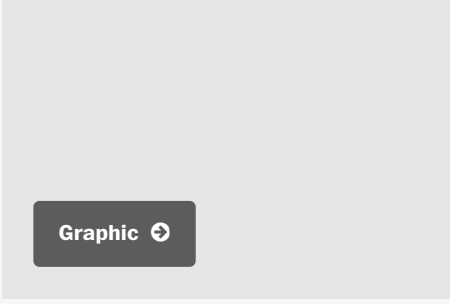
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In Sight

(Myriam Meloni)

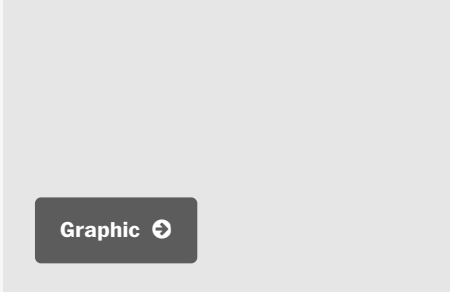
These photos show what it's like being a child bride in the country of Georgia



Graphic

(Peter and Maria Hoey for The Washington Post)

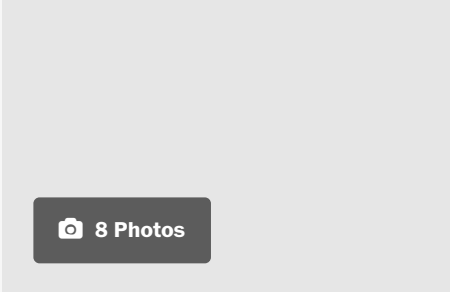
The government's struggle to hold opioid manufacturers accountable



Graphic

(Bonnie Berkowitz and Denise Lu/Post)

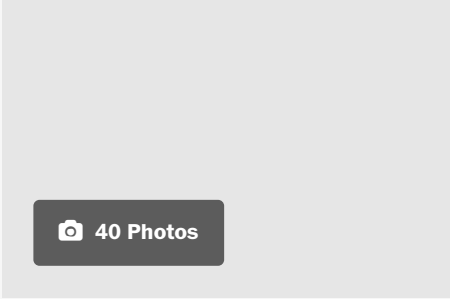
Here's what we know so far about Team Trump's ties to Russian interests



8 Photos

(Mark McFadden/McFadden Group)

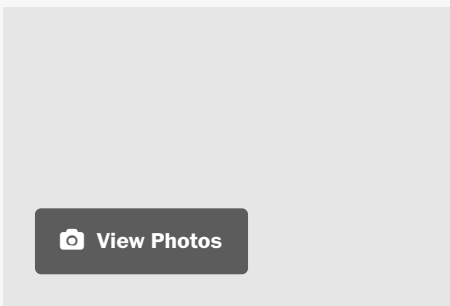
A look inside the Obamas' Kalorama home



40 Photos

(Nina Prommer / EPA)

Highlights from the 2017 Academy of Country Music Awards



View Photos

(Ryan Remiorz/AP)

Here are 22 of the week's best photos

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<div>Local</div> <div></div> <div><div>Washington reclaims title of country's most literate city, study finds</div><div>D.C. student is arrested over apparent school threat on social media</div><div>No foul play suspected in death of man found near Lake Artemesia, police say</div><div>See a pothole? Say something. Potholepalooza is here.</div></div>	<div>Sports</div> <div></div> <div><div>NHL will not participate in 2018 Winter Olympics</div><div>March Madness 2017: North Carolina aims for title game redemption vs. Gonzaga</div><div>'Technical problems' lead to long lines, frustration at Nats Park on Opening Day</div><div>There is love and risk in Georgetown's hiring of Patrick Ewing</div></div>	<div>Lifestyle</div> <div></div> <div><div>Prince Charles is sad and sexy and maybe too nice to be king</div><div>Trump Models might be running out of models</div><div>One of the best Trump impersonators around is getting his own late-night comedy show</div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>Carolyn Hax: Attend weird neighbor's party, for children's sake</div></div></div>	<div>Arts</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>Review</div><div>There will be blood in Signature's 'Midwestern Gothic'</div></div><div><div>Review</div><div>Piano-violin duo brings mature eloquence to Phillips Collection</div></div><div><div>Review</div><div>Nilaja Sun channels a village in her solo show 'Pike St.'</div></div><div><div>'American War' follows today's vitriol to a dystopian future</div></div></div>
<div>Technology</div> <div></div> <div><div>Verizon has a name for its AOL-Yahoo combination — and the Internet is having a bit of fun with it</div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>There is a jobs crisis brewing that the Trump administration should not ignore</div></div><div>A man fell asleep with his iPhone charging in bed. It nearly electrocuted him.</div><div>Verizon is reportedly planning a new streaming TV service</div></div>	<div>Business</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>Analysis</div><div>Trump is talking like a big-spending Democrat</div></div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>This tech entrepreneur is living and raising his three kids out of a school bus</div></div><div>Shocker: Some cats like people more than food or toys</div><div>Read the latest from Capital Business</div></div>	<div>Federal Government</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>Democrats call for largest IRS budget to improve service as Trump calls for cuts</div></div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>Agencies prepare for federal employee layoffs, furloughs</div></div><div><div>Perspective</div><div>Energy Department whistleblower finally gets justice, despite agency neglect</div></div><div>In a first for the government, dogs will be welcome at the Interior Department</div></div>	<div>Real Estate</div> <div></div> <div><div>Two-bedroom, three-bathroom condo in Northwest Washington lists for \$375,000</div><div>Where demand for homes is growing in the Washington suburbs</div><div>How to ensure you've received proper documentation after paying off a mortgage</div><div>Making preparations for that first day and night in your new home</div></div>