

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

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

Sessions orders review of all reform agreements with troubled police forces

In a memo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the review is necessary to ensure the reform agreements do not work against the Trump administration’s goals of promoting officer safety and morale while fighting violent crime.

By Sari Horwitz, Mark Berman and Wesley Lowery

- Read the Sessions memo

Authorities name suspect from Kyrgyzstan in St. Petersburg metro bombing

The state security service of Kyrgyzstan identified the suspect in the incident that killed 14 people and wounded dozens as Akbarzhon Dzhaliyov, a Russian citizen born in the Central Asian nation.

By Andrew Roth and David Filipov



(Mark J. Rebilas/USA Today Sports)

- Early Lead: Everyone was mad at the referees during the title game

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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

Editorial Board

With help from Pence, House Republicans rekindle talks on stalled health-care plan

Vice President Pence and other administration officials discussed health proposals with members of the hard-line Freedom Caucus and the moderate Tuesday Group. Freedom Caucus chairman Mark Meadows said officials offered a “solid idea” that could form the basis of an intraparty compromise.

By Mike DeBonis and John Wagner

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

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

The Fix Analysis

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

White House decries media’s ‘lack of interest’ in reports of Obama officials spying

But Sean Spicer said he would not comment on a new report that President Barack Obama’s national security adviser had requested that the intelligence community provide names of Trump associates whose conversations with foreigners were incidentally intercepted.

By Karen DeYoung

Activists say gas attack kills civilians in Syria as E.U. leaders discuss reconstruction

The strike killed at least 35 people in the northwestern town of Khan Sheikhoun and caused many to choke and faint and, in some cases, foam at the mouth, according to a Britain-based monitoring network.

By Louisa Loveluck

Perspective

There is both love and risk in Georgetown’s hiring of Patrick Ewing

Georgetown needed its greatest player to return. And Ewing needed Georgetown to fulfill another dream.

By Jerry Brewer

- Georgetown University hires star alumnus to replace

“Why me, God? Eight years for signing a piece of paper wrong. I didn’t know what I was doing. I don’t have any criminal record. Why am I the example?”

— Rosa Ortega



Rosa Ortega with her children in Grand Prairie, Texas. (Cooper Neill for The Post)

She voted illegally. But was the 8-year prison sentence fair?

Rosa Ortega, an immigrant mother of four, is not a U.S. citizen, but she voted in Texas anyway. Her case rippled across a country divided over the scale and impact of voter fraud and the assertions of opinion over facts. Did her harsh sentence help to deter a societal problem, or was it the consequence of some modern-day myth?

By Robert Samuels

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 outside role has led to larger-than-life sniping and resentments.

By Ashley Parker and John Wagner



Morning Mix

(Screen grab)

A teen asked his grandmother to her first prom. Too old, said the school.

By Travis M. Andrews

Newspaper says columnist tried to remove articles criticizing Trump to get a State Department job. It backfired.

Mercedes-Benz, Hyundai pull advertising from Bill O’Reilly’s show amid sexual harassment accusations

‘Oath’ is the name of Verizon’s new ‘disruptive’ company. Get it?

Vaccinations significantly reduce risk of death from the flu, CDC study finds

Church of England, prime minister, lash out after ‘Easter’ dropped from national egg hunt

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(Myriam Meloni)

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(Peter and Maria Hoey for The Washington Post)

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(Bonnie Berkowitz and Denise Lu/Post)

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8 Photos

(Mark McFadden/McFadden Group)

A look inside the Obamas' Kalorama home

40 Photos

(Nina Prommer / EPA)

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(Ryan Remiorz/AP)

Here are 22 of the week's best photos

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House Intelligence Committee may resume interviews later this month

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A quarter-million people want to know: When, exactly, is April the giraffe going to give birth?

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Former D.C. Council member Sharon Ambrose dies

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A D.C. baseball tradition: Bryce Harper hitting Opening Day home runs

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Everyone was mad at the refs during the national championship game

North Carolina finds redemption, beats Gonzaga to win NCAA championship

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Verizon has a name for its AOL-Yahoo combination — and the Internet is having a bit of fun with it

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There is a jobs crisis brewing that the Trump administration should not ignore

A man fell asleep with his iPhone charging in bed. It nearly electrocuted him.

Verizon is reportedly planning a new streaming TV service

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Million-dollar listings are the rule not the exception in these D.C.-area communities

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