

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

After spending-bill win, Democrats confident they can block Trump agenda

By exploiting Republican divisions over spending priorities, Democrats secured nearly \$5 billion in new money for domestic programs in the five-month budget deal. The lopsided victory means it will be very difficult — if not impossible — for the GOP to exert its will in future budget talks.

By Kelsey Snell and John Wagner

[What's in the spending deal?](#)

House Republicans continue push for a health-care bill, even if it goes nowhere in the Senate

The messy effort to rally their party around a plan to revise the Affordable Care Act has forced House leaders to focus on one goal: pass a bill they can say repeals Obamacare to shield their members in next year's elections. But even that is proving elusive.

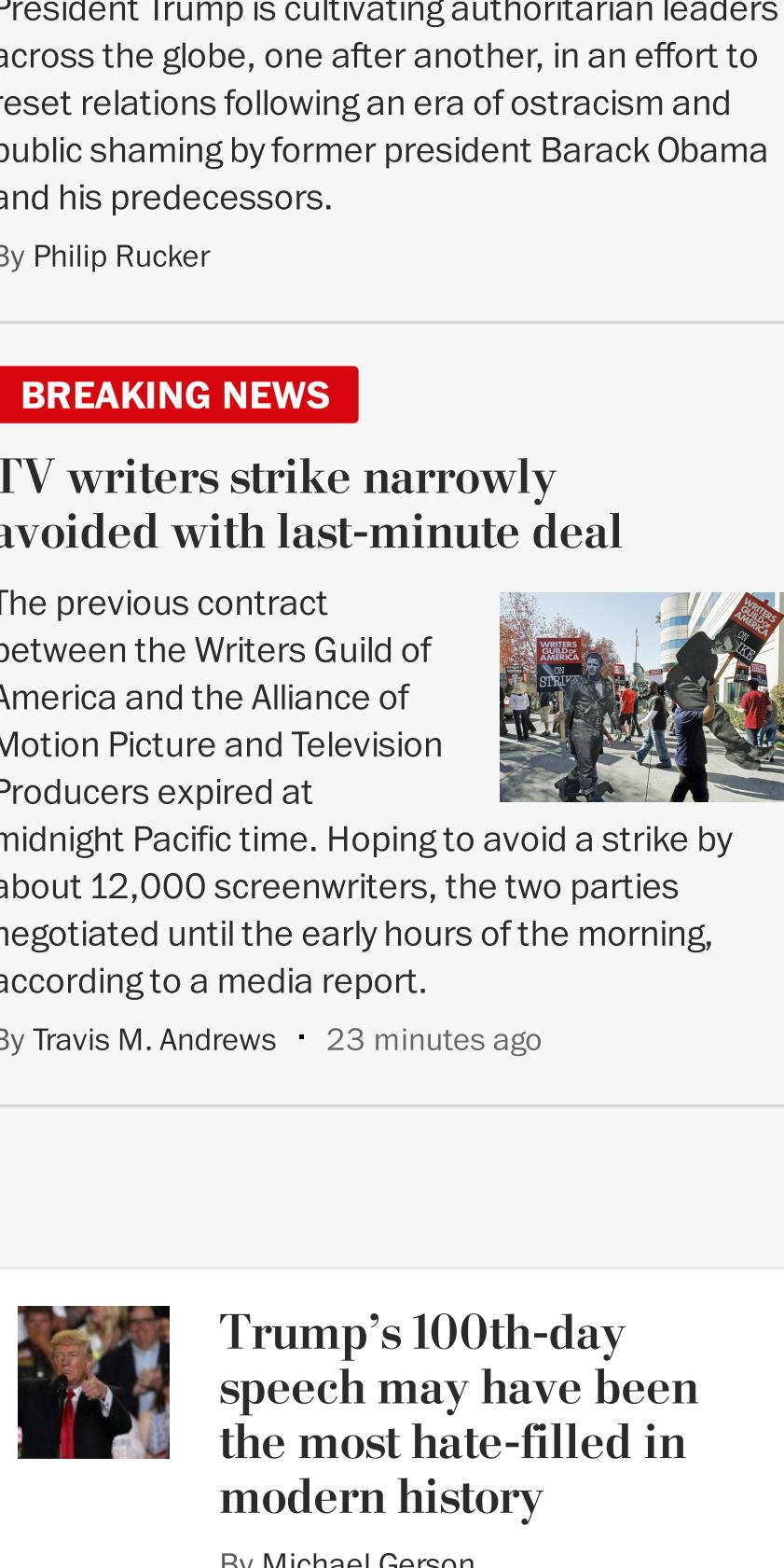
By David Weigel and Paige Winfield Cunningham

Is your 'organic' milk really organic? Critics say big farms' standards can fall short.

Visits by The Washington Post to dairy farms raise questions about whether large farms meet organic standards and whether inspectors are well-positioned to know.

By Peter Whoriskey

"I think always... 'A fantastic job'" — Trump praise for Egypt's Abdel Fatah al-Sisi during his U.S. visit



(Post photo illustration; Trump photo by Jabin Botsford/Post)

Trump's praise for strongmen alarms human rights advocates

In an undeniable shift in American foreign policy, President Trump is cultivating authoritarian leaders across the globe, one after another, in an effort to reset relations following an era of ostracism and public shaming by former president Barack Obama and his predecessors.

By Philip Rucker

BREAKING NEWS

TV writers strike narrowly avoided with last-minute deal

The previous contract between the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers expired at midnight Pacific time. Hoping to avoid a strike by about 12,000 screenwriters, the two parties negotiated until the early hours of the morning, according to a media report.

By Travis M. Andrews • 23 minutes ago

Opinions



Germany used to have a leader like Trump. It's not who you think.

By Richard Cohen

More Top Stories



He fought with Russian-backed militants in Ukraine. Now he's a U.S. soldier.

With his well-documented history of espousing extreme right-wing views and his role in an armed group backed by a U.S. adversary, Guillaume Cuvelier's ability to join the Army raises questions about recruitment and screening.

By Thomas Gibbons-Neff



Pentagon chief cracks down on service academy athletes going pro without serving full time

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has rescinded a department policy that allowed some of the military academies' athletes to avoid active-duty service after graduating in order to pursue professional sports.

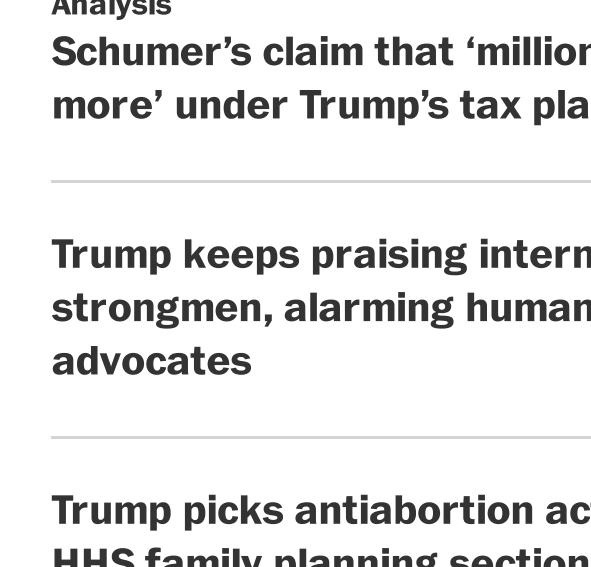
By Dan Lamothe



Controversial missile defense shield is now operational in South Korea

The system's installation, the latest sign of an enhanced U.S. response to threats from North Korea, has been hotly contested by China, which has called it a threat to its own security, and critics in South Korea, who said the United States scrambled to complete it before that country's election.

By Missy Ryan



Turmoil at Fox News continues as co-president Shine resigns

Bill Shine succeeded Roger Ailes, who left during a sexual-harassment scandal last summer, and his ouster comes one week after the firing of Bill O'Reilly, the network's biggest star.

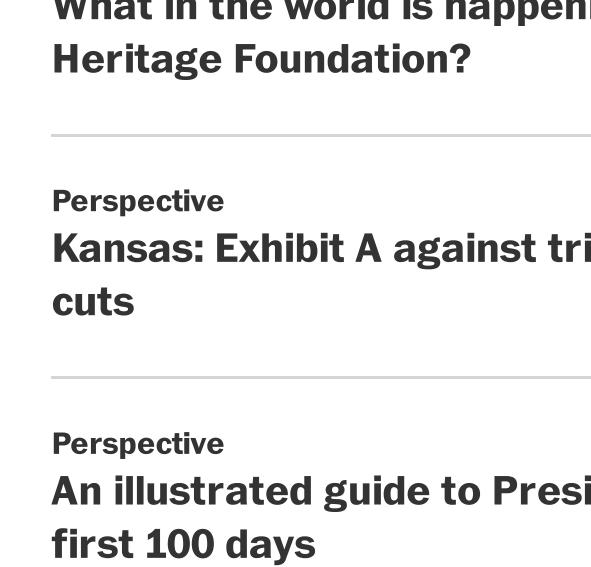
By Paul Farhi



This Pakistani surgeon helped find bin Laden. Despite Trump's vow, he's still in prison with no end in sight.

U.S. forces killed the al-Qaeda leader exactly six years ago, and Shakil Afridi has been in jail ever since on vague charges.

By Rick Noack • 1 hour ago



Trump administration denies it plans to end Michelle Obama's education program for girls

Hours after CNN reported on an internal Peace Corps email that said it would stop supporting the former first lady's "Let Girls Learn" program, a White House spokesman said there had been no changes to the initiative.

By Krissah Thompson

• [Agricultural secretary freezes Michelle Obama's plan to fight childhood obesity](#)

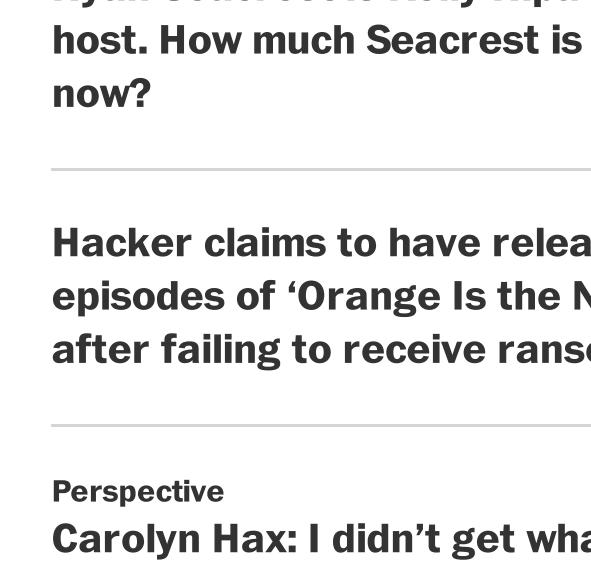


'Auntie Maxine' and the quest for impeachment

Rep. Maxine Waters' decades of forceful confrontation of institutional discrimination has attracted fans far beyond her Los Angeles congressional district. Now her crusade against President Trump has made her the darling of a new generation of restless citizens.

By Vanessa Williams

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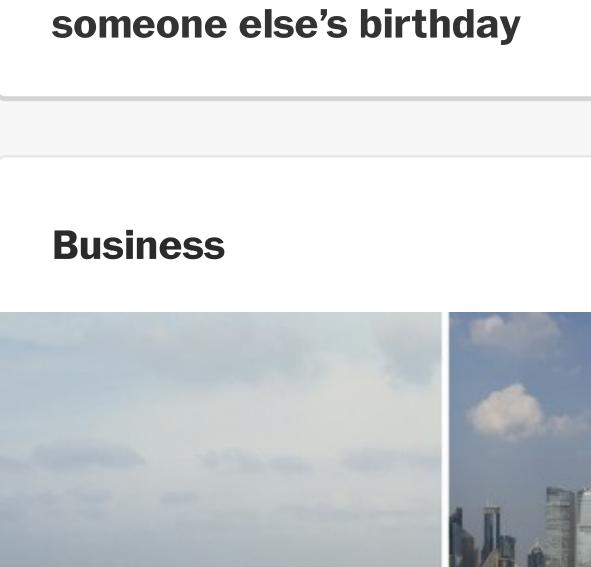


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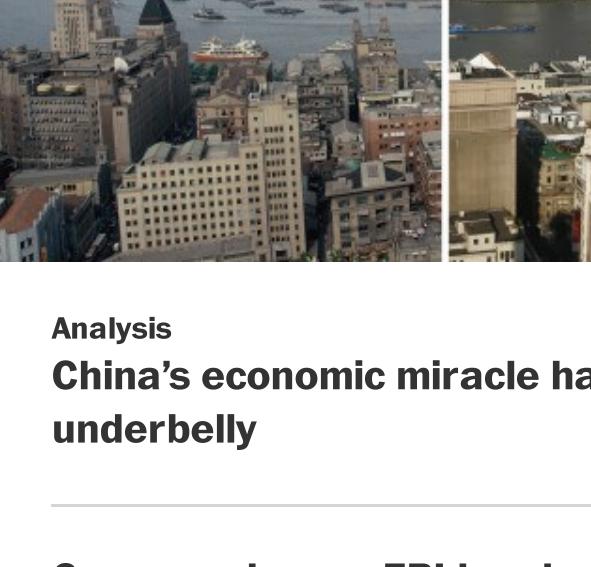


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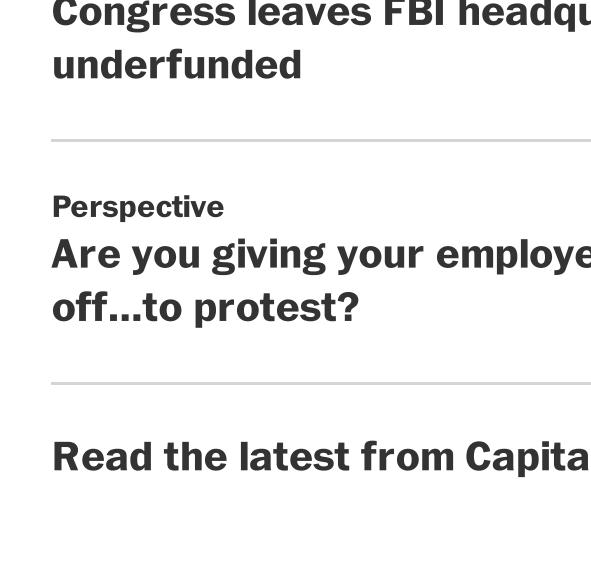


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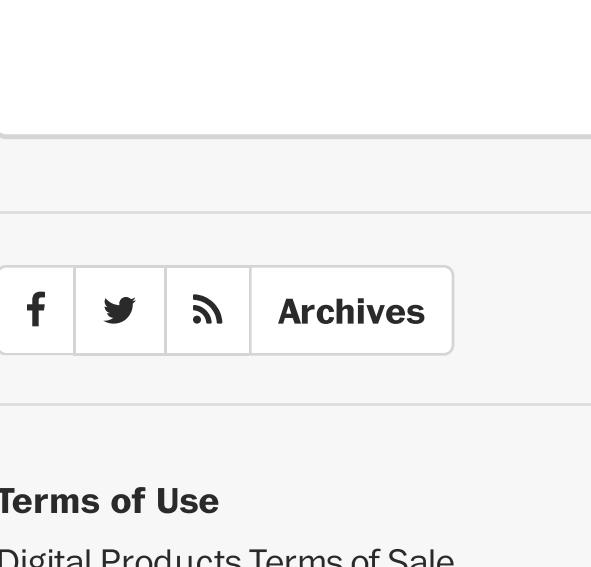


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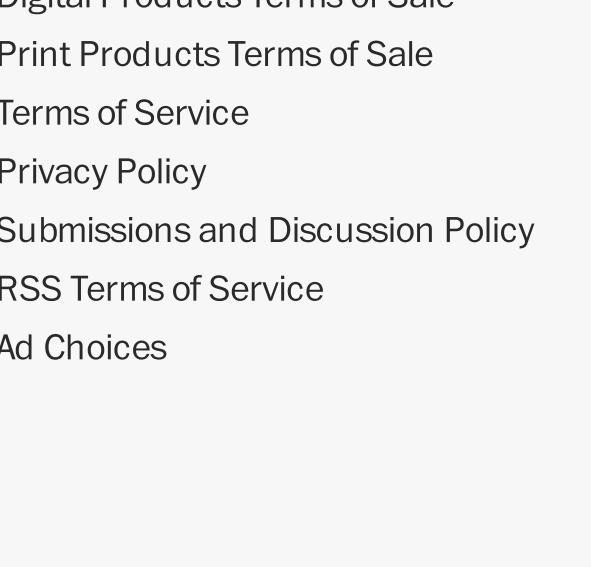


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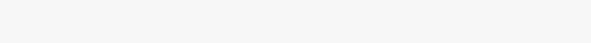


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