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The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

In the News FCC Trump rally \$71 million diamond

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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

Ryan says rekindled health-care talks in 'conceptual stage'

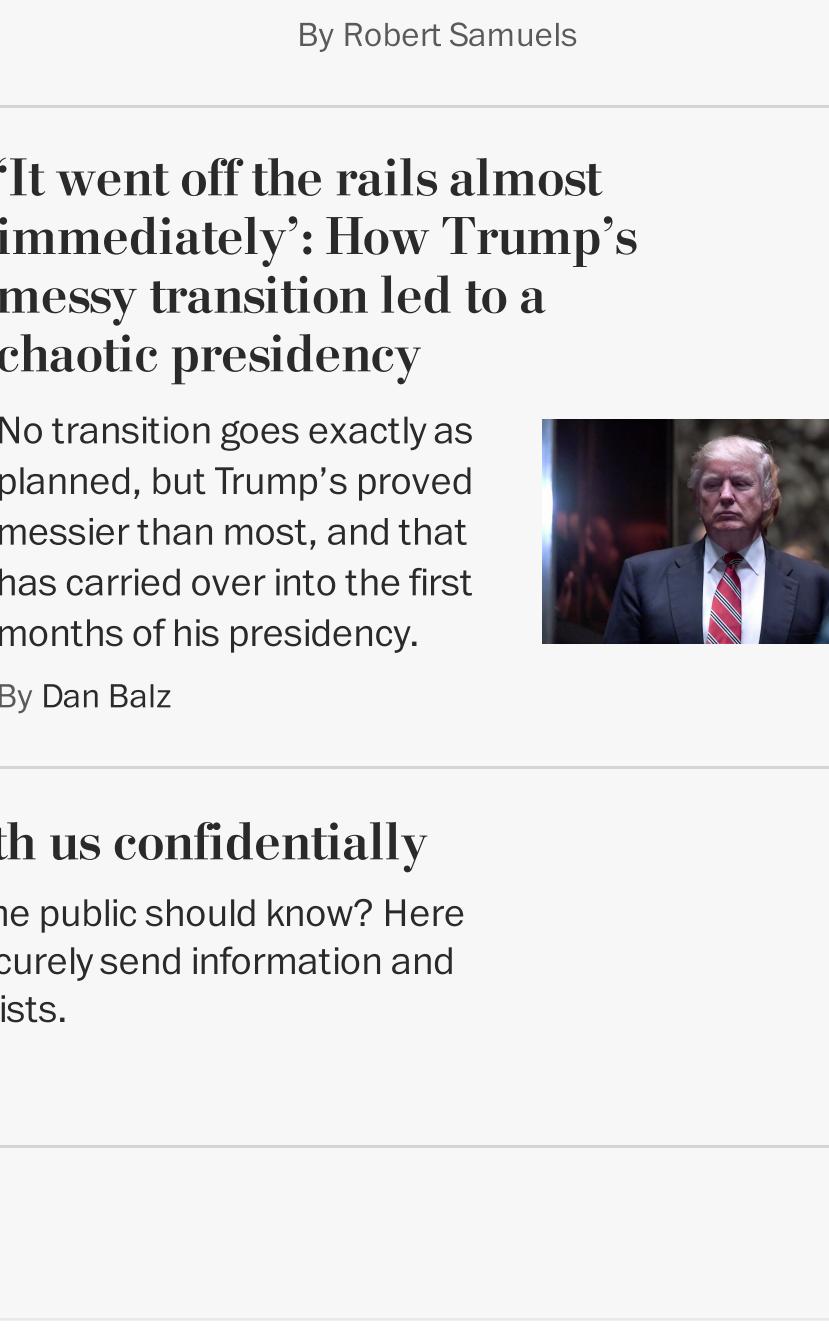
House Speaker Paul Ryan's comments came as Republican lawmakers seeking to revive efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act prepared for a busy day of negotiations on Capitol Hill.

White House officials jump-started the process with a new proposal that they were expected to detail later today.

By Mike DeBonis, John Wagner and Sean Sullivan • 1 hour ago



"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?

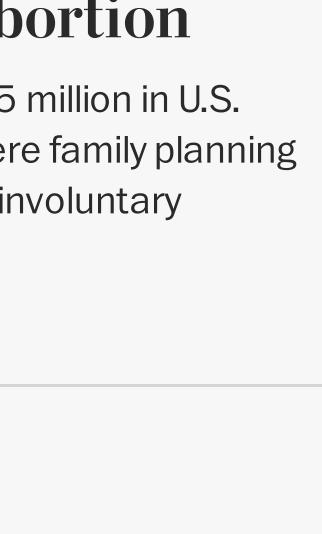
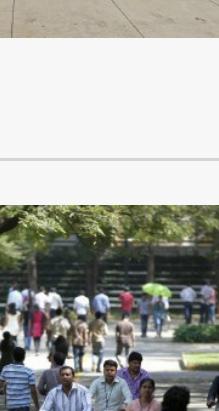
Rosa Ortega, an immigrant mother of four, is not a U.S. citizen, but she voted in Texas anyway. Her case rippled across a country divided over the scale and impact of voter fraud and the assertions of opinion over facts. Did her harsh sentence help to deter a societal problem, or was it the consequence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

By Robert Samuels

'It went off the rails almost immediately': How Trump's messy transition led to a chaotic presidency

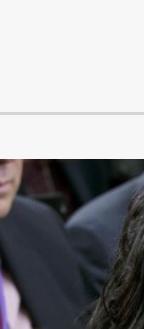
No transition goes exactly as planned, but Trump's proved messier than most, and that has carried over into the first months of his presidency.

By Dan Balz

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Opinions

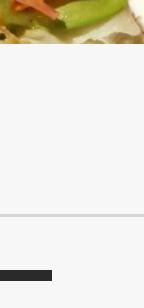
'I'm now a political therapist': Rep. Karen Bass on hosting town halls in the Trump era

By Jonathan Capehart



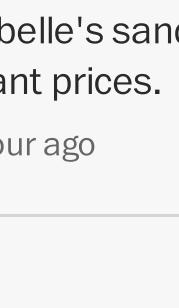
Republicans have a new plan to destroy Obamacare. But they face a big problem.

By Greg Sargent



The Russia scandal gets weirder and weirder

By Jennifer Rubin



I told Paul Ryan what it's like to be poor. I wonder if he remembers me now.

By Tianna Gaines-Turner

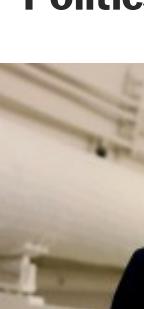
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The Daily 202 Analysis

Neil Gorsuch could help cement Republican majorities for a generation

Once confirmed, the justice will be well-positioned to provide the decisive vote on a host of issues that might help the party keep a hold on power, or at least give it a leg up in future elections.

By James Hohmann • 1 hour ago

**Activists say gas attack kills 58 in northern Syria, leaves victims foaming at the mouth**

If the attack is confirmed, it would be one of the deadliest chemical strikes since government forces dropped sarin gas on the Damascus suburbs in August 2013, killing hundreds and pushing the United States to the brink of military intervention.

By Louisa Loveluck • 42 minutes ago

**Administration to eliminate funding for U.N. Population Fund over abortion**

The State Department said the decision to pull \$32.5 million in U.S. funding was based on the group's work in China, where family planning measures include the use of "coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization."

By Carol Morello • 1 hour ago



The Daily 202 Analysis

NCAA ends boycott of North Carolina after repeal, replacement of bathroom law

The organization said the move was "reluctantly" made and it will require proof of nondiscrimination from any site hoping to host a championship.

By Cindy Boren • 13 minutes ago

* UNC beats Gonzaga to win NCAA championship

**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. But the Trump administration injected new uncertainty in the process with a warning to employers.

By Tracy Jan



The Daily 202 Analysis

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

After a grilling on "Fox News Sunday," the controversial head of the Environmental Protection Agency earned the rare distinction of being panned by both climate change advocates and skeptics alike.

By Amy B Wang

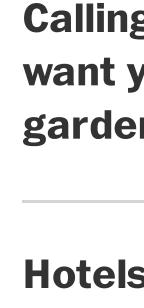


The Fix Analysis

When radio reporter April Ryan tangles with the White House, people listen

The press room veteran has found herself in multiple scrapes in recent weeks.

By Paul Farhi

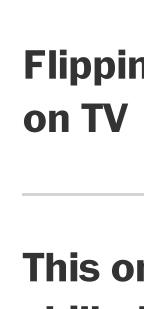


Going Out Guide

This \$26 sandwich — literally ham, butter and bread — says everything about D.C. dining

In a city where craft cocktails and small plates have made it easy to drop \$100 on dinner, Mirabelle's sandwich is yet another example of skyrocketing restaurant prices.

By Becky Krystal • 1 hour ago



The Daily 202 Analysis

Visual Stories

Highlights from the 2017 Academy of Country Music Awards

(Nina Prommer / EPA)

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The Daily 202 Analysis

Trump administration to eliminate its funding for U.N. Population Fund over abortion

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