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April 4, 2017

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## The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

In the News Trump 'incitement' Rachel Dolezal Scott Pruitt Neil deGrasse Tyson Death penalty April the giraffe Tina Fey Shia LaBeouf ACM Awards

## 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

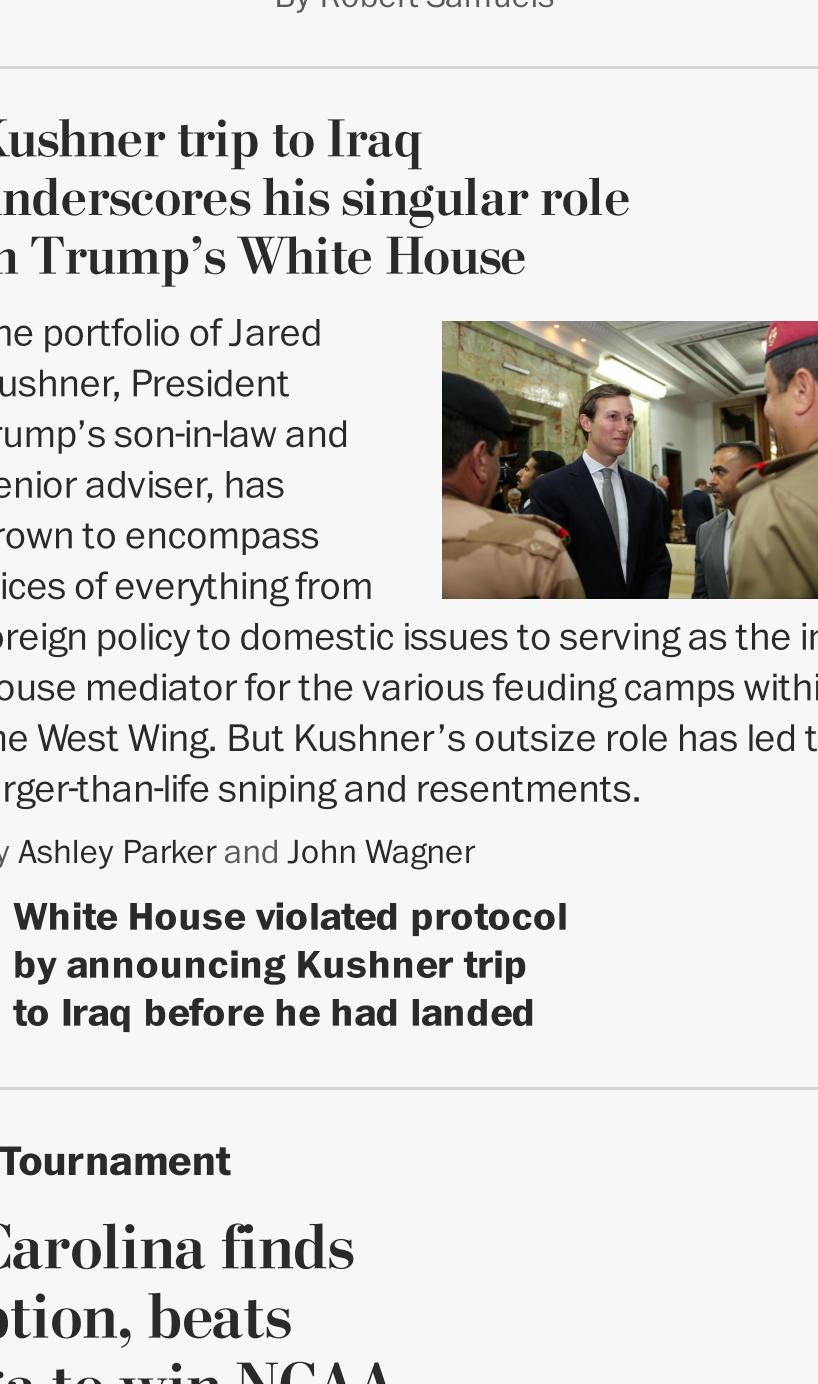
- **Read the Sessions memo**

**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 Aikbarzhon Dzhallayev, a Russian citizen born in the Central Asian nation.

By Andrew Roth and David Filipov • 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 Samuel

**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

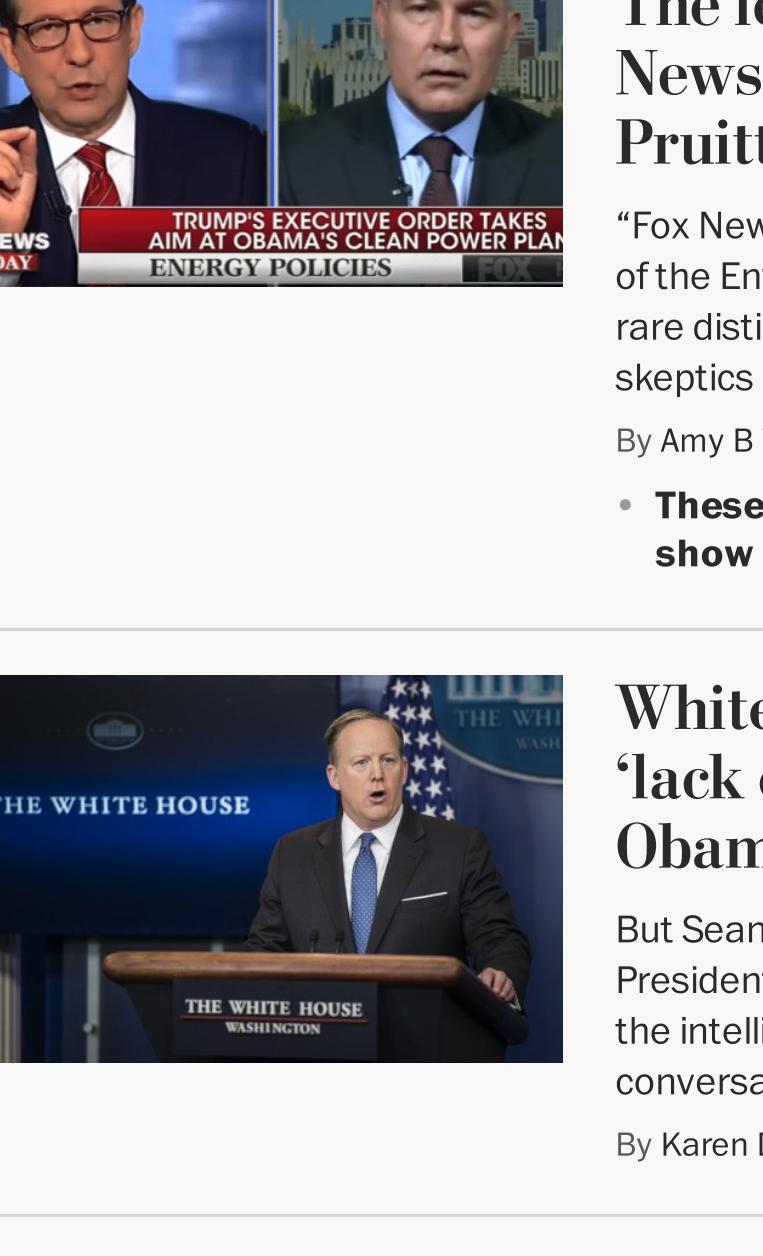
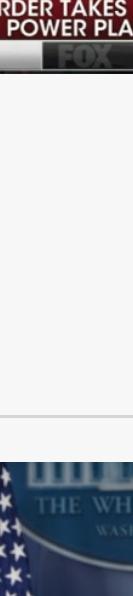
- **White House violated protocol by announcing Kushner trip to Iraq before he had landed**

**NCAA Tournament****North Carolina finds redemption, beats Gonzaga to win NCAA championship**

The Tar Heels battled back from a rough first half to claim a 71-65 victory over the Bulldogs, as Coach Roy Williams and his team that fell short of the championship a year ago were on the right side of a narrow win.

By Chuck Culpepper

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

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Do you have information the public should know? Here are some ways you can securely send information and documents to Post journalists.

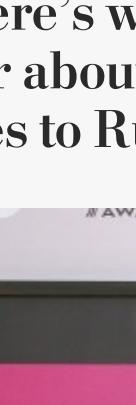
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**Opinions****A (probably futile) plea for sanity in the Senate**

By Ruth Marcus

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

By Dana Milbank

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

By Eugene Robinson

**Trump's court needs a fool**

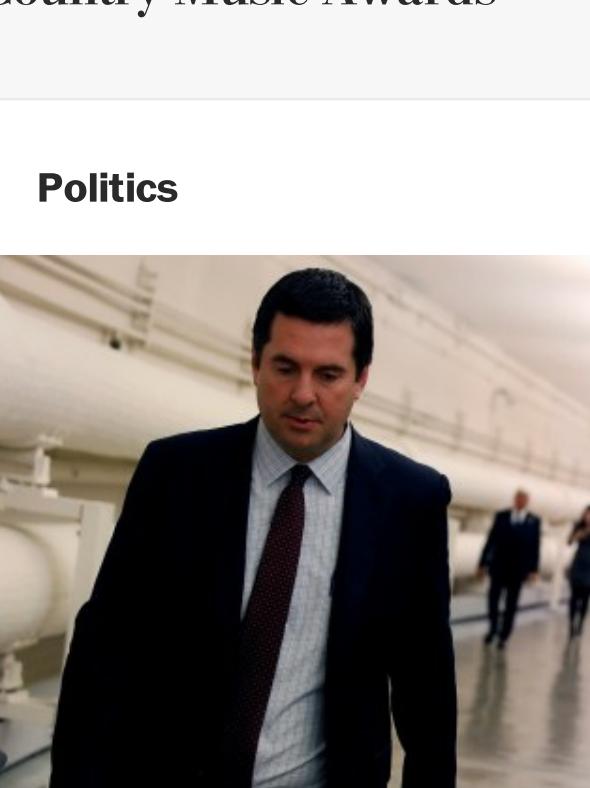
By Catherine Rampell

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

By Michael Gerson

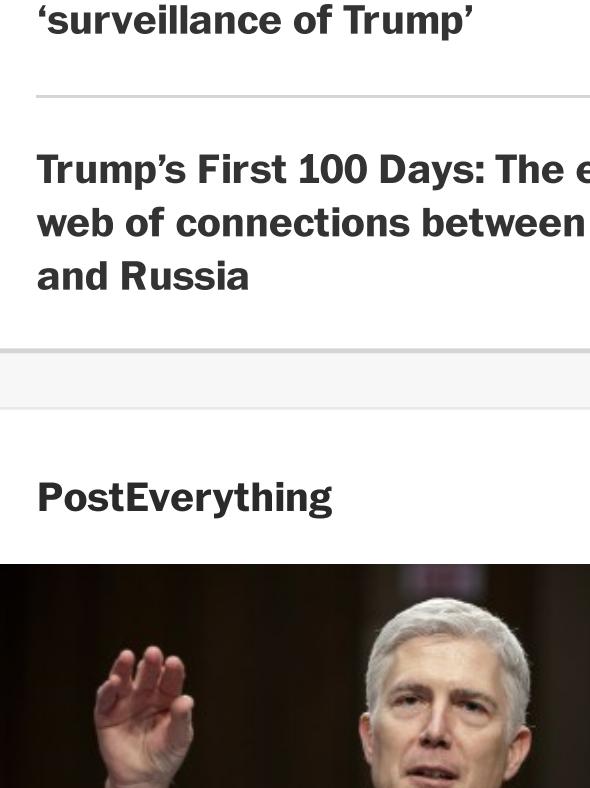
**The Senate is on the brink of an historic mistake**

Editorial Board

**More Top Stories****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**

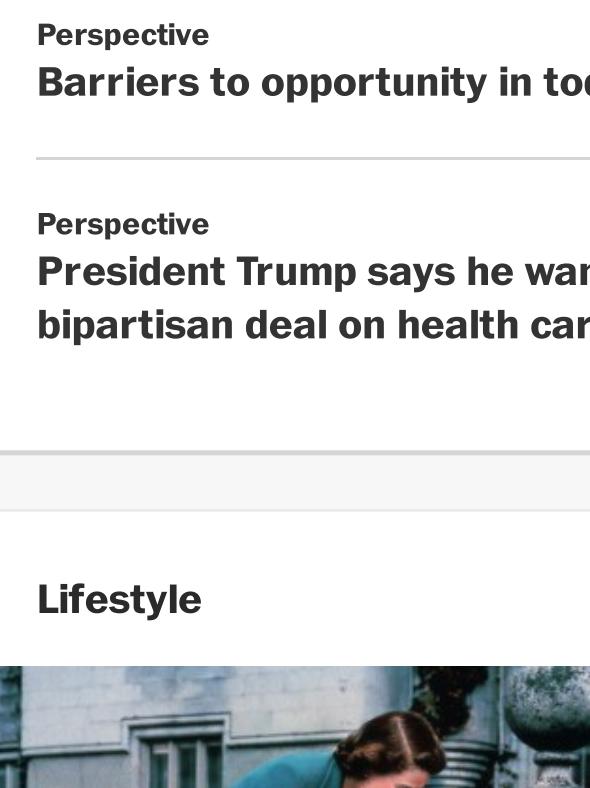
The filing reveals more evidence that the trust agreement — which the president used to put his adult sons in charge of his company — offers little barrier against President Trump making money from the hotels, golf courses, branding deals and other business interests that he has widely promoted during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

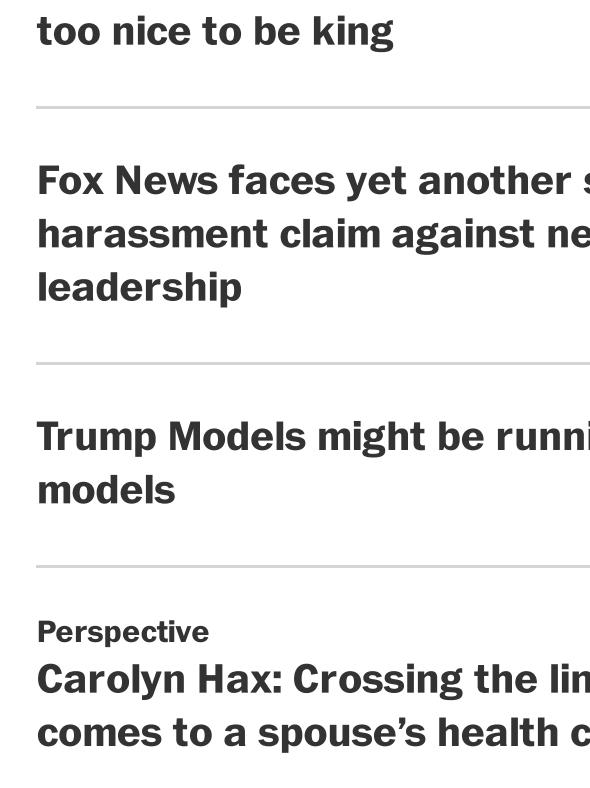
By Tracy Jan

**The 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.

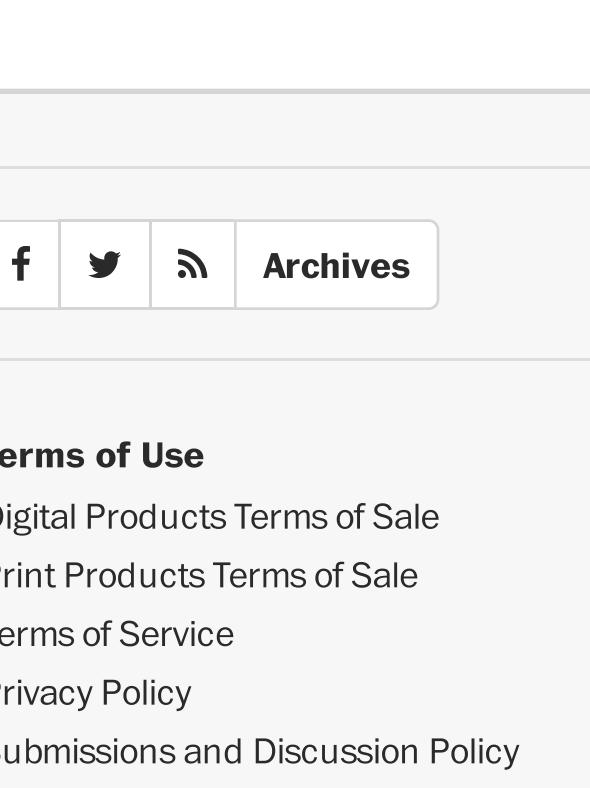
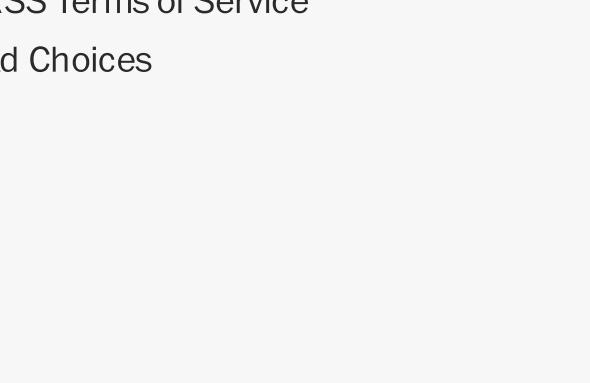
By Louisa Loveluck • 1 hour ago

**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

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