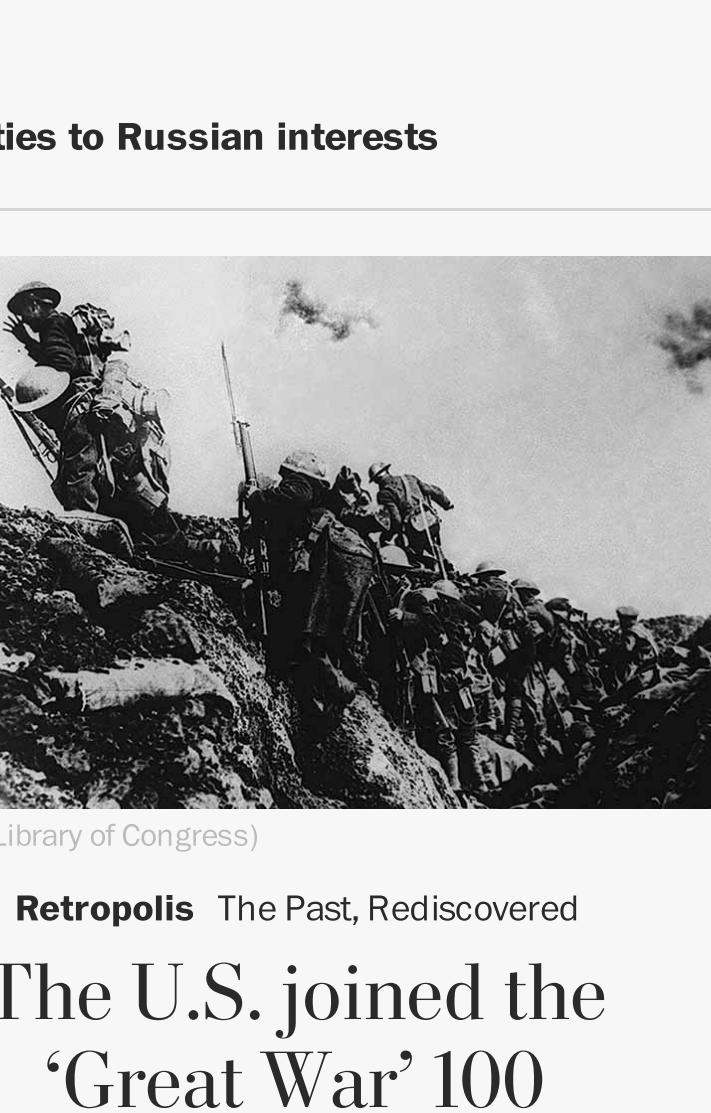


Blackwater founder met secretly in Seychelles to establish Trump-Putin back channel

The United Arab Emirates arranged the secret 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 the transition.

By Adam Elton, Greg Miller, Kevin Sieff and Karen DeYoung • 1 hour ago

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



(Video: Sarah Parcak/Post; wire photos)

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 Elise Viebeck and Ed O'Keefe • 3 hours ago

• 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

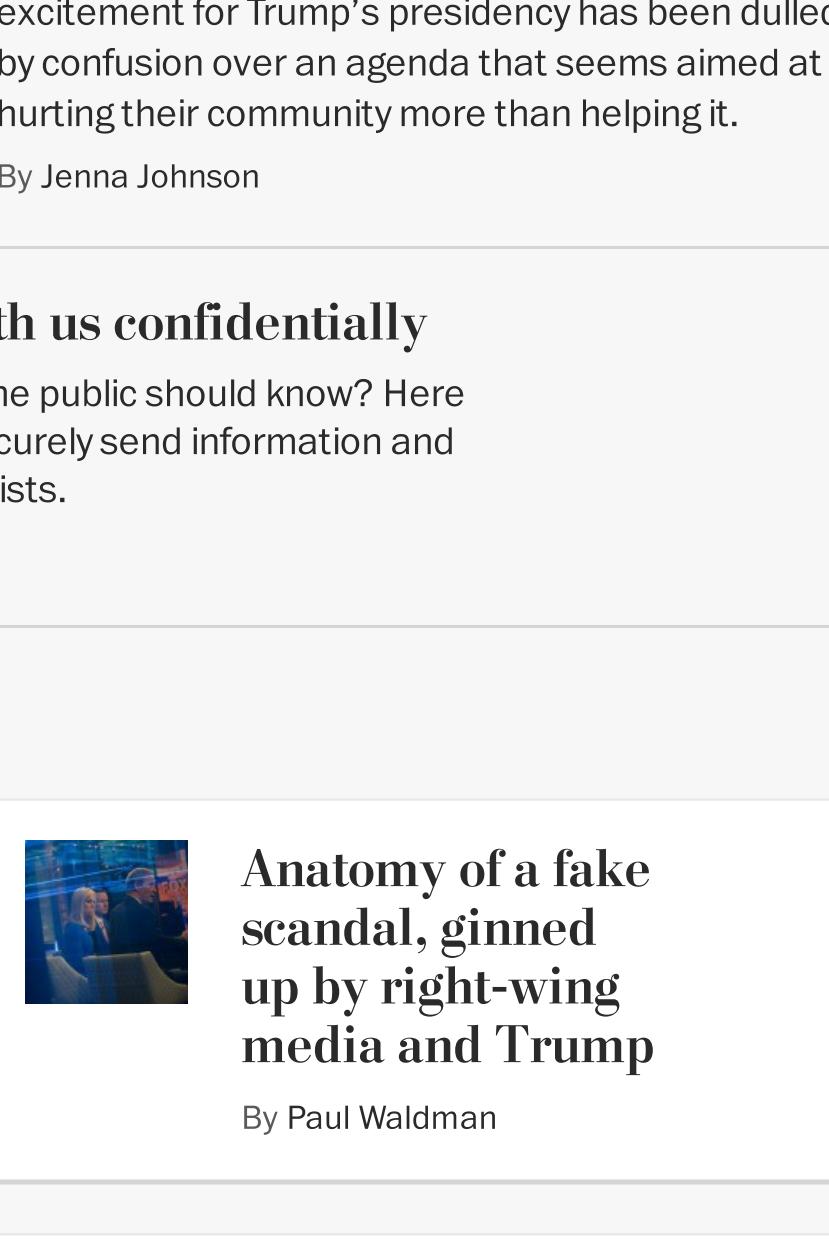
Explosive device kills at least 11 on train in St. Petersburg, Russian official says

A large blast tore apart a train as it traveled between two central St. Petersburg metro stations, injuring dozens, officials said. The area's subway system was shut down as a precaution, and security was boosted in the city, where Russian President Vladimir Putin was holding talks. A second explosive device was found at another station but did not detonate.

By Andrew Roth and David Filipov • 1 hour ago

• Analysis: The recent history of terrorist attacks in Russia

• Video: The scene in St. Petersburg



(AP and Library of Congress)

Retropolis The Past, Rediscovered

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.

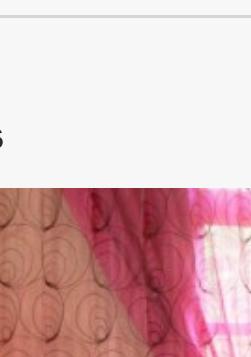
By Michael E. Ruane

Trump's budget would hit rural towns especially hard — but they're willing to trust him

In places such as Durant, Okla. — a town of 16,000 where federal funds are vital for programs that serve the poor and working class — excitement for Trump's presidency has been dulled by confusion over an agenda that seems aimed at hurting their community more than helping it.

By Jenna Johnson

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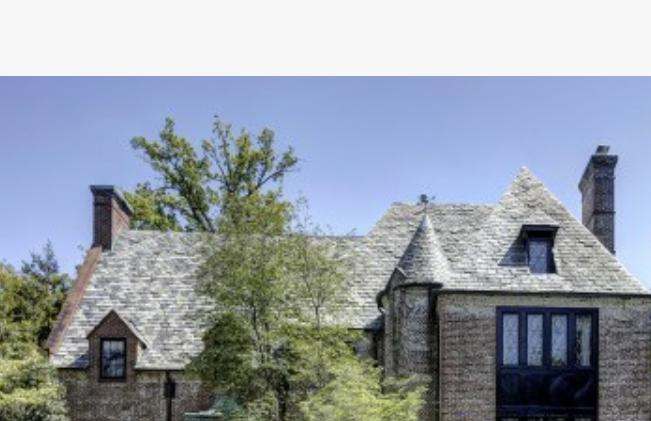
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The Democrats' best argument for filibustering Gorsuch

By Sarah Posner



Republicans' 2018 doomsday scenario

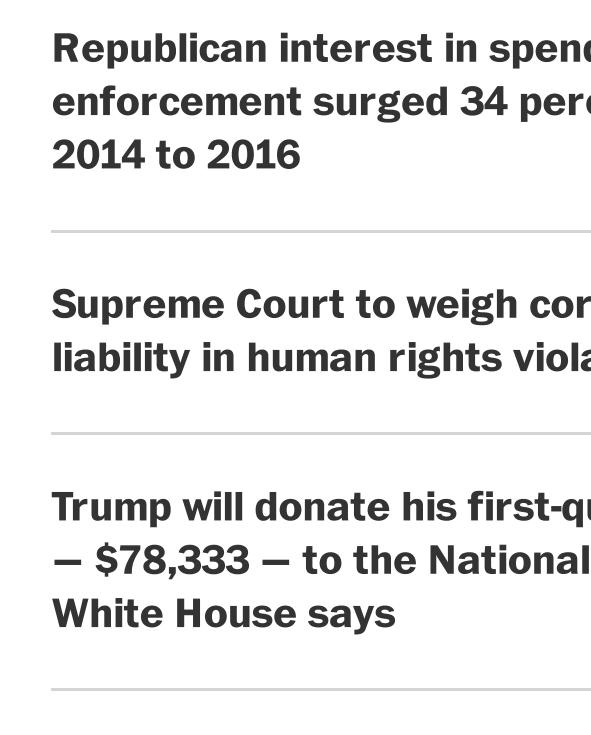
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The Daily Spicer: Barely comprehensible mainstream media criticism edition

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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.

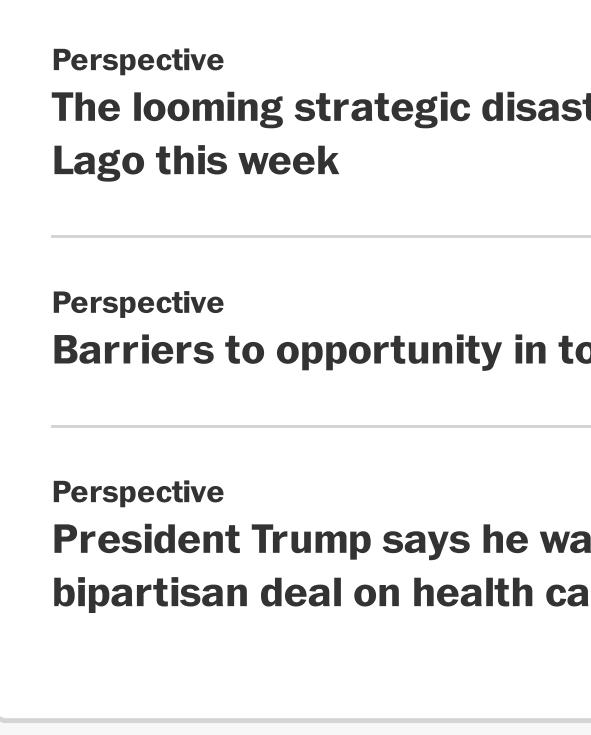
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'It was hand-to-hand combat': New details emerge about 2014 Russian hack of the State Department

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.

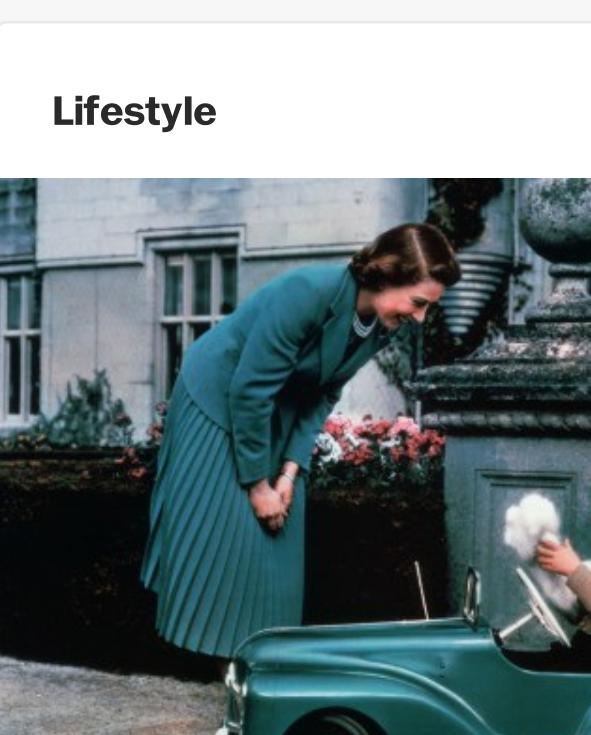
By Ellen Nakashima



'The hospitals were slaughterhouses': A journey into Syria's secret torture wards

More than a dozen survivors and army defectors described the conditions inside the hospital, known as 601, where prisoners were starved and beaten. Investigators say the testimony offers some of the most concrete evidence of crimes against humanity.

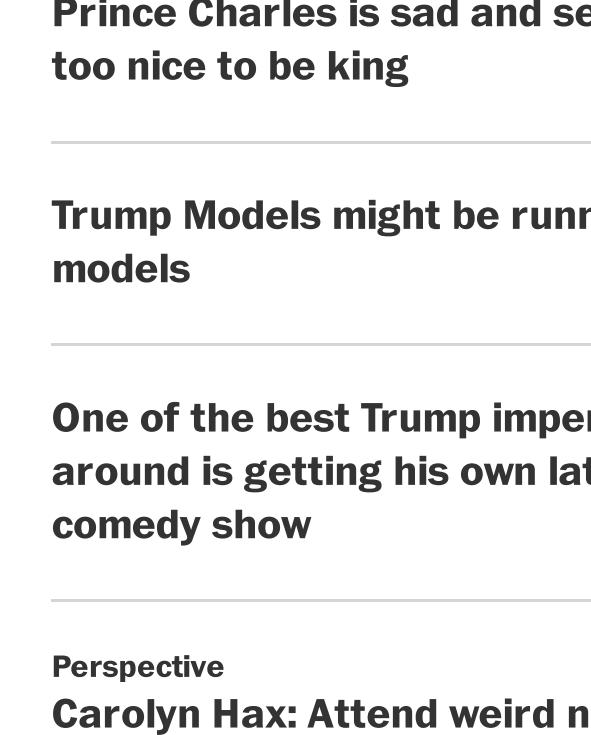
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Storm chasers berated by their peers after driving into a tornado on purpose

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

By Jason Samenow • 3 hours ago



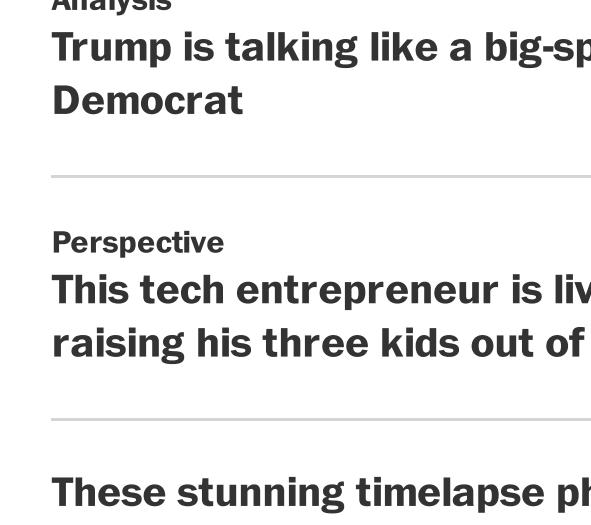
Records show deep ties between FBI and Best Buy computer technicians looking for child porn

New documents reveal a longstanding relationship between Geek Squad and the FBI, but prosecutors say the FBI did not direct any searches for illegal porn.

By Tom Jackman



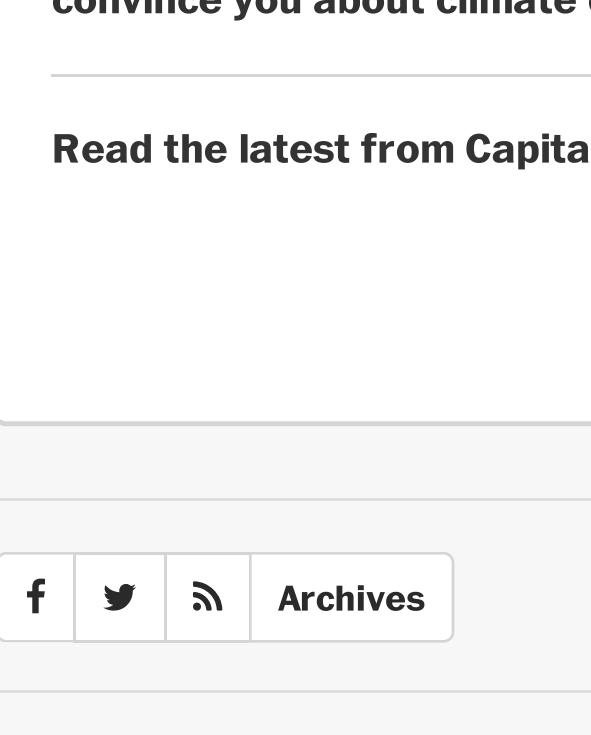
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These photos show what it's like being a child bride in the country of Georgia

By Myriam Meloni

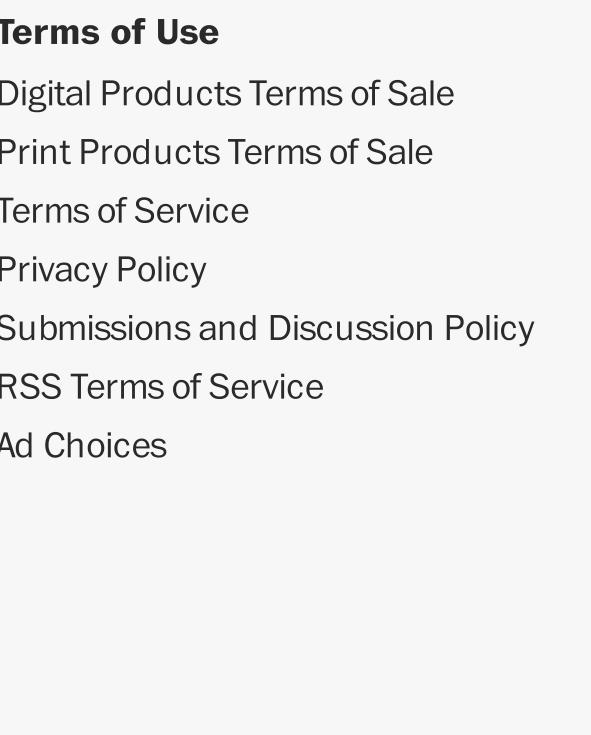
These photos show what it's like being a child bride in the country of Georgia



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

By Bonnie Berkowitz and Denise Lu/Post

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



Trump Models might be running out of models

By Nina Prommer / EPA

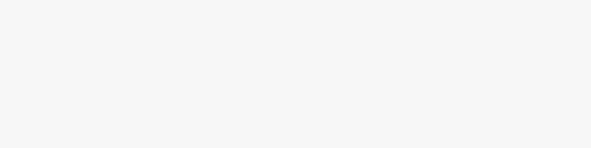
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