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Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 • \$2

Facebook's openness questioned on the Hill

Investigators want firm's internal report on Russian meddling

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG, ELIZABETH DWOSKIN AND CRAIG TIMBERG

House and Senate investigators have grown increasingly concerned that Facebook is withholding key information that could illuminate the shape and extent of a Russian propaganda campaign aimed at tilting the U.S. presidential election, according to people familiar with the probe.

Among the information Capitol Hill investigators are seeking is the full internal draft report from an inquiry the company conducted this spring into Russian election meddling but did not release at the time, said these people who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss matters under investigation.

A 13-page "white paper" that Facebook published in April drew from this fuller internal report but left out critical details about how the Russian operation worked and how Facebook discovered it, according to people briefed on its contents.

Investigators believe the company has not fully examined all potential ways that Russians could have manipulated Facebook's sprawling social media platform.

A particularly sore point among Hill investigators is that Facebook has shared more extensive information — including ads bought through fake Russian accounts — with the FBI.

FACEBOOK CONTINUED ON A7



President Trump participates in a session on reforming the United Nations at the General Assembly on Monday.

Trump plans pragmatic U.N. speech

President to stress 'outcomes,' rather than democracy

BY DAVID NAKAMURA AND ANNE GEARAN

NEW YORK — President Trump on Tuesday will present a vision of U.S. engagement with the world in a maiden address to the United Nations that aides said will be consistent with the nation's "values and traditions" but will not focus on advancing democracy abroad.

This dichotomy of a U.S. leader pledging to shape global conditions to ensure America's prosperity and security without explicitly promoting its way of life is expected to distinguish Trump's speech from those of his White House forebears.

The president's nationalist agenda has led to widespread anxiety among the U.S. allies and partners who have gathered here this week among the more than 150 foreign delegations at the 72nd U.N. General Assembly. Amid mounting global challenges, foreign leaders are carefully watching Trump's moment on the world stage for signals about his willingness to

maintain the United States' traditional leadership role.

Although Trump campaigned on a policy of putting "America first" and spoke dismissively of international bodies such as the United Nations and NATO, he has offered a tentative embrace of them as he seeks to rally international support to confront destabilizing threats from North Korea, Iran and the Islamic State.

Trump began several days of diplomacy at the United Nations with a session Monday devoted to reforming the institution — a theme during his outsider presidential campaign and a key demand of some of his

conservative supporters. The focus on reducing bureaucracy lent a critical tone to Trump's debut.

In brief opening remarks, he said the United Nations had not lived up to its billing upon its creation in 1945, asserting that it suffered from a bloated bureaucracy and "mismanagement." Trump urged his fellow leaders to make reforms aimed at "changing business as usual," but pledged that his administration would be "partners in your work."

"Make the United Nations great," the president told reporters when asked about his message.

TRUMP CONTINUED ON A10

ACA repeal effort is revived

SENATE GOP SEES FINAL CHANCE

New proposal includes deeper cuts than last bill

BY SEAN SULLIVAN AND KELSEY SNELL

A final GOP effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act burst into view this week in the Senate, where leaders began pressuring rank-and-file Republicans with the hope of voting on the package by the end of the month.

The renewed push comes nearly two months after the last attempt to overhaul the law known as Obamacare failed in a dramatic, early-morning vote, dealing a substantial defeat to President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and prompting many to assume that the effort was dead.

The latest proposal would give states control over billions in federal health-care spending, repeal the law's key mandates and enact deep cuts to Medicaid, the federally funded insurance program for the poor, elderly and disabled. It would slash health-care spending more deeply and would probably cover fewer people than the July bill — which failed because of concerns over those details.

The appearance of a new measure reflected just how damaging Republicans consider their inability to make good on a key promise.

REPEAL CONTINUED ON A14

New head winds for Texas students post-Harvey

Hundreds are at risk of falling behind, with many hurricane-damaged schools still closed

BY MORIAH BALINGIT

ARANSAS PASS, TEX. — This should be Yahaira Montemayor's fourth week in school. Instead, the 7-year-old whiles away her days at her grandmother's house and spends her nights huddled in a single bed with her mother and three siblings.

While other students across Texas sit in classrooms, 13-year-old Raul Fuentes helps his mother clean tables at the taqueria where she works as a waitress.

Jordan Martin, who should have started his senior year in high school, lives in a camper anchored to his football coach's driveway.

Hundreds of students languish at home, still out of school weeks after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in coastal Texas, sundering even sturdy school buildings. The storm sliced off rooftop air-conditioning units and ripped holes in roofs, allowing rainwater to gush inside. It felled trees, toppled stadium lights and

SCHOOLS CONTINUED ON A6



The Aransas Pass High School football team practices last week on its home field in Aransas Pass, Tex., while repair work continues in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The school has yet to reopen.

London mayor eyes tax on swanky 'zombie flats'

Levy on empty residences unlikely to ease housing crunch, experts say

BY WILLIAM BOOTH AND KARLA ADAM

LONDON — They are not hard to spot, if you know where to look, especially at night — the floors of swanky new apartments, most of the windows dark, almost all the time.

The zombie flats. Owned, but empty.

And on this cobbled mews in Chelsea? On that private walk in Kensington? No one home, either. There's enough empty property here to be given a name in the British news media: the "ghost mansions" of "lights-out London," the streets where it is alleged that 7 in 10 addresses are second — or third or fourth — homes.

The blight of conspicuous empty homeownership is a big story in

London — and around the globe. But a solution is surprisingly elusive.

London faces a crushing shortage of affordable housing — because the city is a global magnet for aspirational newcomers, a safe refuge for stash-your-cash capital and a victim of its own smashing success, even in these anxious Brexit days.

"Affordable" here being a relative term, where the average price for a flat last year was \$713,143. It is especially brutal for young people, those in the middle income range and first-time buyers.

So London Mayor Sadiq Khan vowed to tax the empties.

The rising Labour Party star, who has sparred with President Trump, campaigned on the populist issue of the injustice of foreign ownership and ghost mansions, promising that Londoners should get "first dibs" on new construction.

This month, Khan appealed to Parliament to give London's local governments new authority to set

PROPERTY CONTINUED ON A11

IN THE NEWS



JEFF ROBERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trouble, day and night Demonstrations and vandalism continued in St. Louis after an ex-officer's acquittal on a murder charge. A2

Fake 'organic' products Impostors might be reaching the United States because of lax enforcement at ports, an audit says. A13

THE NATION Hurricane Maria was upgraded to a Category 5 storm as it headed toward Puerto Rico. A5

A former State Department whistleblower and a lawyer formed a non-profit law office to help tipsters in the military and government report misdeeds. A6

Americans, especially wealthy whites, vastly overestimate progress toward racial economic equality, despite evidence of persistent gaps, a study found. A14

THE WORLD A skeleton from a Vi-

king warrior grave was identified as that of a woman more than a century after it was found. A4

Germany heads to the polls Sunday, but refugees — the subject of much debate — mostly are not joining the conversation. A8

Iraq's high court suspended the semi-autonomous Kurdish region's referendum on independence, increasing pressure to call off the vote. A8

The Russian military has been mustering its forces and firepower in war games that Baltic

leaders said are simulations of an attack against NATO forces. A9

The looming nuclear threat from North Korea has South Korean women questioning why their country excludes them from the military draft. A11

THE ECONOMY Because of lessons learned after Hurricane Andrew, insurance companies should be better able to handle the billions in claims from storms Harvey and Irma. A12

Corporate inversions have allowed U.S. companies to avoid tens of millions in taxes, federal analysts reported. A14

THE REGION Most D.C. Council members backed a bill to overhaul the Youth Rehabilitation Act, found to have troubling results. B1

Funding for a \$1.5 million whooping crane propagation program in Maryland dries up this month. B1

Tom Perriello and Corey Stewart lost their Virginia primaries for governor. One stumps for his party's candidate; the other derides the guy who won. B1

A 16-year-old whose family was trying to make a fresh start in the District was fatally shot when he returned to his old neighborhood. B1

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE A strong point Phones can fail. Knowing how to read a map is a key skill for hiking. E1

STYLE A blue-ribbon love Crafters and Vietnam vets Nathan Jones and Rob Hardin built a life. C1

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