



GABRIELLA DEMCZUK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Blend of Paint and Politics

The Obamas' official portraits were unveiled on Monday at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington. Critic's Notebook. Page C1.

HOMELESS AGAIN IF FEMA ENDS AID

Puerto Ricans Sheltered at Inns Face New Fear

By RICK ROJAS
and LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ

HARTFORD — The fourth floor of the Red Roof Inn felt like a city block on a recent Friday night, as families spilled from their rooms into the hallway. Doors were propped open. Chihuahuas skittered around on the carpet, and a cluster of teenage boys had claimed a spot by the elevators, a speaker thumping with hip-hop.

At the end of the hall, in a room where a window framed the dome of the State Capitol like a postcard, Janette Febres's husband and 12-year-old son watched television on the bed the three of them have been sharing for nearly three months, reaching the end of a day as empty and restless as many of the ones before it.

The living conditions were cramped, and the room did not have a microwave or a refrigerator. Ms. Febres has asked housekeeping to stop cleaning the room just so she could have something to occupy her time. Even so, she was grateful. Her room, like those that many other families were staying in, was paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Amid the turmoil that has unraveled much of her family's life since fleeing Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, the room was one of the few things that seemed stable.

"For us," she said, "this is home."

But she is worried about how long the support will continue.

The desperation that followed Maria's devastation and the stumbling response has given way to uncertainty for many Puerto Ricans throughout the country. Some who left for the mainland United States have returned home, while others have laid roots in new places, finding jobs and securing permanent housing.

Yet thousands of other families remain in limbo and have been relying on hotel rooms provided by FEMA as they decide whether to go back or forge ahead elsewhere. Many people staying in the hotels

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A Ghostly Spill Menaces Asia's Richest Fisheries

By STEVEN LEE MYERS
and JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ

ZHOUSHAN, China — A fiery collision that sank an Iranian tanker in the East China Sea a month ago has resulted in an environmental threat that experts say is unlike any before: An almost invisible type of petroleum has begun to contaminate some of the most important fishing grounds in Asia, from China to Japan and beyond.

It is the largest oil spill in decades, but the disaster has unfolded outside the glare of international attention that big spills have previously attracted. That is because of its remote location on

Nearly Invisible Toxic Byproduct Is Adrift in the East China Sea

the high seas and also the type of petroleum involved: condensate, a toxic, liquid byproduct of natural gas production.

Unlike the crude oil in better-known disasters like the Exxon Valdez and the Deepwater Horizon, condensate does not clump into black globules that can be easily spotted or produce heart-wrenching images of animals

mired in muck. There's no visible slick that can be pumped out. Experts said the only real solution is to let it evaporate or dissolve. Absorbed into the water, it will remain toxic for a time, though it will also disperse more quickly into the ocean than crude oil.

Experts say there has never been so large a spill of condensate; up to 111,000 metric tons has poured into the ocean. It has almost certainly already invaded an ecosystem that includes some of the world's most bountiful fisheries off Zhoushan, the archipelago that rises where the Yangtze River flows into the East China Sea.

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CHINA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

The source of a vast spill, a tanker that burned after colliding with a cargo ship east of Shanghai.

Sudden Glare on Hermit Kingdom's Cheer Squad

By ANDREW KEH

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — A collective murmur rolled through the stands of Kwandong Hockey Centre here late Monday night. Camera phones were held high.

The North Korean cheerleaders had arrived.

The presence here of the all-female squad of cheerleaders — 229 strong, as part of the larger North Korean delegation at the Olympics — has been politically charged, provoking divided reac-

tions among spectators at the Games and those watching from afar.

"They look very pretty," said Hyun Myeong-Hwa, 58, of Cheongju, South Korea, who filmed the women as they took their seats 30 minutes before the joint Korean Olympic women's hockey team played Sweden. But she had mixed feelings, too. For a moment she rubbernecked like everyone else.

"I do understand the negative criticisms about them being here," she added. "But I think we should be positive and open-minded about them. We are the same people."

The cheerleaders have been praised as human olive branches, a preliminary way to ease tensions during the current nuclear crises. They have been criticized as singing, dancing spearheads of a strategic North Korean propaganda campaign at the Games.

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NORTH KOREAN STAR The sister of a dictator ended her Olympic visit on a high note. PAGE A4

HERO OF NORWAY When his ski pole broke, fans cried, "No!" Soon, they were cheering. PAGE B8

Infrastructure To Rely on Cash From Investors

Trump Program Would Shift Funding Onus

By PATRICIA COHEN
and ALAN RAPPEPORT

President Trump's \$200 billion plan to rebuild America upends the criteria that have long been used to pick ambitious federal projects, putting little emphasis on how much an infrastructure proposal benefits the public and more on finding private investors and other outside sources of money.

Unveiled on Monday, the infrastructure program that Mr. Trump has championed since the campaign is intended to attract a huge amount of additional money from states, localities and private investors. The goal is to generate a total pot of \$1.5 trillion to upgrade the country's highways, airports and railroads.

Those financial priorities are crystallized in the new guidelines established by the White House. The ability to find sources of funding outside the federal government will be the most important yardstick, accounting for 70 percent of the formula for choosing infrastructure projects. How "the project will spur economic and social returns on investment" ranks at the bottom, at just 5 percent.

In this new competition for federal funds, a plan to, say, build a better access road for a luxury development — a project with the potential to bring in more dollars from private investors — could have a strong chance of getting the green light. By comparison, a critical tunnel overhaul that has trouble getting new money might not be approved.

"Instead of the public sector deciding on public needs and public priorities, the projects that are most attractive to private investors are the ones that will go to the head of the line," said Elliott Sclar, professor of urban planning and international affairs at Columbia University. "Private investors will become the tail that will wag the dog, because they'll want projects that will give returns."

Proposals intended to serve more impoverished communities that require more state and local money, including improving

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TRUMP'S BUDGET FAVORS MILITARY, INFLATING DEFICIT

\$4.4 TRILLION PROPOSAL

Adding to Infrastructure While Taking From Safety Nets

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

WASHINGTON — President Trump sent Congress a \$4.4 trillion budget proposal on Monday outlining steep cuts to domestic programs, large increases in military spending and a ballooning federal deficit that illustrates how far Republicans have strayed from their longtime embrace of balanced budgets.

The blueprint has little to no chance of being enacted as written and amounts to a vision statement by Mr. Trump, who as a businessman once called himself the "king of debt" and has overseen a federal spending spree that will earn him that title in an entirely different arena.

The White House budget request would add \$984 billion to the federal deficit next year, despite proposed cuts to programs like Medicare and food stamps and despite leaner budgets across federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Trump's budget statement calls deficits the harbinger of a "desolate" future, but the White House plan would add \$7 trillion to the deficit over the next 10 years.

Last week, Mr. Trump signed a two-year bipartisan budget deal, struck by congressional leaders largely without his involvement, to boost both domestic and military spending by \$300 billion. Mr.

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ERIC THAYER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The budget request is unlikely to be enacted as written.

An Administration in Turmoil: 'Vacancies on Top of Vacancies'

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — The doors at the White House have been swinging a lot lately. A deputy chief of staff moved on. A speechwriter resigned. The associate attorney general stepped down. The chief of staff offered to quit. And that was just Friday.

All of that came after the departure of Rob Porter, the White House staff secretary who cleared out his office last week amid accusations of spousal abuse. The White House had overlooked reported problems with his security clearance last year in part, officials said, because of a reluctance to lose yet another senior aide, particularly one seen as so professional and reliable.

More than a year into his administration, President Trump is presiding over a staff in turmoil, one with a 34 percent turnover rate, higher than any White House in decades. He has struggled to fill openings, unwilling to hire Republicans he considers disloyal and

unable to entice Republicans who consider him unstable. Those who do come to work for him often do not last long, burning out from a volatile, sometimes cutthroat environment exacerbated by tweets and subpoenas.

To visit the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the granite, slate and cast iron edifice across West Executive Avenue from the White House where most of the president's staff works, at times feels like walking through a ghost town. The hallways do not bustle as much as in past administrations. The budget director is doing double duty as the acting head of the consumer protection agency.

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Status Is Stalled

Jared Kushner, whose portfolio requires access to closely guarded secrets, still does not have permanent security clearance. PAGE A14.

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

An Exit Any Day Now-Now

President Jacob Zuma is taking his time handing the reins to a successor, and South Africans are getting frustrated and anxious. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A10-14

Jail Officers Charged in Death

Three Wisconsin jail officers face felony charges in the 2016 dehydration death of an inmate, who had no access to water for seven days. PAGE A11

BUSINESS DAY B1-7

Titan's Firm Accused of Bias

An executive's lawsuit claims Steven A. Cohen's \$11 billion investment company, Point72, belittled and discriminated against female employees. PAGE B1

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A Personal Memory Maker?

Electric pulses to the brain help subjects store memory, scientists have found. But the road to perfecting recall remains daunting. PAGE D1

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David Brooks

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Q: WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? WHITTLESCHOOL.ORG A: SEE THE BACK PAGE OF THE BUSINESS SECTION