

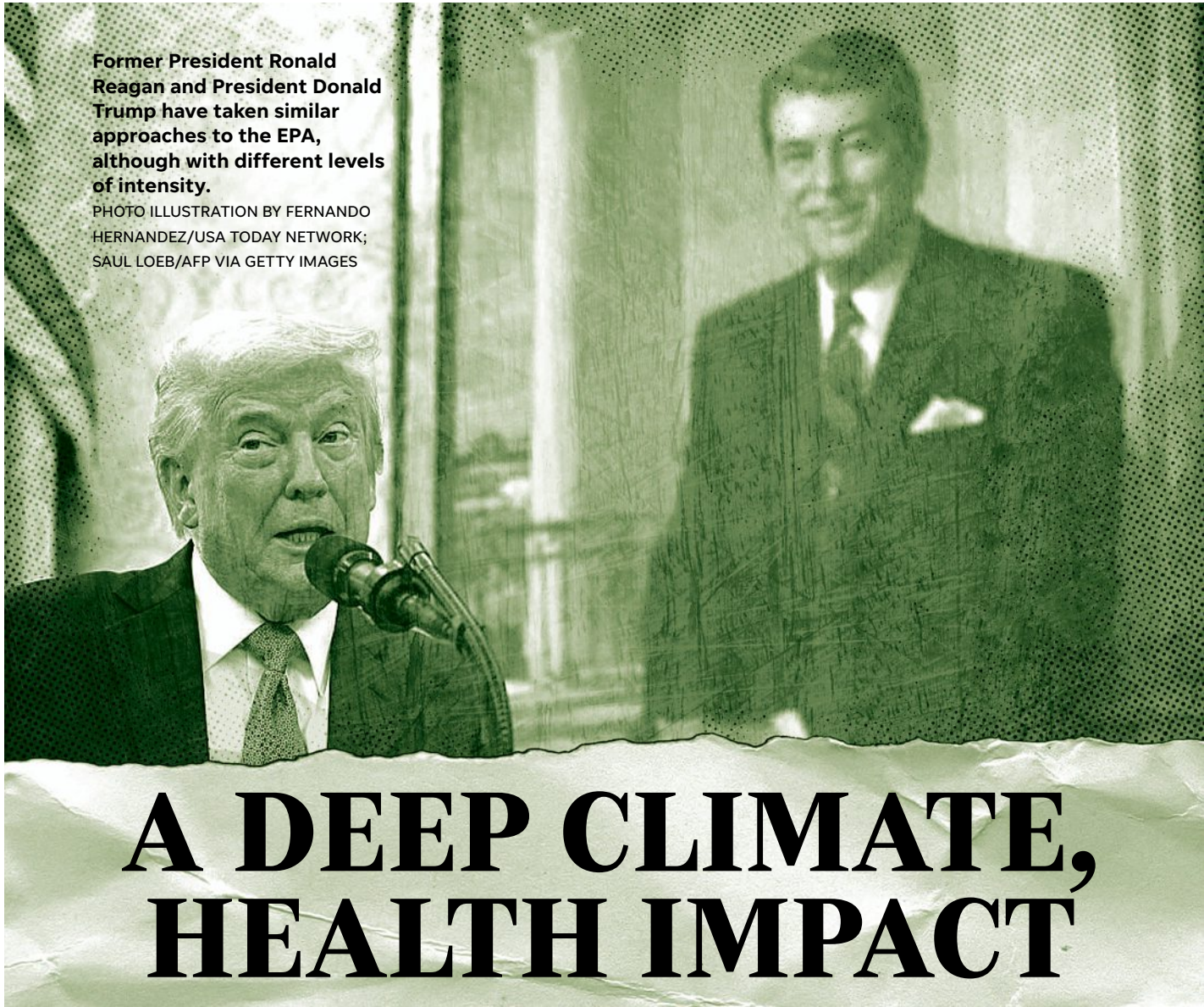
Wynford girls, St. Peter’s Kim advance to D-II state golf tourney

SPORTS, 10A

Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

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Former President Ronald Reagan and President Donald Trump have taken similar approaches to the EPA, although with different levels of intensity.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FERNANDO HERNANDEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK; SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A DEEP CLIMATE, HEALTH IMPACT

Like Reagan, Trump is cutting environmental regulations

Barbara Kates-Garnick Tufts University | THE CONVERSATION

When the Trump administration announced it was moving to eliminate dozens of U.S. climate policies, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin said he was sending “a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion.” • That drive – to both repeal environmental regulations and cast doubt on science – reflects the Trump administration’s approach to environment policy. • Deregulation has long been a key theme in Republican environmental policy. The conflict between the obligation to protect public health and the desire to boost markets traces back to former President Ronald Reagan’s administration. Reagan’s perspective that government is not a solution to problems, but is the problem instead, set the stage for Republican administrations that followed.

Reagan argued that the growth of government spending and business regulation had stymied economic prosperity. Environmental regulations were a prime target. Forty years later, America is seeing many of the same concepts in President Donald Trump’s administration. However, its strategy could have a greater effect than Reagan ever envisioned.

Slashing budgets and staffing

There are many ways to kneecap government agencies: Instituting massive budget cuts, cutting staff with critical

functions and appointing leadership whose goal is limiting the reach and effectiveness of the very agencies they direct are just a few.

In these efforts, Reagan and Trump had similar approaches to the EPA, although with different levels of intensity.

Trump’s EPA budget plan for 2026 includes a draconian 50% cut from the previous year and the lowest budget proposal, when adjusted for inflation, since Reagan. Staff cuts in just the first six months of the second Trump

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Steven Cook, a Trump appointee, once represented chemical companies that are fighting a rule that would require them to clean up PFAS pollution. He has now proposed scrapping the rule, The New York Times reports.

Wealthy nations accused of neglecting climate

Developing countries allege broken promises

Doyinsola Oladipo REUTERS

NEW YORK – Leaders of developing countries threatened by climate change told rich nations at the United Nations General Assembly that they are falling far short of promises to fund measures to address rising sea levels, droughts and deforestation. “It is past time for the rich world to meet its obligations and get money to where it’s needed most,” Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine told the assembly last week. “We’ve heard the promises – but promises don’t reclaim land in atoll nations like mine.”

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Nutrition education programs ending

Leah Douglas and Nathan Frandino REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO – On a warm September day in the courtyard of a San Francisco senior living community, a dozen residents shake their hips and throw their hands in the air to the beat of, fittingly, Earth, Wind & Fire’s “September.” Their hourlong dance class is hosted by Leah’s Pantry, a nonprofit that has run nutrition and health programs around the city since 2006. For Keng-soi Chou Lei, a 72-year-old retiree who came to the United States from Macau in 1995, attending the weekly class has taught her that “exercise makes you healthier, more relaxed and happier

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