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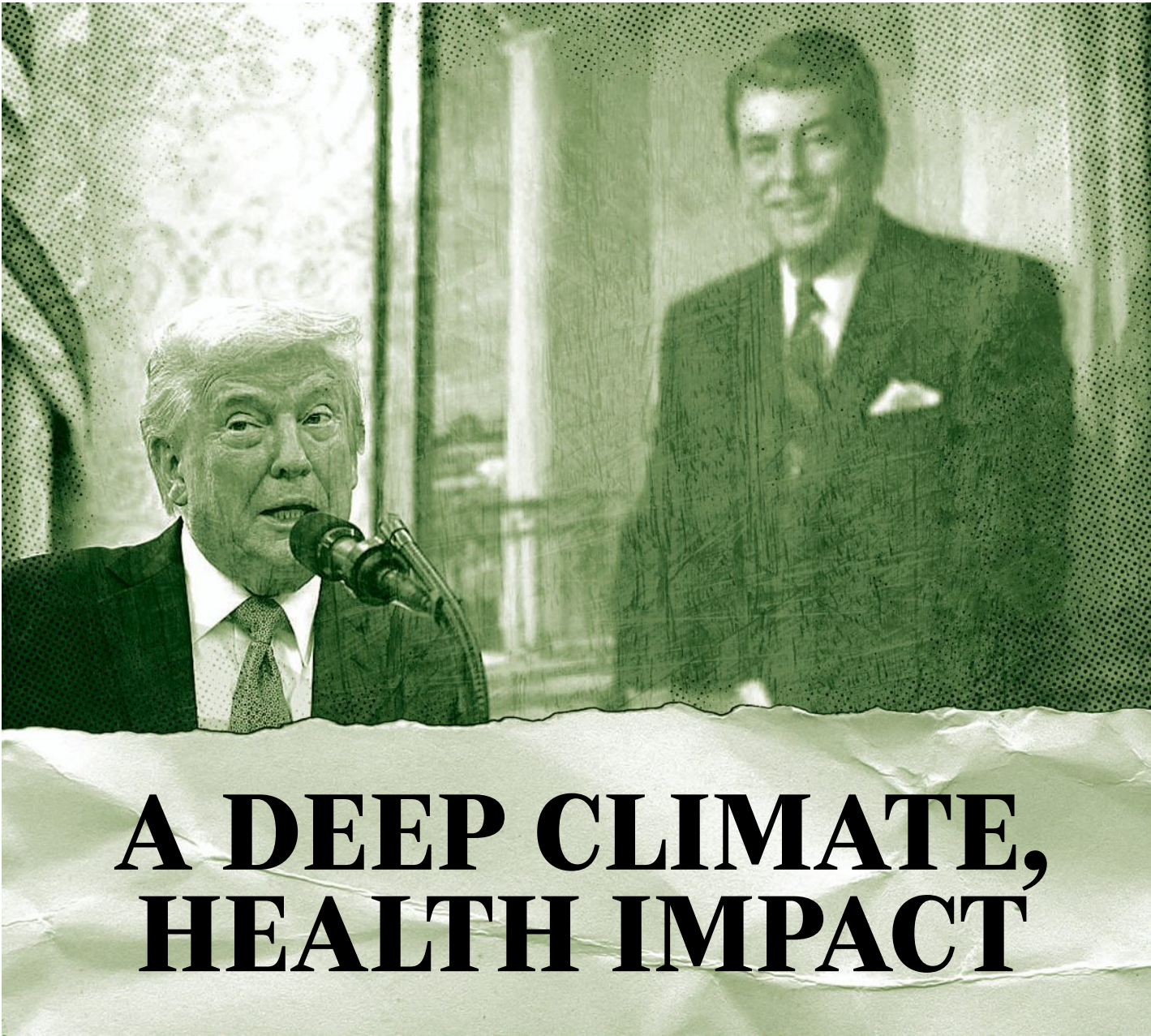
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# The Daily Record

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## 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 administration put the agency’s total employment at 12,448, down from 16,155 in January.

Reagan dissolved the EPA Office of Enforcement to limit “unnecessary regulation,” which resulted in a 80% decline in actions to enforce environmental regulations. Trump is also stopping enforcement actions, dismantling the EPA’s Science and Research Office and politicizing the agency’s science by putting political appointees in charge, moves that undermine the EPA’s independence and expertise.

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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.**

AT TOP: 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

## Pregnancy care center opens in Orrville

Jane Imbody

AI-assisted reporter  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County has opened a new location in Orrville.

The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce joined community members to celebrate the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 19, according to a community announcement.

“The chamber is proud to welcome the Pregnancy Care Center to Orrville,” Dan Franks, president of the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, said in the announcement. “Their commitment to providing care and resources will serve as an important asset to our community.”

Located at 1020 W. High St., the center is a licensed medical clinic offering free and confidential services and resources for those navigating unplanned pregnancies or seeking treatment for STDs.

For more information, visit [pccwayne-neoh.org](http://pccwayne-neoh.org) or call 330-960-2326.

*This story was created by Jane Imbody, jimbody@gannett.com, with the assistance of artificial intelligence. Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process.*

## Vintage Market Days coming to fairgrounds

Jane Imbody

AI-assisted reporter  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Vintage Market Days of Central and Northeast Ohio will be at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Oct. 10-12.

The event will feature more than 95 vendors offering original art, vintage items, holiday decor, boutique clothing, handcrafted jewelry, furniture and more, according to a community announcement.

Food trucks and live music will also be available throughout the weekend.

The event will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 10-11, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 12. Tickets cost \$10 for Friday and Saturday, and \$5 for Sunday. Children 12 and under can attend for free. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. This year, the event will support College of Wooster student organizations.

For more information and tickets, visit [vintagemarketdays.com/market/central-ohio/](http://vintagemarketdays.com/market/central-ohio/).

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