



Newark’s title quest hits a bump in road

SPORTS, 17A

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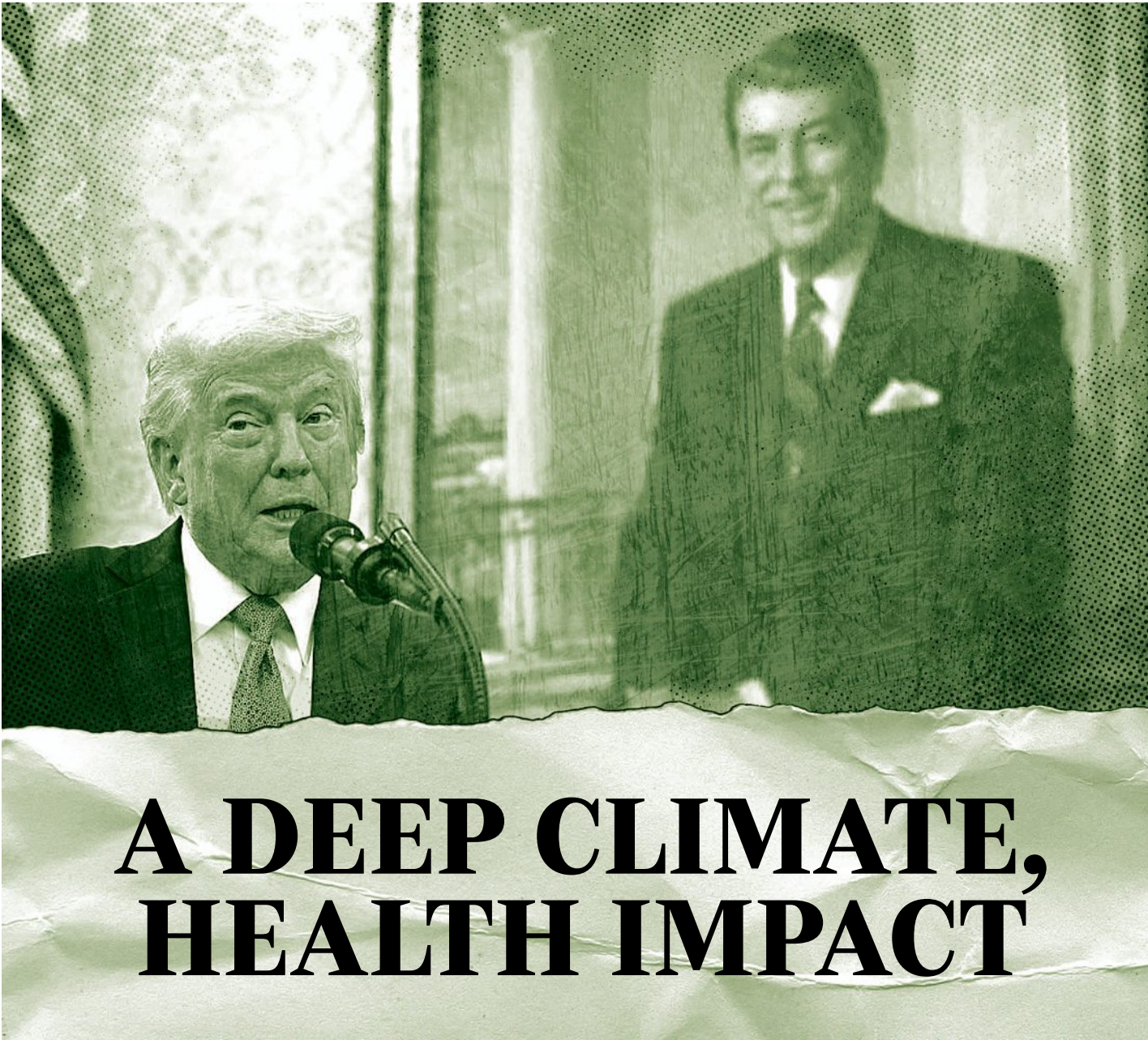
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Like Reagan, Trump is cutting environmental regulations

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, al-

though 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

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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.

Moreno demands answers from Intel

Dean Narciso
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sen. Bernie Moreno listened last week to chipmaker Nvidia’s plans to invest \$5 billion into its competitor Intel. But he, like others, have questions about whether the investment will jumpstart construction of the chip manufacturing fabs in Licking County.

On Sept. 26, in a letter to Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan, Moreno sought answers and an update on the now \$28-billion semiconductor factories in the New Albany portion of the county that were initially set to open this year.

“Unfortunately, the site’s development is nowhere near where your company said it would be. This was the largest investment in Ohio’s history and was initially projected to create 3,000 Intel jobs and 7,000 construction jobs over the course of building the two factories,” Moreno wrote.

Moreno said that Ohio officials “moved mountains” to help Intel meet its timeline, including \$2 billion worth of public incentives and new public infrastructure of at least \$691 million.

In 2024, however, Intel announced that it was cutting 30% of its workforce, delaying the project a second

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Granville residents gathered to suggest improvements

Alan Miller
TheReportingProject.org

Need a pool!
Community center & pool!
More diversified tax base (commercial development).
Affordable housing.
Embrace diversity and change.
Parking.

These are among the suggested opportunities for the Granville community to evolve or improve as it develops an updated comprehensive land-use plan.

The comments showed up on sticky notes written by more than 70 people who attended a planning open house Sept. 16 at the Granville Intermediate School.

“One of the things we wanted to accomplish tonight is community engagement, for sure,” said Granville Township Trustee Bryn Bird, a member of a working group that helped consultants from Crossroads Community Planning of Columbus develop a

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