

EVER-DRY

WATERPROOFING

Pennsylvania's #1 Basement

Waterproofing Company

FALL SPECIAL

EVER-DRY WATERPROOFING

FREE 20 POINT INSPECTION!

Have our professionally trained inspectors educate you about any:

MOLD

BOWING WALLS

WHITE POWDER

SEEPAGE

MOLD

MILDEW

WATER SEEPAGE

DAMPNESS

CRACKS (FLOOR OR WALL)

MUSTY ODORS

DISCOLORATION

DARK SPOTS

WHITE POWDER

DRY ROT

RUST

INSECTS

PESTS

724-419-1391

SAVE 10%

UP TO \$775 OFF

EXPIRES 10/31/25

Ellwood City Ledger

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 | ELLWOODCITYLEDGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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

See IMPACT, Page 2A

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.

Southwestern PA braces for SNAP benefit losses

Erin Yudt
Next Generation Newsroom
Special to The Times

The emergency assistance line keeps ringing for the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Over 47,000 calls through PA 211 have been made to the organization this year. Jen Schuchart, director of basic needs at the United Way, said they have seen a 16% increase in calls relating to food assistance and a 27% increase in calls related to SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) compared to 2024. Through several partner agencies, the organization connects community members with resources to address food insecurity, transportation issues and household repairs.

“There’s this increased sense of anxiety and confusion. How is this impacting me? Where do I fit in? Am I going to lose benefits?” Schuchart is referring to the new work requirements for SNAP benefit users.

The new federal law enacted at the beginning of September states that SNAP recipients must report at least 20 hours of work, education, training, or volunteering per week if they are 18 to 54 years old, do not have a dependent child under 18, and are physically and mentally able to work.

Nearly 30,000 people in Southwestern Pennsylvania are projected to lose government food assistance under this and other federal changes. More than 2 million Pennsylvanians are enrolled – over half are families

See SNAP, Page 3A

Get the latest news, sports and more

See today’s top headlines, local breaking news, area scores, things to do and subscriber exclusives at ellwoodcityledger.com.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

Use your computer or app to access your paper online. Subscribers also get access to USA TODAY’s eNewspaper, plus updated news and sports Extra sections.

Volume 105 | No. 197
Subscribe: 855-303-2660
News Tips: 724-758-5573
©2025 \$1.00