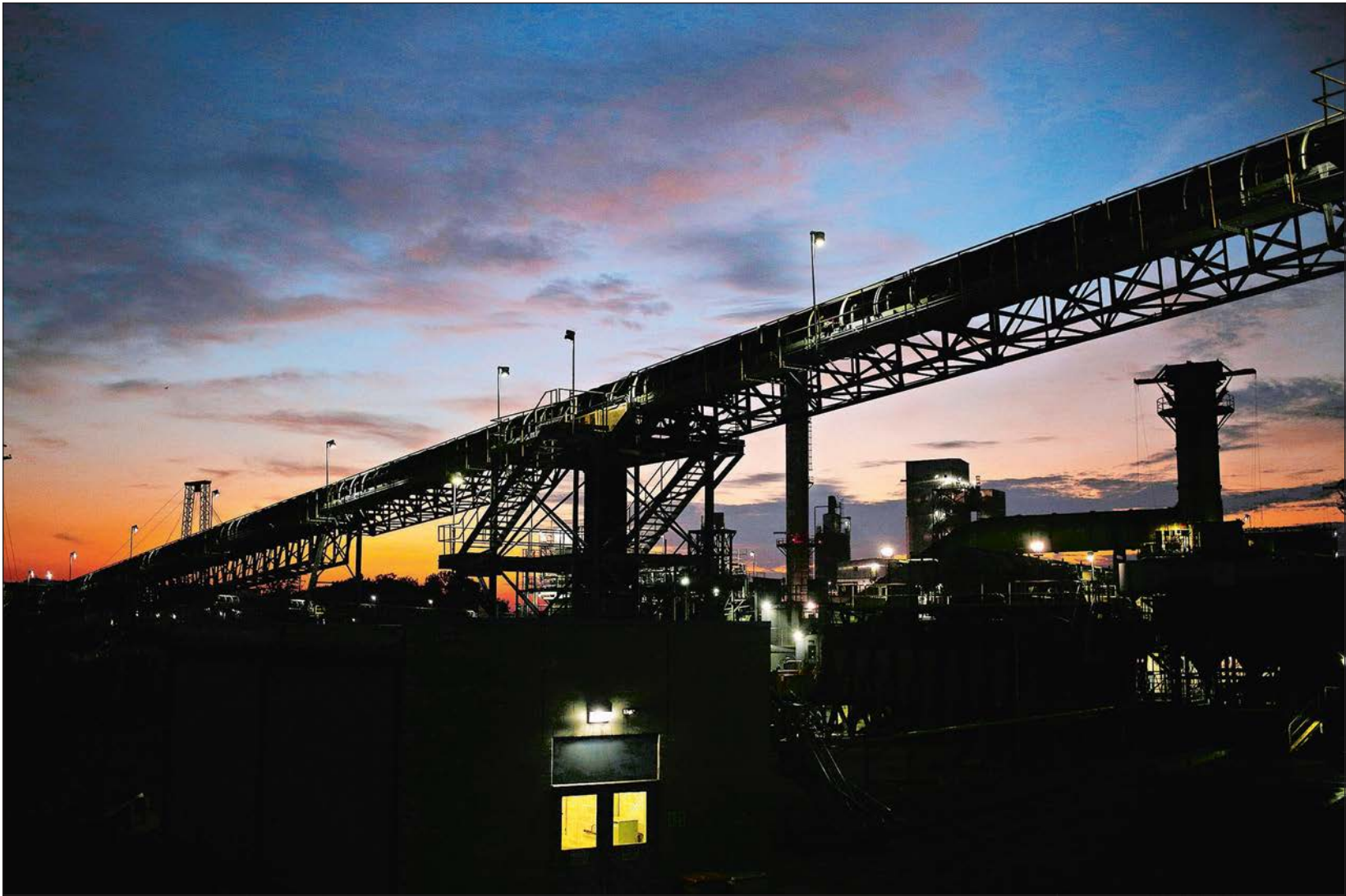


BUSINESS

Perspective: As the Groton Open Space Association prepares to mark its 50th anniversary this month, retired Day reporter and editor looks back on the group’s accomplishments. **B3**

Six money tips from a young saver **Page B2**

An industry in its twilight



Coke ovens stand at dusk inside the SunCoke Energy Inc. facility in Middletown, Ohio, last year.

LUKE SHARRETT/BLOOMBERG

Coal is losing an Appalachian stronghold and Trump can’t stop it

By **NAUREEN S. MALIK** and **TIM LOH**
Bloomberg

Natural gas already won the battle with coal on America’s Atlantic coast. Now it’s about to move west and take Ohio — and President Donald Trump’s new rollback of environmental regulations won’t prevent the rout.

At least six gas-fired plants are planned in the Ohio River Valley over the next four years. That’s enough to supply more than 4 million homes, and topple coal as the state’s main source of electricity.

Because gas is cleaner, its displacement of coal was cheered by the Obama administration. Still, it was the economics of shale drilling, not the government’s environmental rules, that drove the change. Gas prices have fallen almost 80 percent since mid-2008 as production surged across the country.

That’s what makes it so hard for Trump to bring back mining jobs in states like Ohio where the coal vote helped put him in the White House. It’s one thing to scrap his predecessor’s green agenda, as Trump did last week with an executive order that cancels various carbon-cutting policies. Taking on the market is another matter.

“Ohio coal is already feeling the pressure,” said John Bartlett, who helps manage about \$2.5 billion of energy and utility stocks at W.H. Reaves & Co. Inc. in Jersey City, N.J. “It’s go-

ing to be more and more intense as the decade wears on.”

Bartlett remembers when “all the coal in the world went up and down the Ohio River. You used to fly over it in the old days and see tons of barges.”

Last year, coal’s share of power generation in the state fell to about 58 percent, from 86 percent in 2006. Bartlett estimates that by 2021, gas-fired stations in Ohio will be able to produce 20.4 gigawatts — almost double their current capacity — while coal will hold steady at 15.4 gigawatts.

Competition from gas was one rea-

son that AES Corp.’s Dayton Power & Light announced in November it will shut two coal plants in Adams County on the Ohio River. With a combined capacity of 3,000 megawatts, they’ve operated for 40 years and employ hundreds of people.

“That got the community fired up,” said Michael Pell, chief executive of First State Bank in the nearby town of Winchester, who’s emerged as a leader of local efforts to resist the closures. He lists the likely effects: the coun-

SEE OHIO PAGE B2

Surfers finding paradise are also helping spur economic growth

By **MICHAEL HEATH**
Bloomberg

The discovery of a new surf spot allows a lucky board rider to commune with nature unfettered. Yet the inevitable influx of surfing hordes can also spur a burst of economic growth, according to new research.

A survey of more than 5,000 breaks in 146 countries suggests the discovery of high-quality surf can drive up economic growth by 2.2 percentage points a year in the surrounding area, according to a study co-authored by Sam Wills, an economist and lecturer at the University of Sydney. He says policymakers could use surf breaks as a way to create jobs and reduce

poverty, especially in developing countries.

“We conducted four sets of experiments, and they all confirm that good waves significantly increase growth, particularly after recent discoveries and during El Niño years,” said Wills. With more than 35 million surfers estimated worldwide, new spots will “continue to be discovered and built; and will continue to grow in popularity as populous, wave-rich economies like Brazil and Indonesia consume more leisure,” he said.

The research was inspired by a trip to Taghazout in Morocco as Wills sought a surfing holiday somewhere warm and quiet. As he flew in over

the desert at sunset all was dark — except for one spot that blazed like central Sydney. On arrival, he discovered that the previously sleepy little fishing village had been overrun by surfers, and later decided to research similar global trends.

His work used satellite images of night-time light emissions from areas near surf breaks as a proxy for economic growth, while also ana-

SEE STUDY PAGE B2

DANICA COTO/AP PHOTO

A surfer studies the waves earlier this year at Wilderness Beach, in Aguadilla, a lush corner in northwest Puerto Rico.



UBER DIVERSITY: LOW ON WOMEN, LIKE OTHER TECH COMPANIES

New York — Uber’s first report on employee diversity shows low numbers for women, especially in technical positions. In that regard, the company is similar to other Silicon Valley giants such as Google, Facebook and Apple.

But Uber’s report comes as pressure mounts on the company in light of sexual harassment claims by a former employee, the antics of its embattled CEO Travis Kalanick and ongoing criticisms of a boorish “brogammer” culture. Management defections include that of the company’s president, Jeff Jones, after just six months on the job.

Thirty-six percent of the company’s worldwide employees are women, according to the report, which does not count drivers as employees. Google, in comparison, has 31 percent women and Apple, 32 percent. When it comes to technology jobs such as engineering, only 15 percent are women at Uber. At Google, it’s 19 percent and Apple, 23 percent.

— **Associated Press**



An Uber representative helps travelers find rides with Uber at LaGuardia Airport in New York.

NEWFOUNDLAND’S NORTHERN COD IS MAKING A COMEBACK

St. John’s, Newfoundland — Northern cod are making a comeback off of Newfoundland and Labrador almost 25 years after a sweeping commercial fishing ban devastated the Canadian province.

A federal government report released last week said cod stocks continue to rebound, but warned catches should be kept to the lowest possible levels for now as a precaution. The union representing fishermen and plant workers, however, wants to immediately expand the relatively small commercial cod fishery.

The report found that while total biomass was up 7 percent from 2015 to 2016, stocks are still well below what would be needed to sustain large-scale fishing.

Canada announced a moratorium on the province’s commercial cod fishery on July 2, 1992, instantly throwing thousands of people out of work and sparking angry protests.

— **Associated Press**



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