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WORLD

Trump administration again labels the Houthis a 'foreign terrorist organization'

MARCH 4, 2025 · 3:34 PM ET

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By The Associated Press

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Secretary of State Marco Rubio, right, listens as President Trump, left, meets with France's President Emmanuel Macron in the White House on Feb. 24.

Ludovic Marin/Pool via AP

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WASHINGTON — The State Department on Tuesday reinstated the "foreign terrorist organization" designation for Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi group, fulfilling an order announced by President Donald Trump shortly after he took office.



Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the department had restored the designation, which carries with it sanctions and penalties for anyone providing "material support" for the group.

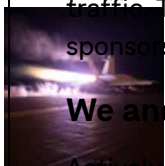
"Since 2023, the Houthis have launched hundreds of attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, as well as U.S. service members defending freedom of navigation and our regional partners," Rubio said in a statement. "Most recently, the Houthis spared Chinese-flagged ships while targeting American and allied vessels."

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MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

The U.S. and Britain carry out strikes on 18 Houthi targets in Yemen
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The Houthis have targeted more than 100 merchant vessels in the critical trade corridor with missiles and drones since the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip started in October 2023. In January, the group signaled that it will limit its attacks in the Red Sea corridor to only Israeli-affiliated ships after a ceasefire began in the Gaza Strip but warned wider assaults could resume if needed.

Trump's first Republican administration had similarly designated the Houthis in its waning days, but the designation had been revoked by President Joe Biden's Democratic administration over concerns it would badly affect the delivery of aid

to Yemen, which was considered to be facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.



POLITICS

State Department Condemns Group It Removed From Terrorist List

Rubio suggested in his statement that such a concern was not an issue anymore, saying that the U.S. would no longer "tolerate any country engaging with terrorist organizations like the Houthis in the name of practicing legitimate international business."

Besides the "foreign terrorist organization" announcement, the State Department's Rewards for Justice program announced that it would pay up to \$15 million for information that leads to the disruption of Houthi financing. The United Nations said last month that it suspended its humanitarian operations in the stronghold of Yemen's Houthi rebels after they detained eight more U.N. staffers.

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The rebels in recent months have detained dozens of U.N. staffers, as well as people associated with aid groups, civil society and the once-open U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen's capital. None of the U.N. staffers has been released.



MIDDLE EAST

Yemen's Loss Of Antiquities Is 'Robbing Them Of Their Future'

The Houthis have been fighting Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition, since 2014, when they descended from their stronghold in Saada and took control of Sanaa and most of the north.

The Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed at the time by the U.S., in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government to power.

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The war has killed more than 150,000 people including civilians and combatants, and in recent years it has deteriorated largely into a stalemate.

The U.N. has projected that more than 19 million people across Yemen will need humanitarian assistance this year as many deal with climate shocks, malnutrition, cholera and the economic effects of war.

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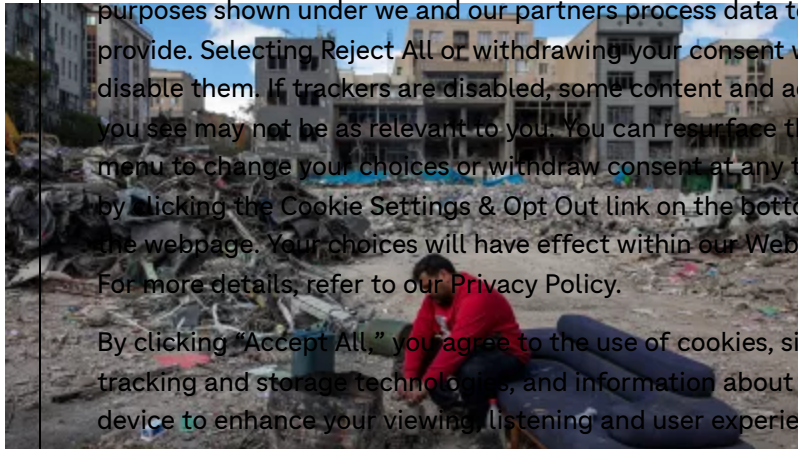
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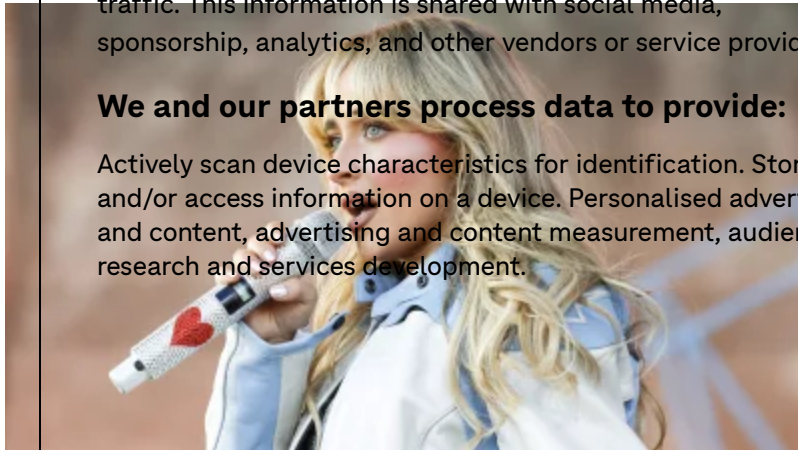
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Is the U.S. threatening to commit war crimes in Iran? : State of the World from NPR



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U.S. and Iran agree to 2-week ceasefire, suspending Trump's threat to annihilate Iran

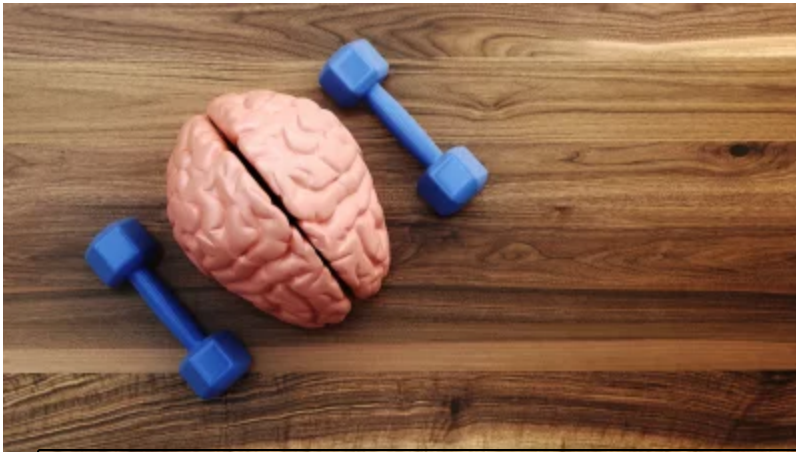


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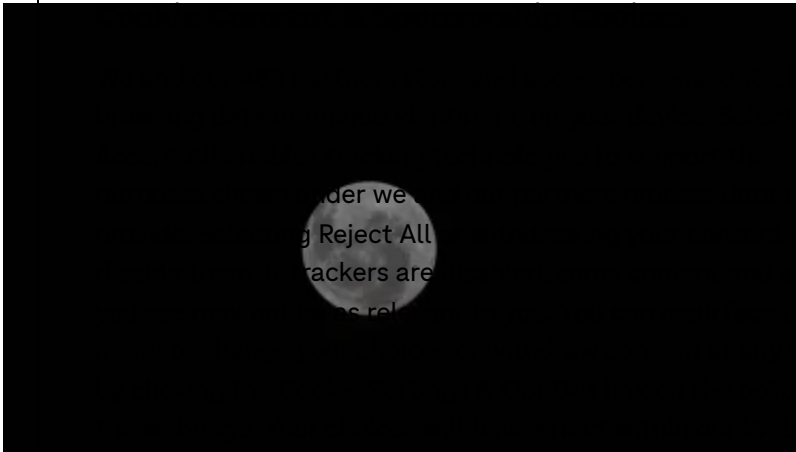
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POP CULTURE HAPPY HOUR

The embarrassing truth of dating men : Pop Culture Happy Hour



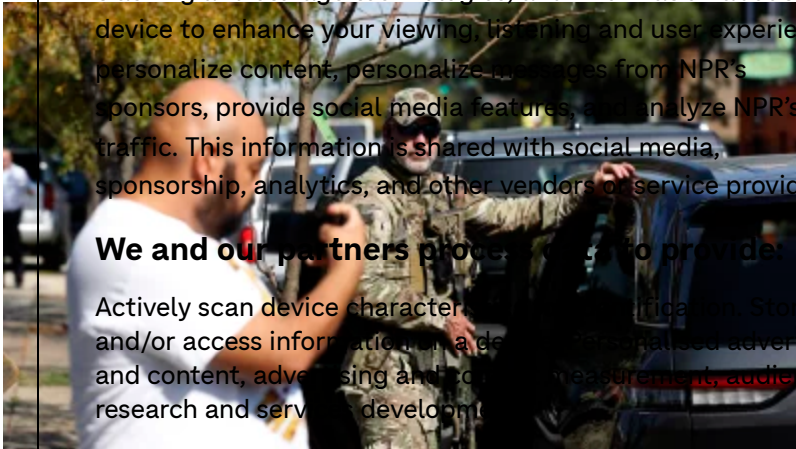
This form of mental exercise may cut dementia risk for decades



SPACE For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

What can Artemis II astronauts see that satellites haven't captured?

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TECHNOLOGY

ICE acknowledges it is using powerful spyware

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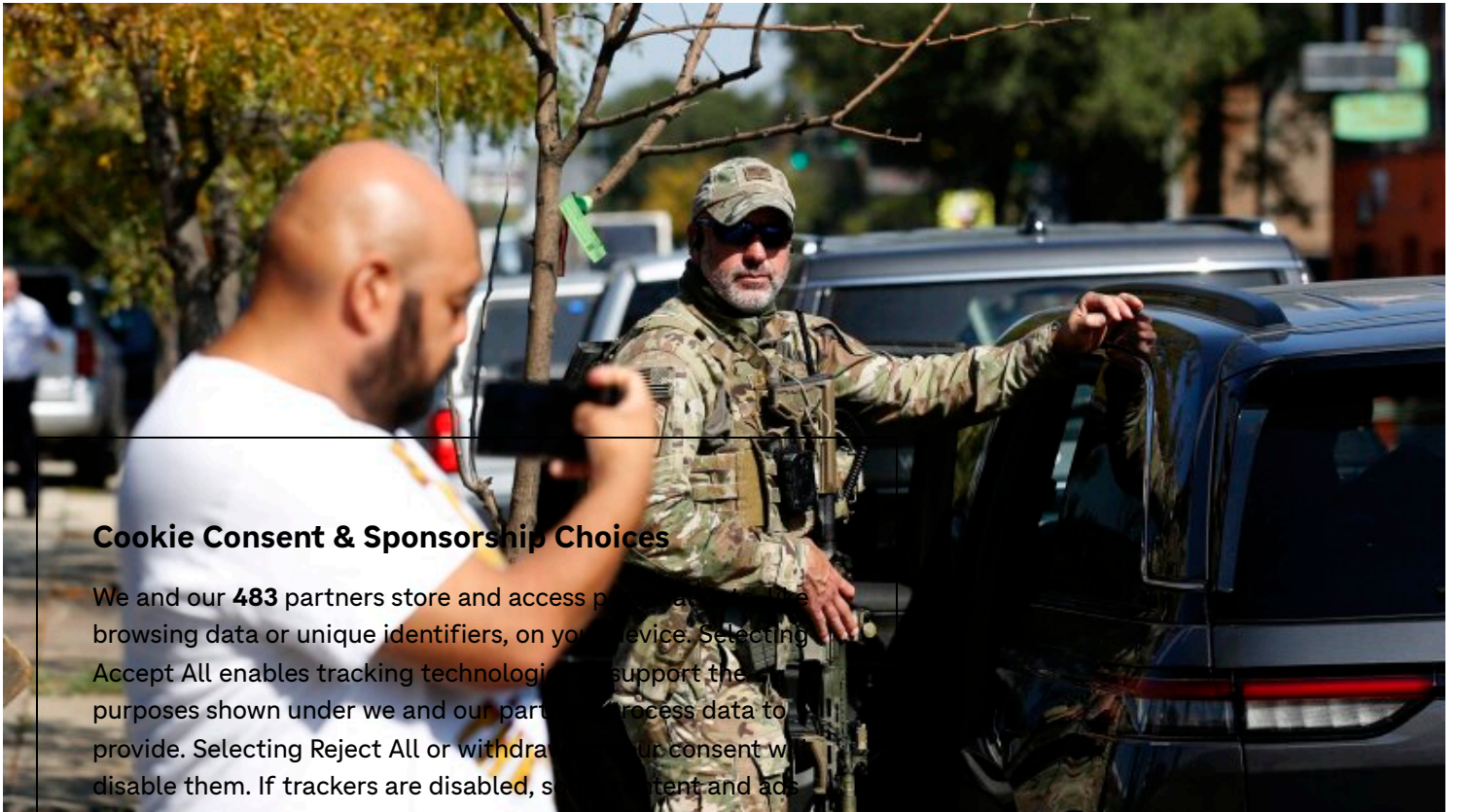
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SPACE The Artemis II crew saw parts of the moon never seen before. Here's what they said

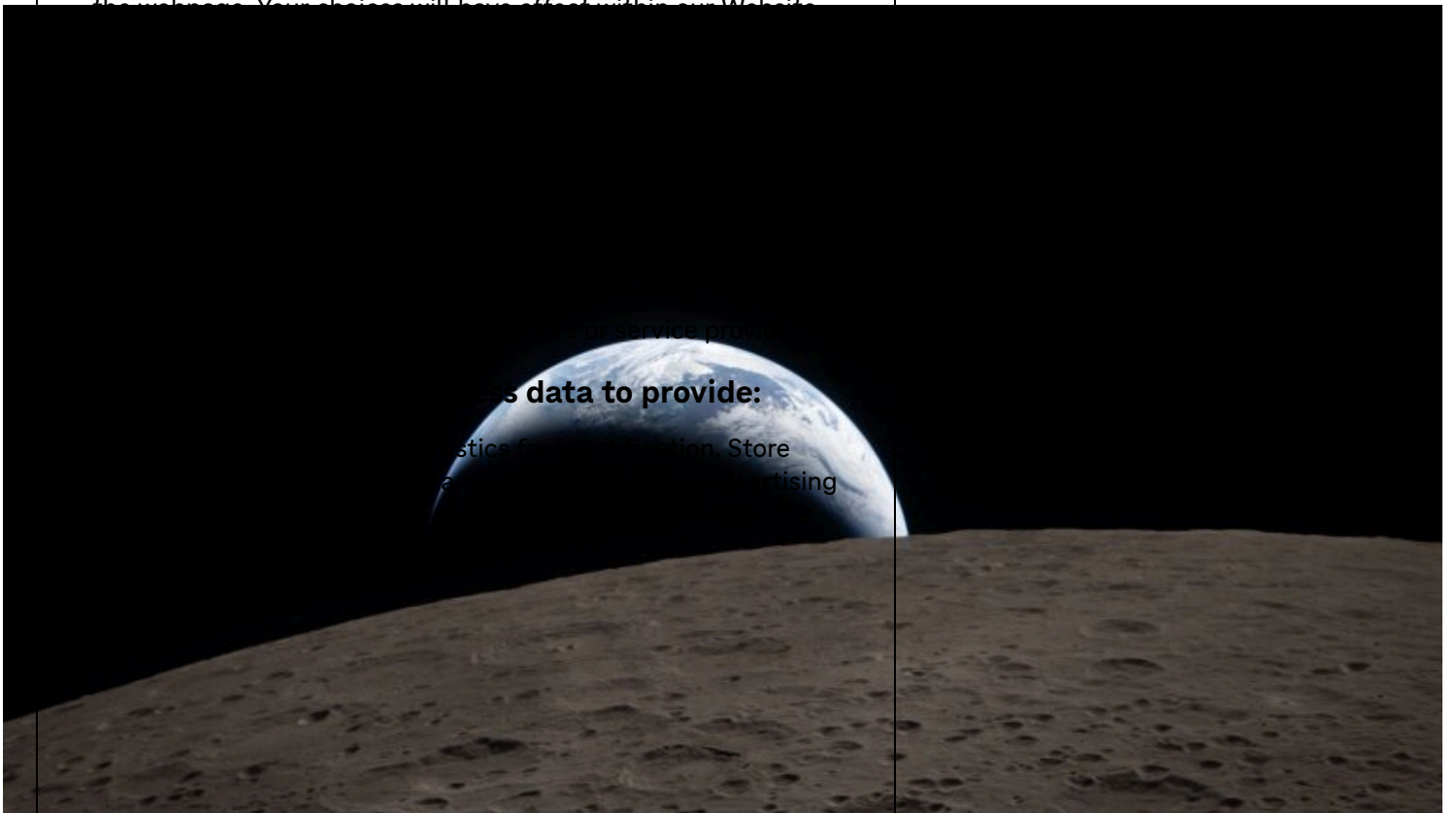


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THE PICTURE SHOW

Photos: NASA releases first images from moon flyby



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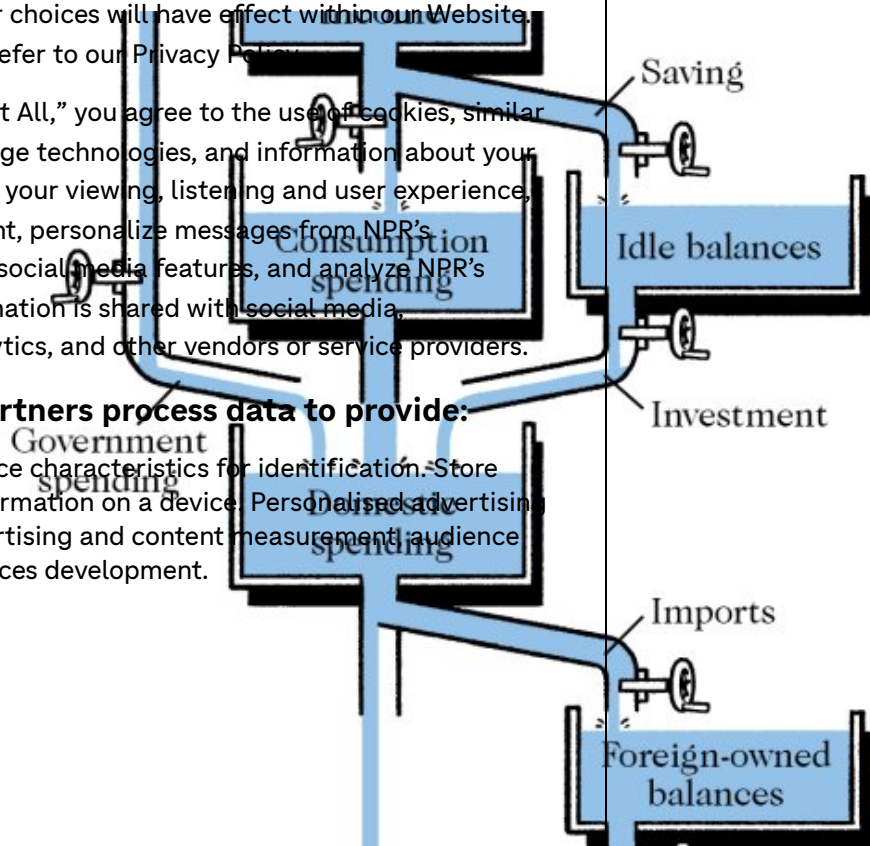
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Telehealth abortion will remain available for now, after a federal judge's ruling

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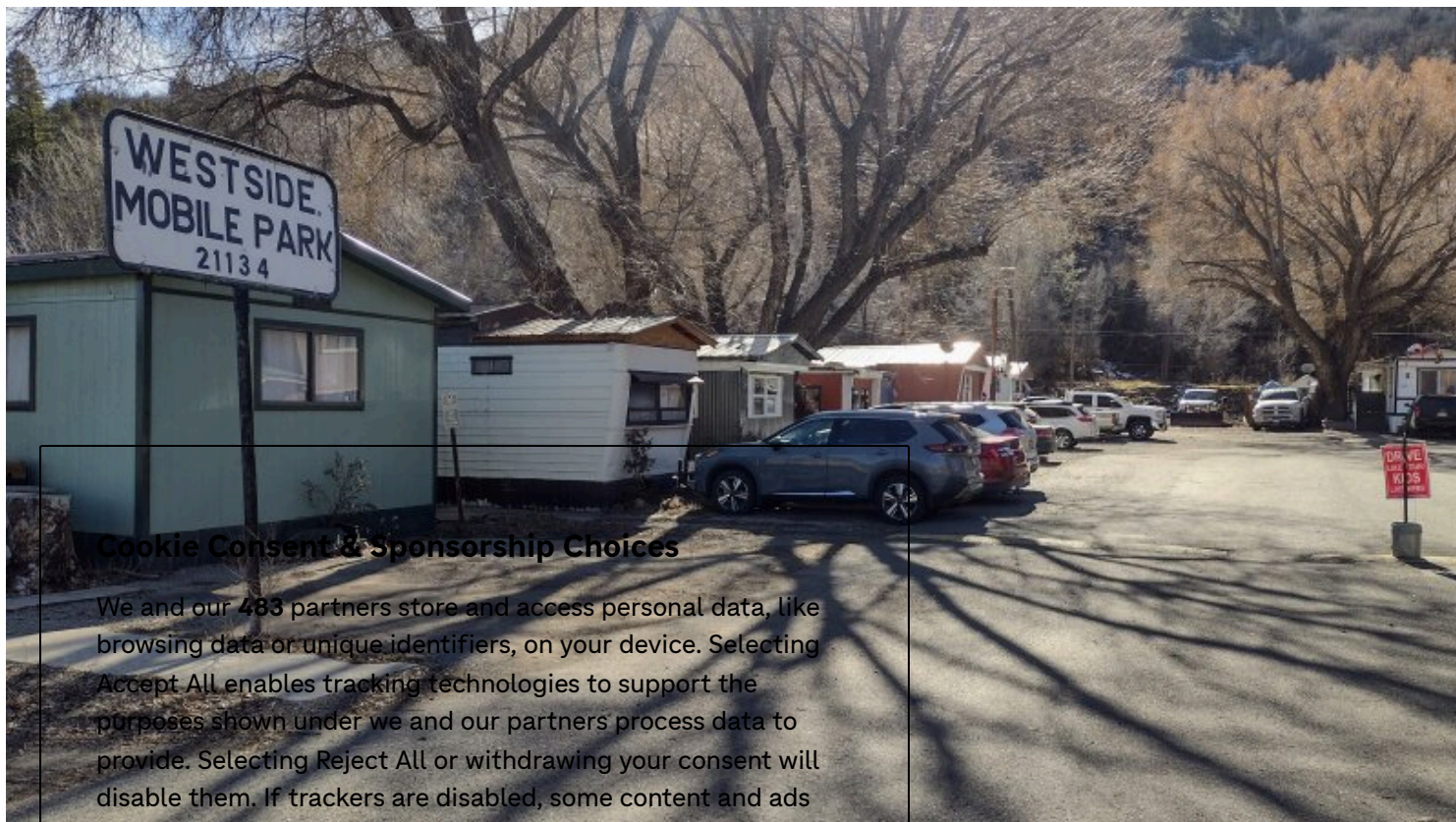
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PLANET MONEY NEWSLETTER

How Bill Phillips used flowing water to model the economy



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Mobile home residents band together to keep trailer parks affordable

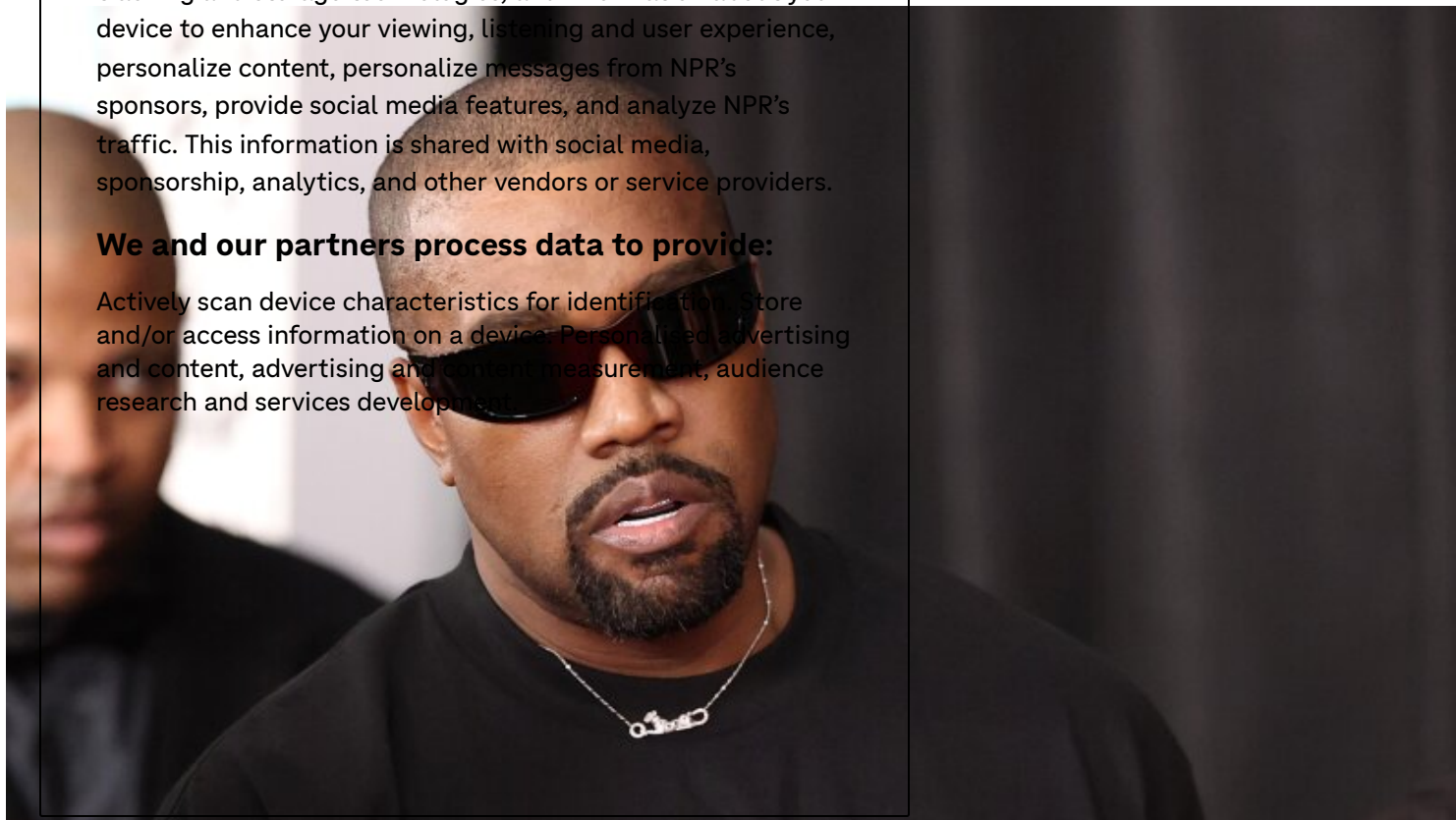
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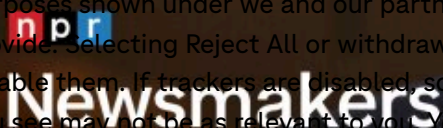


Astronauts suggest naming a moon crater 'Carroll' after their commander's late wife



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NPR'S NEWSMAKERS

CEO of nation's largest bank says Iran war raises risk of 'bad economic outcomes'

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BUSINESS

Drive slower, go electric, don't drive at all? Americans weigh options for saving gas



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