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The Desert Sun

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

How Americans view Trump's 2nd term

Partisanship colors views as year 1 comes to end

**Trevor Hughes, Karissa Waddick,
Terry Collins and Lauren Villagran**
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump swept back into the White House one year ago, Jan. 20, 2025, laying out a series of promises during his inaugural address: Prosperity. Security. Respect. Hope.

Trump's popularity is slipping nationally, with one recent poll showing 58% of the public thinks his first year was a failure.

However, whether Americans think he's succeeded or failed depends heavily on political persuasion.

USA TODAY interviewed people around the country to hear their per-

spectives.

Kansas cattle rancher

Sitting in his new one-ton Ford F-350 pickup, Kansas cattle rancher Hal Luthi, 73, said he appreciates the historically high prices he's getting for beef cows, and Americans' willingness to pay them.

"We're experiencing some really good times right now," Luthi said, allow-

ing him to pay down debt and prepare for the inevitable lean years.

He said Trump's approach to the economy has driven down the interest rates he pays along with most other forms of inflation, although fertilizer prices have continued rising.

The president has also floated importing more beef from Argentina, which could potentially undercut

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RANCHO MIRAGE



A rendering shows plans for the proposed Global Wildlife Discovery Museum in Rancho Mirage that would be located at the former site of the Chart House restaurant. PROVIDED BY CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Ritz-Carlton to add 106 condos, amenities

Expansion was approved, but not built, decades ago

Paul Albani-Burgio and Tom Coulter
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Rancho Mirage is planning a major expansion that includes 106 condos, an event space and a restaurant at the hillside luxury resort.

The city council approved changes to the hotel's development agreement during its meeting Thursday, Jan. 15. The changes were approved as part of the meeting's consent agenda, a series of items that are voted on together without separate discussion.

The approval came about a month after the council discussed the plans and approved a zoning change for part of the land and an environmental assessment for the overall project.

The city also agreed to make some changes in response to concerns from nearby residents, who worried about the project's noise and traffic impacts, as well as how the new buildings would affect mountain views from their homes. Other residents raised concerns about the project's encroachment on wildlife habitat.

One resident, Michael Harrington, urged the council not to approve the agreement during the Thursday meeting, saying the agreement does not include "enforceable" measures requiring the Ritz-Carlton to comply with state and federal rules for protecting wildlife. As a result, Harrington said the city and its taxpayers could assume a liability risk if those rules were not followed.

See RITZ-CARLTON, Page 2A

Wildlife and 'wonder'

Major new museum approved along Highway 111

Paul Albani-Burgio and Tom Coulter
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

A new wildlife museum along Highway 111 that would feature taxidermized animals received the approval of the Rancho Mirage City Council on Thursday, Jan. 15, even as little is known about who's behind the project.

The Global Wildlife Discovery Museum would be built at the site of the former Chart House restaurant. Plans call for a one-story, roughly 22,000-square-foot building next to the Atrium shopping mall.

The restaurant was a historically designated modernist building designed by architect Kendrick Bangs Kellogg. It was severely damaged in a 2012 fire, and the city council voted to allow its demolition the following year.

See MUSEUM, Page 4A



The burnt remains of the former Chart House restaurant along Highway 111 in Rancho Mirage on Dec. 21, 2012. RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN

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