



College football: 7 bold scenarios for the '25 season

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Trump takes 'perfecto' approach to design



President Donald Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in July in the Oval Office. One common thread runs through most of Trump's White House redecoration efforts: a penchant for gold. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Redevelopment projects continue to bring him joy as president

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

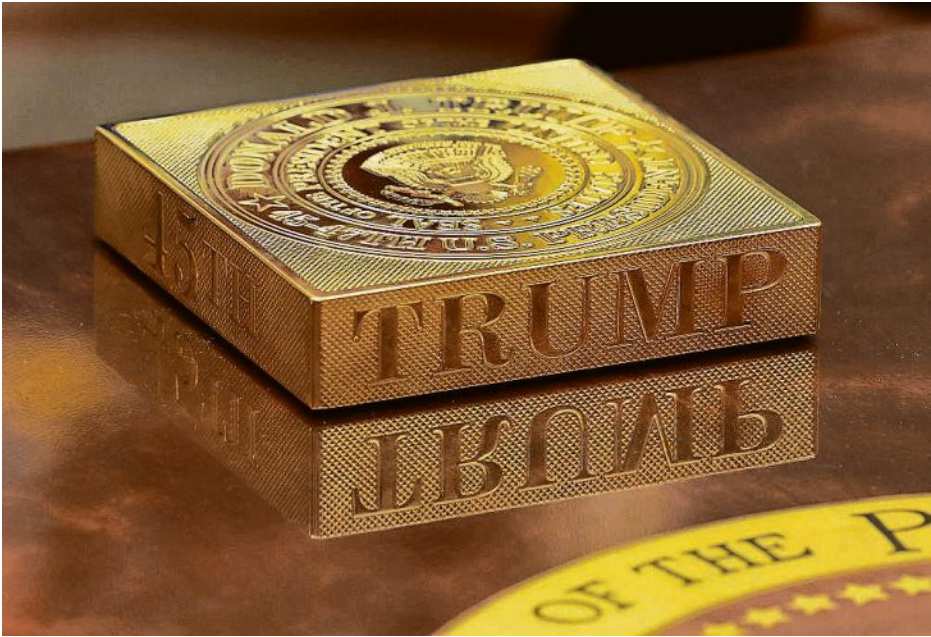
WASHINGTON – Donald Trump once said real estate runs in his blood.

In the late 1970s, he made a splashy entrance into the New York City real estate scene with the glitzy transformation of the crumbling Hotel Commodore into the Grand Hyatt. When he bought Mar-a-Lago, the South Florida estate built for socialite Marjorie Merriweather Post, he added a 20,000-square-foot ballroom. In the nation's capital, he turned the historic Old Post Office into a luxury hotel.

Now 50 years on, he has a new pet project: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Six months since he moved back into the White House, Trump's Oval Office is bathed in a sea of gold and gives a glimpse of his maximalist design approach. Gold-colored appliques on the fireplace, gilded mirrors and ornate Rococo-style 18th and 19th century dessert stands and flower vases from London and France sit

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A gold drink coaster box sits on President Donald Trump's coffee table as he hosts French President Emmanuel Macron in the Oval Office at the White House Feb. 24. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

"It conveyed an illusion of taste and wealth, and that's why he wanted to gild everything."

Barbara Res, former vice president at Trump Organization

Brass Tap in Panama City Beach closes its doors

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY BEACH — After 10 years, Pier Park's Brass Tap craft beer bar has closed its doors.

The popular staple made an announcement on Facebook that it will not renew its lease on Aug. 7.

The restaurant specialized in American food and craft beer.

"It's with a heavy heart, we must announce that we will be pouring our last beer on Saturday, August 16th," the Facebook post says. "The past 10 years have been nothing short of amazing. We'd like to thank our wonderful staff, each and every single one of our guests, and our loyal regulars who became like family."

Brass Tap Beer was one of the more popular beer destinations in Panama City Beach and became a premier location especially after Hurricane Michael.

Migrant screening rules assess 'moral character'

Eduardo Cuevas and Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

Federal immigration officers are now screening immigrants for anti-American ideologies and scrutinizing whether citizenship applicants possess "good moral character," under new White House orders.

The Trump administration issued the new screening rules in two separate notices this month, granting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers wide discretion to deny immigrants legal residency or citizenship.

The changes, which forbid but don't

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Start a career with Gulf Coast State's tourism program

Tyler Orsburn
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

Studying tourism and hospitality management at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City offers students a direct path to careers along the Emerald Coast. Bay County itself is a living classroom, giving students a competitive edge in the hospitality field.

Paul Bonnette, the college's endowed chair of the Katherine Griffin Boatwright



Bonnette

Management and Tourism Program, said the Hilton Hospitality Management and Tourism Program combines classroom learning with hands-on experience in hotels, restaurants and event venues. Internship opportunities and \$500/semester scholarships are available, Bonnette said.

"The importance of this program (for the local economy) is providing these



Langley

memories to families that come down year after year, and making these unforgettable experiences that make (tourists) want to come back over and over and over again," Bonnette said.

Breagan Langley, an Arnold High graduate, said she enrolled with the program because she wanted to open and manage a restaurant.

"I think everybody in the hospitality industry here (in Bay County) is really open to helping the students, because they used to be us," the second-year student said, referring to guest speakers and internship opportunities. "They understand that sometimes it's hard to get in-person experience. So, they have been really great to come and speak, and allow us to go to their facilities."

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