



Sometimes a graybeard QB just makes sense

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Trump takes ‘perfecto’ approach to design

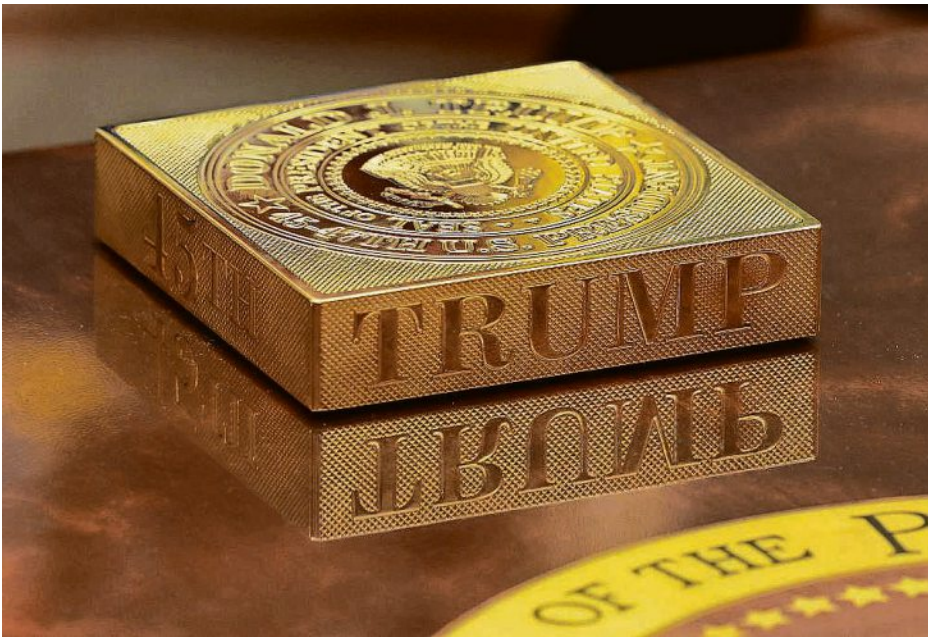


President Donald Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in July in the Oval Office. One common thread runs through most of Trump’s White House redecoration efforts: a penchant for gold. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

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 on the mantle. The walls are choc-a-block with paintings of former presidents in heavily ornate gold frames. The Cabinet Room has been outfitted with new ceiling medal-



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

See WHITE HOUSE, Page 2A

CITY AMBULANCE SERVICE

High call volume ends contract

Erich Murphy
Pontiac Daily Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

PONTIAC — A two-year-old agreement between the city of Pontiac and OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center is no more. For the past two years, the city has been transporting all patients from the medical center to other hospitals, nursing homes or other destinations. That stops Jan. 1. The reason behind the change is high demand, said Pontiac City Administrator Jim Woolford. Call volumes have risen so much that, Woolford said at an Aug. 18 City Council meeting, that it was becoming too difficult for the city keep up with the hospital’s transports and

See CONTRACT, Page 3A

Skydivers take aim at world, state records in Illinois

Erich Murphy
Pontiac Daily Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

A pair of world records are in jeopardy this week as members of Skydive Chicago attempt to set new marks in vertical and traditional formation skydiving. Skydive Chicago has arranged for 450 skydivers from all around the world to meet up at its base in Ottawa, Illinois, to establish new records in vertical (200-way) and traditional (250-way) jumps. Here is what we know about the event.

What is the vertical jump world record?

The world record for vertical

See SKYDIVERS, Page 3A

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