



Midfield field hockey players to watch

SPORTS, 1B

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Trump takes ‘perfecto’ approach to design

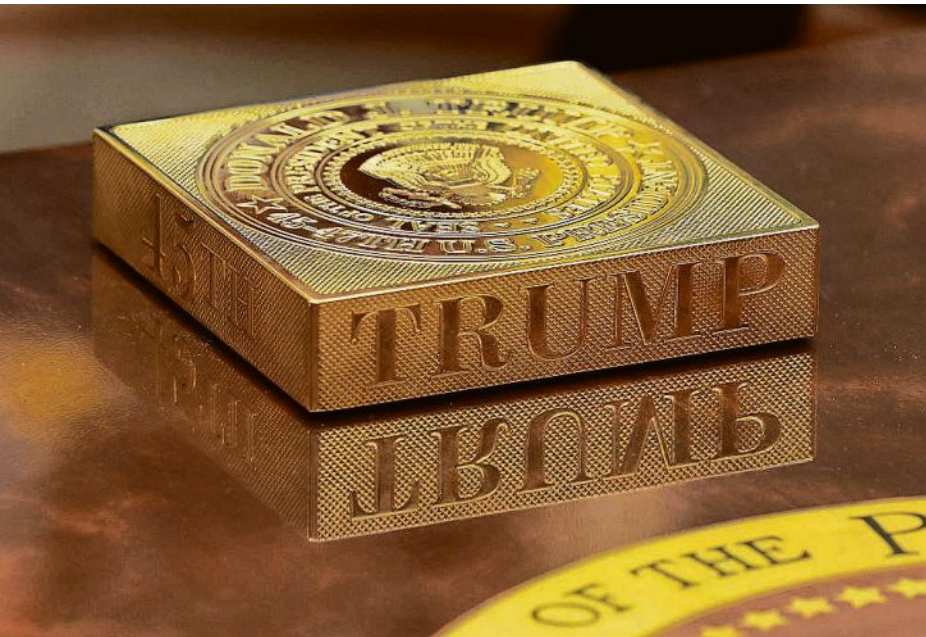


President Donald Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in July in the Oval Office. One common thread runs through most of Trump’s White House redecoration efforts: a penchant for gold. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

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



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

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Resort to use goats and sheep to maintain its trails

Beth McDermott
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jay Peak Resort is trying a new approach to trail maintenance this fall by using goats and sheep instead of gas-powered equipment. The animals will graze about 130 acres of ski and Nordic trails throughout September, replacing part of the resort’s annual fall mowing operation, according to a community announcement. Traditionally, Jay Peak mows about 340 acres of trails and glades each September and October, using a crew of 10 seasonal workers with gas-powered trimmers. This year, the resort has contracted a Vermont-based farmer to bring a herd of goats and sheep to handle part of the job. The animals will be outfitted with radio collars connected to a cellular-powered geofencing system and will rotate through 2-acre sections every two days, grazing the vegetation down to the target height of 6 inches. A trained guard dog will stay with the herd overnight to deter predators.

What is goatscaping?

Goatscaping is a centuries-old technique for natural landscaping that relies on goats’ indiscriminate appetite for nearly anything leafy and green. Their hardy stomachs can digest plants other animals cannot, including poison ivy, sumac and other invasive or nuisance growth, without harm. This organic, chemical-free approach is both environmentally friendly and highly effective, making it a sustainable alternative to weed-killing sprays. “This is as much about exploring better, lower-impact ways to care for the mountain as it is about tradition,” said Andy Stenger, director of mountain and base area operations. “If the goats and sheep can do the work without heavy fuel use — and without us needing to haul crews up the hill every day — that’s a win for us and the mountain.” While optimistic, the resort acknowledges the experiment comes with unknowns. If the animals don’t meet vegetation targets, the mowing crew will resume in October to complete the job. If the pilot succeeds, Jay Peak hopes to expand the grazed acreage in future seasons. Regardless of

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Back to school means school zone speed enforcement

Sydney P. Hakes
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Vermont’s students begin filing back into their classrooms as a new school year starts, they will also be walking along the streets during weekdays. Knowing where your school

zones are and what speed to maintain will help keep drivers and students alike safe. A school zone is a designated area around schools and crosswalks where there is high pedestrian traffic and traffic laws are more strictly enforced. These zones are marked with signs, flashing lights or road markings to alert

drivers to slow down and watch out for children. School speed limits vary based on state law and typically range from 15 to 25 mph. For Chittenden County, the school zone speed limit also is maintained between 15 and 25 mph with the local governments often choosing the set speed. Speed limits are enforced during

specific hours indicated on signs; in Chittenden it is typically from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days. The zone speed limit does not apply to days when school is not in session. Chittenden County serves over 22,300 students, who attend 39 public

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