

Many Americans are in similar position as grocery prices increase

BUSINESS, 6C

The Record WEEKEND

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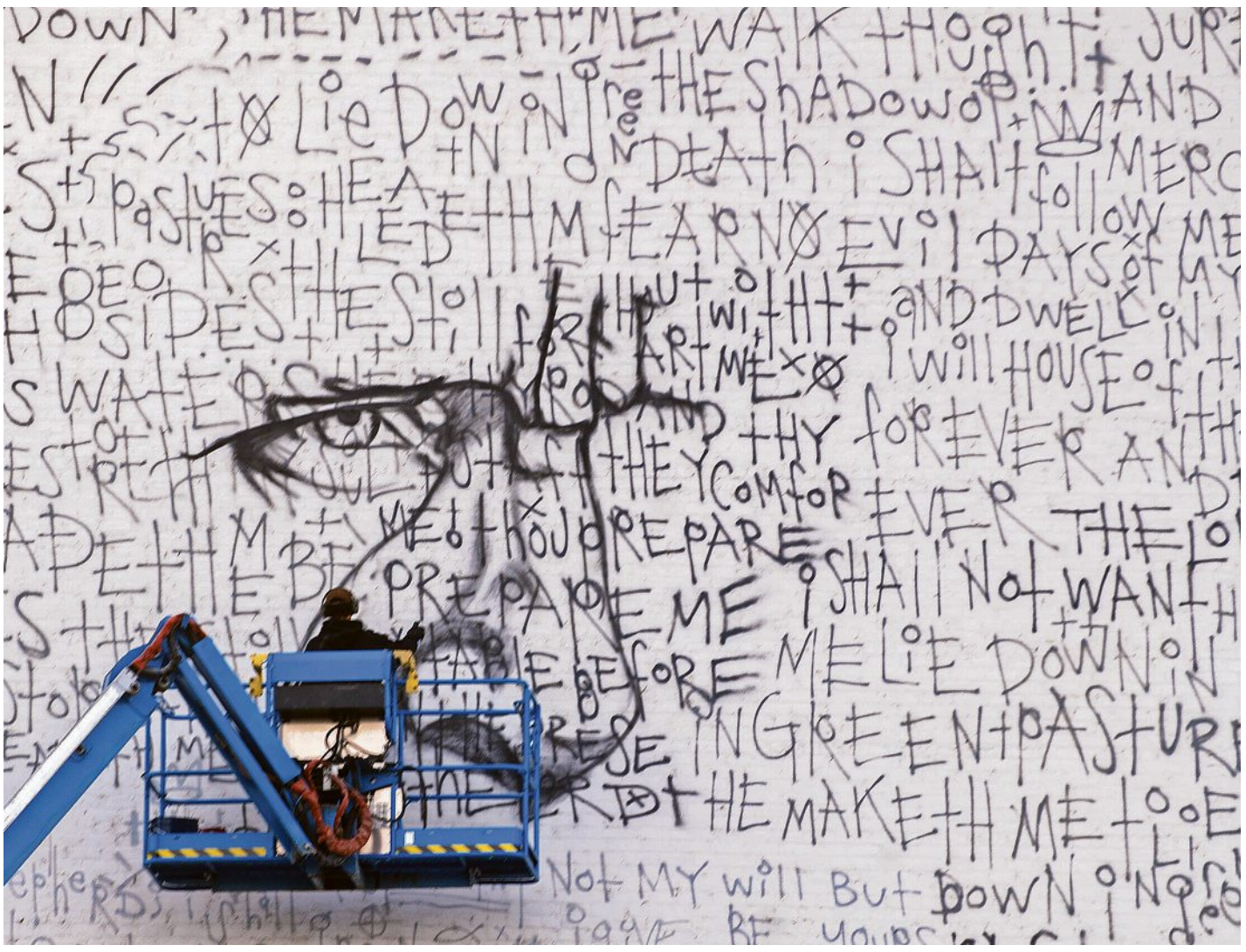

New Mexico native muralist Drew Merritt starts to paint his mural Oct. 20 on the 5-story tall Villas de Amistad building over a "doodle grid" which helps him plot the mural. The work is a part of the Murals & Main project in Stockton. Murals of various sizes are being painted on buildings in downtown Stockton. PHOTOS BY CLIFFORD OTO/THE STOCKTON RECORD

Stockton becomes a canvas

Weeklong murals project likely to return annually



Merritt painted a pioneer prospector holding a gold nugget on the Villas De Amistad building.

Mike Chapman
Special to the Stockton Record | USA TODAY NETWORK

Newly painted murals are receiving glowing reviews for bringing bursts of color and creativity to downtown Stockton.

The building-size artwork has been so well-received that the project will likely return next year, organizers said.

The weeklong Murals & Main project drew a total of 15 local and visiting artists who painted 10 large-scale murals on the sides of buildings from Oct. 19-24.

One of the standout pieces was created by New Mexico native Drew Merritt, who describes his subject and artistic process later in this article. Merritt painted a pioneer prospector holding a large gold nugget on the side of the Villas De Amistad building at 601 E. Main St.

The mural on the rear of the Elks Building at 42 N. Sutter St. is the community wall that members of the public, including schoolchildren, put together along with local artists Tiffany Pech and Garrett Daniells with support from the Stockton Art League, according to Visit Stockton.

Other muralists were inspired by the city's history, diversity, waterways such as the Delta and port, and local agriculture.

"It's exciting to see our downtown come alive with beautiful murals that tell stories, celebrate our history and bring new energy to our city!" San Joaquin County Supervisor Mario Gardea posted on his Facebook page.

"Stockton is becoming a canvas of creativity, culture and community!" Gardea added.

See MURALS, Page 2A

ANALYSIS

GOP split on Miller's ascension

Some think immigration policy has gone too far

María Luisa Paúl
USA TODAY

Greg Bovino has been waiting nine months for this.

As Border Patrol commander, he became the swaggering face of President Donald Trump's street-level immigration sweeps, leading agents through Los Angeles, Chicago and, finally, Minneapolis, where the killing of two U.S. citizens by federal officers in January sparked national outcry, set off a political storm and ended his time in the field. He retired in March, convinced that the administration had lost its nerve.

So when Trump announced Nov. 6 that Stephen Miller, formerly the White House's deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security adviser, would become his new chief of staff, Bovino saw a correction – and vindication.

"I think President Trump finally realizes he got duped, and he brought in the individual who was actually telling him the truth the whole time," Bovino said in an interview with USA TODAY.

Not all politicians in Washington share that view. Miller's promotion came three days after an election in which Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress, and in which nearly 6 in 10 voters told exit pollsters the administration's immigration enforcement had gone too far. Some Republican lawmakers have blamed Miller, who designed and directed much of that enforcement,

See GOP, Page 3A



As deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security adviser, Stephen Miller drafted the executive orders President Donald Trump signed on his first day back in office, including one to end birthright citizenship.
ANNABELLE GORDON/REUTERS FILE



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