

Is your team a Super Bowl contender or pretender?

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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ANALYSIS



President Donald Trump has chosen Stephen Miller, formerly his deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security adviser, to become his new chief of staff. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS FILE

Republicans are split on Miller's ascension

Some in GOP 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

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Former Border Patrol commander Greg Bovino said that by appointing Stephen Miller chief of staff, President Donald Trump "brought in the individual who was actually telling him the truth the whole time." SAM WOLFE/REUTERS FILE

Allies and critics alike describe Stephen Miller as the most influential force behind Trump's immigration policy for the better part of a decade. His views, they say, have barely moved.

Schools of Excellence for 2025-26

Did your school make the state list?

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

OKALOOSA COUNTY – The Florida Department of Education has recognized nine Okaloosa County School District schools as 2025–26 Schools of Excellence.

According to a district press release, this honor recognizes schools that demonstrate sustained academic achievement and performance.

"The Schools of Excellence designation is awarded to schools that rank in the 80th percentile or higher in the percentage of possible points earned in their school grade calculation among schools with the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high, or combination) for at least two of the past three school years," the release says.

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PaPPo's Pizzeria and Pub brings scratch-made pizza to Destin

Tina Harbuck
The Destin Log
USA TODAY NETWORK

With locations in Missouri, Kansas, Alabama and Illinois, PaPPo's Pizzeria & Pub has opened its first franchise in Florida.

PaPPo's Pizzeria & Pub is at 985 U.S. 98 E in Destin next to Cafe Destin and Nothing Bundt Cakes. It's owned by Steve and Aunya LaRue.

Having worked for the franchise for about a decade, when the opportunity came for him to open one in Destin, LaRue jumped at the idea.

"It was kind of a no-brainer for me because I've always wanted to live in Florida," he said, noting they moved from Missouri.

The pizzeria opened the last week of October, and people are already making it a regular spot for lunch and

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