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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.

THANKSGIVING

Consumers' cost of dinner up this year

Clayton Park
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The average cost of Thanksgiving dinner nationally is 6.3% higher this year, compared to last year, according to a new report from the American Farm Bureau Federation, but the main dish will be cheaper at least in Florida.

The good news for consumers in the Sunshine State is that turkey prices in Florida are down from a year ago, according to the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. The Gainesville-based group issued its annual cost of Thanksgiving report Wednesday, the same day as the national organization.

"Grocery stores often feature whole turkeys at lower prices leading up to Thanksgiving," Florida Farm Bureau Federation spokeswoman Rachael Smith told USA TODAY Network-Florida. "The average price of a frozen 16-pound turkey in Florida (the second week of November) was $19.03 as compared to $27.16 in 2025."

Florida consumers weigh in on this year's Thanksgiving prices

Thanksgiving is costing a whole lot less this year for Port St. Lucie resident Lisa Root.

"I got a free 22-pound turkey because I spent $150 at BJ's (the members-only warehouse club store)," she told USA TODAY Network-Florida. The frozen Butterball premium whole young turkey, according to the price tag, would have normally cost $21.88.

Root, a dog breeder who owns a business called Heaven Sent Papillons, said Thanksgiving is typically when grocery stores step up discount specials, such as Walmart's sale on a number of canned goods, including Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup, for just a dollar a can.

Root said her local Publix is currently offering a BOGO deal (Buy One, Get One Free) on turkey breasts. "I buy a bunch of extras and donate them to families in need through local churches," she said.

Root just wishes the discounts would apply to a broader range of groceries, and not just at Thanksgiving.

"I do think everything is higher (in price) in general," she said. "I'm appalled, for example, at the prices for strawberries and blueberries. I just bought a container of strawberries. It was 10 bucks. It used to be $4."

Ormond Beach resident Josh Williams bought a 21.8-pound

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State gas prices are the lowest in eight months

Clayton Park
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Florida gasoline prices on Nov. 16 fell to the lowest they've been since the start of the Iran War.

The statewide average price for regular gasoline now stands at $3.59 per gallon, down 60 cents from a month ago and down 20 cents in the past week, according to AAA Auto Club. It's the lowest since March 9, when the price was $3.49.

The national average price of gasoline on Monday dipped to $3.81 per gallon, down 51 cents in the past month and down 19 cents in the past week.

"Florida drivers are seeing significant relief at the pump," said Mark Jenkins, the Tampa-based spokesman for AAA in his weekly Florida gas price report. "Gas prices have dropped more than 60 cents in the past month, and oil and gasoline futures moved even lower last week. That should keep downward pressure on pump prices, although it's unclear how low they could go."

Why are gas prices falling?

Gas prices are falling, both nationally as well as in Florida because of a combination of the annual switch by refineries in the United States to producing less expensive winter-blend fuels than the more costly, but less polluting summer blend fuels.

A drop off on consumer demand occurs this time every year following the end of the busy summer tourist season, and a somewhat easing, at least for now, of the military conflict between the U.S.

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