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Trump pivots to tout affordability

Proposals come as views on handling of economy sink

By Alan Rappeport
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Lower prices for coffee and fruit. A 50-year mortgage to reduce monthly home payments. Direct checks of \$2,000 to many Americans. And a new willingness to welcome skilled foreign

labor into the United States.

The Trump administration has floated a series of ideas over the past several weeks as it confronts the cold reality that its economic policies are not helping many Americans who continue to struggle with elevated prices and a sense of economic pessimism.

Last week’s elections made clear that

affordability was top of mind for many Americans. Voters in New York propelled Zohran Mamdani, the democratic socialist with an ambitious agenda to lower the cost of living, to victory in the mayoral race. Democratic wins in New Jersey and Virginia were built on promises to address the high cost of living in those states.

Only 30% of voters believe President Donald Trump has lived up to their expectations for tackling inflation and the cost of living,

according to a recent NBC News poll. That was his lowest mark for any issue respondents were asked about. And a meager 27% of voters in a CNN poll in late October said Trump’s policies had improved the country’s economic conditions — less than half of those who thought he had made matters worse.

In the wake of those results, the

Turn to Trump, Page 2



Former members of First Baptist Church Piney Grove in Lauderdale Lakes gather at the property. Dozens of ousted members of the church have sued leadership over allegations of financial mismanagement, a rare show of no-confidence in one of South Florida’s oldest Black churches. **CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL PHOTOS**

Members sue historic, large Broward church

They accuse pastor of misusing finances and ignoring bylaws

By Rafael Olmeda
South Florida Sun Sentinel

The pastor of one of Broward’s oldest and most prominent Black churches was in court Friday morning trying to put down a revolt that threatens to escalate into a civil war, one that has dozens of longtime members accusing him of improperly using church funds to buy a home in West Palm Beach.

Ezra Tillman was appointed senior pastor of First Baptist Church Piney Grove in March 2023. The Lauderdale Lakes church, with a congregation of more than 1,500, is

the worship home of numerous past and present elected officials in Broward County and has developed a reputation as a required stop among candidates running for office and courting the Black vote.

Two months ago, more than four dozen ousted members sued the church, accusing Tillman of ignoring church bylaws to put a \$200,000 down payment on a house in West Palm Beach, removing the deacons without authority, and expelling those members who challenged his actions.

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First Baptist Church Piney Grove in Lauderdale Lakes.

911 calls describe plane crash, explosion

Pastor, daughter die on way to Jamaica with relief supplies

By Angie DiMichele
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Houses shook, the smell of gas permeated the air and debris from the small plane that crashed and exploded into a lake were flung into the streets of the Windsor Bay neighborhood in Coral Springs, 911 callers told dispatchers.

Coral Springs Police were inundated with call after call shortly after 10 a.m. Monday, detailing the minutes after the 1976 Beech B100 aircraft came quickly dropping out of the air into the gated community in the 5000 block of Northwest 57th Way.

Alexander Wurm, a 53-year-old Christian pastor, and his daughter Serena, 22, were killed as they tried to fly to Jamaica to deliver Hurricane Melissa relief supplies. The same plane had traveled to and from Montego Bay and George Town, the capital of the Cayman Islands, within the previous week, flight tracking data on FlightAware shows.

Just seconds after the plane hit the lake, neighbors were trying to look for any survivors in the water, according to 18 calls to 911 released by the police department Friday.

One woman told the dispatcher that nobody survived.

“I just see rubble, like, there’s nobody ... They’re gone,” the woman said.

“OK, so you’re saying nobody made it out?” the dispatcher asked.

“There’s, no, they didn’t make it,” the woman replied.

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FAU professor placed on leave over Charlie Kirk posts sues university

By Shira Moolten
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A Florida Atlantic University professor who was placed on leave over social media posts he made about Charlie Kirk’s opponents has filed a federal

lawsuit against the university’s leaders, saying they violated his First Amendment rights.

Dr. Rebel Cole, an eminent scholar in the College of Business, filed the lawsuit Wednesday against FAU President Adam Hasner and several other top university officials who he said were

behind his suspension in September.

Cole was suspended by the university in September over posts he had made on his personal X account following Charlie Kirk’s assassina-

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Judge rejects initial request to reinstate Florida biologist after Kirk social media post, **Local & State, Page 5**



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