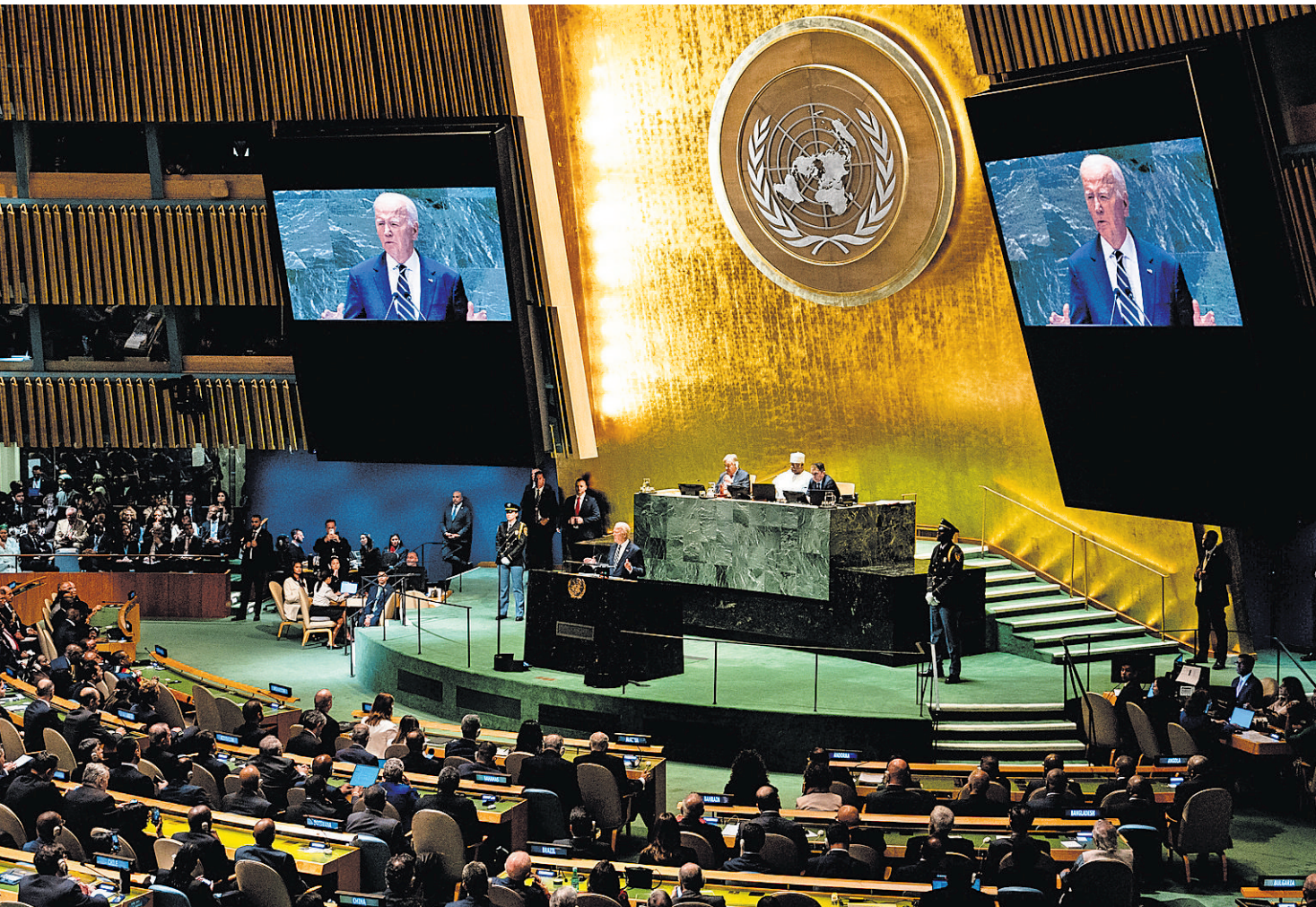


“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, cloudy, a few showers, high 68. **Tonight**, cloudy, a few showers, low 63. **Tomorrow**, mostly cloudy, humid, warmer, a couple of showers, high 75. Weather map, Page B10.

VOL. CLXXIV . . . No. 60,288 © 2024 The New York Times Company WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden told the United Nations General Assembly that global advances could fall apart if America returned to isolationism.

Schools Chief To Step Down Amid Inquiries

This article is by Troy Closson, Eliza Shapiro and Claire Fahy.

David C. Banks, the chancellor of New York City’s public school system, said on Tuesday that he would resign from his post at the end of December.

The announcement came just weeks after federal agents seized Mr. Banks’s phone as part of a bribery investigation involving his brothers and fiancée — and it promised to roil not just the nation’s largest school system but also a mayoral administration already reeling from at least four separate federal corruption inquiries.

The schools chancellor’s resignation is the fourth in less than two weeks among top officials in Mayor Eric Adams’s administration, following the resignations of the police commissioner and the city’s top lawyer and a statement from the health commissioner saying he would leave office at the end of the year.

Of those officials, Mr. Banks is by far the closest to the mayor, who recently said that he has known the chancellor; his younger brother, Philip B. Banks III, the deputy mayor for public safety; and the rest of the Banks family for decades and would continue to have a relationship with them.

And the announcement of the chancellor’s departure caught his subordinates off guard. It landed just three weeks into the new school year, and occurred as his Education Department was still scrambling to address students’ flagging academic performance and behavioral and mental health concerns that were lingering af-

Continued on Page A17

Refuges for Women That Can Feel Like a Prison

By LAURA C. MOREL

TEQUESTA, Fla. — In Naples, Fla., Sunlight Home offered refuge and a fresh start for pregnant women on the brink of homelessness. It also required them to get permission before leaving the property and to download a tracking app on their phones, former residents said and its policies show.

At Hannah’s Home of South Florida, near West Palm Beach, women needed a pastor’s approval to have romantic relationships and were compelled to attend morning prayer, according to former residents, employees and volunteers. They also had to hand over their food stamps to pay for communal groceries, a practice that two government assistance experts said most likely violates the law.

In many parts of Florida, where housing costs are soaring and lawmakers have sharply curtailed abortion access, pregnant women and teens who need a safe, stable place to live are increasingly turning to one of their few options: charity-run maternity homes.

The homes, most of which are affiliated with churches or Christian nonprofits, often help women and teens as they flee abuse, age out of foster care or leave drug rehabilitation.

But Florida allows most homes to operate without state standards or state oversight. An examination by The New York Times and the investigative podcast and radio show Reveal found that many homes require residents to agree to strict conditions that limit their communications, their financial decisions and even their movements.

Homes often disclose the rules to women before they move in and sometimes post them online. Codes of conduct are common in residential programs. Still, in in-

Florida’s Fast-Growing Maternity Homes

terviews, women who lived in some maternity homes said they had not anticipated how burdensome the rules would be.

“I felt like Sunlight Home was dehumanizing, almost like we were criminals, not single moth-

ers,” said Kara Vanderhelm, 33, who lived at the home for about eight months until July.

At several homes, residents faced serious consequences for violating rules. In some instances, employees called the police when women questioned their authority or left the property without permission. In others, women said they were expelled with little notice.

Continued on Page A15



SCOTT MCINTYRE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kristina Atwood said she was asked to immediately leave Genesis House in Melbourne, Fla., after she lit incense in her bedroom.

Reversal in Gen Z: Christian Men Are More Pious Than Women

By RUTH GRAHAM

WACO, Texas — On a beautiful Sunday morning in early September, dozens of young men in Waco started their day at Grace Church.

Men greeted visitors at the door, staffed the information table and handed out bulletins. Four of the five musicians onstage were men. So was the pastor who delivered the sermon, as were most of the college students packing the first few rows.

“I’m so grateful for this church,”

Ryan Amodei, 28, told the congregation before a second pastor, Buck Rogers, baptized him in a tank of water in the sanctuary.

Grace Church, a Southern Baptist congregation, has not made a conscious effort to attract young men. It is an unremarkable size, and is in many ways an ordinary evangelical church. Yet its leaders have noticed for several years now that young men outnumber young women in their pews. When the church opened a small outpost last year in Robinson, a

Gap May Shift Politics and Family Life

town nearby, 12 of the 16 young people regularly attending were men.

“We’ve been talking about it from the beginning,” said Phil Barnes, a pastor at that congregation, Hope Church. “What’s the Lord doing? Why is he sending us all of these young men?”

The dynamics at Grace are a dramatic example of an emerging truth: For the first time in modern American history, young men are now more religious than their female peers. They attend services more often and are more likely to identify as religious.

“We’ve never seen it before,” Ryan Burge, an associate professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University, said of the flip.

Among Generation Z Christians, this dynamic is playing out

Continued on Page A11

Biden, at U.N., Warns of Perils To Democracy

Crises Threaten Efforts to Preserve Alliances

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
and DAVID E. SANGER

President Biden used his final speech to the United Nations on Tuesday to celebrate his defense of Ukraine against Russia’s invasion and his work to restore the United States’ global alliances, but he also warned that the advances of his administration could easily fall apart if America returned to isolationism.

In an address of a little more than 20 minutes to the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Biden combined personal touches with policy imperatives and an impassioned defense of democracy. He traced the arc of his own political career, from election to the Senate in 1972 at age 29, to his “difficult” decision two months ago to drop his bid for re-election — a decision he framed as a lesson for other heads of state.

“My fellow leaders,” Mr. Biden said, “let us never forget: Some things are more important than staying in power.”

Not surprisingly, Mr. Biden focused heavily on America’s and the West’s response to the Ukraine invasion, declaring that the United States and its allies, chiefly NATO, had “ensured the survival of Ukraine as a free nation.”

But he stopped short of assessing how he did in what he has described as the central challenge of his time: ensuring that democracy wins out over autocracy. And he acknowledged that Ukraine’s power to hold off Russia could be fleeting — a point that set the stage for Mr. Biden’s meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine at the White House on Thursday.

“We cannot grow weary, we cannot look away,” the president declared, in what may be his last opportunity to rally global support behind a conflict that has played a central role in his presidency.

Mr. Biden came to office promising to restore American leadership in the world. “America is back,” he liked to say. He used Tuesday’s U.N. speech to spotlight his administration’s efforts at global engagement, from investments in clean energy and clean water in developing nations to a new commitment, announced during his speech, to spend \$500 million and donate one million vaccines to confront the growing

Continued on Page A8

SOFTER TONE In his U.N. speech, Iran’s president tries to ease tensions with the West. PAGE A7

Is the Secret to a Longer Life Hidden in a Transplant Drug?

By DANA G. SMITH

In March, Robert Berger, 69, a self-proclaimed “better-living-through-chemistry type of person,” started taking a small dose of rapamycin once a week with the goal of increasing his “health span” — the amount of time he might live without serious disease.

Rapamycin is typically prescribed to organ transplant patients to suppress their immune systems. But many scientists and longevity seekers like Mr. Berger think the drug can do much more than that: They say it can delay aging and age-related diseases.

Mr. Berger, who lives in Saratoga, Calif., learned about rapamycin through a friend who runs Rapamycin News, an online forum for people who experiment with the drug. He said he hasn’t

experienced any “‘Oh my God, I’m a different person’ kind of change” since taking it, though his dentist remarked that his gums looked healthier than they had in a long time, and he feels like he has more energy these days. But he admits “it’s really hard to tell: How much is this placebo?”

On podcasts, social feeds and forums devoted to anti-aging, rapamycin is hailed as the “gold standard” for life extension. Longevity influencers Dr. Peter Attia and Bryan Johnson are believers, both saying they’ve taken rapamycin for years, and touting research to their millions of followers that shows the drug can extend the life spans of mice by over 20 percent.

There isn’t data on how many

Continued on Page A16



Favre Says He Has Parkinson’s
The Hall of Fame quarterback revealed his diagnosis during a congressional hearing. PAGE B10

The Clark Effect, Writ Large
In her rookie season, Caitlin Clark spiked ticket sales, TV ratings and attendance across the W.N.B.A. PAGE B7

Anti-Trump to Pro-Harris?
Democrats see a chance to woo Republicans seeking an alternative. Now, to coax them off the sidelines. PAGE A14

A Leading Literary Theorist
Fredric Jameson, 90, brought analytical rigor to topics as diverse as German opera and sci-fi movies. PAGE A19

Political Jolt in Sri Lanka
The new leftist president heralds an era not ruled by dynasties. PAGE A4



At Diners, a Fresh Approach
Younger chefs have been tweaking the menus, prices and interiors of the old neighborhood restaurants. PAGE D6

Unsupersizing Meals
The towering burger and ballooning bagel have withstood public health campaigns, but change is afoot. PAGE D5

Strike at Ports Looms
Businesses are preparing for a strike by dockworkers on the East and Gulf Coasts, which analysts say could cost the economy \$5 billion a day. PAGE B1

Big Ideas in Tales of Wonder
The author Katherine Rundell says children can handle hefty themes, but it’s “bad manners to offer a child a story and give them just a moral.” PAGE C1

Frank Bruni PAGE A20



Climate Forward
At the very moment the world seems to be making real progress in the fight against climate change, the problem’s scale seems to be getting even bigger.

