



## The News ©

**November 9th, 8am**

by *Nia Cason*

After 6 months in space, Thomas Pesquet has returned to Earth. The SpaceX Dragon capsule with Crew-2 astronauts landed in the sea off the coast of Florida at around 4.30 am, after more than 8 hours of travel. The shuttle left last night at around 8 pm from the International Space Station. The French astronaut and 3 other crew members were brought back to dry land this morning. They will be transferred to Houston to undergo medical tests. Thomas Pesquet will then begin an intense rehabilitation program in Cologne, Germany.

Emmanuel Macron will speak to the people of France this evening at 8 pm. Five months after his last speech, the Head of State will take stock of the coronavirus epidemic. One possibility is that he will make the 3rd dose of the vaccine compulsory for the elderly and frail. Other subjects that will be discussed include economic recovery and the pension reform.

A 2.2 billion euro plan for Artificial Intelligence was announced by the government yesterday. The objective is to make France a champion in the field. This plan is based on 1.5 billion euros of public money, the rest being financed by the private sector; 700 million euros will be devoted to training.

In Paris, an AP-HP employee tried to set himself on fire yesterday afternoon at St-Louis hospital. The man, aged 47, sprayed himself with gasoline before igniting himself with a match. He was transported to intensive care, and details about his condition are awaited. An investigation into these events has been opened.

And finally, a tribute today to former President of the Republic General Charles de Gaulle, on the 51st anniversary of his death. Many politicians will this morning go to Colombey-les-deux-Églises, in Haute-Marne, where Charles de Gaulle is buried. Prime Minister Jean Castex is expected at 9:30 am in front of the town hall, before a wreath laying and a minute of silence.