The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

There is a heatwave forecast across the country today and especially in the south-west as the government urges the public to stay hydrated, stay cool, and to even try and avoid too much strenuous physical activity or alcohol. Highs of 40 degrees are expected in Bordeaux and Montpellier.

It's no rest for the BAC students though, as the final set of national high school exams will continue as scheduled despite the punishing heat. The announcement that nothing would change in terms of how the exams are organised came from Education Minister Pap Ndiaye yesterday. Students across the country will be sitting down to their French exam this afternoon at 2 p.m.

Emmanuel Macron is due to go to Ukraine today for the first time since the Russian invasion. According to several media outlets, the French president is expected to spend the day in Kyiv with German chancellor Olaf Scholz and the head of the Italian government Mario Draghi. The long-awaited visit is intended to show the "clear" support of France and the European Union for Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the United States has announced a new batch of military aid to Ukraine, including artillery, shells and anti-ship missiles. US President Joe Biden announced the billion dollar package yesterday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has expressed his "gratitude" for the Americans

Also in the United States, the man who attempted to assassinate American president Ronald Reagan in 1981 has been released. A court recently ruled that after decades of care and psychological monitoring, John Hinckley no longer presents a threat to society.

And finally, good news for anyone who has had travel plans scuppered this summer because the trains are simply full up. The SNCF is setting up wait lists for fully booked trains with the low-cost service Ouigo. Travellers who change their plans will be able to offer their ticket. If they find a taker, they recover 80% of the price. The person looking for a ticket buys it at a normal price.