



The News

December 21st, 5pm

by Emma Phillips

Volodymyr Zelensky will be arriving at the White House later this afternoon. The Ukrainian president is on his first trip outside of the country since the war with Russia began. Zelensky will be meeting with his US counterpart Joe Biden before giving a speech before Congress this evening. US elected officials are preparing to vote on another largescale aid package for Ukraine, to the tune of 45 billion dollars.

“Christmas time is not the time to go on strike.” This latest comment comes from government spokesperson Olivier Véran as SNCF controllers prepare to go on strike this weekend. Friday will see an average of two thirds of trains running as scheduled. It remains to be seen how disrupted rail services will be on Saturday and Sunday. The SNCF has pledged that any cancelled trains will be reimbursed at 200% of the ticket price.

Go Sport has been spared from going into receivership. The decision has been handed down from the Commercial Court of Grenoble although the sports store remains in considerable financial difficulty. An examining magistrate has been assigned in order to gain a clearer picture of Go Sport’s financial situation. The judge will go through their findings during a hearing on January 16.

In Perpignan, a court has ordered the removal of a Christmas crib from the town hall. The Administrative Court of Montpellier has ruled in favour of the Human Rights League, which had brought the matter to court claiming that the presence of the nativity scene in the town hall went against France’s fundamental principles of secularism. The mayor of Perpignan, Louis Aliot, has already made clear that he would appeal any conviction.

This year’s flu epidemic continues to run rife across France. The flu is at particularly high levels for this time of year and yet the peak of infections still lies instore. Every region across the country is on maximum alert. Meanwhile, the ninth wave of the coronavirus appears to be levelling off.

And finally, ticket sales for the 2023 24 hours of Le Mans have proved a massive success. Next year sees the centenary edition of the prestigious car race and two months after they went on sale all tickets are now sold out. 24 Hours of Le Mans will be taking place on June 10 and 11.