



The News

December 27th, 9am ©

by Sarah Heath

In a welcome move in times of climbing inflation, the government has announced that they will introduce a new financial incentive for French citizens who heat their homes with wood. The amount will be calculated according to household incomes and will vary from between €50 and €200. Plans to launch the scheme were originally set for last Thursday but this was postponed until today when the Chèque Energie website will open for the over 2 million people who are able to benefit from this new measure.

The alleged perpetrator of the racist triple murder near a Kurdish cultural centre in Paris has been charged. The 69-year-old suspect went before a judge yesterday having been remanded in custody. He confessed to having acted because he "was racist". Yesterday, several hundred people gathered near the scene of the shooting, for a peaceful march in tribute to the 3 victims.

The doctors' strike continues today. They have been called upon to close their general practices since yesterday to demand, in particular, that the price of a consultation be increased from €25 to €50.

In the United States, Storm Elliott continues to wreak havoc and has claimed a 50th death due to the severe weather conditions. Several people have been found dead in the street or in their cars. The Governor of New York warns that this "blizzard of the century" is not yet over and up to 30 centimetres of snow is expected today in this area. Air traffic remains disrupted and thousands of households are still without electricity.

Many Ukrainian homes are also in the dark. President Volodymyr Zelensky announced yesterday in a televised address that 9 million people are still without electricity, as a consequence of Russian strikes which have damaged the country's energy infrastructure. The Ukrainian leader stated, however, that the number and duration of power outages continues to gradually decrease.

And finally to a big anniversary of one of the most famous scientists in the world. 200 years ago, to the day, Louis Pasteur was born. He was known in particular for having developed a vaccine against rabies. To celebrate the occasion, festivities are planned today in the Jura, the birthplace of one of France's best-known historical figures.