



The News

January 4th, 9am ©

by Sarah Heath

Being some of the first and most affected by the rise in energy prices, France's bakers were met yesterday at Bercy by the Minister of the Economy, Bruno Le Maire. With the risk of some bakery businesses being unable to keep operating under the strain of an increase in their bills, the government has promised them exceptional aid by helping with payment of up to 40% of their electricity bills or the possibility of postponing the payment of their taxes and social security contributions.

The dialogue continues between Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne and unions over pension reform. After a first meeting yesterday, this divisive issue will be discussed again this afternoon at Matignon. The CFDT has already announced that it would call for industrial action in the event of retirement age being extended to the age of 64 or 65. This measure has been seen as brutally unfair by one of France's biggest unions.

The return to school after the Christmas break has been under a cloud of security threats. Twenty schools had to be evacuated yesterday across France after alerts were raised to the possibility of an attack. Threatening messages were discovered by parents of students on social networks and on the ENT platform. Official complaints have already been filed.

Commuters taking public transport in Paris this week should check their bank accounts. It is believed that several thousand people have been debited numerous times by a technical error when recharging their Pass Navigo. This technical problem at Île-de-France Mobilités is being addressed and those affected have been promised a refund "in the next few days".

There has been a change of name for Pantin. The town in Seine-Saint-Denis will now be called Pantine for a year in order to highlight gender equality. This is a symbolic change although Pantin will remain the same in an official capacity.

And finally, Brazil has said goodbye to Pelé. The football legend was buried yesterday in Santos and now lies in a vertical cemetery.