



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Four départements in the south of the country have been on amber weather alert for a heatwave. Temperatures are expected to soar to 39 degrees in Pyrénées-Orientales, Hérault, Gard and Bouches-du-Rhône and Météo France has warned that a hot and stifling night lies ahead. Tomorrow will see a total of thirteen départements in south-east France on amber weather alert

Air quality in several major French cities has improved significantly over the past few years but pollution levels are still too high. These are the findings of a report published by the organisation Respire today. Respire found that nitrogen dioxide concentrations in seven major cities, including Paris, Lyon and Grenoble significantly decreased in the years between 2018 and 2024. However, these positive results still do not show enough progress to hit pollution targets.

François Bayrou took a firm stance on pension reform today, stressing that if social partners could not come back to the negotiating table as they had “done their time” then it would be left to the government to decide. The Prime Minister was speaking after union CFDT refused to prolong negotiations in what has been dubbed “the pensions conclave”. The initial talks between social partners fell through on 23 June. Now, François Bayrou wants to extend talks until mid-July, including on the matter of arduous labour.

Joël Guerriau will stand trial on 27 November at the Paris Criminal Court. The centrist senator from Loire-Atlantique is accused of ‘administering a substance without consent with the intention of committing rape or sexual assault’. He is accused of drugging Sandrine Josso, a member of parliament for the same département, in November 2023.

In Indre-et-Loire, a teacher has been charged and imprisoned for the sexual abuse of his pupils after several complaints were filed by parents. Today, the newspaper La Nouvelle République reported that some of the pupils abused had slept over at the teacher's home, in his bed.

And finally, with it being the first weekend that holidaymakers across the country will be setting off for a summer break on the annual Grand départ, the roads will be crowded

this evening. Traffic website Bison Futé has classed this Friday as orange congestion levels in all directions, and urges motorists to exercise patience and caution on the roads.