

le News

WEEKLY SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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Lake Geneva region 30 January - 5 February 2014

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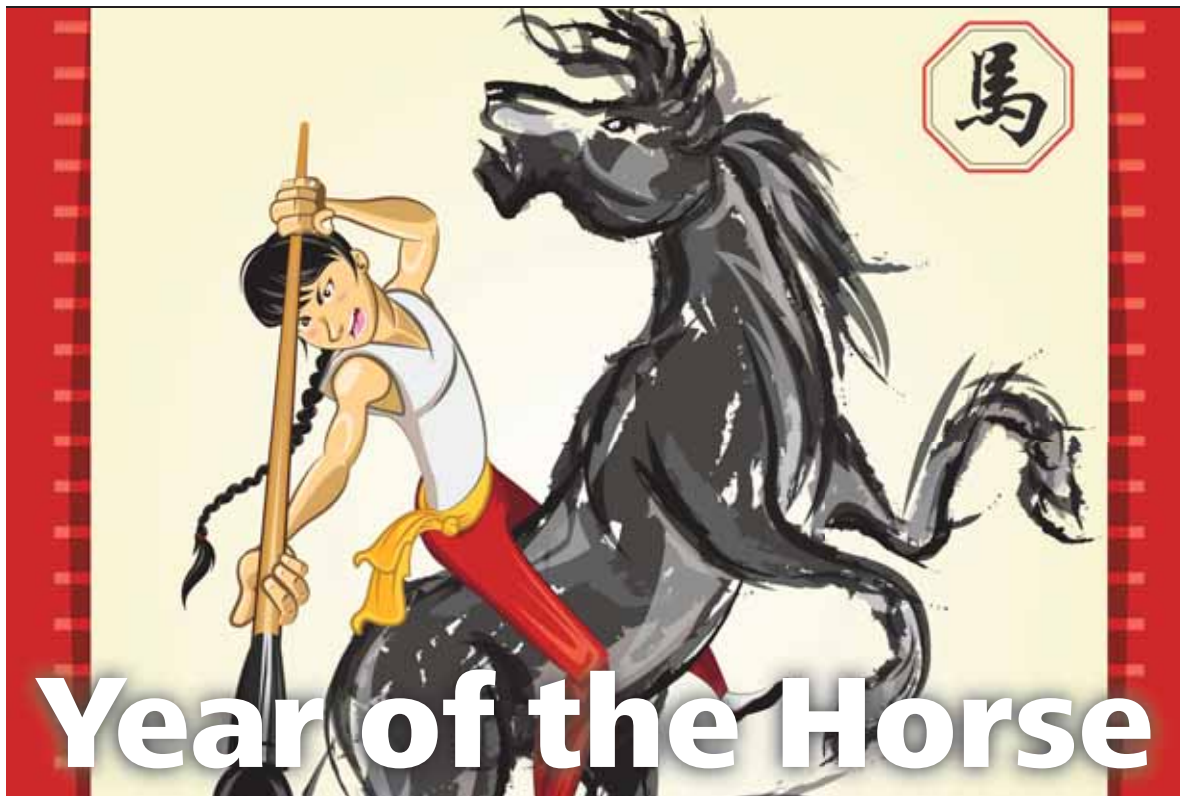
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Year of the Horse

Saturday marks the Chinese New Year with the arrival of the "Year of the Horse" and a welcome goodbye to the "Year of the Snake."

"Out with the old! In with the new!" The Lausanne-based Swiss-China Association jumped the gun this year by offering a 20% reduction on a grand concert by the traditional Chinese orchestra

of Zhejiang in Lucerne a week early, and an apéritif in Lausanne a few days later. In Geneva, the Communauté chinoise de Genève is offering a discreet dinner at the Dun-Huang restaurant. Tickets are sold out, according to the president. "It's a very small restaurant," he warned. Other restaurants are holding events elsewhere in the Lake Geneva region. Even the trendy nightclub Macumba, just across the Geneva border in France,

is getting in on the act with a Chinese New Year's theme at its disco in Saint-Julien-en-Genevois. The star attraction is "Miss Snowfall." The official delegations at the People's Republic of China and Taiwan are planning more sober celebrations by invitation only. So is the Malaysian community.

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School rankings:

How do schools in the region compare?



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This Week in Switzerland



US rapper Jay Z has been accused of illegally sampling a track from one of Switzerland's first electronic-jazz musicians, Bruno Spoerri. The sample dates back to 1978 and has been used in Jay Z's song "Versus," featured on his album *Magna Carta Holy Grail*. Veteran musician Spoerri noted that he was "flattered" but "on the other hand furious because it would have been so simple to clear the sample." He is asking the American music producers for an apology, official recognition of the track and for a share of the money that comes in.

The Federal Court in Lausanne ruled on Friday that the wife of a Kosovar who arrived in Switzerland in 1993 and committed numerous offences resulting in his deportation must also leave with him. Her continued residence was refused on the basis that her permit depends on his, since they are married, and her case does not fulfil a clause stipulating that wives who are victims of domestic violence are able to stay if they separate or divorce. This has brought the issue of **deportation of foreigners who break the law** in Switzerland back into the limelight; at the end of 2012 the right-wing Swiss People's Party (UDC) proposed an initiative to speed up the deportation process.

During President Didier **Burkhalter's official visit to Warsaw**, he agreed on a joint declaration with Polish President Bronisław Komorowski to strengthen bilateral cooperation. This includes promoting regular political discussions and greater cooperation in a range of areas including economic affairs, energy, transport, the environment and tourism. President Burkhalter will also visit Krakow to see **projects supported by Switzerland** as part of its EU enlargement contribution.

The **taxed rubbish bag**, an element of Vaud's waste management initiative, has resulted in a **20-40% reduction in combustible waste** and a commensurate increase in recycling throughout the communes that have adopted the system. Negative effects observed include an increase in illegal dumping in certain neighbourhoods and a decrease in the quality of recyclable materials, especially the waste for composting.

Swiss **prisons and detention centres** currently have 7,072 adults locked up, although the official capacity is 7,048. The results of a spot check carried out in September 2013 by the Federal Statistics Office revealed that 51% of inmates were convicts and 30% were in pre-trial detention. The number of incarcerated convicts has increased by 35% since 1999, but the number of detained minors has decreased by around 25%.



Bombardier Transportation, part of the Canadian conglomerate Bombardier Inc. and one of the world's major rail manufacturers, has accused Swiss railways of "disrupting the contractual development" of the project to supply **over 59 new double-decker trains** to CFF, blaming CFF for "unacceptable interventions in the design process." Bombardier now claims that the terms of delivery in the **CHF 1.9 billion contract** no longer hold, which will potentially result in delayed delivery of the trains. Swiss Railways spokesman Stephan Wehrle, however, responded that "If delays are recorded – as here – the supplier is liable to a contractual penalty...it could rapidly reach hundreds of millions." Among many other new features, the new trains will include energy-efficient engines, plugs and wireless internet in all carriages.

Year of the Horse

Continued from page 1

Legend has it that China's Zodiac calendar began when 12 animals tried to visit the Buddha. They had to cross a river, and the rat craftily jumped onto the back of a water buffalo and then hopped off on the other side, reaching the Buddha first.

If you found 2013 difficult, the Chinese calendar was pretty much in agreement.

As a result, the calendar starts with the rat and then progresses through the other animals, each with its own personality. If you found 2013 difficult, the Chinese calendar was pretty much in agreement. The outgoing snake is known for being slightly malevolent and often falls victim to jealousy and suspicion. In contrast, the horse is energetic, bright and warm-hearted, representing everything positive. 2014 should be a good year!

The main purpose of the celebration is to get together with family members. "I don't have any family here," says a Chinese friend in Geneva, "so I am inviting all of my friends over for dinner." Due to a small apartment, the friend plans two rounds of parties. Another theme of New Year is the idea of sweeping out the old for a fresh start. Most people clean their houses for the occasion and put on new clothes. One legend has it that in ancient times a beast threatened villagers, but feared the colour red and loud noise. Over the course of 4,000 years of Chinese history, the beast, which shows up in the famous lion dance, came to represent those things that needed to be replaced or fixed in the old year; first chaos, and eventually poverty. It – or more to the point, what it represents – is chased away by firecrackers and the beating of drums. It's customary to give a small red envelope with some new money to children, and in the case of companies to staff along with wishes for prosperity and a new start.

William Dowell



road runner

le hamburger du gourmet

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Regional

le News

WEEKLY SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

Editor's comment

Online media: Calling the emperor's new clothes

Cessy, a French village just across the border, is known for two things. First, it's where Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web, used to live. CERN normally takes credit for this, but I believe that the British computer scientist, like Archimedes, did his original thinking at home in the bath. Cessy's second claim to fame is that this is where the Large Hadron Collider is located. So if a Black Hole is created, Cessy will be the first to go.

Given such apocalyptic knowledge, I fully appreciate the web. I check my email and search the internet, but rarely Facebook. Twitter may have 280 million registered users, but many admit, somewhat embarrassed, that they don't use it, but feel they should. My principal concern – as highlighted by reporter Chris Woodburn – is social media's impact on young people. Few use Twitter; some still do Facebook, but almost all chat on Skype, send texts, surf YouTube or spend hours obsessively playing electronic games. It has taken over their lives – and our lives!

So why are we allowing this to happen? I want my kids to engage in more enriching activities, which they do on holiday with all electronic items banned. They become normal human beings again. The more I speak with other parents, the more I realize we're all grappling with the same dilemma. None of us knows what to do. We acknowledge the need for compromise, but also note that our kids are reading less. So, are we dealing with a modern version of the devil incarnate? Have we become so obsessed with new technology ourselves that we're shirking our responsibilities vis-à-vis our kids' socialization, emotional development and education? Maybe it is time to call the emperor's new clothes with regard to how social media should be consumed. How are our readers dealing with this? Let us know. Email us: news@lenews.ch. Or, yes, go on Facebook/LeNews.ch. And why not, tweet: #LeNews_ch

Edward Girardet

Bargain brand muddle

Consumer magazine Bon à Savoir has taken Switzerland's two main supermarkets to task for creating confusion with some of their brand names. Customers can find products marked BEST PRICE alongside Migros' better known green-and-white Budget line, and those labelled Profit Pack next to Coop's pink Prix Garantie products. Contrary to expectations, researchers found that the brands were not necessarily cheaper: BEST PRICE photocopier paper was 29% more expensive than the Budget paper. Similarly, apples in a Profit Pack cost almost twice the Prix Garantie fruit.

Neither company has been able to explain a clear strategic differentiation between their own product lines or say which are cheaper. Many discount items sold by the two stores, which dominate with 70% of Swiss market share, provide great value in terms of quality and cost reductions. However, until the retailers clarify their branding and discounting policies, customers should remain wary. Emerging discount rivals such as Lidl, Aligro and Aldi are beginning to make inroads into this dominance – Denner is owned by Migros – but the two giants are still regarded as the country's leading grocers.

Le News

Have you paid twice?

ZURICH Card users have had their bank accounts debited twice in error.

Credit and debit card users have had their bank statements corrected after a technical error duplicated debit and credit transactions on 21 January.

The problem affected customers paying for goods or withdrawing cash using cards issued by local banks.

SIX Management, the company that processes electronic payments throughout the country, announced last week that anybody using a Swiss card, whether in Switzerland or abroad that



SIX: "Card transaction problems have been solved."

day, was accidentally charged twice. The problem affected customers paying for goods or withdrawing cash using cards issued by local banks. Foreign cards were not affected. SIX spokesman Jürg Schneider told Le News: "The debit card transaction problems have been solved. Over 99% of all transactions could be reversed. The remaining 1% will be resolved within the next

few days. This depends on the banks. Each of the 150 banks involved have different IT systems. All we can advise your readers is to check their bank statements at the end of the month. No other actions are required. SIX and the banks involved have done and continue doing all that is necessary."

Le News

Swiss universities ranked most international in world

LAUSANNE L'Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) is the dynamic technical and pedagogic powerhouse of the region – and now globally. It boasts over 250 research laboratories active in fields ranging from bioengineering to materials science.

In a recent survey by Times Higher Education entitled The 25 most International Universities in the World, EPFL ranks number one, with an "international outlook score" of 98.2. This takes into account the diversity of the undergraduate population and the extent to which academic researchers collaborate with international colleagues. EPFL is followed by the University of Geneva and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich in joint second place, with the University of Basel not far behind at number nine.

EPFL is an attractive prospect for many international academics. Professor William

Curtin moved from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island to pursue an academic career at EPFL. He claims that it is a "dynamic institution that is pushing forward the boundaries of research and teaching," with a "strong base of talented Swiss and international students at all levels".

EPFL is also home to the Science Park Foundation (PSE), a research hub that promotes the establishment of local start-ups, many of which are spin-offs of EPFL research projects. Among them is Abionic, which is developing diagnostic tools to provide patients with personal allergy profiles. CEO Dr Nicolas Durand, who completed his studies at EPFL, told Le News that he rates PSE as "the Silicon Valley of Switzerland for medical technologies".

IMPRESSUM

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National

Asylum applications down 25%

The number of asylum seekers in Switzerland fell by a quarter in 2013 compared with the previous year.

The authorities received 21,465 applications, according to the Federal Migration Office.

While the number of asylum applications placed in Europe climbed by 25% within the same time frame, the Swiss share sunk from just over 8% to just under 5%.

Applications from some countries traditionally have lower success rates than others. Last year's drop was attributed to taking quicker decisions on these.

The most applications last year came from people fleeing Eritrea, followed by Syria, Nigeria and Tunisia.

The authorities settled nearly 24,000 applications for asylum on the first decision, 975 fewer than in 2012.



Refugees seeking asylum in Switzerland came mainly from Eritrea and Syria.

Applications from some countries have lower success rates than others. Last year's drop was attributed to taking quicker decisions.

Although the number of people seeking asylum fell, those given a positive decision increased. In total, 3,167 people received asylum in Switzerland, a quarter more than in 2012. The overall recognition rate was 15.4%.

Swissinfo

Switzerland's vanishing cows

DOMPIERRE The traditional bell-ringing désalpe – bringing the cows down from the mountains – is unlikely to disappear. But we could be seeing fewer cows.

Growing numbers of Swiss farmers are abandoning dairy, or dropping out completely. "The milk price is no longer worth it," said Marcel Pochon, a farmer with 29 cows and 30 hectares of land in Dompierre, a small Fribourg village. While farmers working for AOC cheese industries, such as Gruyère or Vacherin, are paid well for their milk, Pochon makes only 69 centimes per litre, even if this represents an 11.7% rise over the previous year. "We still can't live with such a margin," he added.

While over one-third of the country remains under the plough or pasture, the number of farmers has dropped by more than half from 92,000 in 1990 to barely 40,000 today. Pochon, who is 59, said he is trying to change to poultry, but this will depend on the banks. Other farmers have developed alternative lines of income, such as B&Bs. He considers himself fortunate that his wife has another job, otherwise he would not be able to survive. Back in the 1950s, Dompierre used to have 60 farmers, he said. Now there are only five. "I doubt there'll be more than two in ten years."

Switzerland, which during World War II was obsessive about food self-sufficiency, now produces less than 55% of its needs. At the same time, there is a move toward more sustainable agriculture based on family operations, with Migros, Coop and other outlets encouraging more organic products. According to Jacques Bourgeois, head of the Swiss Farmers' Union (USP), family farms remain the backbone of Switzerland's agriculture, hence the need for continued subsidies. These currently represent an average of CHF 62,400 per operation, or 23% of revenue. Government support is higher for mountain farms, roughly 39%, given that agriculture is considered crucial for the protection of alpine ecosystems.

Edward Girardet



Taxi+Bus=Taxibus

LAUSANNE Switzerland's transport system is often cited as the pinnacle of mass-transit efficiency. Whether in Basel, Zurich or Geneva, not only do the authorities not want people to drive, they don't want them thinking about it. Lausanne has a perfect example of a forward-thinking transport scheme. To meet the imperatives of a city with roads that are not always suitable for normal buses, le Transport Lausannois has realized that effective transport is not just about infrastructure, but also innovation. And what better way than by combining the concept of a taxi and bus into a unique synergy, throughout the day and, when traditional public transport closes for the night? This is where taxibus has emerged as an unusual proactive solution, using the best of already existing resources.

The concept of the taxibus is based on practicality. Not only does it link suburbia with the town's nexus (taxibus matin), but since last November, it brings people back to their door (taxibus nuit).

The service has been greatly expanded recently. Since the end of 2013, it is available to city residents in more areas, for longer in the day (now



The Taxi Bus gives residents in the suburbs access to public transport in Lausanne

until midnight) and more frequently (up from once an hour, to twice an hour). This means that ten neighbourhoods, which are not on the public transport route, are now being served by taxibus. It's fast and it's cheap – a ride costs about the same as a bus ticket. Call a toll-free number only half an hour in advance to book a ride in what is essentially a very cheap taxi (especially as a reduction is available to anyone with an abonnement general).

Christopher Woodburn

Lausanne taxibus

Toll-free number

0800 805805

Business & Economy

Student banking abroad

GENEVA If you're an expat kid in Switzerland and decide to study in a third country, a bank account is essential.

At the minimum you'll need to have an account in Switzerland, and depending on where and how long you intend to study overseas, consider opening an account in your host country. This will help you to keep track of your spending and enable family to deposit money into your account in an emergency or if you run low on cash. But if money is transferred abroad, a lump sum is less costly than repeat transfers of smaller amounts.

A Swiss bank account is a good idea given the strength of the Swiss franc against many other currencies. And an account in your country of study will save you money by avoiding fees for ATM withdrawals. If you choose to open an account in your host country, wait until you arrive. Most study programmes offer advice on opening accounts during orientation so shop around for the best deal.



By thinking ahead, students abroad can avoid stiff bank fees

And an account in your country of study will save you money by avoiding fees for ATM withdrawals.

Some banks offer "free banking", but check the small print to avoid nasty surprises. And if you opt for banking with fees, compare different accounts and figure out the cost and monthly charges. It also won't hurt to have a savings account in your country of origin into which you and your relatives or friends can deposit cash.

Moyette Marrett

Luxury Watchmaker Raymond Weil dies at 87

Raymond Weil, founder of the luxury Swiss watch brand of the same name, has died at 87, the company said. Weil, who remained honorary president of the family-run business died "peacefully" on Sunday.

Mortgage buffer to double

BERN The Swiss government will require banks to hold double the amount of capital against residential mortgage risks, in a bid to stop the property market from overheating. Banks have had to hold an extra 1% capital cushion against real-estate risks since last year. The government will raise this to 2% by 30 June at the central bank's request. The Swiss National Bank (SNB) can request a boost to the buffer to as much as 2.5%. The SNB's policy of zero interest rates has kept mortgages cheap, resulting in residential property prices soaring close to levels reached in 1989, just before a slump in values hurt the economy.

Raking it back from Swiss tax shelter?

BERN A UK-Swiss agreement aimed at stopping taxpayers from sheltering their money in Swiss banks has fallen short of raking in the £3.12 billion (CHF 4.6 billion) that UK chancellor George Osborne had promised for 2013. The accord, which came into force on 1 January 2013, means that UK taxpayers with Swiss bank accounts are liable to pay withholding tax on income and gains. The chancellor forecast that the agreement would raise £5 billion over the next six years. Public finance figures published last week by the UK Office for National Statistics, however, showed just £818 million had been collected in 2013. "The government is working closely with the Swiss authorities to ensure the agreement is being fully and properly implemented," a UK Treasury spokeswoman said.

Changes in Swiss banking secrecy appear to be bearing more fruit for other European countries. In Germany there were 20,000 voluntary tax declarations submitted by German residents wishing to regulate their unreported accounts in Switzerland by the end of October 2013 – already more than dou-



The UK's claw back of unpaid tax is underwhelming.

ble the 2012 total. Since Germany began clamping down on tax evasion, its tax authorities have recovered around €3 billion (CHF 3.6 billion) in taxes and penalties. However, the country's methods included buying stolen data discs containing information on taxpayers who were suspected of having accounts abroad. After a meeting with Swiss president Didier Burkhalter earlier this month, Austrian

vice chancellor and finance minister Michael Spindelegger said the expected yield from his country's tax accord with Switzerland would be in line with, or exceed, expectations.

In a separate landmark deal, the US government gave some 300 Swiss banks until 31 December 2013, to seek non-prosecution agreements if they have reason to believe that they broke tax laws by helping Americans hide

money. One-third of Swiss banks offered amnesty by the US have applied for the programme, according to US assistant attorney general Kathryn Keneally. The agreement is not open to banks already under investigation, including Credit Suisse and Julius Baer Group.

Moyette Marrett

Lifestyle

The land of yellow wine

Switzerland lies at a wine-making crossroads in Europe. Not only is it home to a diversity of wonderful wines and stunning vineyards, but it also borders some of the richest and most varied wine regions in the world. In this first of a series of articles to learn more about our wine-producing neighbours we hop across the border with France to the Jura.

Every wine region on earth strives to promote wines and traditions that set them apart. The Jura, one of our closest neighbours, does this better than most. Since it lives in the shadow of more illustrious Burgundy it certainly needs to punch above its weight. The Jura's truly distinctive contribution to the world of wine is Vin Jaune. On the first weekend of February each year this unusual wine is celebrated with grand pomp at 'La Percée du Vin Jaune' when the latest vintage is officially released.

Vin Jaune is atypical in many ways. First of all, it is made from the Savagnin grape variety (which also produces dry white wines in limited quantities in the Valais where it is known as Païen or Heida). This so-called 'vin de voile' is the result of a veil (or voile) of yeast that is allowed to grow on the surface of the wine in cask. This veil protects the wine partially (but not totally) from oxidation in the barrel and imparts a particular nutty taste somewhat resembling a dry sherry. In fact, this veil of yeast is rather like the flor that is responsible for the Fino style of dry sherries in Spain though, unlike sherry, Vin Jaune is not fortified with alcohol.

By law Vin Jaune has to wait six years and three months after the harvest before it can be bottled. In other words, this year's Percée sees the 2007 vintage being feted. Even then, the bottle itself is one of a kind called a 'clavelin'. It holds just 62 centilitres (rather than the typical 75 cl wine bottle), supposedly the volume of wine left from one litre after six years.



Vin Jaune production is wrapped in age old laws and practices.

The wine can come from a range of appellations such as Arbois, L'Etoile, Côtes du Jura and Château-Chalon, which ranks as the most famous. Regardless of origin the wine may not be to everyone's taste. Nevertheless, it is worth trying at least once and preferably with a plate of local Comté cheese and walnuts.

By law Vin Jaune has to wait six years and three months after the harvest before it can be bottled.

The combination brings out the very best in all three components. A local dish that is proudly served at every restaurant is chicken (preferably from nearby Bresse) cooked in vin jaune with morel mushrooms, to which a glass of the wine makes the perfect match.

However, there is much more to the Jura wines than Vin Jaune. You can also expect to find good sparkling wine, Crémant du Jura, made from

Chardonnay and using the same traditional method of production as Champagne. For sweet wine lovers there is delicious 'vin de paille' where the grapes are traditionally dried on straw mats after the harvest to concen-



trate the sugars in the grapes before fermentation. If you like to try obscure grape varieties you need look no further than the indigenous Poulsard and Trousseau black grapes that produce red and some rosé wines. The region

also makes quality dry white and red wines from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, the classic grapes from neighbouring Burgundy. Finally, if you like age-old traditions, you must try Macvin du Jura that has been produced in the region since the 14th century. It is a sweet 'vin de liqueur' fortified with Marc du Jura, the local pomace brandy, and can be enjoyed at the start or end of a meal.

As so many of the best examples of these various Jura wines do not leave the region, one of the best ways to sample them and to enjoy the cuisine and hospitality of the region is to go there. There is a great website full of useful information on the region's wines and foods: www.jura-vins.com (though only in French). For information on the region as a whole in English and other languages visit www.jura-tour-sim.com.

The Jura can also claim to be the birthplace of Louis Pasteur, the great French chemist and father of microbiology. While he may be best remembered for his groundbreaking work on vaccination and pasteurization, it is thanks to him that the modern wine and beer industries came to understand the process of alcoholic fermentation. Take a guided visit of the Musée La Maison de Louis Pasteur in Arbois, open from April to mid-October.

The Percée is one of the most popular annual wine festivals in all France so expect to join tens of thousands of visitors who have also chosen to brave the predictably cold weather. Visit www.percee-du-vin-jaune.com/ for more details on this weekend's big event (though only the French language version is for the 2014 event). If you do decide to join in the festivities and discover Vin Jaune and the many other local treats, make sure you wrap up warm!

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Laid-back & Vintage Gstaad / Lodge1964.ch

Lifestyle

Wines of real value

January means counting the cost of the festive period, so maybe now is the time to seek some good value wines.

Here is a tantalizing selection of three reds and three whites that balance reasonable quality with affordable prices ranging from CHF 7.95 to under CHF 14.95. Each is available from Coop, Denner and Mövenpick.

Red wines

SPAIN. Federico Paternina – Banda Azul Rioja Crianza 2008: CHF 7.95 at Denner. Since 1896 the Paternina estate has upheld the traditions of Rioja, Spain's best known wine region, and made Ernest Hemingway's favourite wine. The Banda Azul, a blend of Tempranillo and Garnacha, delivers juicy red berry flavours like cherries, strawberries and cranberries along with notes of vanilla and exotic spices. Drink by 2016.

FRANCE. M. Chapoutier – Côtes-du-Rhône Belleruche 2012: CHF 9.90 at Coop.

The Chapoutier family is one of the Rhône Valley's leading producers. Its fine wines like Hermitage and Côte-Rôtie in the north are great but pricey, while those in the south such as this Belleruche offer remarkable value. Made mainly from Grenache and Syrah it is medium-bodied and packed full of blackberry and cherry fruits with hints of liquorice. Drink by 2015.

AUSTRALIA. Wolf Blass – Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 2011: CHF 13.80 at Coop. Wolf Blass has grown to become one of the most recognizable Australian brands of wine around the world. This pure Cabernet Sauvignon is a classic with its signature aromas and flavours of blackcurrants and plums with hints of mint and baking spices, subtle oak notes and pleasantly long finish. Drink by 2016.

White wines

NEW ZEALAND. Tahuna – Sauvignon Blanc 2013: CHF 9.95 at Denner.

New Zealand has become synonymous with Sauvignon Blanc, the same variety that goes into Sancerre. From the South Island's Marlborough region the Tahuna displays pronounced aro-

mas of tropical fruits, refreshing acidity and vibrant flavours of gooseberries and stone fruits. Drink by 2015.

ARGENTINA. Alamos – Chardonnay 2011: CHF 13.50 at Mövenpick.

Belonging to the Catena family, one of the champions of Argentinian wines, the Bodegas Alamos provides consistent value for money and this Chardonnay is no exception. Intense aromas of orange and lemon peel as well as grapefruit are followed by flavours of zesty citrus fruits while hints of lime and baked apple emerge on the refreshing finish. Drink by 2015.

ITALY. Vesevo – Greco di Tufo 2012: CHF 14.95 at Mövenpick.

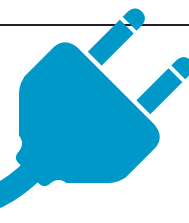
Given the great choice of red wines in Italy it is easy to overlook its whites made from indigenous grape varieties such as Greco Bianco. Produced in southern Italy's Campania region, the Vesevo exhibits aromas of mandarin and lime with a hint of melon. Concentrated flavours of citrus and pineapple merge with mineral notes and lively acidity in this medium-bodied wine. Drink before end of 2014.

Simon Hardy is the founder of Fitting Wines, which provides personalised wine services in Switzerland. Contact: simon.hardy@fittingwines.com



Good value wines are widely available.

Plugged in



Who and what am I?

The notion of defining identity by one's surroundings and upbringing is a recent one; hence the term "third-culture kids" as a way of defining those of us brought up abroad. We like to regard the Lake Geneva region as multicultural. The same goes for many of the villages where expats, but also Swiss and French with experience abroad, have moved with their families.

Geneva has assimilated foreigners so extensively that it almost defies the idea that third-culture kids are part of a recent phenomenon. The number of expatriates living there is significant – and growing. All one needs to do is take a look at the prominent IB schools or universities in the area, many of which teach either predominantly or exclusively in English. The region boasts many children who would be hard-pushed to describe their identity in one word.

As a British resident in the Pays de Gex since birth, I was plunged into this sort of identity-based doubt on starting university in the UK. All my life I had considered myself English, but over there, bizarrely, I was seen as French. I found regional accents hard to understand, but not expressions

because of British TV. At the same time, while supposedly coming from England, it was not really my home. It was the same for most of my other local "international" friends, regardless of nationality.

Clearly, passports no longer define identity or allegiance. They're just another official document. How does one describe the Bangladeshi-Swede from Nyon, with a Swiss passport speaking English and Swedish at home, but French at school?

Although third-culture kids may not be aware of this, all it often takes is a return to the "motherland" (which one?) to realize that they're indeed the product of their surroundings and their parents' culture(s). Furthermore, many consider it completely "normal" to speak several languages, and are completely at "home", but not really, in London, Paris or Berlin. Nature doesn't trump nurture. Nor does the opposite happen. Both work in tandem to create a hybrid. In Geneva, all you need to do is walk around the city even for five minutes, to hear everything from Farsi to Italian amid French and English. You can't get anymore third culture.

Daniel Woodburn

Cool in sites

lenews.ch/coolinsites

Chat with God.com

Chat site for talking to an amazingly erudite machine with a brain the size of a planet. Just have a chat. Comes with fully functional Repent Button.

<http://chatwithgod.com/>

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Insight

The Federer phenomenon live

LEUKERBAD This week's extraordinary win by Switzerland's unfancied Stanislas Wawrinka over Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open has shaken the tennis world.

While the 28-year-old number three may be on his way to becoming this country's new phenomenon, he owes much to Roger Federer, still very much "the man", if not with his impressive array of victories, then certainly in inspiration.

Roger Federer to serve. One long leg out behind him, he leans over the ball and bounces it as if he is silently warning it to behave. Then his knees

bend and rocket him into the air. His arm cranes up and his racket swoops like a hawk, turning the ball into some kind of optical illusion that can seem to be in three places at the same time. His feet descend to earth and immediately he is off again.

You've seen it probably hundreds, maybe even thousands, of times on television. But seeing the 32-year-old Swiss tennis maestro live is a completely different experience. Federer is currently ranked by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) as the world's number six player, but for many observers, including this writer, he is by far the greatest tennis player of all time. He has won several world records, including no fewer than 17 Grand Slam singles titles. He also reached the

Wimbledon Final eight times.

I am not a sporting person, preferring instead to remain holed up in front of a computer for my work or reading books, magazines and newspapers. But I did have the luck to see Roger play in the Swiss Open finals in Basel, his home town, at the St. Jakobshalle where he started as a ball boy two decades ago. Virtually every commentator mentions his balletic grace, his incredible athleticism that gets him to parts of the court that other players can't reach.

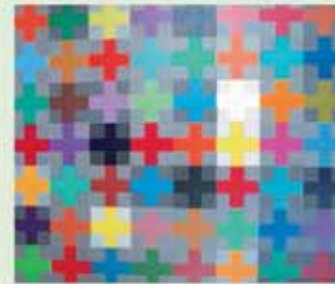
What doesn't come across on television is how gravity seems to have little purchase on Roger Federer in motion. When he changes the pace of play it's as if he is pulling particles apart like a Large Hadron Collider. Time just slows or accelerates as he desires.

It's an illusion, of course. But his movements are so perfect you find yourself watching him without any idea of what his opponents are doing, even when he fails. And it explains why the crowds love Roger, win or lose. He inspires. When he is playing, hardly anyone else exists. But once the final ball has passed the net, he turns to his audience. In Basel, he thanked the crowd politely for "the long applause" before heading back to the changing rooms.

Peter Hulm is a Swiss-based British editor, journalist and media specialist



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TRUE COLOURS PLACE



Property

Housing shortage – the real causes

GENEVA Newcomers and old-timers alike are shocked by the cost of both buying and renting houses and apartments in Switzerland, especially in the densely populated area between the French border and Lake Geneva.

The conservative Swiss People's Party (UDC) has argued, in the run-up to the 9 February vote on its initiative Against Mass Immigration, that the influx of foreigners is to blame. However, Philippe Wanner, a demographer at the University of Geneva, believes immigration is only part of the problem. According to him, other factors are at play, including inertia in the construction sector and a system that seeks to preserve Switzerland's natural territory by only granting building permits in specific zones, which in turn leads to increased density.

But he believes a more important

reason for the current housing shortage is the change in residential behaviour in the Swiss population. "Households are smaller but tend to occupy larger dwellings. Also, many home owners choose to remain in their large family dwellings until late in life, rather than pay hefty transfer taxes." This means only after the house is sold can it be converted into smaller rental units that are then offered at a premium. In addition, federal and cantonal officials announced their intention this month to require landlords to indicate the rental amount paid by the last tenant, to prevent exorbitant increases.

The Federal Housing Office has noted that the number of foreign households in Suisse Romande has grown by 24% compared to the overall increase in Swiss households of 2.4% between 2005 and 2012. This rise is largely in rental properties because of restrictions on non-residents buying property in Switzerland. Philippe Thalmann, a property market special-



Property shortages are a result of more than immigration.

ist at EPFL, agrees there is a perception that foreigners are responsible for the shortage because "in the cantons of Vaud and Geneva during the decade from 2000 to 2010, the available rental stock failed to keep up with population increases. This is quite unusual." Thalmann agrees with Philippe Wanner that the real problem is that Swiss households have been shrinking in size in an aging society with fewer large families, thus creating a demand for smaller rental units among the Swiss population itself.

Rather than blame foreigners for the current situation, Wanner puts the

responsibility on demographers and officials who failed to anticipate the immigration boom, which resulted in the total population count surpassing the eight million mark in 2012. At this juncture, he advises placing the focus on developing policies to improve infrastructure because, given Switzerland's aging population, there will be an ever-greater need for immigration to help sustain the economy. "I'm afraid to say that the housing shortage is here to stay in the Lake Geneva region," he said.

Pamela Taylor

Top tips

Top Three Tips for securing a house as a student or young professional:

1. The timeframe for agreeing to take a house is very short. When calling a prospective landlord, it's best to agree to take the place immediately on the phone, before having seen it. Otherwise, it will be gone before you get there.

2. Ask peers and colleagues. Most rentals are found through word of mouth. They may also provide useful local advice about the rental process.

3. Prepare to be flexible. A lot of young people end up living with families or far from their workplace. This also makes things cheaper.

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Rental woes

Geneva Rents vary from CHF 900–1,500 a month for a studio or a flat share, to CHF 2,500–3,700 for 2–3 room apartments. Flats with 6–8 rooms go for between CHF 4,300 and 7,900 and above that, the sky's the limit. Some expats find they're paying way above published rental rates. One way to avoid this is to enlist the help of a French-speaking friend. A lot of apartments are short notice sublets, from less than a month up to three to four months.

Lausanne Studios are listed from CHF 800 up to 1,100 per month. A 100m² flat costs CHF 2,000–2,300 per month but CHF 3,000–3,500 may be more realistic. Apartments for under CHF 2,000 are rare and in most cases are snapped up within hours. The costs for utilities "les charges" and "un parking" can (and probably will) push this up by a couple of hundred francs per month. The equivalent of three months' rent must be paid in advance for a refundable deposit, depending on the condition of the vacated flat. Apartments in Montreux, Morges or Rolle may be less, but not much.

Pamela Taylor

Travel

Fortresses now for peace and profit

PRANGINS About 20 years ago, Switzerland began decommissioning its vast network of over 20,000 military fortified bunkers and offering them for sale to private companies and civilian organizations.

Some have been converted into military museums; others into hotels or conference centres and even into secure banking or digital data locations.

Motorists taking the Route Suisse between Geneva and Lausanne pass by the Villa Rose bunker with its trompe-l'oeil windows and enormous garage doors that locals know is a disguised opening for a vintage 4.5 centimeter cannon. Hardly a deterrent to a determined German advance, but the hope at the time was that from the air, if not the ground, it more resembled a house than a fort. It was never put to the test. Many Swiss today consider that trans-

forming their forts and bunkers to peaceful purposes is a fitting solution for the country's vast underground National Redoubt system, which they firmly believe saved them from invasion and attack.

The installation high above St. Maurice is one of the most dramatic.

Most of the fortresses now open to the public are in German-speaking Switzerland, including a post-WWII site in Zug where one can visit a surface-to-air missile site built during the Cold War to counter any threat from the Warsaw Pact. Apart from the Villa Rose, which is now a museum attracting military buffs from around the world, there are several others in Suisse Romande. An installation inside the mountain high above St. Maurice is one of the most dramatic, with its three fortifications set into the mountains on

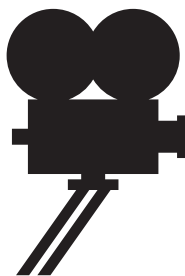


There are several WW2 defences in the region which are open to visitors

either side of the narrow entrance to the Valais. One of the three forts, Dailly, built in 1892 to command the valley between Chillon and Martigny, is scheduled to be open to the public in March. The appropriately named four-star Hotel La Claustra in Ticino offers a unique experience totally underground inside a former artillery bunker in the Gotthard mountain range at over 2,000 meters. But there are no rooms with a view. Since it is Switzerland,

even private banks, security firms and other businesses are discovering that demobilized bunkers can be a good investment. Some offer special events like Swiss Army Nights where participants can rough it on military bunks like their grandfathers in the 1940s. Despite being promoted by tourism website MySwitzerland, the privatized forts remain almost as secret for many tourists today as they were 20 years ago.

Pamela Taylor



FILM REVIEWS

By Neptune

FRUITVALE STATION

★ ★ ★ ★

Release: 8/1

One of a chain of films on Black issues in America this past year, this is probably the most reality-based and raw in its vision, award-laden out of Sundance 2013. Taken from a real-life event, the film unfolds almost in documentary style on the last day of 2008 in the San Francisco area. The 22-year-old Oscar Grant III (Michael B. Jordan) has just lost his job. As he goes from his work to his home and then his mother's, preparing for a birthday party, first-time director Ryan Coogler gives us signs of Oscar's sweet character, his loves, his friendships. There is both fun and tension with his girlfriend and daughter, respect with his Mom, camaraderie with his buddies, as they all go off that



night to celebrate New Year's Eve downtown. They go by train, as his mother advises, so that there will be no problems with drunken driving. And then Fruitvale Station comes up.... This is mature, powerful, gut-wrenching stuff, saying so much in such simple terms.

AMERICAN HUSTLE ★ ★

Release: 15/1

David O. Russell is back and critics are bowing down in homage – why? So he made the excellent Three Kings about Iraq, and the crowd-pleasing Silver Linings Playbook. And we have to start throwing him Globes and Oscars? They're making a big deal about this being such an important scandal film. It's just about a sleazy con-man (an excellent Christian Bale), his sly female partner (Amy Adams)

who is even a better con-artist than he, and his loony wife (Jennifer Lawrence) who could bring them all down, along with some politicians and even the Mafia. It's New York and Jersey – sort of a three-ring-circus Soprano's wannabe, but with more cleavage (what is that about?) and less intensity. It's good, a bit of fun, not great. And it has no redeeming value, except for the ensemble acting. But it's getting all the awards – go figure.



Education & Technology

Au revoir to “je ne comprends pas”

VEVEY Learning a language can prove daunting.

Yet the Lake Geneva region, where bilingualism, even speaking three languages, is the norm, presents the ideal environment for plunging in. Many expats and visitors consider learning a new language a burden rather than an opportunity. Yet most learning options combine stimulating teaching with fun. Estelle Meynet of Vevey's ASC International House stressed that turning learning into an individual process is key. “By asking our alumni what their objectives are,” she said, “it is possible to tai-



Language education in the region is exceptional compared to many countries.

lor our classes to the needs of each and every person.” This approach sidelines grammatical root-learning and instead strives to make classes relevant

to everyday life. Interestingly, “being bilingual is an advantage when learning a third language,” Meynet added. “The brain has an additional reference

by which to compare new words, sentence structure and idiomatic expressions.”

Though this may be less relevant for younger students or beginners, Sarah Pralong, director at Geneva's Key English School, praised the ability of kids to retain language through “interactive activities such as songs and games that place great value on dynamic interplay”. The bottom line is that language can be a highly stimulating experience, whether for an enthusiastic five-year-old or a curious septuagenarian. Learning a new tongue can never come too soon; nor is it ever too late.

Christopher Woodburn

iPads in schools – good, fad or mad?

GENEVA The use of new technology in education remains a contentious issue for teachers and parents, particularly when it comes to anything related to the internet or gadgetry that some kids may see as an extension into the classroom of their own recreational

interactions. Nevertheless, it is something no one can ignore. Schools that can afford devices such as iPads, tablets and PCs are now seeking to reflect the realities of a highly digitized 21st century, but in a manner that better prepares the student for the future.

A key intent is to respond more effectively to the non-linear needs of modern-day students by enabling them to evolve. As blackboards become relics of the (not so distant) past, the digitalization of curricula is taking shape. Though not posing as a replacement for traditional teaching methods, technology is starting to complement knowledge transmission and acquisition in the classroom.

According to Daniel Auger, Technology for Learning Coordinator at La Châtaigneraie International School in Geneva, the notion of process is key. “Technology in itself won't magically conjure better results,” he said. Such changes take time, especially if schools are to use the devices efficiently. “Teachers should be involved as integral parts of the process, and work closely with technological coordinators to ensure the best possible outcome both for the students and for the teachers.”

Auger's belief is based on a “constructivist approach to teaching and learning”. Many people deplore the lack of reading among young people as phones and electronic devices offer more compelling diversions than getting stuck into a book. While acknowl-

edging that such concerns are important, Auger stresses that technology can offer a more engaging and creative environment. “A clear-cut balance which values reading books as a central tenet of education is paramount to those schools seeking to introduce technology as a component to enhanced learning.”

Carol Dolorier de Haller of the Institut International de Lancy agrees, maintaining that “iPads have by no means replaced books or paper”. Praising the benefits iPads have brought since their introduction in 2011, she noted, “As the ergonomics are already acquired, students take to the iPads very easily.” She further pointed out that by offering a controlled environment strictly based on pedagogical objectives, there is no leeway for misuse. “Classes have been tailored according to age group and subject matter in a very positive way.” While the overall advantages have yet to be quantified, the general consensus is that this approach provides significant – and obvious – benefits in terms of class dynamics and student engagement.

Christopher Woodburn



Classifieds

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LES ARTS

The 9th Geneva Writers' Conference

begins on January 31 through February 2, featuring top notch guest instructors and panelists from the US, UK, Italy, Switzerland and elsewhere.

Participants from the Geneva area hail from over 20 different countries.

It's not too late to register at: conference@genevawritersgroup.org or check out our website at: www.genevawritersgroup.org.

LE MISCELLANEOUS

Scots Kirk Business Network - Presentation and networking event

Thursday 20th February at 19.30

«Organisational cultures» - Alfred Collander
The presentation will be followed by a networking Apéro. The event is free although donations are requested to cover the cost of refreshments. Guests are warmly encouraged to attend. St Andrew's House, The Scots Kirk, Avenue de Rumine 26, Lausanne. Please register by emailing: skbn@scotskirklausanne.ch.

Geneva Curry Club

Expats and locals come together regularly to enjoy a curry night in the Geneva region. Great for making friends and since 2006 there have been two weddings! For more info: www.curryclubgeneva.org



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Regional Events

Lausanne, VD CINE AU PALAIS

1 February 11h00–21h00, 2 February 11h00–19h00

Free documentary movies, including many award winners. Suitable for ages 6 to 106. Movies in English: Charlie Chaplin silent movie, Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry and Wasteland, by Brazilian artist Vik Muniz filmed on a gigantic rubbish dump in Rio de Janeiro. The director of the award-winning Swiss movie Hiver Nomade (French subtitles) will answer questions after the screening. Also a great opportunity to explore the various museums in the Palais – from beaux arts to stuffed animals.

Palais de Rumine, Place de la Riponne 6, 1005 Lausanne
www.cineaupalais.ch



Evian, France ROMEO AND JULIETTE

30 January 20h00

Moscow Theater Ballet presents the stunning and romantic production of Romeo and Juliette, a ballet in 3 acts by Sergueï Prokofiev. Sword-fighting, beautiful costumes. Note: this production will be without an orchestra. Tickets €39.- to €62. Tickets available at the Billetterie at the Casino and the Tourist Office.

La Grange au Lac
Evian, France
www.evian-tourisme.com/la-grange-au-lac.html



Geneva, ANTIGEL

1-16 February

A program that combines music, dance, and atypical events, all over the Canton of Geneva. The project is also political in nature, looking to reveal the unique identity of each commune through various cultural events. If you want to enjoy the first day (the 1st) then make your way over to Genève-Plage on the lake near Cologny to enjoy the air show by 2 pilots (14h00).

All around Geneva canton
www.antigel.ch



Chêne-Bougeries, GE HOSPICE TRAINING FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS

1 February, 10h00–16h30

At La Maison de Tara hospice volunteers are not an 'add on' but are at the very heart of our activities. Without them we could not exist. Volunteer work in the house includes simple patient support (feeding, companionship, changing soiled linen), providing support to families (this is often a big part of what they do) and generally being willing to help out with whatever is required.

La Maison de Tara
79, ch. de la Montagne
1224 Chêne-Bougeries
www.lamaisondetara.ch



Anancy, France MUSEE D'ANNECY CHATEAU: FREE ENTRANCE

2 February

On the first Sunday of the month between October and May, the Musée-Château d'Anancy, at the top of the old town, offers free entrance to anyone. If you miss this one, then you can pay €12.-/person age 12+. Open daily from 10h–12h and 14h–17h except Tuesdays during these months. Consult website for more information.

Anancy, France
www.patrimoines.agglo-anancy.fr



These events have been recommended by Know-it-all passport!
More events on: www.knowitall.ch

Villars-Gryon, BCV Ski & Snowboard Open

1st February

The Swiss Ski School and the BCV (Banque Cantonale Vaudoise) are organizing a big race for all snow disciplines (ski, snowboard, telemark). The race is open to everyone, so bring your family and friends along, and see how you do up against some of the best in the resort!

Rue Centrale 140
1884 Villars s/Ollon



Geneva, Théâtrechamp

28 January to 9 February

This socially engaged theatre group for children and adolescents based in Geneva will be presenting "Virginie" as their annual production, which deals with the delicate subject of sexual abuse of children. The themes of their plays often refer to subjects that concern the youth such as divorce and the environment. The text of the play has been recently published as a book in both French and English.

Salle Jean-Jacques Gauthier in
Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva



Geneva, Creative Scotland

Friday, 31 January, 1st session 19h00
2nd session 21h00

A series of poetry readings will be presented by Iain Bamforth, David Kinloch, Peter McCarey and Richard Price. The first reading at Plainpalais will be in English and Scots with introductions in French. The second reading will be focused on French-speaking artists and musicians that frequent the venue.

19h00 CUP venue (formerly known as Salle Contretemps), Rue des Savoises, Geneva
21h00 PTT 147 Route de Chêne



Lausanne, Village Players CLUBNIGHT – ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT

30 January – bar opens 19h30

This promises to be a jolly, interactive event where you can have a go at answering many intriguing and challenging questions in light-hearted competition. No questions will concern celebrities, pop or worse songs, sports, films or TV! We hope to see many of you at this fun club night to help make up our teams. The more the merrier! Entry is free of charge.

Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne



National Museum of Switzerland: Permanent exhibition and activities

9 February 10h00 – 17h00

Permanent exhibition Noblesse oblige! La vie de château au 18e siècle, will be on during February at the Swiss National Museum. A special event on the 9th will feature "Photos of the press: true or false?" with activities and debates about photojournalism featuring Daniel Girardin, Magali Girardin and Michael von Graffenried among others. Free entry. Visit www.chateaupraggnins.ch or call 022 994 8890 for more information.

Château de Pragnins, 1197 Pragnins



Interaction

James and the Giant Peach

Simply Theatre Studios

As far as storylines go, Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* must have one of the craziest: a lonely orphan and his talking insect friends go on a transatlantic adventure ... inside a giant peach ... pulled along by seagulls ... to escape fruitarian sharks.

While the Simply Theatre production of *James* offers a simplified story and pared down character list – perfect for young theatregoers and their attention spans – it loses none of the spirit of the original. The play is delightful and a quick look around the audience on Saturday night revealed a sea of enraptured faces – adults' as well as children's. The set is imaginative and makes clever use of the tiny space, and the costumes are gorgeous.

It's a lovely touch that, after the play, the still-costumed cast stands in the foyer and chats to the children. The



cast members are particularly good at coaxing conversation out of star-struck little fans.

One suggestion for parents, though: it might be worth familiarising smaller children with the story beforehand. Not only will it help them follow the madcap action better, but it'll get them past any distress they might feel in the beginning, when life seems unbearably bleak for poor little James.

Robyn Goss

Black Movie Festival

Geneva's much-loved Black Movie Festival celebrated its 15th edition last week, showcasing a plethora of new and old cinematic features from short, insightful films to reflective documentaries by the likes of Uruphong Raksasad, Arnel Mardoquio and Verónica Chen.

Screenings were held throughout last week at the central Grütli Cinema and smaller quirky Spoutnik theatre, complete with armchairs and pillows for a more intimate experience.

The CHF 5,000 Critics' Prize was unanimously awarded to a young film director, Mati Diop, for her film *Mille Soleils*. Thirty years after her late uncle Djibril Diop Mambéty made the Senegalese film classic *Touki Bouki* in 1973, the film revisits the life of Mory, the film's lead actor.

Many of the films provide a rare insight into the lives of people living in sometimes very different circumstances, captivating and educating audiences. Laureate of the Young Adults Award, Dieudo Hamadi, who relays a sharp account of an election in

the Democratic Republic of Congo in *Atalaku*, confessed that he was "touched to have elicited such a response from young people living in a context so diametrically opposed to my own".

Zhang Lu's *Scenery* documented interviews with a number of immigrants working in South Korea about their dreams and constructed an emotional image of the nature of life as an economic migrant.

Needle, by Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, observes the dynamics of a dysfunctional family and how children perceive ideas about adulthood before coming of age, as the young protagonist gets her ears pierced.

This year's success of the Black Movie festival holds much promise for the future of the international film scene in Geneva – here's to 2015!

Jennifer Rose

Cracking up

Supersize My Pie Chart

NYON According to www.death-clock.org, I'm going to live to be 79, that being the average life expectancy for a non-smoking woman with my Body Mass Index, living in Switzerland and drinking (ahem) two units of alcohol a week. Some people may think this kind of thing is morbid but I find it incentivizing. "Goodness me," I thought (or words to that effect). "Only 13,000 days left to make my mark on the world. I need to get my act together because my novel isn't going to write itself, now is it? (But... might it, actually? No, of course not. I knew that.)"

So, to that end, I sat down last week to create a time-management pie chart. I struggle to get excited about anything called a "chart" but pie is very nice, so it worked well. I started by listing everything I need to do each week and the time it all takes, so I could allocate it a slice of the Time Pie. It makes for pretty disturbing reading, I can tell you. For example:

- General housewife stuff: carting children around, cleaning the house, picking the same damn

clothes up off the same damn floor. Every. Single. Day. 22 hours a week.

- Planning for, shopping for and cooking meals that are a) balanced, b) nutritious on a macro and micro level, c) tasty, d) appealing to everyone in the house, using food that is seasonal, local and affordable. Cannot contain trans fats, salt, sugar or anything identifiable as a vegetable. 12 hours.
- Skiing lessons. 1 1/2 hours. This includes the one-hour lesson and the 30 minutes spent sitting in the car afterwards, waiting until my shattered nerves are steady enough to drive home.
- French lessons and real-world practice. 7 hours. "Real-world practice" refers to the frequent pantomiming that I have to do in front of shop assistants because, although my French lessons are helping me with greetings and introductions, I haven't yet learned how to say things like, "Do you have an ointment for head lice and is it safe for four-year-olds?"
- Organizing children's swimming lessons, skiing lessons and playdates. Overseeing their free play, which may sound free but which absolutely must include gross and fine motor coordination activities, pushing and pulling actions, lifting, messy play, climbing and balancing. Interminable.
- Overseeing homework. Reading with the bigger child. Doing pre-reading activities with the smaller one. Playing board games together to develop maths skills. Baking together to develop science skills. Hosing down house after science skills have been developed quite enough for one day. Time without end.

Also to be factored in:

- Quality time spent with a) children, b) husband c) cat d) guinea pigs e) alone, locked in the bedroom, shrieking, "what more do you want from me?" every time someone knocks on the door.
- Sightseeing. We live in this beautiful place and I don't want our only

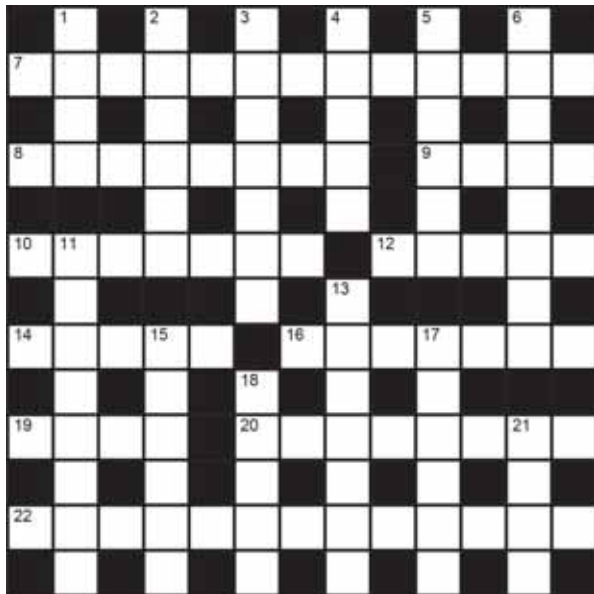


memory of it to be the A1 and the school car park.

Well, it took some work – I had to supersize my pie chart three times and subdivide the slices – but I finally have something I think I can work with. No activity can last longer than 10 minutes and I've had to cut back to three hours' sleep a night, but everything is fitted in there. Success is just around the corner.

Robyn Goss

Puzzles



QUICK CROSSWORD

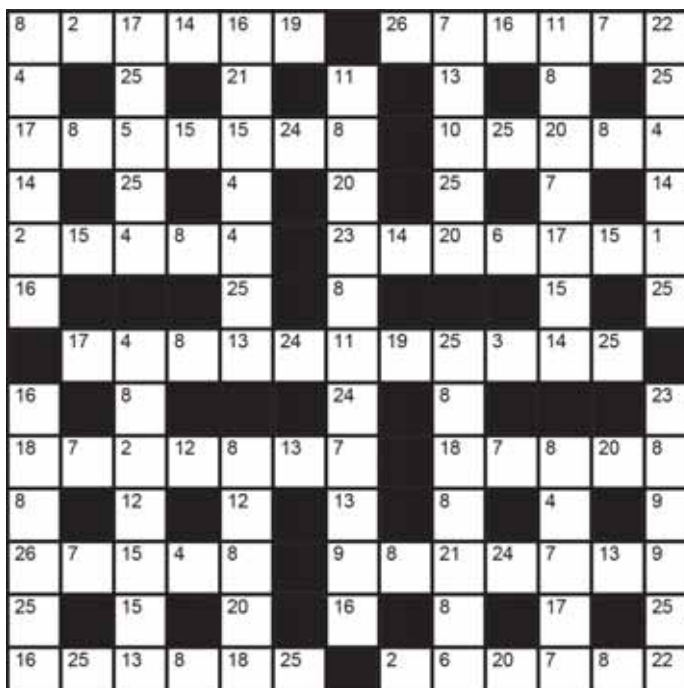
ACROSS

- 7 Gear (13)
- 8 From scapula and sternum (8)
- 9 For two performers (4)
- 10 Twisted yarn (7)
- 12 Villain (5)
- 14 Held over (2,3)
- 16 Illegally ahead of the puck (7)
- 19 Discharge (4)
- 20 The horizontal between two verticals (8)
- 22 Allergy medication (13)

DOWN

- 1 A masonry fence (4)
- 2 Back part of the shank (6)
- 3 She who ensures correctness (7)
- 4 Put to the test for its quality (5)
- 5 Screw (6)
- 6 Lane (4,4)
- 11 Soothes your irritation (8)
- 13 Alphabet pants (1-6)
- 15 Strongly attractive to cats (6)
- 17 Seed that magic word (6)
- 18 Open-weave fabric (5)
- 21 Spotted problem (4)

Last week's solution



CODEWORDS

Each letter has been replaced by the same number throughout the puzzle. Simply decide which letter is represented by which number and complete the puzzle. To start off we're given you the first three letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						I						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			B							K		

What's On

Groove' N' Move Festival Brings Hip-Hop and Urban Dance to Geneva

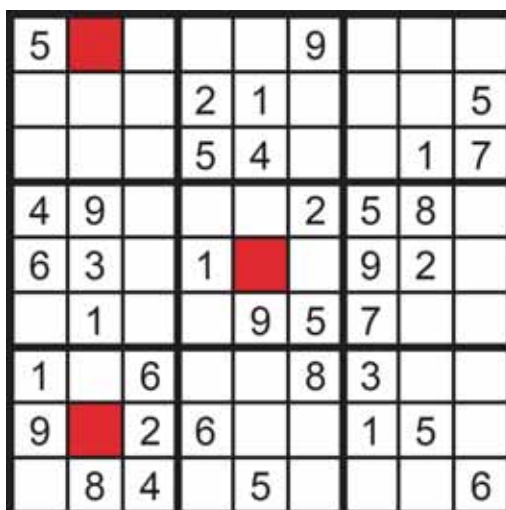
If you are a fan of hip-hop and cutting edge street dance, you won't want to miss the international urban Groove' N' Move festival in Geneva from 13 to 22 February. The festival features performances by top dancers from the US, Japan, Switzerland, Portugal and Venezuela, as well as parties, workshops and documentaries devoted to the international hip-hop scene. One of the main highlights of Groove' N' Move, organised by Geneva-based Art' O'Danse, is a competition to select Swiss dancers to enter the final stage of Juste Debout, the world's biggest hip-hop dance competition, held in Paris and judged by some of the best performers in the business.

The annual ten-day festival kicks off with performances by dancer and choreographer Anne Nguyen's Compagnie par Terre at Theâtre Am Stram Gram. Influenced by her scientific background, Nguyen, winner of the New Talent Choreography SADC 2013 award, teaches hip-hop dance in Paris and was part of break-dancer crews, Phase T, RedMask and DefDogz. She also appeared in the movie Planet B-Boy.



Don't miss French choreographer Francis Lamargot's Compagnie XXe Tribu show on 15 February. The performance (by just five dancers) blends contemporary hip-hop with African rhythms. Lamargot also teaches a mixture of hip-hop, modern jazz and contemporary dance at Le Centre des Arts Vivants in Paris. Also worth watching are dancers David Colas; one-woman show, Magali Duclos; and Battle de B-boying. For the full Groove' N' Move festival programme and the list of venues, see www.groove-n-move.ch.

Moyette Marrett



SUDOKU

Easy

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Win!

Sudoku: Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

Code word: Send us the three letters in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

Weather

SUISSE ROMANDE



GENEVA

Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



LAUSANNE

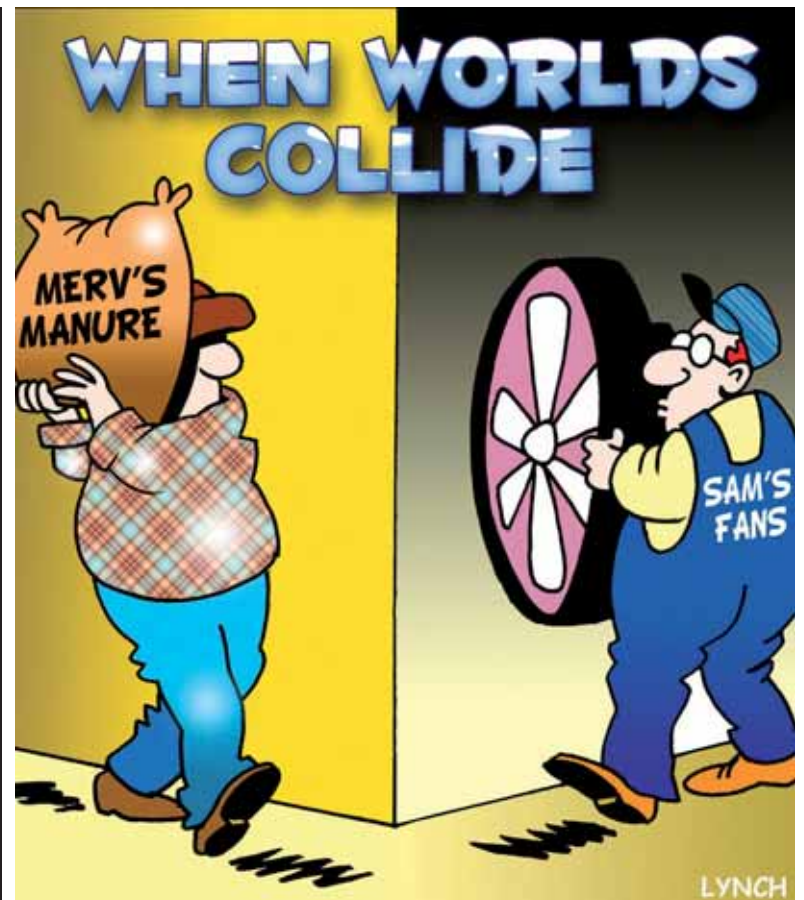


SNOW REPORT - ON THE SLOPES

Verbier	135 cm	Crans Montana	150 cm	Les Rousses	120 cm
Villars	120 cm	Château d'Oex	75 cm	Chamonix	190 cm
Leysin	110 cm	Les Crosets	110 cm	Morzine	210 cm



The ski & snow report is sponsored by



Le News photo competition

Le News is offering a Payot book token worth **CHF 20** and the chance to be published to the photographer who submits the best photo and caption on the subject of:

"WEIRD PERSPECTIVE"

Email your entry to

competition@lenews.ch
by 4 february 2014.

Congratulations to Jennifer Rigby, winner of the Le News weekly photographic competition "Good Food".

