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SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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Lake Geneva region

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Suicide tourism rises

The average age of assisted suicides is 69.

ZURICH More than 600 non-Swiss residents died of assisted suicide in Switzerland between 2008 and 2012, helped by organizations such as Dignitas. In 2012 alone, the majority came from Germany (77), followed by the UK (29), Italy (22), France (19) and the US (7).

A study by the Journal of Medical Ethics, which looked at data from Zurich University's Institute of Legal Medicine,

found a 40% increase among those seeking to end their lives over the four-year period. According to researcher Saskia Gauthier, an imbalance in national regulations has led to an influx of "suicide tourists" coming to Switzerland. Swiss law does not require a physician to be involved. Nor does it require the recipient to be a Swiss national. These aspects of the law are unique in the world.

Focusing only on foreign suicides, in

which the average age was 69, the study noted that out of the 611 cases cited, 268 originated from Germany and 126 from the UK. The next-largest number came from France, followed by Italy, from where cases increased by 11 times during the period. "The main reasons were neurological disease, followed by cancer, rheumatic and cardiovascular diseases," the report said.

Continued on page 2

Simon Hardy on wines to enjoy with "la chasse"



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This Week in Switzerland

With 42% of its population coming from 160 countries, promoting integration is a key objective for **Lausanne**. The city announced that it is launching an **integration fund** of CHF 100,000 for **not-for-profit groups** to run projects that **prevent racism** or promote **social cohesion**.

Geneva University and its partners have completed an expedition – **Terra Submersa** – to explore Greece's underwater past and the prehistoric landscapes in the **Gulf of Nauplio**. Working on **Planet Solar**, the world's largest solar catamaran, archeologists mapped the sea floor and uncovered Paleolithic and **Neolithic remains** dating back 36,000 years.



Bucking Switzerland's **anti-immigrant** trend, a **Jura** cantonal initiative wants non-Swiss residents to stand in local elections to address a shortage of candidates to administer communes. Despite two earlier failed initiatives allowing **foreigners** to run for mayor or parliament, this 28 September **referendum** is only pushing for communal councils.

Sales of "**The Firm**", a game for mobile phones invented by Lausanne-based **Sunnyside Games** have rocketed taking it into the **top 10 best sellers** in 125 countries and to top position in the US and Switzerland. Over 30,000 copies have been sold via Apple's App store. It will be available shortly on other mobile platforms.

The **Romand Business Federation** (FED) has warned that long delays for building permits and increasingly complex labour rules threaten **Swiss prosperity**. Addressing some 3,000 entrepreneurs in Geneva, FED president **Nicolas Braunschweig** warned of the need to protect Switzerland's position as having the fourth largest GDP per capita in the world after Qatar, Norway and Luxembourg.

Swisscows.ch – Switzerland's answer to **Google** – is beginning to give the California search engine a run for its money. Launched by **Hulbee AG** in June, it has attracted 400,000 users. **Swisscows** presents itself as the first intelligent "**answer engine**" based on semantic information recognition and intuitive search assistance.

Suicide tourism

Continued from page 1

According to the Federal Office of Statistics, Swiss residents constituted 508 suicides in 2012. The Swiss study was prompted by debate in places such as the UK, Germany and Denmark. Gautier believes that "the phenomenon of suicide tourism in Switzerland may indeed result in the amendment or supplementary guidelines to existing regulations in foreign countries".

Passive assisted suicide has been legal here since 1942. However, the individual has to be of sound mind, while those helping must not be motivated by self-interest or financial gain. Active euthanasia remains illegal, but lethal drugs may be prescribed as long as the recipient takes an active role. According to the study, most patients died by ingesting sodium pentobarbital, while four inhaled helium.

A 2011 referendum called by pro-life opponents of assisted suicide in the Canton of Zurich was overwhelmingly rejected by 85% of voters and the initiative to outlaw it for foreigners was

turned down by 78%. But Swiss law remains unclear. Some groups such as **Exit**, which only helps Swiss residents, have also agreed to assist people over the age of 75 who are not terminally ill. Last year, the European Court of Human Rights called on Bern to clarify its guidelines after an ailing octogenarian failed to convince doctors that she should be allowed to die.

Britain's 1961 Suicide Act makes it an offence – up to 14 years in prison in England and Wales – to assist or encourage suicide. In 2010 the UK Commission on Assisted Dying, also known as the Falconer Commission, pushed for a new regulatory law, while Scotland put forward its own bill last November. In Germany, where euthanasia is illegal, Chancellor Angela Merkel is seeking a national discussion. The German Medical Association, however, wants to prohibit both euthanasia and assisted suicide.

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Editor's comment

A more communal stance for humanity



While much of the Swiss summer has proved miserable, for those of us who managed to get abroad, there were constant reminders of just how globally relevant the Lake Geneva region is. Somehow Switzerland is mentioned one way or another in any media coverage of the Middle East, banking, football, climate change or Ebola.

It was the base murder of American journalist Jim Foley by ISIS jihadists in Syria that brought all this home. Not only does Foley's kidnapping and eventual killing underline the extreme danger that reporters, mainly freelance, now find themselves in when covering conflicts and humanitarian crises, but it also accentuates the increasingly nefarious role of young extremists brought up in Britain, France and other European countries, including Switzerland. They have abandoned civilized values by going off to fight, murder, rape and torture in the name of Islam.

Even though numbers remain small for Switzerland – an estimated 40–50 residents are believed to have headed off to Syria and Iraq to fight – this is a development that cannot be ignored. It is also an issue that needs to be discussed in schools, where such radicalization begins.

Not all are jihadists. Some have joined pro-Christian groups. But we're not talking about idealistic Spanish Civil War volunteers. What makes everything so volatile is their need to resolve issues with sheer brutality at the end of a gun, or by beheading or crucifying anyone who thinks differently.

Even though many foreign jihadists are being – or will be – killed, it is likely that some will one day return home, together with their radicalism. This happened before when militants, including Osama bin Laden as well as European and American converts, headed off to Afghanistan in search of jihad and brought the concept of the "New Islamic Man".

If such extremism is to be thwarted, Switzerland's religious communities need to be more assertive. This includes the influential Islamic Centre of Geneva, which needs to condemn – clearly and loudly – atrocities committed in the name of Islam. In the same manner, Switzerland's Jewish community needs to be far more critical of abusive Israeli military actions against civilians in Gaza or the building of illegal settlements, all of which contribute toward increased radicalization.

But why not a joint approach by all of Switzerland's religious communities condemning what is unacceptable and condoning what actually contributes to the betterment of humanity, which, after all, is what Switzerland supposedly represents?

Edward Girardet, editor@lenews.ch

Poor Voltaire - a spelling nightmare

FERNEY VOLTAIRE

François-Marie Arouet, otherwise known as Voltaire, the renowned 18th-century French enlightenment author and philanthropist who lived just across the French border in Ferney, should be turning in his grave, or at least seeking refuge in neighbouring Geneva out of embarrassment – despite the resident ghost of fellow philosopher and arch rival Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

The reason? As reported by the *Dauphiné Libéré* newspaper, either the local council in Ferney-Voltaire (the French frontier town named after the



"Love truth, but pardon error" Voltaire

great writer), or one of its contractors, erected six Voltaire quotations in bronze in a public park to inspire visitors.

The only problem was that five of the quotations had mistakes – either incorrect spellings or syntax.

Pretty dubious for a country that holds its version of *The X-Factor* in the form of an annual and highly revered nationwide dictation competition. And to happen only days before French kids, who are all obliged to read Voltaire, return to school. Still as France's pre-eminent writer and famed philosopher is oft quoted as saying, "Love truth, but pardon error".

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Did you know?

NEUCHÂTEL Drivers are now being checked more than ever before for speed, racing lights and drinking. The number of speed systems across Switzerland has increased by 10% to 769 since 2009. This includes a 30% rise in the number of traffic lights being monitored. And imbibing drivers need to be even more worried. The number of alcohol monitors rose 10% to 1,818. In France, alcohol checks are also on the rise with gendarmes testing over 9 million drivers in 2013.

In 2013, nearly 102,000 drivers were charged with excessive speeding. Of these, 53,000 infractions were in built-up areas with 36,000 being on motorways.

GENEVA Democrats and Republications Abroad, two non-profit organizations representing US citizens, are pushing hard over the next few weeks for expat Americans to register for the next presidential election. While some states retain permanent overseas registration, most require their citizens to re-register every time.

Democrats Abroad Switzerland is holding informal events in Geneva and

Americans – pushed to vote

Zurich to entice citizens to register over cocktails. The same goes for the Republicans. Regardless of whether resident in Switzerland or France, any citizen can register online or in person with any group and at any event.

With three to five million overseas Americans – there are no accurate figures – US expats represent an increasingly crucial constituency that could easily sway the election, particularly in states where previous margins have been decided by as few as several hundred votes.

Despite growing numbers of citizens – over 3,000 in 2013,

many in Switzerland – renouncing their US nationality, overseas Americans represent a vote that neither party can afford to neglect. Even if reluctantly, politicians are realizing that overseas votes can win or lose an election.

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National

Basel: Public transport with vision

BASEL Among European cities such as Helsinki, Copenhagen and Freiburg, Switzerland's north-eastern city of Basel ranks as having one of the continent's most visionary approaches to public transport. It is one that the Lake Geneva region would do well to heed if it is to deal with rising car traffic in a more imaginative and environmentally friendly manner.

Despite significant expansion of their public transport networks in recent years, the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, which, together with neighbouring France, constitute the nearly 2,000km² "Greater Geneva" area, still have far to go in comparison. As the *Tribune de Genève* recently reported, Genevois did not help themselves by myopically voting in the 18 May referendum against the funding of three P&R car parks to reduce front-liner motor traffic. Traffic jams, primarily commuter-based, along the autoroutes have worsened significantly, while congestion on feeder routes from the French side has increased by 30% over the past five years.

Basel, on the other hand, does not seem to have any concerns about its

34,400 frontaliers. It very much considers them as part of the overall vision by making funding available towards improving cross-border parking. It also vigorously incorporates the French and German border zones – as well as four Swiss cantons – as part of its "Greater Basel" vision, a region similar in size to "Greater Geneva".

Basel was the first to incorporate simple, regional ticketing for its trains, trams and buses. "Today, it makes absolutely no sense to drive into Basel, when you can take the tram," said Dieter Manger, a Swiss pilot living on the outskirts of the city.

While Geneva, which first introduced horse-drawn trams in 1862, may have enjoyed Europe's largest network



Basel Transport Service had 132 million users in 2013.

by the 1920s, it then virtually abandoned it by 1965. Today it is Basel that is standing out as the example to follow. With a philosophy that has sought to promote the best form of transport for its population ever since the Basler Verkehrs-Betriebe (BVB), or Basel Transport Service, was created 120 years ago, its green trams and buses have become firmly part of the city's traditional landscape.

Not only is the BVB highly popular, with more than 132 million users in 2013, but it is moving firmly ahead with plans to use even more modern trams and buses as part of its 180km network. It guarantees a bus or tram every 7.5 minutes, 365 days a year. "We want to persuade people that it is far more enjoyable and practical to take the tram or bus," said a BVB official.

Edward Girardet

Adieu to French classes ?

THURGAU A controversial motion passed by the north-eastern canton of Thurgau has abolished French classes in primary school, favouring the teaching of English, which starts as early as Year Three. Considered by many as an affront to French, the Federal government has tried in vain to block the motion which is widely supported by the UDC, UDF and the Evangelical parties. In stark opposition to Thurgau's Grand Council, which passed the motion by 71 votes to 49, the Socialist Party has denounced the controversial move, claiming that a similar UDC-backed proposal had already been rejected by the canton's voters in 2006.

Not only does the decision relegate French to secondary-school level, further jeopardizing national unity by rejecting constitutional and educational consensus, it also sets a dangerous precedent. Similar cases in Nidwalden, Graubünden and Schaffhausen, where initiatives have been put into place to abolish one of the two foreign languages taught in primary schools, have provoked concern in Bern. According to those backing the movement, the rationale is to lighten the work-load of pupils, despite the fact that the learning of languages is best begun at a young age. Not to mention



Thurgau out of touch at the other extreme?

the favouring of English over French, a choice considered pragmatic by some, and unacceptable by others.

Switzerland's multi-lingualism has long been considered an integral part of its identity. However, in what is viewed by some as an unconstitutional fashion threatening this status quo, the decision to cut back on language teaching is undeniably damaging this unity. The notion of Swiss patriotism is also questioned, even within those German-speaking cantons bordering Francophone Switzerland, where French is favoured over English. In a country where almost two thirds of the population are German-speakers, Thurgau's initiative already has transcended the language divide and engulfed itself in the ambivalent rhetoric of Swiss national unity.

Christopher Woodburn

Smoking restrictions

Much to the irritation of the tobacco industry, including corporate giants such as Philip Morris in Switzerland, the World Health Organization is demanding that governments ban electronic cigarettes indoors. It also wants curbs on advertising and other tactics that lure young people.

In a report issued this week, the UN organization maintains that not enough is known about e-cigarettes, and hence should be prohibited "until exhaled vapour is proven to be not harmful to bystanders". Given their growing use among minors, many of whom consider "e-cigs" harmless, WHO recommends that nicotine doses be standardized and that fruit or sweet-flavoured versions be banned.

Manufacturers currently maintain that e-cigarettes are safer than tobacco as they do not contain carcinogens. Somewhat inexplicably, Philip Morris also says the WHO position excludes them from the "democratic process."

WHO wants crackdowns on practices that attract young people, which the World Medical Association describes as "sickening" and "predatory." The industry has consistently used questionable approaches, particularly in eastern Europe and Asia, for encouraging traditional use. Observers



Tobacco companies are still being accused of targetting the young.

note that in Switzerland companies hand out free cigarettes at pop concerts and other events.

Some Swiss politicians have expressed concern that tobacco lobbies are pressuring Bern not to ban smoking in public places as in neighbouring France. Interestingly, WHO staff have received much hate mail and calls, which, one maintained, are encouraged by the tobacco industry.

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Business & Economy

Geneva start-up cleans up

ServiceAtHome.com, a start-up based in Geneva, is causing a stir with its strong growth and market potential.

Established in October 2013, the company helps people find and hire trustworthy home service providers such as cleaners and babysitters online. Users book and pay for services online. In under a year, the company has registered an impressive 2,000 service providers in the region.

Co-founder Lindy-Claire Abittan had the idea when working full-time as an auditor: "I really needed help at home and was spending too much time trying to arrange services that were supposed to save me time."

She and her co-founder realized that the domestic services industry had not evolved in decades and was ripe for revolution – so ServiceAtHome is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its USP is its authentic review system. "Only registered clients are able to write



reviews of providers. This level of transparency gives clients confidence in the reliability of each provider."

The company takes a percentage of the fees paid by clients and currently has no competitors in the country. It is

currently expanding in the region, including neighbouring France, and the owners have plans to grow it nationally and internationally.

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Pictet unveiled

Geneva-based private bank Pictet has for the first time in its 290-year history published its financial results. The move to transparency is a result of the Swiss group's re-structuring and transformation into a Société Anonyme – the equivalent of a UK public limited company or US public traded company. The bank reports that it has CHF 404 billion under management (up CHF 13 billion since the start of the year) and that it generated revenues of CHF 975 million earning a net profit of CHF 203 million for the first half of the year. To put this into context, Credit Suisse has CHF 1,320 billion under management.

Swiss youth employment better than in EU

According to a new youth employment index, Swiss youth is faring better than its EU counterpart. The index comprising four key employment indicators gives Switzerland 5.61 points against an EU average of 4.68.

Insight

Back to school: are your children excited or dreading it?

Summer is almost over and heading back to school is – for some – an exciting period to catch up with friends or get back into a familiar routine. For others, it will be a time of anxiety, because they know that the bullying will start again.

Shocking as it may sound, between 10% and 20% of students have experienced bullying at some point. The figures vary according to what is taken into account, such as verbal abuse, derogatory nicknames, physical violence, being ignored, sexual assaults (including being watched in the loo or having trousers pulled down).

Being bullied is a lonely experience. It is also extremely detrimental to students' self-esteem. They tend to withdraw within themselves and their behaviour at home may change for the worse. The most vulnerable are those who are emotionally fragile, who do not have a strong network of friends and family, or who are not equipped to deal with adverse social situations.

Low self-esteem is common in victims; children who are insecure make the perfect targets for bullies who need to feel in control of others. Ironically, bullies often act on their own insecurities.

Rather than dismiss such activity as typical child behaviour, parents and education professionals must act. Be aware of your child's changing mood: being irritable, if unusual, may be more than just teen hormones. Look out for the following signs: unwillingness to talk about school, friends, teachers; disappearance of friends from daily conversations; moodiness after spending time on internet or phone; drop in academic performance; complaints about headaches or stomach pains; missing items; anything out of the ordinary.

Questioning a child directly, especially as they enter their teens, is unlikely to get anywhere. To make your child talk, try starting a casual conversation while doing something physical (redecorating, doing chores together,

or even a long drive when there is no direct eye contact). If met with silence, get in touch with his or her teachers. Raise your concerns and don't give up until you are satisfied something has been done.

Most schools have anti-bullying policies. They usually involve a chain of communication from teacher to the principal. Along the way, someone will be expected to hear the complaining student out and then interview accused parties. Beyond that, sanctions may be taken against the bullies, depending on the gravity of the accusation.

The school's responsibility is to campaign against bullying and peer-pressure, as those who stand by or join in are just as guilty. Sanctions or single events, such as anti-bullying days, are not enough. Tolerance, self-confidence and respect should be ingrained in every aspect of the curriculum.

While talking about the abuse is the best way to find a solution, everyone knows it isn't easy for a victim to



open up. Parents can create an open, tolerant and caring home environment where every member of the family talks readily about the problems they encounter in their daily life and how they solve them.


Lead by example and share your feelings. Opening up takes time so if parents make it clear they don't have any, children will just clam up. For bullies and bullied, September is a time of high emotions, especially for those joining a new school or group. Parents and teachers can work together to minimise the stress these changes can cause, so that the "reentrée" is as happy a time as it can and should be.

Sabine Hutcheson is Academic Director and Educational Consultant at TutorsPlus.

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Property buyers hurry to dip into their pensions

More and more people are rushing to use the second pillar of their pension plan to purchase a primary residence in the face of high prices and limited housing stock. While this may give a boost to the economy, especially the property market, not everyone is happy with the trend.

There are three pillars to the Swiss social security system. The first is the basic mandatory insurance for all Swiss residents; the second is an occupational pension plan based on employee and employer contributions; and the third is a private investment option. When the second pillar is combined with the first pillar, a retired person could expect to receive about 60% of their final salary to help maintain their existing standard of living.

With interest rates low, some banks are limiting the amount of the second pillar that may be used to purchase property or towards paying down a mortgage. The Cantonal Bank of Bern reported to *Le Matin* that it no longer considers money from the second pillar to be "real equity". Other banks may be concerned that real estate is no longer the safe investment it once was and are warning clients not

to withdraw funds from the second pillar but to use it only as collateral.

The Swiss Federal Council has followed the recommendations made by the Swiss Banking Association (SBA) regarding self-regulation measures implemented by the banks. This means that property buyers cannot use their second pillar to fund the entire equity amount when purchasing a home. At least 10% of the funds must now come from another source or the third pillar.

Politicians on the left fear that using the second pillar to buy the primary residence before retirement may result in people using up their pension without taking steps to restore it later. On the other hand, politicians on the right (who are in the majority) are firmly against any ban on the use of the second pillar to finance home purchases.

Meanwhile, property prices remain high in Lausanne, and Geneva continues to face a serious housing shortage. The Cantonal Office of Statistics (OCSTAT) reported that 610 units were standing empty in Geneva in June this year, compared to 268 in 2013. OCSTAT said this higher number is most likely due to a lack of renovation



of housing constructed before 1971. All together, the cantons of Fribourg, Vaud and Geneva face a shortage of 2,500 dwellings for the next 12 months.

The Federal Office for Migration (FOM) reported that an additional 40,000 immigrants arrived in Switzerland in the first half of 2014, during a time when construction permits dropped by 10%. On the other hand, there is an excess of newly built homes in German-speaking central Switzerland, Appenzell and around Chur.

Pamela Taylor



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Entry requirements to high schools, colleges of further education and universities can be strict. Competition is tough and the risk of failure is a source of stress for students and parents alike.

Many parents are making increased use of private educational establishments to help their children pass exams, or study for additional qualifications. The region is well served with dozens of privately run institutions, such as École-club Migros, École Lémania, École Jeuncomm and École Roche. These can help school children pass their annual exams, secure places on apprenticeship and university programmes, or provide language training and adult education.

Such services are not recent. École-club Migros has been around for 60 years throughout Switzerland; École Jeuncomm for 30 in Lausanne. The lat-

ter trains and teaches over 1,000 students annually. Like any good school, it offers varying certificates aimed at students completing their compulsory education, or apprentices and executives seeking professional qualifications.

One of Jeuncomm's specialties is its Diploma in Business Studies for students who have finished school. As with other establishments, it also provides academic upgrading – known as “12ème de perfectionnement” – or job-readiness training, which prepares students for the work place.

Many schools offer a wide range of courses to adults, such as accounting, commerce, business writing, and secretarial services diplomas. Some, too, organize seminars aimed at business executives and managers. These are held in partnership with industry specialists, such as SAPHIR-DHS, a holistic development group, and SCAPER, a human resources facility. Designed



to develop individual staff capabilities, such seminars are offered as part of corporate education programmes. The courses can help keep teachers and facilitators up to date with current practices; in turn, these can benefit students themselves.

Based on employer or student needs, many establishments offer courses part-time and during evenings. So if you or members of your family are struggling, take heart. Help is available throughout the region.

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2	Adultery	Coelho, Paulo	Random House	Fiction Hard Cover
3	Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage	Murakami, Haruki	Harvill Secker	Fiction Hard Cover
4	The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden	Jonasson, Jonas	Fourth Estate	Fiction Paperback
5	The Goldfinch	Tatt, Donna	Abacus	Fiction Paperback
6	Be Careful What You Wish For (Clifton Chronicles: #4)	Archer, Jeffrey	Pen Books	Thriller
7	Buried Angels	Lackberg, Camilla	Harper Collins	Thriller
8	Swiss Watching: Inside Europe's landlocked island	Bewes, Dicoon	Nicholas Brealey	History
9	Look Who's Back	Vermes, Timur	Quercus Publishing	Fiction Hard Cover
10	Hard Choices	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	Simon & Schuster	History

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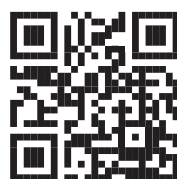
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MIGROS

Lifestyle

Magie du paysage russe

Masterpieces from the Tretyakov National Gallery in Moscow. This exhibition is on at the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne until 5 October.

Grab the chance to see this grand collection of Russian masterworks in an exhibition of landscape paintings from Moscow's Gallery at the Cantonal Art Museum in Lausanne till the 5 October. This is a treat for admirers of all things Russian – whether ballet, classical music, opera, literature or cinema – for they do them with such fervour and attention to detail.

Not only are the paintings fascinating, with that soulful and nostalgic Russian mood, but they also have been hung beautifully, in brilliantly-coloured halls done especially for this collection. They have been arranged according to themes such as the seasons, the forest, nocturnes, peasant

folk or even cityscapes. Some 70 works cover the rich, romantic period between 1855 and 1917, which saw the dawn of the October Revolution. These are paintings full of nationalistic pride and the wonderment of nature in the huge country that was their beloved Mother Russia.

'Magie du paysave Russe' is an exhibition that should not be missed; it is also an opportunity for young people to explore a different aspect of art and a Russia many do not know. Furthermore, this is a chance to visit one of Lake Geneva's most impressive art centres: the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts at the Palais de Rumine in Place Riponne, Lausanne.

First Saturdays of the month are free; otherwise, CHF 10, CHF 8, or free for under-16 year-olds. For further information visit: www.mcba.ch

Neptune Ravar Ingwersen



Le Corbusier on the lake

CORSEAUX Unless you know what to look for, it is relatively easy to bypass the Villa "Le Lac" in the village of Corseaux, near Vevey, with its views over the Alps and Lake Geneva. Yet this modest, one-story house, which the great Swiss architect Le Corbusier built for his parents, is arguably one of the key precursors to modern architecture worldwide. As Patrick Moser, who curates the site for the Association Villa "Le Lac", likes to put it, this is where it all began.

The villa, which Le Corbusier completed in 1924, occupies only 64 square meters, but it incorporates what were to become Le Corbusier's guiding concepts: panoramic windows, unrestrained inner space, roof garden, and an adjoining garden with a wall that frames the view on the lake. Although Le Corbusier's father died a year after moving into the villa, his mother lived there until 1960, and his brother Albert Jeanneret, an experimental composer, continued to occupy it until 1973.

After the foundations cracked Le Corbusier, whose inspirational works can be seen in countries from India to Germany, had the exterior covered with galvanized steel sheeting. At least one notable villager in Corseaux suggested tearing it down. Instead, the town hired Moser, an art historian, editor and expert



on museums, whose passion quickly turned the space into a pilgrimage site for architectural fanatics. "We have visitors from Japan," said Moser, "who come to Switzerland only to see this villa".

Moser, who originally intended to work for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, but took the job in Corseaux instead, is currently curating an exhibition on the work of Alberto Sartoris who, like Le Corbusier, was known for his radical architectural ideas. Located at 21 Route de Lavaux in Corseaux, the villa is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10h00 to 17h00. It will close for restoration on 7 September, but can still be seen by appointment. "We don't want a time machine," said Moser. "We want to show Le Corbusier's thoughts." Moser succeeds admirably at that, and a visit is an experience to look forward to. www.villalelac.ch, *William Dowell*

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Vevey-Montreux
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Lifestyle

Morges Literary Festival: Le livre sur les quais

“So many great voices float in off the clear, cool water at Morges,” noted writer Colum McCann, an IMPAC Award winner, about last year’s literary festival in Morges. This year, more than 300 writers will descend on this medieval town overlooking Lake Geneva for the weekend of 5–7 September. Le livre sur les quais has grown from a small local event to one of Europe’s main book festivals attracting over 40,000 visitors.

The festival offers events in French and in English. The organizers are keen to expand the global side of the festival. This year’s English programme is strong and far bigger than before.

Its schools and children’s section is also growing. Authors have always visited local schools, but this year the festival started working with Lake Geneva’s international establishments, such as GEMS Academy. The school’s new World Library and World Language Learning Centre will be inaugurated on 4 September with a series of literary events. Best-selling author Douglas Kennedy is giving the opening speech, with Caroline Lawrence of *The Roman Mysteries* fame talking about ancient times.

So what’s on offer for English speakers this year? The programme covers literary fiction, non-fiction,

crime and thrillers. Among the 30 writers from the UK and the US are Nathan Filer, 2013 winner of the Costa award, on family dynamics and mental illness; Philipp Meyer, 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist, on *The Great American Novel*; and Martin Sixsmith on his film *Philomena*. Louise Doughty, the current Richard and Judy Book Club finalist, will give tips on writing and will talk about her new psychological thriller; Val McDermid, the queen of Scottish crime writing and multiple winner of the Gold Dagger award, will discuss Jane Austen and her crime writing. And the local Geneva Writers’ Group will run a series of creative writing workshops.



As John Boyne, author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, sees it: “The beauty of the surroundings is only matched by the quality of the writers and the enthusiasm of the readers.”

Tasja Dorkofikis



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lenews.ch/route-gourmande-competition/



Cracking up

Things that go bump in the night

Every time I read an article about someone who swears they saw the face of Elvis in a piece of toast, I’m reminded of how good we humans are at putting random shapes into patterns, and trying to make sense of them. It’s what makes cloud-watching so much fun; it’s also what gave us the evolutionary edge over animals that peered into prehistoric forests and couldn’t mentally organize the shadows well enough to tell a sabre-toothed tiger from a hole in the ground. I just wish my children wouldn’t practice their pattern-making late at night, because it’s creepy.

For example, one dark evening when I was alone in our Johannesburg house with my then two-year-old, she looked out of the window and said, “Mommy, there’s a man in the garden.”

There are few words that will galvanise a Joburg-dweller into action faster, so, with the panic button in one hand and the telephone in the other, I turned off all the lights and peered outside.

“There’s no one out there,” I said, after a while.

My daughter agreed. “No. He’s in

here now,” she told me, pointing to a completely empty corner of the room.

It took several strong cups of tea before I’d let go of that panic button.

Another human skill – although perhaps one with less evolutionary benefit – is the ability to manufacture drama from absolutely nothing. Here, the best example I can think of is a reality TV show I once watched, about ghost hunters. (Yes, I know, but there was nothing else on). The presenter had, for some reason, to walk across a courtyard in the dark while her co-presenter, who was in radio contact with her, kept saying things like, “You’re a quarter of the way across and you’ve seen no sign of the terrifying ghost that haunts this hotel? No? Nothing? I hope you make it all the way without meeting the terrifying ghost...”

But nothing happened and she made it across safely. Despite this, the poor woman had worked herself into such a state that, by the time she reached the other side, she was a gibbering, sobbing wreck.

The reason I mention all of this is that I saw both of these things – pattern-making and drama-mongering –

last night, in our hotel room, with my children. It started when I moved a bag and cast a shadow on the carpet. But the bigger child thought it was something else.

“I saw something running across the floor,” she told me. “It went under the bed.”

We checked and found nothing, but she was insistent. “It looked like a mouse. I thought I saw ears.”

“What colour was it?” asked her little sister, ever supportive.

“It was whitish brownish blackish.”

By the time the children had finished discussing it, it had grown a puffy tail and whiskers, and was the size of a cat.

“Mommy!” the smaller child screamed five minutes later, pointing out the window. “I saw it on that tree-branch! It was glowing!”

This went on for some time, until the innocent shadow cast by my bag had taken on the properties of some sort of radioactive tree-dwelling vampire badger. Sleep did not come easily last night, to any of us.

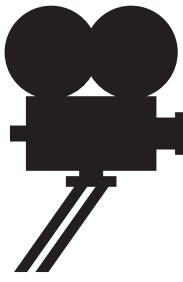
Anyway, I offer this as a cautionary tale to parents: don’t bother planning



an action-packed holiday for your children, filled with boat rides and days on the beach. If your children are anything like mine, it’s very likely that the most memorable part of their trip will be the one thing that they didn’t actually see.

Robyn Goss is a South African writer. Read her blog at www.robbygoss.com

Lifestyle



FILM REVIEWS

By Neptune

Summer has been mostly mediocre, both for films and weather. Some good ones have come and gone, unnoticed, as many of you were away from the city. These are the latest quality releases.

Finding Vivian Maier (A la recherche de Vivian Maier) ★★★

Ever heard of Vivian Maier? Well, we should have, as she was apparently a hugely talented photographer. Thanks to photo-enthusiast and documentary filmmaker John Maloof, we learn that this reclusive nanny was actually an avid street photographer during her free time, with tens of



thousands of photos and negatives hidden away in her belongings, found only after her death. Maloof and co-director Charlie Siskel take us into her intricate story and reveal her astounding photographs to the world.

Boyhood ★★★

Remember Richard Linklater, writer/director of the Before Sunrise/Sunset films? Well apparently he has also been filming the life of a certain boy named Mason – played beautifully by Ellar Coltrane – from age 5 through 18, and has gathered it all in this ground-breaking cinematic experience. In its two hours and forty minutes he spans 12 years of a kid and his

family growing up together, warts and all. Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette portray Mason's estranged parents, along with his own daughter, Lorelei Linklater, playing the sister. It's difficult to believe this is fiction, for this film has it all, seamless and so real, never crossing the line into sentimentality. Just life in 12 compacted years. Simply superb and unmissable! For this oeuvre, Linklater deserves an Oscar as best director.



Le rating

★ = Lukewarm ★★ = Average
★★★ = Very watchable ★★★★ = Excellent

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SALLE CENTRALE DE LA MADELEINE - GENEVA
Rue de la Madeleine 10 - 1204 Genève / Doors & Bar: 7pm / Show: 8:30pm

Tickets & Info: WWW.CAVEMAN.CH / info@caveman.ch / [starticket](http://starticket.com)
CHF 35.- / CHF 25.- AVS/Student

Mercredi 3 septembre 2014
Ouverture des portes & Bar : 19h / Spectacle : 20h30

Learn to live in the region

The International Women's Club of Lausanne's annual "Living in Lausanne and the Canton of Vaud Seminar (LIL)" will take place the 29th and 30th September 2014 at the IWC Clubhouse, Avenue Eglantine 6, in Lausanne.

The IWC has organized this excellent seminar every year since 1983. Open to all, it provides newcomers with valuable information relating to life in the Vaud region. Local experts share their knowledge and experience on a wide variety of practical topics such as healthcare, schools, seeking work, transportation, local activities,

Swiss history, culture and managing culture shock.

The LIL seminar is an excellent opportunity for newcomers who are settling into a new life, home and community to develop and expand their social network and to make new friends.

This is one of the easiest and most effective ways to get wired into life on the lake. It is advisable to book early as space is limited. Register on-line at www.aiwc-lausanne.org where you will also find information about the range of other services that the IWC offers to the international community.

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LE MISCELLANEOUS

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Mario Sonic Olympic Games Wii U

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Contact: Phillip Phone: 079 914 83 64 Location: Switzerland, St-Legier

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dragonboat festival

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face-painting used books
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Regional Events

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Geneva. Knie Circus

"28 August - 18 September
30 August, 9h - 12h - a free morning
with the elephants"

The famous 200-year-old Knie family circus returns to Geneva with its new programme, "David Larible - clown of clowns". Acts include horses, elephants, Korean trapeze, dancing dogs, tightrope walking and diabolo. The youngest member of the 8th generation of Knies, Chanel Marie (born in 2011), débuts this year in the traditional

"Maxi and Mini" act.
Plaine de Plainpalais, Geneva
Tickets CHF 20 to 75
www.knie.ch



Corsier-sur-Vevey. Chaplin Race

30 August, registration from 11h,
races start at 13h00

Every year the Chaplin race celebrates the legend who wowed generations of cinema lovers. The various race categories are named after film characters and participants are encouraged to run in fancy dress. Heats for the short Palme d'Or "obstacle" race, in which participants compete with palm leaves on their feet, start at 15h30.

Parc Chaplin, Corsier
www.coursechaplin.ch
CHF 20: 11 km, CHF 15: 3 km,
Palme d'Or. Free



Nyon. GAOS: Hairspray

29-31 August

Hairspray is a social commentary on the injustices of American society in the 1960s. Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on a local TV show. When she wins a part in the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight. She then launches a campaign to break down the segregation in force at that time. At the heart of the civil rights struggle is a black family who play a central role in the story.

Théâtre de Marenz
Nyon
Tickets: CHF 20
www.gaos.ch



Montreux-Vevey. Classical music festival

28 August - 12 September

For classical music lovers, the "Septembre Musical" festival is a highlight of the season on the Riviera. This year's program includes the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Russian National Orchestra. It is also the opportunity to discover the Youth Orchestra of Bahia (Brazil) and its talented young musicians.

Auditorium Stravinski, Montreux
www.septmus.ch



Lausanne. Comptoir Suisse

19 - 28 September, 10h - 19h
Wine cellars open till 23h

The countryside comes to town at this annual fair with more than 130 activities, 50 concerts, 400 farm animals and 480 exhibitors. See the cows being milked every day at 17h and visit the arena for equestrian demonstrations, team penning, pig races and more! Guest of honour: Swiss National Park, in its centenary year.

Beaulieu, Lausanne
CHF 14 (download voucher on website for 50% off)
Concessions CHF 7, under 12s free
www.comptoir.ch



Lausanne. Painting America

Until 28 October

The current art exhibition at the Hermitage Foundation is about the history of America in the 19th century. Several paintings are being exhibited in Europe for the first time, from famous US museums. There are beautiful landscapes and still lives, as well as portraits.

Musée de l'Hermitage
www.fondation-hermitage.ch
CHF 18



Geneva. La Bâtie Festival de Genève

29 August - 13 September

The festival of performing arts has spread its wings to include venues in Nyon and Lausanne, as well as neighbouring France. The Pink Flamingo is the hub in Geneva for concerts, installations, theatre, dance, DJ evenings, restaurant, cocktail bar. Check the colour-coded programme on the website to see what tickles your fancy.

Various locations
Pink Flamingo hub: Maison
Communale de Plainpalais,
Rue de Carouge 52, Geneva
www.batie.ch



Morges. Books on the quay

5-7 September,
Friday, Sunday 9h30 - 19h, Saturday
9h30 to 20h

"Le livre sur les quais" is an annual book fair in Morges with roundtables, literary cruises and more. This year it will host almost 300 authors, including some English-speaking writers such as Douglas Kennedy and Andy McNab. There are programmes for children and schools, as well as brunch conferences on Saturday and Sunday.

Lakefront in Morges, near the
château
www.lelivresurlesquais.ch
Free



Gland. Vintage Rock Night

30 August, from 19h30

Australian band "The Stiletto Groove" is an impressive group of musicians who have accompanied international artists touring Down Under such as Santana, Bob Marley and Men at Work. We guarantee a musical "blast" in a very special venue - the chosen recording studio of many great musicians. In aid of Fondation Kids with a Cause (Europe).

Dinemec Studios, rue de la Paix 3
Gland
Parking: beside Théâtre du Grand-
Champ, ch. de la Serine 2
CHF 20 on the door



Lausanne. BD-FIL comic strip festival

11 - 14 September, 10h - 19h
Saturday to 21h30
Sunday closes at 18h

Comic buffs are in for a treat with this jam-packed programme, including movies, discussions, exhibitions, book signings and more. Guest of honour Lewis Trondheim, who created this year's poster, plays "graphic ping pong" with Swiss cartoonist Zep, creator of Titeuf, on Saturday. See website for all the details.

Locations in central Lausanne
www.bdfil.ch
Day card CHF 15, concessions
CHF 10 Under 12s free



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Puzzles

5			3		2		6	
		3				2	4	
	4	8	5	7		1		9
3			1					
8	9	1	7					
4		7				9	1	8
1	3		4	6				
	8			1		3	9	
		2		3	7	4		

SUDOKU

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

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Sudoku: Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.- The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch
Codeword: Send us the three letters in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.- The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

1			7			9	5	
		9				3		
6					5		4	
				2	3	4	7	5
							9	
	1				9			2
9	8				2			3
				4	7	5	6	

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

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
Z			F									
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				X								

Spotlight

Air14 Payerne

So events are all too often described as "not to be missed". The truth? The Payerne airshow is not to be missed. The show is noisy, it astonishes and it literally makes everything tremble. When you watch fast jets manoeuvre keep in mind that you are seeing some of the world's most advanced technology being operated by some of the cleverest and most spatially aware humans alive. If you are tired of looking at the kids playing video games then take them to watch people doing "it" for real. Maybe then they will understand that maths and science can lead to a mind-blowing career opportunity and that "real" can beat "virtual" hands down.

The Swiss Air Force runs the event and this year it is celebrating its 100th anniversary with the biggest air show in Swiss history. The show is not just about fast jets. Vintage aeroplanes, aerobatic teams, legendary aircraft and famous aviation personalities will also be in the spotlight.

Although it isn't possible to have an air show without any noise or fuel consumption, the Air Force is planning it with Swiss consideration: the amount



courtesy of Air14 Payerne

of fuel used during the show will be about the same that would normally have been used during normal flight service. They say the biggest impact on the environment will be caused by spectators coming by car so they encourage visitors to use public transport or car-share.

The show is being held on 30 and 31 August and 6 & 7 September. If you buy tickets on the day be aware that it is cash only! They do take Euros. Tickets can be bought online – allegedly. I tried and failed, however if you live in Geneva it seemingly works.

Jeremy McTeague

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THURSDAY 4TH, FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2014

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Rue de la Madeleine 10 - 1204 Genève / Doors & Bar: 7pm / Show: 8:30pm

UPCOMING DATES IN ENGLISH:

ZURICH

4th October / 16th November 2014

COMEDYBÜNE WEISSER WIND

LAUSANNE

8th, 9th October 2014

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