

# le News

SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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Lake Geneva region

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## Turbo-boosting the region

To compete globally Geneva, Lyon and Milan need to cooperate.

**GENEVA** Following growing curbs on Swiss banking, the migration vote and last month's xenophobic surge in the European elections, is the Lake Geneva region taking appropriate steps to ensure a competitive economic edge? While both the cantons of Geneva and Vaud are increasingly pooling their resources – and ideas – it remains unclear as to whether there is a real borderless vision for a region that could

become more than just a slogan as the "heart of Europe". Speaking earlier this week at a British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce conference on what the region needs to do to remain competitive, the president of the state council, François Longchamp, considered Geneva at a historic crossroads with three key challenges. First, he maintained, Geneva needs to energetically develop its role as interna-

tional host, which dates back to the late 1800s. Clearly, this means the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations that are providing Geneva with its renowned humanitarian brand. "This challenge is cardinal for us," he said.

Second, Longchamp stressed, is the need for a fiscal climate that is "stable and attractive with an appropriate

**Continued on page 2**

Next edition Simon Hardy's best burgundies



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## This Week in Switzerland

Nearly a quarter of **Swiss citizens** would be willing to give their life for their country, according to a survey made by Swiss Public Radio RTS and international media partners on the occasion of the **centennial** of the outbreak of **World War I**. The percentage (24.1%) was higher than neighbouring countries France, Germany or Belgium.

An international research team led by the **University of Geneva** has found an **earth-like planet** with 17 times more mass than our planet. This "mega-Earth" is a unique phenomenon as the surface is made of rock; this was previously thought to be impossible as other planets with comparable mass are made up of hydrogen and helium. Researchers did not find any sign of life on the planet during their work.

The **Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities** (SIG) shunned the Supreme Court's decision not to punish anyone making a **Nazi** or Hitler salute, unless the person is "spreading racist ideology". SIG chairman Herbert Winter said "It should be **banned**" and is having "difficulty understanding the narrow interpretation of the [court]".

In the fight against **smoking**, Switzerland has the most permissive European law. Federal Councillor **Alain Berset** has restricted advertising in this area and proposes to **stop tobacco sales** to people under the age of 18. Health institutes led a survey of 400 stores and found that half of the stores placed **advertising** for cigarettes near the candy and chewing gum aisle – a main target for adolescents.



The inauguration of **Sami Kanaan** as the new **mayor of Geneva** took place this week. A member of the **Socialist Party** since 1988, Kanaan was elected to Geneva's City Council in 1997. He was director at the Department of Culture and Sport from 2005–10 and in 2011 was elected to the Administrative Council of the City.



## Boosting the region

**Continued front page 1**

support infrastructure." While Geneva already serves as the world capital for many industries, it is imperative to introduce a 13% tax rate across the board. This will also prove attractive to multinationals, particularly exporters.

Third, Geneva must deal more effectively with regional and national challenges. Foremost, he noted, are EU relations. "We are seeking solutions that are compatible with the migration vote, but also take into account what is happening with our neighbours." Longchamp maintained that one cannot ignore the fact that 70,000 French-side residents commute to Geneva every day bringing in over CHF 700 million a year in taxes, of which CHF 500 million goes to Geneva. While Vaud, which hosts 30,000 commuters, retains 100% of taxes earned, France is only granted one quarter of its frontier revenue, roughly CHF 200 million.

While most of these points were touched on by other speakers, who included UN chief Michael Møller and

Vaud's deputy director for economic affairs, it was clear that any long-term vision remains predominantly Swiss.

Given that Geneva is seeking to preserve its own countryside rather than build massively to absorb its own expansion, both Geneva and Vaud rely heavily on neighbouring France to assume their overspill. Yet despite talk of a "Grand Genève", including the French side, there is no dynamic overall approach other than occasional urban planning meetings with French counterparts. As a result, most solutions for dealing with the real problems at hand, such as growing traffic congestion and housing shortages, come primarily from within Switzerland.

While acknowledging that more needs to be done, Longchamp saw the main problems as the anti-Swiss mood, particularly in Paris. "France is severely weakening itself with its current fiscal, social and political decisions. Of course, this benefits Switzerland as a far more attractive place to invest in," he said.

*Edward Girardet*

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## Regional

# le News

WEEKLY SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

## Editor's comment

## The Lake Geneva region: The real heart of Europe?



Lyon – the largest city closest to Geneva – has long marketed itself as “the heart of Europe”. Whether this convinces investors is another matter. The Lake Geneva region has far more reason for assuming this role. For this to happen, it needs to become the pivotal hub of the “Lyon–Geneva–

Milan triangle”, as one Swiss businessman put it at this week’s British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce regional conference.

While the Swiss side has a lot going for it, notably one of Europe’s easiest airports, razor-edge innovation led by the EPFL, and an attractive economic environment, policymakers and urban planners need to think more in regional terms. They need to incorporate neighbouring France and even northern parts of Italy in this concept.

A far broader vision could dynamically transform this

“Greater Geneva” into the real heart of Europe. This means sharing plans for public transport and car access, as well as fairly distributed housing. It also means creating better-paying French jobs. Geneva’s State Council President François Longchamp recognizes the problems, but argues that Paris is partly to blame. He’s right. Paris acts as if the frontaliers don’t exist. One suggestion is to turn “France voisine” into a special economic zone linked to Geneva. It worked for Beijing, transforming the Chinese economy. The same could happen to France.

## Did you know?

Getting hammered by “les flics” for racing a red light seems fair enough in the thrust and parry of Swiss urban traffic. But did you know that if you fail to move forward when the light turns green you can also be fined? Simply put, the law says that failure to obey traffic signals is an offence.

So the light turns green, you have to move forward the 10 metres you can actually travel before jamming into the car ahead. You move forward, you stop and you now obstruct the crossing traffic. Horns are blaring, tempers flaring. You sit studiously avoiding eye contact with anyone, relieved that at least you cannot be fined for failing to move.

Edward Girardet, ed@lenews.ch

## EPFL’s cement discovery

**LAUSANNE** Ten per cent of the earth’s CO2 emissions are emitted by industrial processes related to the creation of cement. The widely used construction material negatively impacts on the environment at all stages of its production. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has now granted more than CHF 4 million to a project instigated by EPFL to accelerate the development of a new kind of cement, which substantially cuts carbon emissions.

The mix, developed in coordination with Indian, Cuban and Brazilian research centres, uses limestone and clay, creating an alternative to the widely used Portland mix, which produces 800kg of CO2 per ton of cement. Various tests have shown the viability of the product, known as LC3, both for producers and consumers. The worldwide availability of the components, plus the easy fabrication process, is deemed crucial to the future use of LC3 in industrial and developing countries alike. If successful, up to 40% of cement-related CO2 emissions could be reduced globally.

Christopher Woodburn, chris@lenews.ch

## Geneva’s low-key bicentennial

**GENEVA** Many expats often notice how low-key and restrained the Swiss are, whether at concerts or sports events, so it shouldn’t come as any surprise that last weekend’s bicentennial celebration of Geneva’s entry into the Swiss confederation was such a modest, even Calvinist, affair

No fireworks, no bonfires; not even the national anthem was sung. The costumes familiar to all who have attended December’s Fête de l’Escalade were hauled out for the parade and onlookers politely applauded as it filed past. Asked if there had been more



Geneva celebrates two hundred years of phenomenal success this year.

fanfare at the centennial celebration, one Geneva couple laughingly replied, “We don’t know, we weren’t alive then”.

Following his speech at Port Noir, the spot where Swiss troops landed in 1814, President Didier Burkhalter responded to a reporter’s question about what he considered to be emblematic of Geneva. “One could say that for the tourists it’s the Jet d’eau but I

believe nevertheless that it’s the UN, the Palais des Nations,” he replied. Many foreigners in the crowd clapped enthusiastically, but the statement left some Genevois puzzled given that the occasion was to celebrate their decision 200 years ago to join Switzerland rather than France.

Pamela Taylor,  
pamela@lenews.ch

## Solar Impulse 2 test success

endurance. Its solar cells recharge batteries in daylight making uninterrupted flying possible, even at night when the aircraft’s energy source, the sun, is absent.

### The limit is set by human endurance

The true feat of this demonstration couldn’t have happened without a build-quality that has used pioneering technologies to ensure optimum performances. Despite a wingspan superior to that of a Boeing 747-8, the aircraft weighs a meagre 2,300 kg. Its four engines are powered by

17,000 solar cells, which are built into the wing and provide the energy necessary for different flight stages. The aircraft’s ultimate challenge, an around the world trip, is programmed for 2015. Until then, ten more tests will be carried out.

Christopher Woodburn,  
chris@lenews.ch



Photo courtesy of SolarImpulse

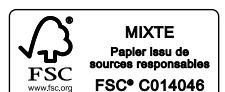
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## National

# New anti-immigration initiative

Switzerland's conservative UDC party, which launched the *controversial* initiative to curb mass European immigration last February, is contemplating a new initiative. In an official statement, the party said it would seek to ensure the Federal Council "annuls the agreement with the European Union on the free circulation of people" as required by its initiative.

*For Geneva UDC MP Yves Nidegger, "Doing nothing would not be appropriate."*

The UDC suspects that Bern is trying to avoid implementing the vote, which it must do within three years. However, given talk of a counter-initiative by centre and left-wing parties, UDC officials believe the Council may resort to cosmetic changes. Encouraged by the right-wing surge in the recent EU elec-

tions, the party's strategy would open a new front against Bern.

According to 24 Heures, this includes President Burkharter, who has proposed a vote in 2016 to renew institutional relations with Brussels. This, the UDC argues, is being presented as an either/or between bilateralism and isolationism.

For Geneva UDC MP Yves Nidegger, "Doing nothing would not be appropriate."

While a new anti-immigration referendum cannot be launched in time for the 2015 federal elections, the UDC plans to keep up the pressure. But this may not prove easy.

The right-wing parties are suffering from their own internal divisions, and other groups who view the UDC as "authoritarian" are moving to neutralize the 9 February vote through better use of the democratic process.

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## Moving to Sustainable Development Goals

**GENEVA** Given the world's failure to eradicate poverty and hunger by 2015, governments and development specialists are seeking a new continuum with a greater emphasis on sustainability. According to a 23 May Geneva Environment Network roundtable, the new Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, should fully integrate environmental concerns since health, food security and other crucial issues are all linked.

"The scalability and success of these goals remain to be seen," noted Hans Herren of the Millennium Institute. Much will depend on longer-term thinking and whether the world is willing to develop more efficient "green economies", including effective use of tools to design more sustainable strategies. "The vehicle is almost ready, but there has to be greater emphasis on using this toolbox for when things breakdown," he said.

Participants, who included both government and environmental representatives, maintained that "time is running out" as more irregularities emerge in weather patterns and heat levels. Change can only happen with broader mainstream appeal combined



with more integrated approaches and a renewal of national commitments. UNEP's Sheng Fulai argued that the green economy is the only effective vehicle for moving forward, but needs four wheels: clean technology, natural capital, human resources and social institutions. The public, too, must become more aware with the media playing a critical role. For IUCN's Connie Martinez, grassroots movements are "popping up", but their voices need to be heard.

Priyash Bista, priyash@lenews.ch

## Promoting health & family planning globally

Switzerland's Federal Council has submitted a report emphasising the country's commitment to promote health and sex education in developing countries. The report focuses on the importance of sexual and reproductive health for the future of global development.

Prior to 1994 most programmes emphasized the need for governments to impose family planning measures and distribute free contraceptives. This approach however, proved to be ineffective, and in recent years Swiss government planning has shifted to confronting poverty, encouraging gender equality and enhancing women's education.

These activities have helped tackle health and sex education issues in a more positive and effective way.

To help develop its programme to control population growth, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's health programme now includes preventive health care and access to health care. It aims to create the basic conditions necessary to allow people to decide whether they want to have children, and if so, when and how many.

Emily Theytaz, emily@lenews.ch



## Business & Economy

# ICRC and Nestlé awarded for great organizational coaching

**GENEVA.** In front of hundreds of coaches and business managers, the International Coaching Federation jointly presented ICRC and Nestlé with its prestigious ICF Prism Award for outstanding organizational coaching programmes.

Awarded globally since 2007, it recognizes programmes that fulfil rigorous professional standards and yield measurable positive impact.

Coaching differs from therapy, consulting, mentoring, or training. According to ICF Switzerland's Nathalie Ducrot, coaching is defined as "partnering with clients in a creative process that inspires them to maximize potential." It also often benefits top managers, many of whom find themselves without confidants and stressed by high level responsibilities.



The ICRC's Cynthia Breiter explained the benefits of its programme. "Participants found in their coaches a relevant partner for making sense of their assessments, for challenging them and improving their self-awareness, enabling them to cope better with increasing uncertainty and rapid change, especially in the field."

Nestlé, which has been building awareness and encouraging coaching

since 2009, ambitiously plans to involve some 300,000 managers worldwide. For Séverine Jourdain, head of coaching, "there is a direct correlation between personal and professional development". She also sees it as a performance accelerator and opportunity for individual improvement.

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### Swiss managers working longer hours

Swiss senior managers worked slightly longer hours in 2013 – up 0.2% from previous years. Absences due to ill health, the major cause of absenteeism, increased by 3% with workers in the transport sector increasing the time they took off sick by 4%.

### Davos hotel bankruptcy

Nicknamed the Golden Egg due to its façade, the Davos Intercontinental is one of the largest and most prestigious hotels in eastern Switzerland's alpine region. Promoted as the last word in luxury, the hotel's management filed for bankruptcy this week, a mere six months after opening amid allegations of mismanagement and poor promotion. Employing nearly 200 people, the operations of the hotel are being taken over by local operator Werwald, which, it is understood, will continue to employ the staff having taken over the lease of the hotel.



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## Insight

# Keeping business accountable

**BERN** The Federal Council has warned Swiss companies operating in developing countries that they must do more to ensure the protection of human rights and the environment, otherwise the government may step in. The matter is expected to go before the parliament in September. The 28 May Council report was in response to a petition by Droits Sans Frontières/Rights Without Borders (DSF) seeking greater transparency and responsibility from Swiss multinationals abroad, whether Glencore in the Congo, Holcim in Guatemala or Nestlé in Africa. Representing 50 human-rights groups, including Amnesty International, DSF applauded the Council for recognizing the problem, but deplored the absence of recommendations for binding regulation.

DSF member Bread for All, a Protestant charity that has been working with developing countries for more than 50 years, launched the petition in 2011. According to spokeswoman Chantal Peyer, this followed an influx of mining and extraction industries and commodities traders that opened headquarters in Switzerland for fiscal reasons. "A lot of research by NGOs revealed that some of these companies had quite troubling human-rights records abroad," said Peyer. The Swiss multinationals concerned include commodities giant Glencore, the agribusiness leader Syngenta, the pharmaceutical producer Roche, and food and water company Nestlé, based in Vevey. Another DSF member, Bern-based Alliance Sud, which lobbies for Switzerland's



major development agencies, also welcomed the report and called attention to the part that said, "Assuming that Switzerland should adopt a combination of binding and non-binding measures in this field, we recognize that Switzerland has a responsibility to actively promote the implementation of human rights and environmental protection." The big question is whether parliament will agree to any binding requirements. Many Swiss politicians and businesses feel such measures should be voluntary and point to their own corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies. Human-rights activists with the Council of Europe, the OECD and the UN, believe voluntary approaches have not gone far enough.

Peyer pointed to the 2011 multinational studies by UN Special Representative for business and human rights John Ruggie, which called on governments to adopt more regulation. "Switzerland hasn't wanted to do that until now so this is the first time they've recognized the importance of human-rights due diligence. The Swiss government, for the first time, has accepted that there can be instruments for a legally binding requirement for companies to do human-rights due diligence," she said.

DSF members believe that Switzerland, which has, globally, the largest number of multinationals per capita, needs to do more to preserve its reputation as a location for responsible business. The European Parliament recently adopted a directive requiring

multinationals to report annually on their human-rights, environmental and social impacts, while the UK requires directors to consider – and publish reports on – the long-term effects of their businesses.

With the ball in Bern's court, Peyer is concerned that parliament may find it hard to get a majority. Despite growing recognition that companies may violate human rights, there is no agreement on how to address this. "The fear is that binding rules would create a competitive disadvantage for Switzerland." DSF, however, may have the last word. It could go forward with a popular initiative for an issue that, members say, already has widespread support.

Pamela Taylor  
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## Lifestyle

# The Lake Geneva region: A writers' pole for creativity

**MONTRICHER** Perched at the foot of the Jura mountains, the Maison de l'Écriture rises as a strident intrusion of modernity with its vaulting, white pillars, panoramic windows and perforated roof. Yet this is not the first time that a New Age phenomenon has imposed itself on the area. Back in the 1890s, when the Morges to L'Isle railway (BAM), was being built, the locals feared it would scare the cows and ruin the laundry. Hence, Montricher station lies a good two kilometres from the village.

The Maison opened in June 2013. Its purpose is to serve as a cultural hub for global writing by offering residential fellowships, readings and workshops, as well as hosting the annual Jan Michalski Literary Prize.

Founded by Swiss publisher Vera Hoffman in the memory of her late husband, Jan Michalski, it was designed by

Swiss architects to become "an ever-expanding 'city' for creativity, inspiration and debate". Resident writers will live in cabins hanging from the canopy. "The idea is that we will add more activities with the public very much part of this international initiative," said Hoffman, who also supports the Morges Literary Festival.

Writing, of course, is nothing new to the region, which has long attracted literary giants such as Goethe and Greene. Today, the tradition continues with initiatives designed to inspire veteran and aspiring authors, poets, playwrights and screenwriters.

Among the best known is the Geneva Writers' Group, which hosts a conference every two years along with monthly workshops, and also collaborates on other gatherings and readings. "Sometimes, writers find themselves

### Selected writers' initiatives

- Morges Literary Festival (5-7 September): 40,000 visitors, 300 writers last year.
- Zurich Writers' Workshop: eg. how to make a living as an author, writing fiction.
- Geneva Trade School: Free writers' learning exchange
- Universities of Geneva and Bern. Both promote writing
- Geneva English Language Library: monthly workshops
- Chateau de Lavigny: Annual writers' retreat
- Lavaux Literary Salon: ad hoc wine and words event
- WRS: Book Banter, weekly show with local authors
- Literary gatherings: Gstaad, Leukerbad, Zinal; other Swiss and French resorts.

alone, so we're trying to help put them in touch with others to share contacts and experiences, plus keep up with a fast-changing industry," noted GWG founder, Susan Tiberghien.

For author Jason Donald, who recently ran his first retreat in Saanenmöser, the region hosts an

exceptional variety of global writers. Many are seeking ways of connecting, explained Donald, a Scotsman raised in South Africa. "There's no home-grown writers' scene as in Glasgow, but Geneva is like an airport with people coming and going, so there's a real urge to come together." *Edward Girardet*

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## Tax-free storage bonanza in Geneva

**GENEVA** Although the Guinness Book of Records considers the village of Mile tii Mici (population 4,500) in Moldova to have the largest number of wine bottles stored in cellars, the villagers may have to admit defeat to Geneva.

Les Ports Francs et Entrepôts de Genève (Geneva Free Ports and Warehouses Ltd) offers storage for all types of goods in a warehouse that has the equivalent surface area of 22 football pitches or, in simpler terms, 140,000m<sup>2</sup>. The goods stored range from high-quality Turkish kilims and modern-art paintings to priceless claret vintages. While Free Ports remains discreet, Syrian and Iraqi carpet dealers are known to be using the facilities to safeguard their wares from conflict.

The warehouse currently holds about three million bottles of wine. Why is that number so large? It's because the company offers duty-free storage for wine, art and other valuables. Its services, including security and fire protection technology, limit the risk of damage. Due to these factors, many international art collectors have decided to keep their masterpieces here. Art occupies more than

40% of the space. Switzerland is an ideal location to operate – it is stable, neutral, possesses top-class infrastructure and facilities capable of handling such high-value and often fragile goods

When the company celebrated its 125th anniversary last week it inaugurated a new art store, which will be seven stories high, with a surface of 10,400m<sup>2</sup>. Already 100% of the storage space has been rented out.

According to the Tribune de Genève, the company made more than CHF 23 million in 2012 and contributes CHF 10–12 million per year to the cantonal budget. At its anniversary celebration last week, chairperson Christine Sayegh, commenting on the massive demand for its services, told the Tribune de Genève: "We foresee more building construction beginning in 2018. There is sufficient space."

The Swiss Federal Audit Office recently noted concern over the impact these warehouses could have on Switzerland's image. Geneva Free Ports and Warehouses claims that it is strict about choosing its clients, yet there are suspicions that some may be storing their wealth for tax reasons.

*Emily Theytaz, emily@lenews.ch*



## Property

# Tenants happy – landlords not

**GENEVA** Those arriving in Switzerland to work, and those who have lived here for years, know well how expensive it can be to rent a house or an apartment in the Lake Geneva region – and that's if you are lucky enough to find something. Negotiating contracts and understanding tenants' rights may prove equally daunting, but there may be some good news on the horizon.

Last week the Federal Council proposed a revision to Swiss tenancy laws to ensure greater transparency and allow tenants to challenge increases. Henceforth, an official form will be required for each new lease throughout the country stating the previous rent and the reasons for any increase. A government statement said: "the project aims to improve transparency in the rental housing market, with a dampening effect on prices without creating physical restrictions on the lessor."

Seven cantons, including Fribourg, Geneva, Vaud and Neuchâtel, already have such a requirement when a new lease is finalized, but the new official form, which can be downloaded from the internet, must be submitted before the lease is concluded. Another change provides for a one-year notification period for any rent increase to guard against sudden landlord increases in the early years of the lease. The Council's statement said that rents can

no longer be raised simply by citing improvements, whether in energy efficiency or otherwise, "unless the tenant has been duly informed in writing before the contract is concluded".

Asloca, the organization representing tenants' rights, is satisfied with the proposed revision, but Christian Dandrès of Asloca Geneva noted that in the Suisse romande it will affect mainly the cantons of Jura and Valais; the other four cantons have had this requirement for several years. "We are pleased that there will be greater transparency for tenants, especially foreigners, who may not understand their rights. While we in Geneva have access to free legal assistance in such matters, many tenants are nevertheless reluctant to take legal action to challenge an unjustified rent increase." He also pointed out that other cantons, such as Valais, do not provide free legal assistance in such cases.

The revisions in the existing law apply to residential property only and must be approved by parliament. According to the official statement, the obligation to use the new formula to communicate rent increases "will apply regardless of the existence or not of a housing shortage".

Not surprisingly, the housing federation for Suisse romande, Fédération romande immobilière (FRI), is not so



Parliament has yet to approve the new law protecting tenants.

pleased with the proposed revisions. "It is foolish to make it mandatory for the entire territory of Switzerland to use an official form indicating previous rent, even in cantons not facing a housing shortage," it said in a statement. The FRI also finds that the proposal does not take into consideration the costly requirement for rental agencies and landlords to provide greater energy efficiency in order to meet the goals of Switzerland's 2050 Energy Strategy.

Given that Geneva alone is predicted to require 50,000 more housing units by 2040, there is concern among

some urban planners. Dr Sara Carnazzi Weber, a Credit Suisse researcher, told a British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce conference that what the Lake Geneva region needs to do to remain competitive is to have fewer administrative constraints that hinder new residential construction, in a market still marked by extreme shortage. The cantons and interested parties have until 30 September 2014 to address their concerns before the law is submitted to parliament.

Pamela Taylor  
pamela@lenews.ch

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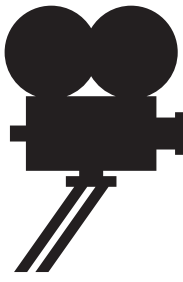
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GENEVA RELOCATION

## Film Reviews



### FILM REVIEWS

By Neptune

#### Cannes Film Fest 2014 III – The finale

Every morning at the festival, those in the know (journalists, market people or the wily groupie) can walk into any of the big hotels on the Croisette and pick up free daily glossies that catalogue all the news and photos of the latest happenings at Cannes. They are an indispensable running history of the whole bash. With all that's written daily for 10 days in all those publications, how can one summarize the whole shebang in one column? I shall try.

So here's the third and final lowdown, from my vantage point, of this year's Cannes saga. First of all, I must mention how impressed I am each year by the organization of this massive festival. It works as smooth as butter, starting at the top, with the departing president, Gilles Jacob, who at 84 will be leaving a great legacy of almost 40 years of innovation. Then there is the all-important artistic director, Thierry Frémaux, who is everywhere all the time, introducing films, stars and events as if in his own backyard, relaxed, knowledgeable and congenial to one and all. There is the press group, headed by Christine Aimé and her hard-working team, helping the 4,000-plus journalists, when they can – there is a lot of grumbling, but the numbers of attendees are too huge to satisfy all.



Sophia Loren still looking glorious at 79

There is the even bigger *Marché du Film* team, and let's not forget all the guards, security people and cleaning teams (whom Frémaux asked to come up on the stage of the *Certain Regard* auditorium on the final day). Moreover, every film screening starts on time! Above all, there's the glamorous red-carpet parade of stars and celebs ascending the steps of the Palais every evening, with frantic bow-tied (obligatory) photographers and screaming fans on the Croisette. It's an incredibly well-run machine, and all its parts deserve due credit.

With 18 international films in competition and press conferences with the cast following each of them, it's all quite hectic. A master-class with Sophia Loren proved to be a wonderful interlude. As a special guest of the festival for her son Edoardo Ponti's film, *Human Voice*, in which she stars, she agreed to a Q&A with a moderator. Looking quite glorious for her 79 years – she herself announced that she was turning 80 in September – she started off somewhat timidly, but her inherent warmth and class came through as she watched clips of her old films with the likes of Mastroianni, De Sica and Cary Grant, nostalgia dispelling her anxiety. It was a lesson in the talent, perseverance, yet down-to-earth modesty of a legendary star.

You probably know the winning films by now – the Palme d'Or went to the Turkish film *Winter Sleep*, a 3.16 hour-long meditation on the meaning of life, relationships, poverty vs. wealth and the human soul, in a talky Bergmanesque-Chekhovian reverie that is more art than entertainment. As usual, my favourites were not in that line-up (except for Bennett Miller, best director for *Foxcatcher*), but it's well known that festival prizes often go to pseudo-intellectual, twisted creations, rather than to more digestible ones.

I would have given the Palme to Abderrahmane Sissako's poetic and relevant *Timbuktu*, about the tragic effects of Islamic fanaticism in Africa. Or Wim Wenders' magnificent documentary, *The Salt of the Earth*, on Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado, which should have been in the competition (it was shown and won in the *Certain Regard*). I would have given best actor award to the ensemble cast of *Foxcatcher*, especially Steve Carell, playing against type, as John du Pont. My choice for Grand Jury prize would have been the socially conscious, dark comedy from Argentina, *Wild Tales/Relatos Salvajes*, and not the limp Italian *Meraviglie*, which received it.

The other standouts for me were Ken Loach's *Jimmy's Hall*, about past Irish Catholic tensions (which strangely mirror much of what is going on today in the Middle East), and *The Search*, a strong anti-war film concerning Chechnya, from Michel

Hazanavicius (who last made the award-winning *The Artist*). I would warn you against Cronenberg's *Maps to the Stars*, an utterly sick, perverse view of Hollywood – one walks out feeling soiled for having watched it.

This year was actually a good cru, with a mostly westward-looking line-up. However, Cannes is not a festival for the public (except for the free nightly screenings of classic films on the beach, weather permitting), but a huge engine for the stars, press and the cinema industry, a launching pad for their products. It hits you daily, seeing the stream of people standing outside the Palais holding signs asking for tickets to the films. Without accreditation, there is no way you can get into the bunker, as the Palais is called, or the tented village along the sea with the multitude of national pavilions which have their terraces facing the beach, often hosting cocktail parties at the end of the day. Cannes is simply a grueling – and glorious – three-ring-circus for insiders celebrating the 7th art.

So if you want to see films easily or approach the stars, better attend festivals such as Locarno in August or Zurich in late September. They may be less glamorous, but are less hassle and really public-friendly. We are, after all, well-placed here in Switzerland.

Neptune, [neptune@lenews.ch](mailto:neptune@lenews.ch)



Wim Wenders acknowledging a standing ovation for his documentary, "The Salt of the Earth".

## Chez Vous

### Cracking up

# Talking About Evolution

These last few weeks have seen something of a regression in my family, all the way back to our days in the cave.

It started when the children watched *The Croods*, which is a very sweet (if completely factually inaccurate) story about the last Neanderthal family and their moment of personal evolution.

The older child in particular is very taken with the glamour of Cave Life, and has embraced it enthusiastically by renaming herself Eep and refusing to walk upright. Instead, she prefers to shuffle along on her knuckles, and jump on the furniture.

The problem is, the spirit may be Neanderthal but the musculature is definitely Cro-Magnon. As I watched her vault over the couch and crash headfirst onto the floor, I wondered, "How did we ever make it?" I don't mean, "How did we evolve?" I mean ...

how did we even survive? Because small children seem hellbent on destroying themselves. They're forever running into roads, throwing themselves out of windows, climbing up things, apparently with the express purpose of falling off and breaking a limb. Every second week my husband and I seem to be plucking one or other child from the jaws of death. And that's in a relatively safe modern world. How did caveparents keep these soft little snacks away from sabre-toothed cats and cave bears? How did they stop their small explorers from toddling into tar pits? Or throwing themselves joyfully into Megalodon-infested waters?

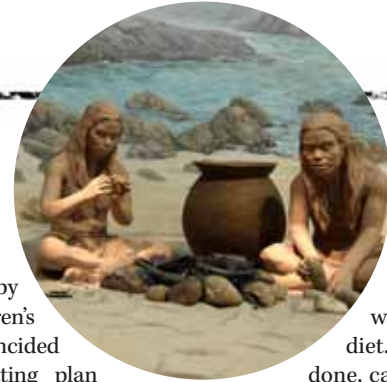
Anyway, once I'd sorted my little Neanderthal out, wiped away her tears and complimented her on her newly-sloping forehead, I headed into the kitchen to make dinner, where my admiration for our ancestors only increased.

Completely by chance, the children's devolution has coincided with my new eating plan which is, it seems, prehistoric. In an attempt to turn my own clock back and recapture my youthful vigour, I'd decided to lay off the processed foods for a while. I hadn't given this diet a name. If I had, I'd have called it ... I don't know ... maybe, 'Healthier'. But a friend who knows these things immediately identified it as the Paleo diet.

"It's the way our ancestors ate," she pointed out.

Not my ancestors, I countered. Some of mine were notoriously fond of cream buns and vetkoek. Family legend tells of a great aunt who once held the title of Fattest Woman in South Africa.

"Not those ancestors," said my friend. "Our Palaeolithic ancestors. They lived on fruit, vegetables, meat and nuts."



I won't bore you with the details of my diet. Suffice to say well done, cavepeople, for surviving without pasta, chocolate and strong coffee in the morning. I'm certainly struggling.

Actually, well done, cavepeople, for all of it: for sloping off to hunt and gather every day, even when it was cold and rainy outside and you'd rather have stayed in bed; for keeping your cave babies safe; for dodging all the Terror Birds and the Giant Ripper Lizards; well done for keeping our species alive and thank you very much for evolving. I'm sure we'll do as good a job of moving humankind forward for the next 100 000 years. Of course we will.

*Robyn Goss is a South African writer, recently moved to Switzerland. You can read her blogs at [www.roblyngoss.com](http://www.roblyngoss.com). [Robyn@lenews.ch](mailto:Robyn@lenews.ch)*

# So you have a mentor, now find a sponsor

Finding a great job that allows you to show your talent, obtain satisfaction and put your career on the success track is many people's dream. Today that dream is becoming increasingly hard to pursue, with the economic crisis preventing many employers from hiring and a consequently disproportionate increase in competition for the few available places.

So, many people are choosing to stay put to try to maximize their experience so they can improve their prospects down the line. You may already have benefited from a mentor, someone capable of inspiring you and from whom you can learn. Although finding the right mentor can be valuable, there is sometimes a risk that you can be "mentored to death". But if your mentor proves to be a proper sponsor, this could make all the difference and allow your career to take off.

This is something that Eleanor Tabi Haller-Jorden, president of The Paradigm Forum GmbH (TPF) – a global think tank and consultancy focused on creating innovative workplaces – is passionate about, as she explained at a recent Lake Geneva branch of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) conference. "Research into this started in 1993 and today it still shows that doing a good job not enough. In particular, women who assume that meritocracy is alive well in the workplace all too often find that the key to career advancement is not who you know but who knows you," she said. So what is the crucial difference between mentoring and sponsorship? Having a mentor basically means having someone to advise you and act as a sounding board; it tends to hap-

pen more frequently – regardless of gender or job position. Finding the right sponsor means finding someone willing to invest in your career and stand as a guarantor for you and your merits and your capabilities. "Mentoring is definitely valuable and can teach you a lot," Haller-Jorden explained, "but at the end of the day you really need somebody who will open doors, be an active promoter of your talent and who will ensure that you don't get lost." In fact, she pointed out that social studies show is that much men's mentoring turns into a sponsorship, but the same does not apply for women. "Women's priorities are often presumed to be just reconciling work and family and so they can end up being over-mentored but under-sponsored."

"One of the benefits of sponsorship is to get you and your talent better known, especially for women who aim to reach a leadership position, where stereotypes abound about the process of engaging in a professional relationship. This is sometimes confirmed when women find themselves in a leadership position without being properly prepared," said Haller-Jorden. "Working with women's organizations like OWIT is important. I think many women are hungry for new perspectives based on facts and evidence-based research to dispel some of the speculation out there. A study I was involved a while ago showed that many women feel uncomfortable about showing what they can do, especially when this might mean questioning leadership."

According to research and social experiments conducted in companies, respect of hierarchy is the main factor preventing people from showing their talent or even discovering it. "To get to sponsorship



we should not be afraid to show our aspirations, even if based on gender differences," said Haller-Jorden.

More than 60% of women at the conference noted they had had a mentor, but that this rarely turned into sponsorship afterwards. Sharing and learning through other people's experience can be a valuable first step towards finding a sponsor and sometimes to finding out more about yourself and your skills. Organizations like OWIT aim to enable professional women to expand their networks. "I think attending these kinds of seminars and sharing personal and professional experience with other people enables you to better know yourself and to find out more about how to enhance your talent and your skills. And in this case it could be a good opportunity to find a good sponsor as well," said Nasya Dimitrova co-president of OWIT Lake Geneva.

Networking and mentoring have long been essential for professional advancement, but nowadays having a sponsor – somebody willing to bet on you – is increasingly necessary.

*Cristina Otero, [cristina@lenews.ch](mailto:cristina@lenews.ch)*

## Travel

# Zinal: A little known gem

As I drive up the long winding road to Zinal, I can't help but feel I'm leaving civilization behind. I couldn't be happier. Zinal is a small, relatively unknown village, hidden deep in the valley of the Val d'Anniviers, situated two and half hours away by car from Geneva. It has a population of 150 year round, increasing in the winter to up to 2,000 with visitors coming to enjoy the slopes. While most experience Zinal during the winter, I've found it's a hidden gem in the summer.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Zinal, with its five peaks, including the Matterhorn, towering above 4,000m, boasts over 20 hiking trails. They vary in difficulty and length and, while the walk to the Sentier des Clautis may take a mere hour, the trek to the Cabane de Tracuit can take a good five hours. The views are exquisite no matter where you're walking, even if you decide to take the cable car to skip most of the hike up and ride a scooter down. For those who dare, Europe's highest bungy-jump, which plummets 200m down a canyon, is nearby and ziplining, parapenting, escalading, and via Ferrata are available in close proximity.

This summer Zinal and the Val d'Anniviers will hold multiple events that include alphorn concerts, artisanal markets, literature and music festivals, Swiss national day festivities and the famous Sierre-Zinal running race. This prestigious 31km challenge, held annually in August, is considered to be one of the finest – and hardest – mountain races in the world.

While you're welcome to stay in one of Zinal's half dozen hotels, or stay in nearby Grimentz, I prefer a rustic chalet built in the 1800's, Les Violettes,



Zinal grows from a few hundred villagers in summer to thousands in winter.

which provides a real Zinal experience. Valaisan specialties are available at most of Zinal's charming restaurants including assiette Valaisanne (an assortment of dried meat including ham, sausage, bacon and cheese all from the Valais), fondue, röstis, and croûtes au fromages.

Zinal maintains the premise that a simple life is a good life. There are no Starbucks, McDonalds, bowling alleys or movie theatres. The small village brings people together and while you're hiking, swimming in its indoor pool, playing tennis in the open-air court or eating at a quaint restaurant, you're experiencing life without Internet and are instead expanding your personal connections.

Emily Theytaz, [emily@lenews.ch](mailto:emily@lenews.ch)

### Top 10 best selling books of the week

PAYOT  
LIBRAIRIE

Rank	Title	Author	Published by	Genre
1	The Goldfinch	Tarrt, Donna	Little Brown UK	Fiction Hard Cover
2	Inferno	Brown, Dan	Corgi Bantam Paperback UK	Thriller
3	A Treacherous Paradise	Mankell, Henning	Vintage UK	Thriller
4	A Delicate Truth	Le Carré, John	Penguin Books UK	Thriller
5	The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden	Jonasson, Jonas	Fourth Estate Ltd	Fiction Paperback
6	The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair	Dicker, Joel	Quercus Publishing	Fiction Paperback
7	By Its Cover	Leon, Donna	Heinemann Ltd	Thriller
8	The Son	Nesbo, Jo	Harvill Secker	Thriller
9	Swiss Politics for complete Beginners	Cormon, Pierre	Stlatkine	Swiss History
10	Flash Boys	Lewis, Michael	Norton and Co Ltd	Finance Economics



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### LE PROPERTY

#### Beautiful houses for sale in Aire, Geneva

This project is composed of three villas on a large garden plot in the center of a quiet residential area. Only two left for sale. Each villa consists of three bedrooms, kitchen open on the dining room and living room, two bathrooms. 140 m2 of living space, 64 m2 cellar, 190m2 private garden and terrace, 450 m2 total land plot. 5 min walk from schools, high energy efficiency, Plan sale 1,650,000 CHF. Contact Mattias Innocenti +41 22 839 73 83



#### House for sale

Segny, France. Charming house (120 m2) for sale close to Geneva. 3 bedrooms, study, living room, open kitchen and 2 full bathrooms, mezzanine, garage, terrace and garden. Solar panels. Close to F bus. Contact Kasia Phone: +41 78 683 85 97



### LE PROPERTY

#### For sale in Crans-pres-celigny VD

Charming semi detached villa. 250m<sup>2</sup> living space, extremely well maintained. 4-5 bedrooms, large and bright living and dining room with fire place, high standard fully equipped kitchen. 1436 m<sup>2</sup> of an even level piece of land with a swimming pool and an equipped pool house. A closed double garage and 4 outdoors parking spaces are also part of this lovely property. CHF 2'850'000.00. 079 471 71 86. [rjn@transaxia.ch](mailto:rjn@transaxia.ch)



#### Property for rent

House to rent in Chambesey CHF 12,500 p/m - From August Recently renovated, light house of 305 m2 space with 1200 m2 garden surrounding. On 2 levels. 5 beds, office, salon, lg, open kitchen, verandah, second kitchen on lower level. 2 WC / showers and 1 WC / Bathroom. Garage for 2 cars, parking. Private road, views of lake/ Alps. Secure, green, quiet (no aircraft/rd noise) not overlooked & gd for kids. Excellent access for internat. schools, airport, UN. Access to Chambesey private beach, tennis / pool club. Low monthly bills. Close to rail /bus. Contact Lucy, Phone: 079 438 34 73 Location: Switzerland, Geneva



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Congratulations to Jeff Azoudis, winner of last edition's photo competition "Adventure".



The Downward Spiral

Jeff Azoudis

## Regional Events

# le News

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REGIONALEVENTS



### Lausanne, Nyon, Geneva. Music, Music, Music. La Fête de la Musique

Lausanne 21 June, 5h30 - 02h  
Nyon 21 June  
Geneva 20 - 22 June, Fri 18h - 00h30  
Sat 09h - 00h10, Sun 10h - 22h

It's midsummer madness - free music of all genres, from contemporary to jazz to rock to classical, in three towns along Lake Geneva! Multiple venues, from sunrise to sunset and beyond.  
See [www.fetemusiquelausanne.ch/](http://www.fetemusiquelausanne.ch/)  
[www.nyonmusique.ch/](http://www.nyonmusique.ch/) (programme not yet released)  
[www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch)  
Free  
© Jean-Marc Humm



### Bex. Art Exhibition. Bex & Arts

1 June to 5 October Daily 10h - 19h

An open-air sculpture exhibition showing the works of 50 artists representing contemporary Swiss artistic creation on the theme of "Emergence". Wear sturdy shoes, as the terrain in the 7.4 hectare park is rough in places.

Parc de Szilassy  
Route du Signal  
1880 Bex  
[www.bexarts.ch](http://www.bexarts.ch)  
CHF 16, Concessions CHF 10

© David Gagnebin-de Bons



### Montreux. Children's Theatre. "Gourmandine"

9 June, 17h

Russian children's theatre group "Ville des Maîtres." Édith Angel's story of a good little girl, who defends human and environmental values. The story is about sharing to create a better world.

Château de Chillon  
Avenue de Chillon 21  
1820 Veytaux  
Free



### Vaud and Fribourg. Wine Tasting. Caves Ouvertes

Vaud, 7 - 8 June  
Fribourg, 6 - 8 June

What better way to spend, or at least start, a long weekend than wine tasting in the beautiful scenery of Lavaux or the Three Lakes region of Fribourg? More than 300 producers will be open in Vaud, with free shuttle buses provided from all the main stations in the region.  
Santé!

See websites for addresses of individual caves  
[www.cavesouvertes.ch](http://www.cavesouvertes.ch)  
<http://www.vin-vully.ch>  
CHF 15 for your tasting glass for a day



### Geneva. Music Concert. Vundabar

12 June, 20h

Vundabar is an up-and-coming band from Boston. This is a trio to be reckoned with - they started performing in their parents' garage and are now on their first European tour. The band name perfectly describes what they are. Wonderful.

Post Tenebras Rock  
Place des Volontaires 4  
1204 Geneva  
CHF 20

© John Erbach



### Villars-sur-Ollon. Hiking Tours

Tuesdays from June to October  
9h - 16h

Anzeindaz: the paradise of flowers and marmots. Join this hiking tour in the mountains to learn about the life of marmots and their favourite food - flowers. If these don't sound so appetizing, remember to bring your own picnic lunch. For shorter guided walks, for example, identifying edible wild plants, check out the website.

Villars Ski School  
Route des Hôtels 5  
1884 Villars 45  
[info@villarsski.com](mailto:info@villarsski.com)  
CHF 80, Concessions CHF 40  
© Sylvia Haye



### Geneva. Theatre. "Recherche éléphants, souplesse exigée"

21 May - 14 June

An old couple's kitchen table is wobbly. They decide to build a new table that the man's wife says should "be able to hold the weight of dancing elephants". He takes this seriously and hires several elephants to dance. A fun show, with British humour (in French) for all ages, from age 6 (under 4s not admitted).

Théâtre du Loup  
Chemin de la Gravière 10  
1227 Les Acacias, Geneva  
+41 22 301 31 00  
CHF 24, Concessions CHF 12  
© Elisa Larvego



### Geneva. LGB Annual Fair

14 June, 10h-16h

A fantastic day out for people of all ages. Savour traditional food and drink from over 30 different countries. Children's games and inflatable rides. Live music, entertainment and an art exhibition make this a great day to officially kick off the summer.

International School of Geneva  
62 route de Chêne  
1208, Geneva  
Free



### Lausanne. Concert and Visual Arts. Nuit des Images

Friday 27 June, doors open 19h30, concert 22h, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne  
Saturday 28 June, from 15h, Musée de l'Elysée

Friday kicks off with free concert by Rodolphe Burger and Rachid Taha, aka Couscous Clan, playing music from raï to post-punk. On Saturday, head for the convivial and fun garden party with the On Print book exhibition, activities for kids to celebrate Charlie Chaplin's centenary and, when night falls, 34 brand new projections by international artists on 6 screens.  
Théâtre de Vidy, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne  
[www.nuitdesimages.org](http://www.nuitdesimages.org). Free



### Prangins. Art Exhibition. Paper Cutting

15 June-28 September, 10h - 17h

The Swiss National Museum and Swiss Association of Silhouette Enthusiasts are organising a truly unique presentation of the traditional art of paper silhouette making. The exhibition includes historical paper cutting and wonderful examples of the art form. There are découpage workshops, live music, animated movies and more.

Swiss National Museum  
Château De Prangins  
1197 Prangins  
Free  
CHF 10, under 16s free  
Photo: Edith Müller-Crapp



## LA BODEGA DU TERROIR GALICIEN

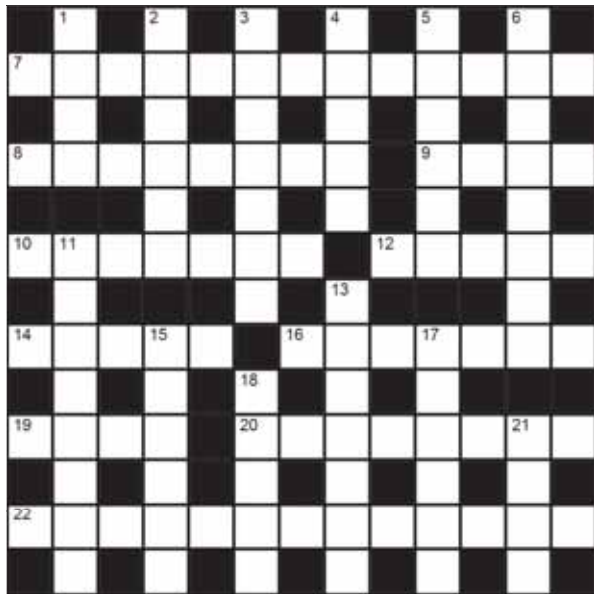
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# Puzzles



## QUICK CROSSWORD

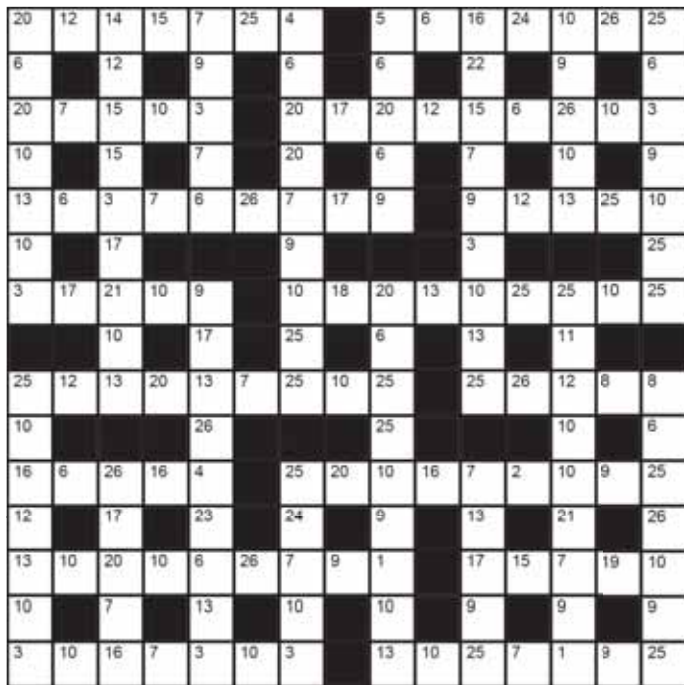
**ACROSS**

- 7 Britannica knows all (13)
- 8 Oriented toward the south (8)
- 9 Emitting or reflecting very little light (4)
- 10 A vine or plant that readily grows up a support (7)
- 12 Medicines or Narcotic substances (5)
- 14 The way something is (5)
- 16 Estimates (7)
- 19 A whole individual unit (4)
- 20 Particular to a given individual (8)
- 22 A promotion (13)

**DOWN**

- 1 Keen on (4)
- 2 A complex of methods or rules (6)
- 3 Snoozer (7)
- 4 A tournament in which anyone may play (5)
- 5 Easy to cut or chew (6)
- 6 Conversation (8)
- 11 Freedom from normal constraints (8)
- 13 Cockcrow (7)
- 15 Ability to absorb Considerable energy before cracking (6)
- 17 Tempestuous (6)
- 18 Malevolence by virtue of being malicious (5)
- 21 The daughter in-law of your uncle's father (4)

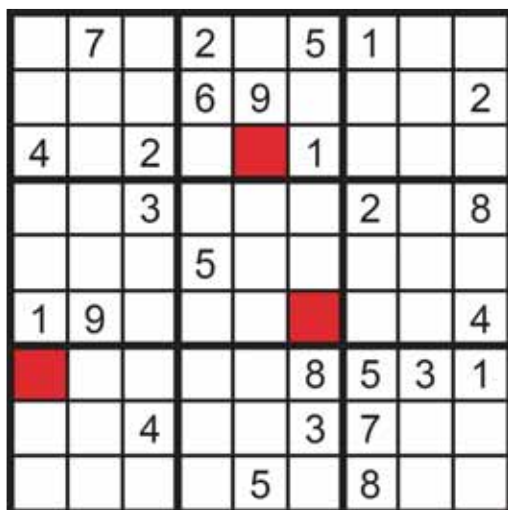
Last edition's solution



## 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
G				J								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						P						



## SUDOKU

Easy

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

## Spotlight

### Caribana Music Festival

The Annual Caribana Music Festival is back from 4 – 8 June and this year. It boasts an array of talent from arena sell-out performers to up and coming DJ's from around the world. With three stages and over 40 performers, some of this year's big acts include Jessie J, Passenger, Bastian Baker and Youssoupha.



*On Saturday night, Swiss teenage heartthrob Bastian Baker will headline*

While Caribana is not as big as some other Swiss music festivals, it offers a certain charm. Caribana takes place on the lake in Crans-Pres-Celigny, and while you're listening to the live music you can enjoy a wide variety of food. Friday and Saturday are the big nights and this year French rapper, Youssoupha, who received huge praise for his single "On Se Connait", will perform on Caribana's Main Stage along with chart topping English singer, Jessie J. On the smaller Lake Stage, up-and-coming DJ, Naughty Boy, will hopefully play his

signature song "La La La", featuring Sam Smith.

On Saturday night, Swiss teenage heartthrob Bastian Baker will headline the main stage along with Passenger, who is most known for his hit "Let Her Go." Swiss band Kadobostany will then take to the Lake Stage to perform their irresistibly catchy set. Sunday is known as "Caribateens," which offers young bands from around the area the opportunity to perform. Ticket prices for adults are CHF 83 and 22 for children. For the full programme, visit [www.caribana-festival.ch](http://www.caribana-festival.ch).

Emily Theytaz

**Win!**

**Sudoku:** Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: [prizes@lenews.ch](mailto: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 every second Monday will win. Email: [prizes@lenews.ch](mailto:prizes@lenews.ch)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Conférence-débat: Quelle approche collaborative pour relever les enjeux écologiques de demain?**

6 June 2014, 14h – 15h, Lausanne

Dans le cadre de la 4ème édition du G21 Swisstainability Forum, International Link et NiceFuture organisent une conférence-débat sur la question de la collaboration entre les mondes économique et politique dans le but de soutenir et valoriser notre économie dans sa transition écologique.

**Intervenants:**

- Fathi Derder, Conseiller national, parti libéral-radical
- Luc Recordon, Conseiller aux Etats, parti des Verts
- Corinne Lepage, Députée au Parlement européen et ancienne Ministre de l'environnement française
- Vladimir Mange, Premier expert romand Act-suisse

**Seminar - International social security**

30 June 2014, 14h – 17h30, Lausanne

International Link and EY are organizing a seminar to present the current rules governing international social security and to help participants better understand the risks faced by employees who are internationally mobile (expatriates, commuters, etc.). The seminar will help participants facilitate the management of this category of employees, both in terms of affiliation and coverage.

**Employment Law**

1 July 2014, 13h30 – 17h30, Lausanne

By the end of this half-day course, the trainee will get a general knowledge of Swiss employment law and be able to manage a team in a way that complies with legal requirements.

Please find further details on the CVCI website: [www.cvci.ch/fr/evenements](http://www.cvci.ch/fr/evenements)  
For registration, please email: [internationallink@cvci.ch](mailto:internationallink@cvci.ch)



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