

French President Nicolas Sarkozy Welcomes Heads of State to G8 in Deauville



©Frédéric de la Mure
Presidents Barack Obama and Nicolas Sarkozy, shown here with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

As political struggles continue across the Arab world, French President Nicolas Sarkozy welcomed heads of state of major economic powers to Deauville (Normandy) for the annual G8 Summit on May 26-27.

Issues discussed in Deauville ranged from the movements toward democracy in the Arab world, health and food safety, weapons of mass destruction and nuclear proliferation. The G8 Nuclear Safety and Security Group (NSSG), and the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (the G8 Global Partnership) both made reports to the leaders. The NSSG provided an update on the nuclear situation following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the Global Partnership spoke of its recent efforts to dismantle nuclear submarines, destroy chemical weapons, dispose of fissile materials and re-employ former weapons scientists. During the summit, Presidents Barack Obama and Nicolas Sarkozy met for bilateral talks, and discussed a wide range of matters of concern to both countries. Mr. Sarkozy asserted that France and the United States “completely agree...on what lessons to draw from the Arab revolutions...Mr. Gaddafi must leave, and Libyans are entitled to a democratic future.” Mr. Sarkozy also expressed the pleasure with which the French people welcomed Obama, “in particular the people of Normandy, who have...not forgotten all that they—and we—owe the Americans.”

The summit culminated with a Joint Declaration between the G8, the African Union, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa that addressed peace, security, governance, development and the environment. The G8 leaders also issued a declaration on the continuing unrest in the Arab world, and another expressing their renewed commitment to freedom and democracy.

Global Tech Leaders Attend e-G8 Summit in Paris

Many of the world’s brightest tech minds converged at the e-G8 summit in Paris on May 24 and 25. The meeting brought Internet leaders together to discuss the issues surrounding the web’s role in the global economy.

Organized by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, more than 1,000 “decision makers of the digital ecosystem” attended the forum. The high-profile attendees included Jeff Bezos (founder and CEO of Amazon.com), Mark Zuckerberg (founder and CEO of Facebook), Rupert Murdoch (CEO of News Corporation and Fox News) and



Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg responds to questions at the e-G8 summit.

Eric Schmidt (president of Google). Though held just before the G8 summit, the tech gathering was an independent event.

The day after the conference, the results of their discussions were presented to the heads of state at the Group of Eight nations summit in the Normandy town of Deauville. The tech leaders also pledged to draft a “declaration” which will put in place another meeting in October. The idea for the later gathering stems from the initiative of Eric Besson, the Minister of Industry, Energy, and the Digital Economy.

French Customs Dismantle Puppy Trafficking Ring



Traffickers smuggled 9,000 mistreated puppies into Vaucluse.

The French National Judicial Customs Service (SNDJ) dismantled a major puppy trafficking operation in May that they had been investigating for the last year. Since 2008, criminals smuggled some 9,000 puppies with falsified documents and health information from eastern Europe into France, according to the agency. The bust marks a major victory in the battle against the growing global illicit pet trade. According to Daniel Miglietta, the head of the SNDJ in Marseille, “the industry of puppy trafficking is expanding because it generates significant profit and there is markedly less crackdown on it compared to the illegal weapons and drug industries.” Traffickers involved in the operation, reportedly run by a mafia group, had not vaccinated the animals against dangerous diseases such as rabies. Many of the dogs also showed signs of abuse and cruelty, such as the removal of their tails without anesthesia. In some cases traffickers also separated the animals from their mothers before they had finished weaning. The puppies were then sent to a kennel in the southeastern French region of Vaucluse. Both the owner of the kennel and its veterinarian were taken into custody for their alleged involvement

in the plot. If found guilty, they could face up to two years in prison and 37,500 euros in fines.

The raid has helped raise awareness on the issues of both puppy trafficking and animal abuse more broadly. The SNDJ rescued 154 puppies and placed them under the care of the Animal Protection Society. Customs recently contacted thousands of owners who had unknowingly purchased the trafficked dogs to make certain that they receive proper veterinary attention and are being well cared for.

INSIDE

- 2 **Current Events**
Le Mans Auto Race Revs Up
- 3 **France & America**
Cognac Tasting at the Embassy
- 4 **In Depth**
Remembering D-Day
- 5 **Business & Tech**
Airbus Launches A380
- 6 **Society**
Bruni-Sarkozy Fights Illiteracy
- 7 **Culture**
Hot Air Balloons on the Rise
- 8 **France in America**
Monet's Water Lilies in CT

DEFENSE MINISTER UNVEILS DESIGNS FOR NEW CENTER NEAR PARIS



French Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Gérard Longuet, unveiled large-scale designs for a new "French Pentagon" in the Parisian suburb of Balard on May 4. The plans for the new military headquarters had been kept secret prior to the announcement. Architects Nicolas Michelin and Jean-Michel Wilmotte conceptualized the new designs, which will renovate older buildings as well as construct new ones over a space of almost 100,000 square feet—more than two football fields. The building will become the new workplace of some 10,000 agency staff. Due for completion by 2015, the sleek, spacious complex will serve as a cutting-edge new center for the fourth largest military power in the world.

FRENCH PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY RECOMMENDS NOT USING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

The French Health Products Safety Agency (AFSSAPS), France's equivalent of the Food and Drug Administration in the United States, issued a statement at the end of May identifying the dangers of electronic cigarettes, recommending that consumers not use them and prohibiting their sales in pharmacies. Electronic cigarettes came into use in recent years in part as a response to the ban on public smoking implemented in 2007. Though they don't emit harmful second-hand smoke like normal cigarettes, AFSSAPS warns that risks to the consumer are still significant. An electronic cigarette is composed of a battery, electric circuit, atomizing chamber and cartridge with a mouth piece. Cartridges can be nicotine-free or can contain up to the standard amount of nicotine seen in a cigarette. AFSSAPS identifies electronic cigarettes as a risk, both because users can become addicted to the nicotine in them, and because the risk of toxicity in solutions used in the cartridges has not been fully tested. An AFSSAPS press release stated that the amounts of nicotine may have "serious side effects, especially among children." The agency fears that the product might attract a variety of users otherwise put off by normal cigarettes, who may become "primary addicts" of nicotine.

Current Events

Legendary Le Mans Auto Race Shifts into High Gear

The 88th anniversary of the race 24 Hours of Le Mans took place on June 11 – 12, often referred to simply as Le Mans after its host city in western France. Organized by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO), Le Mans serves as both an annual sports car race enjoyed by millions around the globe and a testament to technological achievement in the field of auto-mechanics. Known as the oldest sports car race of its kind in the world, competitors drive more than 3,100 miles (over six times the length of the Indianapolis 500) over the 24-hour period.

Since its inception in 1923, the race has given rise to an abundance of traditions. One of the oldest involves starting off the race by waving the French tricolor flag, which is followed by a fly-over of jets which trail blue, white, and red smoke in



Cars race for the prestigious 24 Heures du Mans.

the open sky. Since the very first years of Le Mans, these two traditions have marked the beginning of the race.

This year Le Mans included 56 teams, each consisting of one car with three drivers. The car manufacturers that designed the high-performance vehicles included some of the world's finest brands, including Aston Martin, Audi,

Bentley, and Corvette. The renowned "endurance race" tests the abilities of drivers and pit crews, as well as how well the race cars can hold up traveling at speeds of over 200 miles per hour for an entire day.

Since its inaugural race in the 1920s, 24 Hours of Le Mans has been a driving force behind international sportsmanship, competition and automotive innovation.



Questions for Annick Suzor-Weiner, Head Counselor for the Office of Science & Technology

What is the role of the Office for Science and Technology, specifically concerning French-U.S. cooperation?

Our office works as a catalyst for scientific and technological cooperation between France and the United States. We serve to initiate, facilitate and reinforce interaction in these sectors, in areas as diverse as nanotechnology, space flight and sustainable development. Through a wide variety of means we provide tools and support in order that industry professionals can work together. We also maintain a focus on integrating young scientists into beginning and pre-existing projects.

Several of your operations in the U.S. are organized according to regional industries, such as agriculture in Chicago and the greater Midwest. How has this organization maximized the effectiveness of your mission?

This method of organization has in fact existed for a long time. Through it we manage our operations in our seven centers in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington. The locally-based organization enables what we call our "matrix" system, meaning that the teams are organized according to discipline and region. So in each of our centers, our personnel is best adapted to promoting France's scientific capacity in those areas as well as creating partnerships with local American science and technology institutions. Of course, a bit of every sector is present in every region, but the guiding principle of matching French capabilities to predominant regional interests has proven successful.

Your office oversees a number of partnerships with several leading U.S. universities in science and technology, including Berkeley, the University of Chicago, Georgia Tech, MIT,

Stanford and Texas A & M. In your view, why are university partnerships important?

Engagement at the university level is important because it allows for exchange opportunities among young adults, and they help in the launch of one's career. Toward this end we have a number of start-up projects, "incubators" for innovation and programs for young entrepreneurs. Specifically, we have development funds set up with Berkeley, Chicago, MIT and Stanford, toward which the school and the French government have each given \$1 million in combination with other private sources of funding.

The largest single budget item for our university partnerships is the prestigious Chateaubriand Fellowship. The Chateaubriand provides a stipend for a study period of four to ten months, after which the award's recipients may be eligible to receive a dual degree from their home institution and the French university where they spent their fellowship.

How do you see Franco-American cooperation in science and technology evolving in the future?

In thinking about the future, it is important to recognize the crucial role the science and technology play in the economy of our country. France has a strategic interest in maintaining its position as a world leader in these areas, so maintaining our partnerships with the United States is therefore essential. And there is a lot we can offer, including access to tropical areas rich in biodiversity and polar areas ideal for climate studies, as well as our resources for space research. France and the United States should and will continue our work together.

How can Americans interested in French science and technology find out more?

The best place to look for information is on our website, france-science.org. It features information from all major French public research institutions, as well as an interactive map of partnerships currently in place between France and the United States.



Hennessy Family Gives Cognac Tasting at French Embassy



Mr. Maurice Richard Hennessy explains his family's cognacs at a special tasting at the French embassy.

La Maison Française at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C., hosted a Hennessy cognac tasting on May 24 for local epicureans interested in tasting a leading brand of French spirits. Mr. Maurice Richard Hennessy, an eighth-generation descendent of Hennessy's founder, led the event, welcoming "savorers [and] travelers" to sip "Hennessy Black," "Hennessy X.O.," "Hennessy Paradis," and "Richard Hennessy." These brands are among the "benchmarks of excellence in the world of cognacs and icons of refinement and luxury," according to the company's website. Named after the founder, "Richard Hennessy" is a 100-year-old mixture of cognacs made during the life of each Hennessy descendent. Mr. Maurice Richard Hennessy explained to guests the origins, harvesting, and aging process of the different cognacs.

Made by distilling wine from the Cognac region of France, cognac is a variety of brandy that can be sipped "on the rocks" or used as a base for cocktails. Regarded as a classic drink choice of older generations, the drink has been gaining recognition among younger crowds in France and the United States, and has been referenced in popular music forms.

Cannes Soirée Raises Millions for AIDS Research

The 18th annual "Cinema Against AIDS" Gala at the Cannes Film Festival was not just another glamorous, star-studded party. On May 19 the bash raised over \$10 million for the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) and was "the most successful fundraising event in the foundation's history," according to the group's website. The night drew some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including Sean Penn and Rosario Dawson, as well as Cannes jury president Robert de Niro and jury members Uma Thurman and Jude Law. The black-tie occasion featured a cocktail reception and dinner followed by a live auction and several performances.

Guests bid on exclusive items such as vacation getaways and an Andy Warhol lithograph. Fiancées Prince Albert II of Monaco and Charlene Wittstock, a model and former Olympic swimmer, donated their time and expertise to provide the two top-earning auction lots of the night. One winning bidder paid \$500,000 for a round of tennis with the prince and another gave the same amount for private swim lessons with Wittstock. The Gala also paid tribute to the late Elizabeth Taylor, the Hollywood icon who was a leading advocate in the fight against AIDS. Janet Jackson told the audience that Taylor "lit the flame," and encouraged the crowd to continue to "carry the torch in the fight against AIDS."

Since its founding in 1985, amfAR has raised nearly \$325 million towards its goal of finding a cure for the illness. AmfAR money has funded research on treatment, prevention, clinical studies, syringe exchange programs and epidemiology. The group also focuses on public education and advocacy.



Rosario Dawson waves from this year's Cannes Film Festival

France's *Fête de la musique* Makes Noise All Over the U.S.

On June 21, musicians and spectators from around the world took to the streets for La Fête de la Musique, a cultural event started by the French Ministry for Culture in 1982. This free and public music festival is held annually on the day of the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere. Started as a way to showcase amateur and professional musicians in France, the event now brings diverse musical traditions to the public on five continents.

At the French Embassy's fête in D.C., Washingtonians enjoyed music from a range of local performers,



U.S. cities host *La Fête de la musique*.

including a woodwind group, a heavy metal band and a hip-hop act. Stages were built throughout the embassy compound, each named after a famous Paris music or film venue, such as La Cigale, Le Moulin Rouge and Le Grand Rex. Non-musical entertainment included face painting for children and performances by a fire breather and a professional hoola hooper. For hungry spectators, the embassy's staff served French sausage sandwiches on baguettes, crêpes, French cheese plates and wine, as well as snacks like cotton candy, called *barbe à papa* ("Daddy's beard") in French.

LANGUAGE TEACHERS SENT TO FRANCE THANKS TO CULTURAL SERVICES GRANTS

This summer, forty teachers working in French immersion schools in the United States will be sent to France for two weeks on grants awarded by the Cultural Services department of the French embassy in Washington. Ten are headed for the University Institute for Teachers Training (IUFM) in the north-central town of Rouen to enhance their knowledge of French culture and improve their teaching skills in courses and home stays. This follows an agreement signed last year between the Ohio Department of Education and the Académie de Rouen to create a collaborative partnership for educational exchange. Others are destined for institutions in Strasbourg, Vichy and Grenoble.

Participants will bring their experiences back to the United States, where there are more than 100 French immersion programs nationwide. The programs teach all courses in French, beginning in kindergarten, from French language to subjects like math or geography. Studies have shown that immersion students perform better in standardized testing than those enrolled in traditional schools.

FRENCH CITIZENS GROUP OPENS NEW CHAPTER IN SEATTLE

The Union of French Citizens Abroad (UFE) inaugurated a new chapter in Seattle on June 6. The newest group comprises the 12th division of the UFE in the United States and is run by a volunteer team. The division works with existing regional French associations and the regional French consulate in San Francisco to plan activities and facilitate contact with the French government. The UFE functions as a non-political public service organization whose mission is to support and represent the French community in overseas locations. The group helps French nationals acclimate to their new environment, connects members with other area French citizens and hosts cultural events such as traditional French dinners. The 80-year-old association has 170 chapters in over 100 countries. UFE Seattle celebrated its launch with a reception at Voxx Coffee the night of June 6. The organization welcomes French citizens as well as francophones and francophiles.

Anniversary of D-Day Showcases Franco-American Friendship

French Minister of State, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Alain Juppé bestowed the Legion of Honor – France’s highest distinction – on three American World War II veterans on June 6. The minister presented former U.S. servicemen Frank W. Bauers, Jr., Herbert G. Chandler and Harold M. Shapiro with the internationally known French award for their heroism on French soil during the Allied forces’ European campaign. Before presenting the medals, Mr. Juppé spoke to a crowd gathered at the National World War II Memorial about French-American friendship and on the sacrifices American troops made on behalf of the French. As onlookers watched in respectful silence, the American and French national anthems played and French diplomatic personnel laid a wreath dedicated to all veterans of the war.

The ceremony was held on the 67th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France, also known as Operation Neptune.

France was at that time under Nazi occupation after losing the Battle of France in the summer of 1940. Although many French citizens were in support of Free French Forces, a resistance movement led by Charles de Gaulle, the country had been taken over by Adolf Hitler’s troops and placed under the control of French army marshal and World War I hero Philippe Pétain. Allied forces, as well as those from Free France, spent months meticulously planning an assault to liberate France and defeat the Germans, a plot known as Operation Overlord, of which Operation Neptune was the beach invasion component. They chose June 5, 1944, as their initial date but due to dangerous weather conditions they pushed it back to the next day. The morning of June 6, Allied troops Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed his forces, declaring, “you are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months.” With these famous words, D-Day began.

June 6, 1944

Beginning just before dawn, no less than 160,000 troops charged the Normandy coast by land, sea and air in what remains the largest amphibian attack in history. Around 5,000 ships and 300 planes participated in the Allies’ offensive. The night before the attack, planes dropped paratroopers behind enemy lines to help secure the front, followed later by an aerial bombing campaign which dropped around 13,000 bombs on the coastal region. The airborne attack was the second-largest ever. Three American, one Canadian and two British divisions flew in to help clear the path for the troops on the first day, followed later by more Allied planes.



“You are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months.”



During the Normandy invasion, Allied forces disembarked from boats like this one before storming the coast ahead.

Allied commanders had strategically chosen the Normandy beaches as the location of their grand and dangerous attack mission. The 50-mile stretch of beaches was divided into five main points of entry, labeled Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword and Utah. The entire operation was a risky endeavor: no invading army had attempted to cross the unpredictable English Channel since the 17th century. The Allies, aware that the Germans would anticipate an invasion on the Pas de Calais region as the French point geographically closest to Great Britain, devised a clever deception plot to cover their buildup of forces in southern England. To distract enemy troops from their true target of Normandy, they pretended to set up for a Calais invasion as part of an erroneous disinformation maneuver called Operation Fortitude. Allied forces placed inflatable tanks and planes at sites poised as if to attack Calais. Until nearly the end of the war, the Germans anticipated a large-scale offensive on Pas de Calais—only to be surprised that it never came.

Although Operation Neptune was a major success for the Allies, victory did not come without a price. The assault allowed 100,000 soldiers reach land and fortify nearby villages, but 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded in a single day. After months of intense fighting, the Allies had a major triumph when, aided by Free French Forces, they at last liberated Paris in August 1944.

France’s U.S. embassy and consulates held a number of events commemorating D-Day. For more information, please see the website at ambafrance-us.org.



Nine thousand Allied troops were killed or wounded on D-Day.

France Remembers

Although nearly 70 years have passed since the liberation of France, French citizens have never forgotten the sacrifice of Allied forces for their freedom. France Remembers is one such project that stands as an example of the strength of French-American ties on a human level. Their goal, as expressed on their website, is to build “an online database of all French cities, towns and villages that have memorials to fallen Americans soldiers, including historical markers, streets named in honor of soldiers, [and] annual ceremonies,” an effort still in progress. Two Americans, Rita Richardson and Steve Schmoldt, were inspired to start the project upon hearing the story of the French town of Crouy that holds an annual ceremony to honor fallen American air force pilot Charles M. Peal. They found similar ceremonies and memorials throughout France, and made it their mission to acquaint the American public with this fact. In their words, “the mission of France Remembers is to make sure that all citizens of the world—especially Americans—understand that the French people do love and honor our fallen American soldiers.”

To learn more about France Remembers or to contribute information, please visit: <http://franceremembers.com/>.

La Rochelle Introduces Un-Manned Electric Buses

New electric buses have been helping French residents in the Atlantic seaside town of La Rochelle get around in a more eco-friendly way. Remarkably, these buses are automatic, meaning they run without a driver. As part of an E.U.-wide initiative called CityMobil, an effort to develop more innovative city transportation to improve safety, traffic and pollution throughout Europe, La Rochelle introduced the minibuses on May 12 for a trial period set to last through the end of July. The curious-looking, four-wheeled vehicles feature a curved roof, clear sides and doors and a yellow seating cabin.

The minibuses operate with a laser system developed by French research institute INRIA (L'Institut national de la recherche en informatique et en automatique) which allows them to detect and maneuver around obstacles. The machines stop moving immediately when they sense motion, such as a person crossing the street or another vehicle in their path. They travel 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) per hour and have no fee for use.

Deputy Mayor Maxime Bono expressed his desire to fully implement these driver-less inventions into the city. He cited among their numerous advantages the potential for increased night transportation for routes with fewer passengers for which traditional buses would not be cost-efficient.

For more about the CityMobil initiative, please visit www.citymobil-project.eu.



Experimental CityMobil minibuses shuttle passengers through La Rochelle.

It's a Bird – It's a Plane – It's the 49th Paris Air Show

The Paris Air Show, a biennial exhibition of military and civilian aircrafts, was held June 20 - 26 at Le Bourget Airport just north of Paris. Organized by the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS), the event is the largest of its kind in the world. For over 100 years, the event has fostered a spirit of competition between the top industry players that has led to numerous technological advances. This year, the show boasted 2,100 international exhibitors, 140 aircrafts, including one that is solar-powered, over 330,000 visitors

and an air and space museum. Top-level business meetings and flight displays took place alongside demonstrations of satellite telecommunications, weapon systems and airport equipment. Before the general public was allowed in, leasing companies made billion-dollar deals with manufacturers and airlines. The International Office of Air and Space (SIAE) made a conscious effort to reduce the noise pollution and carbon footprint of the event by renovating electrical work and hosting a new alternative aviation fuels showcase.

Air France Fêtes Launch of A380, Now Serving Washington

Ambassador of France to the United States François Delattre opened his Washington, D.C., residence to recognize the Airbus A380, the world's largest airplane, which began service to the capital in June. After a press conference with the CEO of Air France-KLM, Pierre-Henri Gourgeon, Ambassador Delattre hosted guests from the business, technology and travel sectors for a cocktail reception. The French Ambassador was pleased to celebrate the new Washington-Paris flight that symbolizes the strong relationship between the two countries. Said Mr. Delattre at the end of the evening, "the relationship between France and the United States has never been stronger," citing Franco-American cooperation on efforts supporting democracy in the Arab world.

The star of the evening, the Airbus A380, made its maiden voyage from New York to Paris last year, replacing two daily flights on that line. With the capacity to seat 516 passengers, the A380 is divided between first, business,

economy and a new class called *premium voyageur*, a step above economy. Despite the changes, Air France remains committed to maintaining its signature service—free champagne is still served in both cabins of the double-decker craft. The addition of Washington makes it the fifth global city served by the A380; other cities are New York, Tokyo, Johannesburg and Montréal.

The jumbo plane enables significant improvements in energy efficiency and operating cost reduction for Air France. Burning 2.5 fewer liters of jet fuel per passenger per 100 kilometers, and emitting 75 fewer grams of CO2 per passenger per kilometer, each A380 will save 15 million euros every year.

Air France-KLM Senior Vice President for the Americas, Patrick Roux, said

that the airplane will also offer innovation in the social aspects of the flight, with a gallery section where passengers can watch films produced by great art institutions in the two countries: the Louvre, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMa) and others.



The captain and crew members of the A380 Washington-Paris flight at the Ambassador's Residence.

FRENCH WOMAN GIVES BIRTH AFTER RECEIVING EUROPE'S FIRST OVARIAN TRANSPLANT

French citizen Karine Thiriot made history on March 8 when she successfully gave birth after receiving Europe's first ovarian transplant. The replacement organ was donated by her twin sister Stéphanie. Both sisters are affected by a chromosomal disorder known as Turner Syndrome, which often causes infertility. In spite of her condition, Stéphanie Thiriot had two children before donating an ovary to her twin, who was born without them. Before the operation, her sister had been trying get pregnant for ten years. Belgian gynecologist Dr. Jacques Donnez performed the transplant in August 2009, which he described as "the first such transplant in the world between twins with Turner Syndrome." Daughter Victoria Thiriot was born in perfect health and has not inherited the disorder.

VEOLIA INSTALLS "SMART" WATER SYSTEM

New "smart" water telemeters are part of a system recently put in place by French-founded Veolia Water for one million French citizens. The instruments record readings and transmit them by radio. They also help households track their usage by providing continuous measurement data, enabling them to reduce waste.

The United States has successfully implemented similar technology. For example, Schneider Electric's American consumers have been able to save on energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Both Schneider and Veolia are part of an international effort called the SWAN (Smart Water Networks) Forum, which creates solutions for reducing the estimated 20 percent water loss in systems in the industrialized world. Pascal Bonnefoi, a director of Schneider Electric, explained, "a smarter grid can improve energy efficiency while optimizing the process, whether it's drinking water or wastewater treatment." For France, deputy managing director of Veolia Marc Reneaume adds that "the current drought is an illustration of the desirability to better manage water resources." IBM, another SWAN member, estimates that the smart water market will be worth \$20 billion by 2015.



New technology available on smart-phones is giving standardized test prep a new dimension in France. For some of the seven million users within l'Hexagone, the devices offer a new convenience in the form of applications with at-your-fingertips test preparation. Sites such as anna-bac.com and bordas.com are creating applications for students preparing for the French baccalauréat, a difficult, mandatory final exam for high school students. Like their American counterparts for tests such as the SAT and the LSAT, the French apps feature podcasts, course outlines and explanations.

Many French students continue to study the old-fashioned way, with hardcopy study guides—or choose a combination of the two. “Given how much is out there on the Internet, students are sometimes lost and have greater trust in print,” explains Véronique Hublot-Pierre of the educational materials company Hatier. French students have accounted for more than 40,000 downloads of free and paid-for “bac” applications since 2010.

FRENCH UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES EXPAND HOURS OF OPERATION

In an effort to maintain France’s leadership in global education, public universities in France are expanding the number of services they are offering their students, starting with longer library hours.

In the western French city of Nantes, Minister of Higher Education and Research Valérie Pécresse and University of Nantes president Yves Lecoq inaugurated a new university library last month. With more than 400 seats, the Bibliothèque Universitaire Santé will be open more than 100 hours per week, closing at 11:30 nightly. At the University of Angers and the University of Strasbourg, new policies will keep libraries open on weeknights until 10 pm and 11 pm, respectively.

Altogether, France has 480 university libraries with 91,000 seats. Forty-two libraries of twenty-eight universities are open more than sixty-five hours a week, five of which plan to be open 80 hours a week by the end of the year.

Society

French First Lady Fights Illiteracy at Home

While the heads of state met in Deauville for the G8 Summit, First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy invited their spouses to a work session to address the issue of illiteracy in France. The Carla Bruni-Sarkozy Foundation is working closely with the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy (ANLCI) and the National Union of Family Associations (UNAF) to fund associations supporting the nearly 3.1 million French people affected by the condition. The Foundation helps fund 30 associations, helping 415 families affected by illiteracy to “restore their self-esteem through education and culture...to break the isolation and recreate bonds by cultural and artistic exchange,” according to its website. “Our initiatives concern the homeless person searching for self-empowerment and the woman with limited means wishing to reinitiate contact with her children, the young penniless high schooler dreaming to get into a *grande école* and the untutored individual wishing to reenter society.”

Other associations such as la Fondation SNCF, Casino, Orange, and Crédit mutuel, are already working to fight illiteracy, focusing on helping adults and young people. According to ANLCI, 11 percent of men and 8 percent of women in France are illiterate, and more than half are over the age or 45. Many people who are unable to read have difficulty performing daily activities like writing a check and reading signs. Because 57 percent of illiterate individuals are employed, more and more efforts to fight illiteracy are focusing on professional education, according to ANLCI director Marie-Thérèse Geffroy. Contrary to popular thought, most of those affected by illiteracy are not immigrants, and 74 percent have grown up speaking French at home.



First Lady of France Carla Bruni-Sarkozy declares illiteracy an issue of public concern.

Startup Creates Professional Connections Over Meals

Tired of eating her lunch alone at work, French entrepreneur Sonia Zannad of Eszeded Communication created a social networking site dedicated to helping professionals find lunch companions. Zannad partnered with Frédéric de Bourguet, founder of the successful French housing website, Colocation.fr, this February to launch Colunching.com. Users can create personal accounts and connect with other “colunchers” in their area. Unlike similar networking sites, colunching is not meant to be a dating site, but rather a way to create professional relationships and friendships.



Colunching.com connects like-minded professionals.

Now in its second version, the website features a database of restaurants for each city, where users can rank their favorite spots, and invite “colunchers” to a meal. Users can find lunch companions based on location, similar food and drink preferences, and professional interests. They can also sign up to attend events that have already been planned; lunches do not have a limited number of attendees. Since its

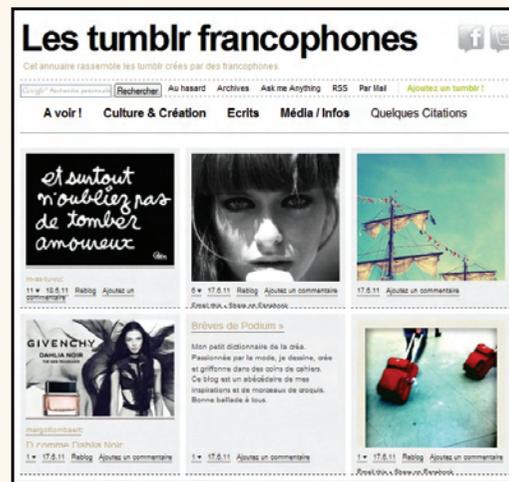
launch, Colunching.com has expanded overseas, including to the United States, where people are “colunching” in more than 20 American cities.



A CENTRAL SOURCE FOR FRENCH TUMBLRS

French speakers and francophiles take note: as a part of the social networking site Tumblr, the blog “Les Tumblr Francophones” has assembled francophone Tumblr webpages into a single location, allowing instant access to a world of French culture and perspectives. Links at the top of the page sort French Tumblrs by art, culture, written text and media. Clickable images on the middle of the page serve as links to individual pages. The blogs offer opinions as well as allow readers to listen to music and view drawings and photography. Those interested can also find recipes, learn about new films and even view Parisian street art.

Tumblr is a global phenomenon with over 19 million users, who can post snippets of text, videos, photos and links to share with the online community. Tumblr members can discuss a wide variety of subjects, from autobiographical posts to political commentary in a multitude of different languages. To view the blog, please visit: <http://www.annuaire-tumblr.com>.



Hot Air Balloon Festivals on the Rise in Lorraine, Charentes

France will host several hot air balloon festivals in several regions of the country this summer. Two of the biggest *montgolfière* events will be the Lorraine Global Air Balloons Festival, held in northeastern France, and the 17th annual European Hot Air Balloon Cup, set at various locations throughout the western French region of Charentes.

The Lorraine Global Air Balloons Festival will take place between July 22 and 31. The biggest gathering of hot air balloons in the world, the occasion will draw enthusiasts from six continents, including 67 countries. Over 3,000 pilots and team members are expected to participate this year, which marks the 12th anniversary of the increasingly popular ten-day festival. A symbolic



Hot air balloon enthusiasts will gather at festivals across France this summer.

totem pole with signs pointing to the directions and distances of each participating country's capital will be placed in the center of the festival - dubbed as "the heart of the world" by its organizers.

The European Cup in Charentes will take place between August 3 and 7. The festivities will include an air show by the French Air Force, a cabaret, an aerial performance of women dancing on the wings of airplanes, fireworks and the launch of hundreds of hot air balloons into the sky. Over 200 pilots will be taking flight and competing for the prized Coupe d'Europe. According to Thierry Slawy, the festival's public relations director, "some 60,000 people are expected to attend" and enjoy the celebrations over the course of the five days.

Thousands of European Museums Offer Night of Free Entry



Almost 3,700 museums in 38 countries all over Europe were open to the public for free on the night of May 14.

Museums in nearly 40 countries across Europe opened their doors and provided a wide range of free events to the public on the night of May 14. First created in 2005 at the initiative of the French Minister of Culture and Communications, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, "The Night of European Museums" successfully ran its seventh year of programming last month. The massive international event was sponsored by the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and the International Committee of Museums (ICOM).

Nearly 3,700 museums in 38 countries, including 1,274 in France, participated in the festivities. Thousands of different shows and exhibitions were put on display. Audiences were composed of mostly young people who were eager to benefit from the free entry into the museums. The line-up of participating museums in France included many

of the country's most famous, such as the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay and the Centre Georges Pompidou.

The Musée du Quai Branly: A Dialogue Between Cultures

Though it opened just five years ago, the Musée du Quai Branly, which is devoted to the arts and civilizations of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, has built up a broad spectrum of artifacts and partnerships at an international level.

Bringing together pieces from the Musée National des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie (National Museum of African and Oceanic Arts) and the Laboratoire d'Ethnologie of the Musée de l'Homme (Ethnology Laboratory of the Museum of Man), the collection houses some 300,000 works of art. The institution aims to adopt an "approach that contrasted sharply with the colonial past: the idea of equality between cultures," according to Christine Guetin, the facility's international relations manager.

The museum not only houses non-Western art, but also serves as a research institution. Quai Branly welcomes educators and researchers from around the world, many of whom remain as residents for a four-year period. Another main goal is coordination and reciprocity between the museum and the countries from which it receives its artifacts. These exchanges take many different forms: providing expertise, hosting trainees and helping in the design and setup of exhibitions.

Since 2006, the Musée du Quai Branly has become involved in many large-scale projects across the globe, such as helping establish the Konso Culture Museum in Ethiopia and contributing its expertise to the development of the Louvre Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.



The Quai Branly features artifacts from the Americas, Africa, and the Pacific, as well as modern architecture.

SUMMER KICKS OFF WITH LYON'S EIGHTH "NUITS SONORES" ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

The city of Lyon hosted the annual Nuits sonores music ("Nights of Sound") festival on June 1 through 5. Started in 2003, the festival is regarded as one of the leading independent "electro" music events in Europe. This indie and electronic music festival hosted over 200 French and international artists as well as attendees from all over Europe. People of all ages came to kick off the summer with one of the season's first outdoor festivals. On hand was not only some of Europe's best music in the electronic genres, but dancing and other festivities that lasted through each of the event's five nights.

The event effectively took over the town, as concerts were given throughout the streets, clubs, and concert halls of France's second largest city. During the five nights, the 'traveling festival' snaked through town, ultimately making its way to the Musée d'art contemporain and the town hall.

For more information, please visit www.nuits-sonores.com.

FOR GLOBAL REPORTER, THE ALLURE OF FRENCH ART DE VIVRE

New York Times correspondent Elaine Sciolino dives deep into the intricacies of France's culture of *séduction* in her new book, *La Séduction: How the French Play the Game of Life*. But it's not what the average non-French speaker might think: in France, the concept involves far more than its English translation would suggest.

In the French sense of the term the word can mean everything from charming and alluring, to pleasant or attractive. Sciolino examines how important the idea is to French life, recalling several poignant anecdotes from her work as an international reporter in Paris. When meeting former French president Jacques Chirac, for example, she is delighted when he stoops to kiss her hand, cradling it "as if it were a piece of porcelain." She describes the art of charm in more everyday situations, such as in the way market vendors and their would-be customers "seduce each other" while haggling over prices. And a French female jurist urges Sciolino to dress *chic* even when ducking out to the convenience store, because "you never know" if you might need to win someone over.

World War II Mystery Solved Thanks to French Man



Abraham Rosenthal disappeared during his Air Force service in WWII.

Bombardier Abraham Rosenthal flew a dangerous mission in France on a fateful day in 1944. Only 26 years old, he had left his wife and child back home to fight in the war. When Rosenthal never came back from his mission, his wife Grace “Dottie” Hershowitz received a cable that he had been reported “missing in action.” Two weeks later she received another cable informing her of his death.

She did not find out how he died until 65 years later, when in 2009 she received a letter from Dominique LeComte, a French cemetery grounds-keeper. Mr. LeComte was intrigued by the stories of the American parachutists during the war. He had heard that during Mr. Rosenthal’s 1944 mission, five of them were captured by the Germans, but several others had escaped with the help of the French Resistance. Mr. LeComte’s grandmother had played an important role in the movement, the reason for his interest in conducting more research. He interviewed as many people as possible and wrote a book with the help of co-author Anne-Marie Caron. Together, they published “Tail End Charlie” and sent a copy to all the loved ones involved. This is how, at 92 years old, “Dottie” Hershowitz finally learned the details of her first husband’s death over six decades later. Hershowitz will be traveling to the town of Le Cadonnois with her son and his fiancée to attend a major ceremony commemorating the sacrifice and heroic actions of the American crew members. The families of the other servicemen will be in attendance as well. Hershowitz has also made plans to meet Dominique LeComte—the man who made her “67-year-old dream come true.”

Hartford’s Wadsworth Atheneum Brings U.S. Monets Together

The Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut, finishes its exhibit, “Monet’s Water Lilies: An Artist’s Obsession” this month. Housed at the first public art institution in the United States, the exhibit brings together nine water lily paintings, spanning the artist’s 30 years devoted to the motif. “This collection of works demonstrates Monet’s attempts to strike a balance between physical and ephemeral representations of this subject, and allows us to trace the course of his development at the end of his long and fruitful career,” explained Dr. Eric Zafran, the museum’s curator of European art. “Monet’s late works... represent the final flowering of the Impressionists’ concern with cap-



Monet’s *Nymphaeas, Water Landscape* (1907)

turing the effects of nature,” said Zafran. The exhibit coincided with the publication of a seventy-page collection of essays by Zafran and impressionist scholar, Dr. James Rubin.

Monet’s famous water lily paintings and the Japanese garden he created at his home in Giverny were first inspired by his collection of Japanese prints. Like his contemporaries Vincent van Gogh, Camille Pissarro and Auguste Rodin,

Monet was captivated by the 19th-century *Japonisme* trend in art and culture. By the end of his life, the artist’s personal collection included 231 of the prints, which can be seen in most rooms of his residence-turned-museum.

News From FRANCE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Dana Purcarescu

EDITOR
William C. Fleeson

SENIOR WRITER
Rachel Eilbott

WRITERS
Katie Barnes, Rachel Eilbott, Alison Hard,
Lydia Marik, Gregory Sutton

To change your address, subscribe (for free)
or unsubscribe, please contact:

NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY PRESS & COMMUNICATION SERVICE
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182
Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6040
www.ambafrance-us.org
www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
Twitter: [franceintheus](https://twitter.com/franceintheus)
Email: info@ambafrance-us.org

PERMITTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 4620

French Embassy Press and Communication Service
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182

