

Early Bird 5 – 10 February, 2012

## **SAFETY & SECURITY**

### **More cases of livestock Virus confirmed – so far 10 sheep herds affected (9 Feb, 2012)**

Additional cases of the “Schmallenberg Virus” which causes miscarriages and deformations in sheep, cows and goats have been found in the local region. The number of sheep affected in Lower Franconia increased to 10. The virus has been found in about 380 farms across 13 federal states.

In the city and county of Schweinfurt there has been no suspected case so far, according to Chief of the veterinary office, Thomas Wietke. Bernhard Bundscherer of the veterinary office in Bad Kissingen fears that there may be cases in cows once their birth cycle begins.

**Record Cold and more than 300 people frozen to death (7 Feb, 2012)** - Ship traffic on Main river seizes. Sunday night new record lows were measured. In the city Isedom (North Germany) temperatures sank to -29.1 degree Celsius (-20.4 Fahrenheit) and set a new record replacing the previous one from the ice winter of 1956. In Europe more than 300 people died from the cold. The situation is especially dramatic in East Europe. In Poland alone 9 people froze to death on Sunday night and in the Ukraine 4 people died bringing the victims up to at least 135 people there.

The ship traffic on the Main river has seized because of frozen up flood gates, drift ice and pack ice.

**Language barrier (6 Feb, 2012)** On Thursday afternoon an American woman and a taxi driver showed good will to communicate after an accident. The American woman swerved on Niederwerrner Strasse to avoid the oncoming taxi and hit a parked car. The damage caused was estimated to 12,000 Euros. The taxi driver stopped but since both could not communicate the matter remained unsolved.

## **LEADERS AND POLITICS**

**Three working teams plan for U.S. (Army) buildings – Lord Mayor Remele does not see a reason to stress out about it. (10 Feb, 2012)** Schweinfurt has been a garrison city since 1934. The U.S. Army will end this tradition in two to three years. What to do with two casernes, the military training area, the shooting ranges and approximately 2,000 buildings? These experts' working teams have to develop ideas in regards to an alternate use of those facilities.

According to Remele time is no pressure. In the city hall the “project group conversion” will be founded. The “conversion” will be managed by the office for economic promotion. The representatives of all departments, including city utility department as well as the city construction office for construction in the city and construction of residential areas. In order to get quick decisions a “conversion committee” has been added to the finance committee of the city council. Furthermore a 28-man “conversion council” will be established, headed by Lord Mayor Remele. The members of this council will be the members of the committee and the project group as well as representatives of industry, trade and crafts, employment agency, labor unions, the county commissioner and the Mayors of Niederwerrn and Geldersheim. The city's

calendar for the next weeks shows conversations with the State government of Bavaria, the government of Lower Franconia, the U.S. Army and the Federal Real Property Agency (Blma). Also a citizens' meeting will be held to keep the citizens informed and at the same time gather ideas.

**Reform of punishment system for traffic offenders - the reform is not meant to serve the traffic offenders but traffic safety only (10 Feb, 2012)** Eight instead of 18 points at the traffic offenders data bank in Flensburg – and the driver's license is gone. The most important change is that a traffic offender will only get one or two points for a traffic offense – but with eight points he/she loses his/her driver's license. On the first look it looks like the new system is much stricter than the old one; however, this is not the case since each offense will expire by limitations, no matter how many offenses someone commits after that. Until now every new offense would override any limitation. Since this system is meant as an educational tool – the fines for traffic offenses will increase. The goal of the reform is not to serve the traffic offenders but only to increase safety on German roads.

**County Commissioners of Lower Franconia make plea for gas-fired power plant (9 Feb, 2012)** Since it has been determined that the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld will be shut-down in 2015 the County Commissioners of Lower Franconia deem it urgently necessary that a gas-fired power plant will be built in Grafenrheinfeld. At a recent conference it had been determined that the theme would be addressed during the meeting of the "Region Mainfranken GmbH (limited liability company) which should promote the construction of such a power plant. County Commissioner Harald Leitherer will address the subject on behalf of all county commissioners in Lower Franconia at the Bavarian State county council meeting.

**Poverty involves most of all small children. (4 Feb, 2012)** Children's poverty in Germany is developing regressively; however, there is a big gap in poverty rates within the individual federal states, counties and cities. A study shows that children under three years of age have the highest poverty risk. In the Federal Republic of Germany in 2010 every fifth child under three years of age lived in poverty - meaning that their parents depend on welfare. Bavaria has the lowest children's poverty rate in Germany.

**Built up areas in abundance – Drawdown of U.S. Army (4 Feb, 2012)** The U.S. Army will leave 2,940,000 square meters of casernes, training and residential areas. There is no plan for an alternative use for any of the of the eight installations so far. Fortunately, the drawdown is supposed to happen not immediately but eventually in two to three years.

**Properties of the U.S. Army:** "Brönnhof", training area on land of the city of Schweinfurt, with 2,534,000 square meters the largest area. "Victory" shooting ranges, 13,000 square meters large. Tank Road – access road between Ledward Barracks and the shooting ranges and training area "Brönnhof", Yorktown Village, 8,000 square meters, Kessler Field 12,000 square meters located between Kessler Field and Yorktown Village, Conn Barracks, 203,000 square meters, Askren Manor, 30,000 square meters – 77 buildings and 700 apartments. Ledward Barracks, 28,000 square meters, 220 buildings.

## **ECONOMY**

**Freezing temperatures cause bottlenecks in heating oil supply – Heating oil suppliers in Würzburg industrial area cannot deliver any more – cost for heating oil increases (10 Feb, 2012)** The phones are ringing and people would like to order heating oil, but Shell at the Würzburg harbor cannot delivery any more. Since Thursday company “Petroltank” also ran out of heating oil. However; customers in “Mainfranken” do not have to worry as assured by trading company Zügel in Marktheidenfeld and Erik Walther & Co. in Schweinfurt who state that they have adequate supplies of heating oil. Of course there is a price increase – one liter heating oil costs between 93 cents and 1.00 Euro.

**District heating protects from freezing – Supply from district heating plant is guaranteed (7 Feb, 2012)** District heat is environmentally friendly and is produced by burning garbage, coal and natural gas in highly efficient heating plants. On Monday morning the city works measured a capacity of 44 mega watts (or 44 million watts) at the district heating plant. This is absolutely peak measurement which has never been reached before and which guarantees that the customers will not have to worry about the long cold wave. There is more than enough capacity to supply all connected buildings.

**Will the lights go off in Bavaria – once the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld shuts down? (6 Feb, 2012)** Martin Zeil, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was never a promoter of the energy turn-around. In his opinion especially the time frame of good 10 years he thought was too ambitious. But now he raises alarm. When in 2015 Grafenrheinfeld, the second nuclear power plant in Bavaria will shut down – it is possible that the lights go off in Bavaria, he warns. If the speed of the energy turn-around does not pick-up he will not be able to guarantee an adequate energy supply in the future. He states: “For no other federal state and its job market the energy turn-around is as high a risk as in Bavaria.” Most of all in regards to expanding the power supply systems not enough has been done so far. Until 2020 4,500 new power cables are needed in Germany. So far only 200 kilometers have been built. Bavaria also needs four to five gas-fired power plants to produce the electricity needed.

## **SPORTS/ATHLETICS:**

**The Mighty Dogs start at zero again – Mighty Dogs start promotion round for the Bavarian league at home (10 Feb, 2012)** The prognosis for the promotion round for the Bavarian league are good for the Mighty Dogs because with the two last games against their competition from Sonthofen and Bayreuth they demonstrated not only their great shape but also showed their competition what they are up against. Coach Proskuryakov stated “the team is hot to take on the games ahead of them and they want to get into the semi-finals with all their might.”

**Football players against facilitator – the young team of On3 Südwild broadcasts live from the Schweinfurt Market Square (9 Feb, 2012)** Each week the TV station On3 Südwild broadcasts from a different city in Bavaria. Since Tuesday, the 15 men team stopped at market square in Schweinfurt. In spite of freezing cold temperatures an hour long broad cast is done until Friday, daily for one hour from 16:30 to 1730. The broadcast is shown on B Alpha. The target groups are young people and people who are young at heart. This is why the On3 Team presents young bands, current themes and exciting activities of the host city.

The big theme on Tuesday was the USA. The journalists attended the “Super Bowl Party” on Conn Barracks where 1,000 U.S. Soldiers watched the Super Bowl Game. To show the people what football is all about, the facilitator invited special guests – the players of the Schweinfurt Ball Bearings (football team).

Of course the drawdown of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt was also a subject. Asking pedestrians on the market square especially the young ones were not happy about the drawdown. One young lady stated: “I am disappointed because we love the Americans. They simply belong to Schweinfurt.”

**Happy End for the Mighty Dogs in penalty shots against Sonthofen which they won 3:2 and a commanding 2: 5 victory in Bayreuth (6 Feb, 2012)** The Mighty Dogs created an optimal position for the play-offs. As first team playing in the main rounds the Mighty Dogs will have the advantage of a home game when reaching the semi-finals and also if they reach the finals. On Friday they won against the present champions Sonthofen 3:2 after penalty shots. On Sunday they won against Bayreuth 5:2