

EARLY BIRD 11 – 17 FEBRUARY 2012

SAFETY & SECURITY

Ice breaker effortlessly reaches the Schweinfurt Harbor (16 Feb, 2012) Yesterday, the ice breaker ship “Von Grossmann” made it safely to the Schweinfurt harbor – after travelling from a partially frozen Main river from Volkach. The ice on the river was up to 25 centimeters thick but the ice breaker effortlessly cut through the ice. It is expected that the river will open up for shipping on the coming weekend. There are about 20 ships stranded between Bamberg and Aschaffenburg according to the Waterways and Shipping office.

14-year old girl almost froze to death (14 Feb, 2012) On Sunday afternoon pedestrians found a 14-year old girl in front of an apartment building in Hammelburg nearly frozen. An ambulance brought her to a hospital. According to a police report the girl apparently went to a fasching parade where she drank a lot of alcohol. How the 14-year old obtained the alcohol is still unknown. According to the police the girl was lucky that she was found in time. In the meantime she is on the way to recovery.

Silent vigil on the Market Square – Anti Nuclear Power Alliance (11 Feb, 2012) The Schweinfurt anti nuclear power alliance wants to remind the local about the 11-month old nuclear disaster in Fukushima with a silent vigil held on the Schweinfurt market square on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. According to a report the Japanese anti nuclear power alliance also held a large demonstration in Tokyo and various other locations last Saturday.

LEADERS AND POLITICS

Humboldt Gymnasium (High School) has a new principal – Christian Zänglein. (16 Feb, 2012) The new principal of the Alexander-von-Humboldt Gymnasium has served as vice principal of the “Bayern College” since August 2010. He will officially accept his new position next week. Zänglein studied English, History and German at the University of Würzburg and the State University of Texas from 1980 – 1986.

Wind power in the future from the “Brönnhof” (training area)? The community of Üchtelhausen is looking for areas to put up wind turbines. Now, after the announced drawdown of the U.S. Army in Schweinfurt, the discussions include also the military training area “Brönnhof” which is located in the boundaries of the community of Üchtelhausen and, according to the community council, would be a good option to be included in the regional plan for a wind turbines park.

New Customs Office opened in the “Hafen” – 22 employees moved into a new building that cost 1.7 million Euros. (15 Feb, 2012) With a ceremony and a blessing the main customs office in Schweinfurt celebrated the move to its new location Londonstrasse 24. Schweinfurt Hafen.

Germany will not run out of natural gas – In spite of smaller deliveries from Russia, consumers as well as the economy will not have to fear a bottleneck in supply (14 Feb,

2012) Do the Russians really curb deliveries of natural gas? Yes, however; so far they have always delivered the quantities stated in the contracts, as confirmed by the Association of the Bavarian energy and water industry. There are 18 distribution networks, about 700 suppliers who provide natural gas to 13.6 million consumers in Germany. 2.1 million of those are industry and businesses which use approximately 75% and 11.5 million private households that only use about 25 % of the total supply.

Conversion Motto: “WWW” (Knowledge, Economics, and living space) (13 Feb, 2012)

Remele stated that he already has been scolded for not being too upset about the drawdown of the U.S. Army from Schweinfurt. He really regrets that they will be leaving since “the Americans gave us a feeling of being “Cosmopolitans” and many personal friendships developed over the years. But he also sees a big chance for the city, stated Lord Mayor Remele at a New Year’s Reception of the CSU party in the Panorama Hotel last Saturday. “WWW” is our motto for the U.S. Army properties in Schweinfurt: “Knowledge (*Wissenschaft*), Economics (*Wirtschaft*) and living space (*Wohnen*).” With this lively welcome remark Lord Mayor Remele was well received by several hundreds of representatives of politics, economy and society.

Michael Glos, Member of the Federal Parliament (CSU Party) informed his colleagues at the New Year’s Reception of his party that he will not run for office in 2013. (13 Feb, 2012)

Glos had promised his wife Ilse to end his political career after 36 years as a member of the Federal Parliament. From 2005 – 2009 he also served as Federal Minister of Economics and Technology.

Concern about Internet mobilizes masses – in Würzburg alone around 2,500 people demonstrated against the Anti-counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) (13 Feb, 2012)

Joe, a student from Schweinfurt takes the microphone and says: “The moment has come to rebel”. At that time there were about 2,000 people gathered at the Main Train Station in Würzburg demonstrating against the ACTA. Although the Federal Government has not signed the agreement last Friday because of an objection by Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Minister of Justice. However; Steffen Seibert, spokesman of the federal government announced on Twitter that the federal government has the opinion that intellectual property must be protected also in the net. It cannot be forgotten that pirated copies, patent infringements and counterfeits cause damage in the billions every year. In freezing cold weather tens of thousands of people demonstrated against the agreement initiated by the USA and Japan to internationalize the copyright law.

ECONOMICS

Strike upsets airline passengers – 150 flights in Frankfurt were cancelled – strike will continue on Friday (17 Feb, 2012) Approximately 200 airline employees on strike was enough to partially paralyze the airport in Frankfurt. Many passengers who were stranded at the airport showed no compassion for the employees. The strikers are employees with special jobs – the traffic dispatchers and marshalls who want a pay increase and better working conditions.

Workers in Metal Industry want more respect – Employees in North Bavaria demonstrate in Würzburg for their demands (16 Feb, 2012) They came from Bamberg and Bayreuth,

Herzogenaurach and Schweinfurt, from Kitzingen and Würzburg. It was an impressive crowd that marched along the Würzburg Residence towards downtown to the office of the employers association (metal industry) on Wednesday afternoon. The police estimated 1,000 workers the labor union stated 1,300. Next to Würzburg, Munich is another location for demonstrations. There about 3,000 workers marched to the “Haus der bayerischen Wirtschaft”. The labor union for metal workers “IG Metall” demands a 6.5% pay raise for the upcoming tariff negotiations.

Experts expect a continued boom (15 Feb, 2012) According to the opinion of the financial experts the German economy will come through the European debt crisis better than expected. They evaluated the prospects in February about the same as in last spring. According to the European Institute for Economic Research, the indication is positive for the first time since May 2011.

SPORTS & ATLETHICS

Dirk Nowitzki is Europe’s Basketball player of the year 2011. (15 Feb, 2012) According to the European Department of the world association FIBA the NBA Champion was elected before Juan Carlos Navarro from Spain and Bo McCalebb, USA. For the 33-year old Nowitzki from Würzburg is honored for the second time since 2005 when he lead the German basketball team during the European Championship to win the silver medal.

The Mighty Dogs win against Weiden (14 Feb, 2012) The Mighty Dogs won the second game for the promotion into the Bavarian league against Weiden 3:2. This does not only put them on the top of their league, but also gave them six points which is half of the required 12 points needed for the semi-finals.

The Mighty Dogs played the perfect game – their first game for the promotion into the Bavarian league. (13 Feb, 2012) With outstanding performance in all areas the Mighty Dogs won their first game against the ECDC Memmingen 7:2 and secured the first place in their group in the first game.