

Early Bird 25 Feb – 2 Mar 2012

## SAFETY/SECURITY

**When an emergency call does not get anywhere – software problems in the integrated emergency call center hinder smooth alerting procedures (1 Mar, 2012)** The people responsible for the integrated emergency call center (ILS) Würzburg can no longer tolerate the problems that the employees at the emergency call center for fire departments and rescue services have to deal with since it opened two years ago. In a worst case scenario, lives could be endangered. “It is high time that the Bavarian Department of the Interior comes up with a solution” demanded County Commissioner Eberhard Nuß of Würzburg who is also President of the integrated emergency call center.

**Burglars at the Wild Park “Three Oaks” in Schweinfurt (28 Feb, 2012)** On Saturday night, unknown offenders broke into aviaries at the Wild Park and took out an unknown number of parakeets. The damage was valued at approximately 500 Euros.

**Deadly accident on A 3 (28 Feb, 2012)** On Monday morning, a truck driver was killed in a fatal accident on A 3. Shortly after 0500, a tractor trailer travelling in the direction of Nürnberg started skidding for no apparent reason. The trailer turned over and the whole load was spread on the road. The 45-year old driver was not hurt. The 18-year old driver of a second semi truck who was travelling in the same direction was able to stop in time and escaped without injury. However; the 37-year old driver of a third tractor-trailer who followed behind was not able to stop and died of his severe injuries at the scene of the accident. The three trucks involved in the accident were all badly damaged and towed away. The Autobahn was blocked in the direction of Nürnberg for several hours.

**Drug couriers were arrested – Two kilograms of marijuana were found (25 Feb, 2012)** During a routine check on A7 at the Riedener Wald roadhouse, plain-clothes policemen from Biebelried found two kilograms of marijuana as well as a larger quantity of hashish in a car. The the police officers found a sport bag containing marijuana and a 200 gram plate of hashish. While searching the apartments of the offenders, another 600 grams of hashish and marijuana were confiscated. The investigators also found drug paraphernalia. On Friday, the offenders were taken to the investigating judge and then admitted to a detention facility.

## LEADERS/POLITICS

**100 police students start their education in Würzburg (2 Mar, 2012)** 100 students between 17 and 33 years old started their two and a half year long education for police officers at the police academy in Würzburg. Würzburg has one of four police academies in Bavaria.

**Former President Wulff will receive 199,000 Euros per year for the rest of his life (1 Mar, 2012)**

The Federal President’s office certified that the 52-year old former President, Christain Wulff, resigned for political reasons. The press release of the Federal President’s office stated: “In accordance with the law former president Wulff is entitled to an honorarium of 199,000 Euros per year for the rest of his life.” In addition he is entitled to an office, employees, a car and a

body guard. After an investigation, they came to the conclusion that the premises to receive the honorarium were met. Wulff stepped down on 17 February 2012.

**Ohlenschlager new Vice President at the District Court Schweinfurt (29 Feb, 2012)** Erik Ohlenschlager will take over the position of Vice President of the District Court Schweinfurt effective 1 March. Until now he was Director of the District Court in Bad Neustadt.

**Awards for Innovations in storage techniques (29 Feb, 2012)** Schaeffler-FAG foundation presents Innovation Award 2011 for outstanding scientific achievements. Three “first incentive awards” and three achievement awards were presented to young engineers for outstanding, scientific achievements in storage techniques. The foundation gave out a total of 20,000 Euros for the six awards. The winners of the “First Awards” received 5,000 Euros each. The awards were presented for dissertations in “Advanced Manufacturing”, “Product Innovation” and “Strategic Brand Management”.

**US Army drawdown in 2014 (28 Feb , 2012)** The U.S. drawdown in Bamberg will be completed no later than 1 October 2014. The drawdown in Schweinfurt is supposed to be implemented even sooner. The State Chancellery announced support for both cities. Franz Eibel, spokesman of the city of Bamberg explained that he has learned about this drawdown date from a phone call from representatives of the U.S. Army. On Thursday, 16 February 2012, Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, had met with his German colleague, Thomas de Maiziere in Washington. According to the city of Bamberg, the impending closure became apparent when no funding was allocated for the Bamberg garrison for the FY2015 budget. The American fiscal year ends on 30 September.

**Bundestag approves financial aid for Greece (28 Feb, 2012)** For the first time, Merkel does not get the support of the majority. The German Bundestag approved a second financial aid packet for Greece in the amount of 130 billion Euros; however, for the first time the black-yellow coalition did not get the majority support of more than 50% missing seven votes, due to various members being out sick. In a special session on Monday afternoon, 496 delegates of the CDU, DSU, FDP, SPD and the Green Party voted for the rescue program which had been agreed to by the heads of the European government last October. 90 voted with “no” and five abstained.

**Strike at Airport Frankfurt continues (27 Feb, 2012)** Starting Monday, passengers at the Frankfurt airport can expect further delays and flight cancellations. After the tariff negotiations for the air traffic control personnel were discontinued, the labor union called for strikes again. The strike should start on Sunday night at 2100 and last until Thursday, 0500.

**On Sunday demonstrators in Berlin launched 99 air balloons against “weapons deals” (27 Feb, 2012)** Under the theme “Action Outcry – stop the weapons’ deals” demonstrators launched 99 air balloons in the shape of bombs in front of the Reichstag building in Berlin. According to the demonstration organizers, the trade volume in weapons sales has increased by six fold.

**Number of Asylum Seekers increase - Asylum politics in Bavaria under pressure (25 Feb, 2012)** In spite of increasing numbers of asylum seekers, Christine Haderthauer, Bavarian Social Affairs Minister does not want to open another initial reception center facility. According to her

it is important that the asylum seekers are getting admitted into communal accommodations as quickly as possible. The number of people seeking asylum have more than doubled in Bavaria since 2008 to 7,000 in 2011. This year another increase up to 9,000 people is expected. Two initial reception stations in Bavaria, one in Munich and one in Zirndorf near Nürnberg are filled to the last space. Haderthauer states, “We have developed an elaborate system to ease the situation.” However, not everybody agrees to that statement. Representative of the Green party, Margarete Bause, objects saying, “The conditions are appalling.” that the Green party demands a third initial asylum facility opened in Bavaria, possibly located in Würzburg based on existing structures there.

## **ECONOMY**

**Shopping on Sunday – the city mall “Stadtgalerie” with its 100 stores will be open on 25 March. (1 Mar, 2012)** All 100 stores, cafes and restaurants in the “Stadtgalerie” will be open from 1300 – 1800, restaurants open at 1200. In addition there will be variety entertainment “Magic Moments” performed by Dirk Denzer and the stars of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Variety Festival to be held from 3 – 12 May in Sennfeld.

**Oberbank opens 150<sup>th</sup> branch office in Schweinfurt, Schultesstrasse (29 Feb, 2012)** The Austrian bank portrays itself as a conservative regional bank focused on middle-class customers. The 14<sup>th</sup> Oberbank branch office in Schweinfurt opened last Tuesday. Oberbank, with its home office in Linz, opened its new location at Schultesstrasse 5-7 in Schweinfurt. This is their 22<sup>nd</sup> branch office in Bavaria and 150<sup>th</sup> branch office company-wide.

**German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB): Many stay poor in spite of working (28 Feb, 2012)** A new study criticizes the rapid increase of insecure jobs in Bavaria. While the state government and economy brag about full employment in Bavaria, the German Federation of Trade Unions warns because of a “massive increase of insecure employment conditions” in Bavaria. More and more people in Bavaria work and still stay poor in spite of having several jobs. They can barely make it.” Matthias Jena, Chief of the DGB Bavaria criticizes employers who through sham work contracts and ostensible self-employment are looking for loopholes to get cheap labor. He said: “There used to be a consensus in this country, according to which everyone who works hard the whole week should be able to make a living. This consensus is being terminated by more and more employers by avoiding tariff agreements and other deregulations.”

**150,000 Euros Public Funds – County of Schweinfurt applies for becoming a “Wind Energy Base” (25 Feb, 2012)** The county of Schweinfurt would like to become base for “Wind Energy” in Lower Franconia. If the request is approved the county would be able to get 150,000 Euros from public funds. All the county has to do is provide the space. According to the environmental department the purpose of a “Wind Energy Base” is to distribute knowledge and insights on the use of wind energy.

## **SPORTS/ATHLETICS**

**Mighty Dogs lost 1:8 against the EV Weiden and wins 3:2 in the game against Memmingen (27 Feb, 2012)** The next game are the semi-finals against Sonthofen.

**FC O5 Schweinfurt wins game against FC Eintracht Bamberg 4:0 (27 Feb, 2012)**