

Early Bird 5 – 9 March 2012

## SAFETY & SECURITY

**Thousands demonstrated against Neo-Nazis in Münster (5 March, 2012)** Several thousand people demonstrated last Saturday in Münster against a march of Neo-Nazis. The police stated there about 5,000 people demonstrated against the 7,000 Neo-Nazis. The protests were peaceful for the most part.

**The hazardous waste vehicle tours the county of Schweinfurt (3 March, 2012)** Hazardous/toxic waste collection in the county of Schweinfurt begins on 14 March. In every community pick-up appointments can also be scheduled for Saturdays. The dates can be found at [www.ihr-umweltpartner.de](http://www.ihr-umweltpartner.de) The following material can be turned-in free of charge: Batteries and rechargeable batteries, garden chemicals, household chemicals such as brush cleaners or paints and varnish, spray cans, oil filters, thermometers, etc. In addition, small electrical items such as: cell phones, watches, thermostats. Larger electrical appliances will be picked up during “bulk” pick-ups.

## LEADERS & POLITICS

**Duel of the generations – Mayor election in Schonungen (5 March, 2012)** The upcoming election in Schonungen will be a duel of the generations when Martin Oßwald (61) CSU party runs against Stefan Rottmann (25) SPD party. Should Rottmann win he would be the youngest fulltime Mayor in Germany. The Mayor will be elected for a period of 8 years to adjust his time of office with the community council.

**Warning Strikes in Bavaria (3 March, 2012)** The announced warning strikes of public servants in Bavaria will begin on Thursday. Citizens will have to expect limited services in many areas. According to the spokesman of the labor union Ver.di: “On 8 March many colleagues in all areas of public service will be on strike. Ver.di expects between 9,000 and 10,000 strikers. Affected by the strike will be hospitals, kindergartens, community administrations, garbage pick-up, Sparkassen, libraries, theater and airports. The background for the strikes is the present tariff conflict: Ver.di demands a 6.5 percent wage/salary increase for the 2 million employees in Germany.

**Wulff’s private residence was searched – State Prosecution: “Former President Wulff is very cooperative” (3 March, 2012)** During the investigations against the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, his private residence was searched and computers were confiscated. Wolff’s entrepreneur friend, David Groenewold was also visited by investigators. The search performed last Friday evening was on a “volunteer basis” according to a spokesman of the state prosecution. The allegation against Wulff is suspicion of acceptance of benefits.

**SPD Party demands reform of the honorarium - non-party committee demanded (5 March 2012)** The SPD party wants to regulate the honorarium paid to former presidents of the Federal Government through a committee which should be especially installed for this purpose. Hubertus Heil, former SPD Party leader told the “Rheinischen Post”: “I recommend that a non-party reform committee led by the Federal President” deals with this. The amount of the honorarium as well as the age starting at which the honorarium will be paid in the future should be determined. It also has to be cleared under which conditions the amount being paid can be decreased in case of dishonorable behavior, emphasized Heil. All Federal Presidents are entitled to the honorarium for as long as they live.

**It is getting harder and harder to get good physicians – There is no lack of doctors yet, but a higher fluctuation. (5 March 2012)** According to Administration Director Schmuker you cannot talk about a lack in personnel yet; however; there is a general trend that it is getting harder and harder to hire medical

personnel including consultant physicians. Presently the Leopoldina Hospital is looking for nine physicians for various specializations from interns to senior physicians.

**Coalition for action offers bus trips to demonstration (5 March 2012)** On 11 March one year ago the nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima began. On Sunday, 11 March people world-wide will remember the victims in Japan and demand the end of nuclear power. In Germany demonstrations will be held at six locations of nuclear power plants. Furthermore, there will also be local events. The Schweinfurt coalition for action will sponsor a bus trip to a demonstration at the nuclear power plant in Grundremmingen that day.

## **ECONOMY**

**Fukushima and the energy turn-around pressures energy suppliers and their business model (3 March, 2012)** The portion that the four large electric power companies in Germany (E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall) have in renewable energies is still a one digit number. Now they have to use billions to make up leeway. Once they had made big profits – but those times are over. Even before the nuclear meltdown in Japan and the following energy turn-around in Germany the four big companies had made less profit. The market environment with decreasing profits in the electrical power business, higher cost of natural gas and the tax on fuel elements have lowered the odds to make large profits and also the readiness for investments.

## **SPORTS/ATHLETICS**

**A big night for the Mighty Dogs** – They won the first game of the semi-half against Sonthofen 6:2. Now they only need one more victory to make it into the “Oberliga” (4<sup>th</sup> division).