

Early Bird April 27 – May 4, 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Schweinfurt nuclear power opponents demonstrate (April 28)

Nuclear power opponents in Schweinfurt demonstrated on the 26th anniversary of the melt down of the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl. About 100 people demonstrated last Thursday evening at Georg-Wichtermann-Platz in Schweinfurt – commemorating the victims of Chernobyl and Fukushima and at the same time voicing their demand – “Shut off nuclear power now!”

Another pepper spray attack in Mainfranken, man arrested (May 3)

Again people were injured in a pepper spray attack that occurred Tuesday night in a guesthouse in Rottendorf (near Würzburg). Five people were injured and suffered respiratory tract irritations and two were admitted into a clinic. The police arrested a suspect, an 18-year old man who was in the vicinity of the guesthouse. So far it is not clear if the recent attack is connected to the previous attacks like the one that happened in Würzburg April 12. Police continue to investigate.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Storage depot for contaminated soil being built (May 3)

Each one of the concrete slabs weighs 10 tons – several of them are being delivered to the waste management center Rothmühle every day and placed between twelve meter tall supporting pillars. The Free State of Bavaria is building a hall the size of a soccer field, 130 meters long and 37 meters wide where the contaminated soil of the “Sattler (a former paint production plant in Schonungen) inherited waste will be disposed off starting Aug. 6. Later on the soil will be examined to determine the hazardous waste content. A total of 110,000 tons of soil will be brought here from Schonungen. The area of the former paint production plant contains metalloids, heavy metals, arsenic, lead, cadmium and chrome. The cost for this redevelopment measure is €33 million which is paid by the Free State of Bavaria.

Advisory council agrees on conversion consultant (May 3)

The city and county of Schweinfurt are one step closer in their efforts to find possibilities on how to use the 28-square-kilometer area that will be vacated by the U.S. Army in the fall of 2014. In a meeting held on Wednesday, the conversion advisory council, consisting of representatives of the city, the county, affected communities, the government, the chambers of industry and commerce and the employment agency, unanimously agreed on BulwienGesa AG, a consultant firm from Munich to do the conversion assessment. However, the city and county councils have to agree with the advisory council before company BulwienGesa from Munich can get the job. Almost 30 square kilometers of property is a giant conversion area and there are many questions. What effect do they have on the total surface potential? What requirements are there? The areas will be turned over in four to five years. The analysis of the assessment should include the demographic structure, infrastructure, the housing market, and the area’s trade, business, logistics, education, leisure and tourism. Based on two conversion areas concrete use concepts have to be established. The public will be kept informed via internet, not only to increase the acceptance of the conversion plans but also to get ideas. How much the county fears to have

vacant apartments in the communities was shown by comments made by Mayor Gube of Geldersheim and Mayor Seifert of Niederwerrn. Mayor Seifert stated with more than 900 vacated apartments and a decreasing population the communities close to the city may be affected only leniently however; the communities that are located in a distance of 15 kilometers from the city will be left with nothing.

Hof demonstrates against Neo-Nazi march, thousands demonstrate (May 2)

Under the theme “Hof is colorful and not brown,” approximately 4,000 people including Hans-Peter-Friedrich, Federal Minister of the Interior demonstrated against the march of approximately 400 right wing extremists who marched on Tuesday. “Our democracy is alive and we will not have it disturbed by extremists and racists.” Friedrich thanked the citizens for setting an example and for not staying at home.” “The speechlessness of democrats is the biggest enemy of the democracy” stated Friedrich. He led the demonstration together with Bavarian politicians and representatives of the church and labor unions carrying a banner in rainbow colors reading: “Hof international.” The demonstrators carried signs: “Nobody needs Nazis.”

Labor Unions are ready to fight – Hundreds of thousands attended 1 May demonstrations in Berlin, Würzburg and Schweinfurt (May 2)

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated for fair wages, good jobs and social security in Schweinfurt, Berlin and Würzburg. Chief of the Association of German Labor Unions (DGB) Michael Sommer, swore the labor unions to a hard fight against low wages, the power of the banks and speculators as well as against the black/yellow (CDU/FDP) government on Labor Day, May 1. One of his demands was minimum wages of €8.50 per hour – that must be written in stone.

First naturalization ceremony of the city of Schweinfurt (April 30)

For the first time the city welcomed former foreign citizens, who accepted the German citizenship last year, in a naturalization ceremony. Lord Mayor Remele congratulated them to their decision in a ceremony held at the city hall. At the same time he appealed to them to integrate themselves in many ways into the social life. “You have done an important existential step, which you probably gave a lot of thought,” he said in a speech addressing 80 newly naturalized adults and children from various nations. He hopes that with this step “they have made a clear statement for our country and our city, with all rights but also with all civic duties.” The negative trend of the demographic development in Germany does not stop in Schweinfurt. Schweinfurt residents are getting older and older at the same time less and less children are born. Therefore the integration of foreign fellow citizens is an important mission for the future. Remele stated, “We, the city of Schweinfurt, the state of Bavaria and Germany need you!”

ECONOMY

Unemployment rates in the Main-Rhön region (May 3)

The unemployment rates for April 2012: City of Schweinfurt 6.5%, County of Schweinfurt 2.6%, Bavaria 3.7%, in Germany 7.5%.

Number of job openings declining (May 2)

The number of job openings in Germany in April decreased more than it has for the last three years, according to a job index published by the Federal Employment Agency on Monday. The index lost five points and was on the lowest level in seven months. Experts see this as an indication that the job boom that lasted for several years has come to an end. However, the Federal Employment Agency in Nürnberg emphasized that in spite of the clear decline there is still a high demand for workers in the economy.

SPORT

Soccer (May 4)

FC 05 Schweinfurt may receive permission for the Bavarian League. Whether the soccer club qualifies for the league will be decided in the relegation games held at the end of May. In the first round the team has to play against a Bavarian League team May 23 and on Saturday, May 26.