

Early Bird 2 -8 June 4, 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Looking for bombs under district roads (June 6)

Latest techniques are used to locate duds under the road in the vicinity of the airfield Giebelstadt—about an hour drive from Schweinfurt. There could be a risk of explosions under the roads leading to the airfield Giebelstadt. About 13,000 cars and trucks travel on B19 every day and, during the harvest of the sugar beets, heavy trucks weighing several tons thunder on the road. While any percussion could be too much and could activate a blind shell under the road and cause a catastrophe. So far the road has not been properly cleared or probed. This will change. Experts are looking for the best procedure to locate aerial bombs under the blacktop. The goal is to find a procedure with the most accuracy. 900 meters of B 19 and three kilometers of the district road near the airfield will be probed for explosives.

Fierce gust of wind damages houses and cars in Dittelbrunn (June 5)

On Monday evening the police were called to a residential area “Am Marienbach” because a fierce gust of wind blew shingles off the roofs, and sent other objects flying and damaging a number of parked cars. Furthermore, the wind knocked over a collection container for old clothes which fell on a car breaking its windshield. The damages caused tens of thousands of €, according to an estimate by the police. People were not injured.

The fine for driving without a valid driver’s license can be €1,200 (June 5)

Driving without a valid license seems to be a widespread offense. Some people get away with it for a long time until they are caught during a police control. A 48-year old man from Gochsheim was caught driving without a license Jan. 26. He had been driving without a license since 2008. In addition, he had committed a number of other offenses and was therefore sentenced to a fine of €1,200 and a retention period of 12 months before he can apply for a new driver’s license.

Reward for clues leading to the arrest of arsonists increased to €5,000 (June 5)

The fire which destroyed the roof of discotheque Megadrom on May 14, 2012 – causing €500,000 in damage – was arson. The criminal police are hoping for clues from citizens. Call the MPs at 09721-96-6766 / 6624 if you know the answers to any of these questions. Who had seen suspicious people during on the nights of May 13-14 at the disco or in the vicinity? Who has seen two men who were running from the disco at 03:45? Who can give specifics to the identities of the arsonists? Who has made any observations which could be connected to the arson? The State Office for Criminal Investigations will pay a reward of €1,000 for clues leading to the arrest of the offenders. The owner of the discotheque and the insurance company each offer €2,000.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Good-bye Geldersheim, Good-bye Schweinfurt County (June 6)

The U.S. Army will depart Schweinfurt by the end of September 2014. They will leave behind an area of 30 square kilometers, mainly used for military purposes. The majority of the areas are located in the county of Schweinfurt. But not only the future of those properties is in question but also what impact will the drawdown of so many people have on the region. Including family

members and civilian employees, more than 10,000 U.S. citizens are presently living in the city and the county of Schweinfurt. In these days a company will be awarded a contract for €200,000 to design a conversion concept.

Hunger Strike in Würzburg has toughened (June 5)

Iranian asylum seekers in Würzburg have toughened their hunger strike by having their lips sewn together. They want to demonstrate: “We have taken ourselves as hostages with lips sewn together, until the government will fulfill our demands.” The reason for the hunger strike that has been going on for weeks is that the refugees demand acknowledgement of their status as political refugees and an improvement of the current procedures for asylum seekers as well as an improvement of their living conditions.

Schweinfurt “Volksfest” opens on Friday, June 8 (June 5)

Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele inspected the setting up of the rides on the “Volksfestplatz.” On Friday, June 8 he will officially open the city’s carnival with the traditional tapping of the keg in the beer tent. Just as every year, this year’s carnival has many attractions, ranging from the longest “White-water-ride” in the world (650 meter long), a giant swing with an acceleration force 3.5 x higher than gravity, a “mice-city” for children, flying frogs, “Willy the Worm” and much more. The carnival takes place from June 8 – 18.

City electricity plants are ready for wind and solar energy (June 4)

The city’s power net will be able to handle the energy turn around without an upgrade. The transfer point for the connection of the new solar power plant is located in Oberndorf near the railroad tracks to Würzburg with a capacity of 4 megawatts. Furthermore it is planned to feed three megawatts from the new wind turbines near Schonungen into the power plant.

First U.S. unit leaving Schweinfurt, moving to Grafenwoehr (June 2)

The U.S. Army will drawdown from Schweinfurt in the fall of 2014. The 44th ESB is the first unit that is leaving. The Battalion’s three companies with approximately 400 Soldiers and their families are moving to Grafenwoehr, earlier than initially planned. The official farewell ceremony will take place June 7.