

SAFETY/SECURITY

”Volksfest” visitors sustained a broken nose and a laceration (June 11)

Two men got into a fight at the “Volksfest” on Saturday night. A 26-year old man who was under the influence of alcohol hit his opponent with a beer mug on the head. The man suffered a cut and had to be taken to a hospital. Shortly thereafter the brother of the injured man attacked another guy and the police had to interfere again. A mother whose son had been pushed down by a man wearing a red T-shirt stopped a 15-year old boy who was wearing a red T-shirt and reproached him for pushing down her son. Even though the boy swore that he had not done it, the woman’s companion hit him with his fist in the stomach and gave him a head butt that broke the boy’s nose.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Main train station in Schweinfurt to be renovated, criticism of port-o-potty (June 15)

The main demand of the alliance “Schweinfurt 21” is a barrier free access to the gates at the main train station which now can only be reached through a underground tunnel and by steps leading to the tunnel and on the other side up to the gates. This causes a big problem for senior citizens and handicapped people. The answer of the rail road company was surprising: they informed the alliance that the railroad company already has contracted a company to make preliminary plans which will be presented to Lord Mayor Remele in the middle of 2012. Therefore a barrier free access to the gates should be implemented before 2018. Until now 2018 was stated as the earliest possible date for completion of the renovations. On Thursday, the main train station was also a topic in the city’s construction and environmental committee meeting. Members of the city council complained about the port-o-potties at the train station and called them a “disgrace for the railroad company.”

Health Park downsized by 10% (June 15)

Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele began his press conference on the construction of the health park and the ongoing disagreements with the neighbors with these words: “All’s well that ends well.” After almost two years of legal negotiations with the neighbors, an out-of-court settlement was reached between the city and the neighbors. The downsizing of the third construction phase (for which there had not been a clear concept) was promised. Instead of 6,900 square meters an area of only 4,300 square meters will be built up. The originally planned use of the health park remains the same and is stipulated for ten years. The limitations include that only 12 parking spaces can be built. In place of the former apartment buildings for nurses a four-story building and an underground garage have been approved. The settlement between the city and the neighbors is valid until July 1, 2037 which Lord Mayor Remele commented on: “We have not surrendered our communal jurisdiction, we only temporarily postponed.”

Schweinfurt Police block off downtown area soccer victory (June 13)

To prevent disturbances to the residents of downtown Schweinfurt, including a hospital and a palliative care unit, the police blocked off the streets in downtown Schweinfurt to prevent

motorcades driving through Schweinfurt in the early morning hours, celebrating the 2:1 victory against the Netherlands in the European Soccer Cup. Most drivers, who turned around, driving on Niederwerrn Strasse for a short victory round did not mind. Only one single trumpet player stayed in front of a police car playing the German National Anthem until a police officer told him to go home.

Schweinfurt and Würzburg will show flag (June 13)

The Lord Mayors of Schweinfurt and Würzburg will fly the Franconian flag on their town halls July 7. It was like a small political earthquake – even if it concerned only a few square feet of fabric. In the middle of April the Landtag (State Parliament) decided against resistance from the Bavarian government to fly the Franconian flag once a year on the “Day of Franconia” on July 7 on public buildings, next to the Bavarian flag. The Franconian Association who had fought for this for years calls it a historical day for Franconia.

Base closures should be put into action expeditiously (June 13)

Defense Minister Thomas de Maziere announced the time line for the closure of Bundeswehr bases. According to the plan, three quarters of the measures should be completed by 2015. A total of 32 bases will be affected. The majority of the closures will occur in Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein and Bavaria. Maziere sees the Bundeswehr reform on a successful course, he stated: “We are on our way. ” However, even beyond 2017 measures concerning the infrastructures will still be necessary. Last year Maziere had decided on closing 31 Bundeswehr bases. Now the closure of another base in Schleswig-Holstein was announced. Furthermore, 90 other bases will be downsized drastically. Also the county of Bad Kissingen with its Bundeswehr bases in Wildflecken and Hammelburg will see a considerable reduction in Soldiers. Balthasar-Neumann-Kaserne in Veitshöchheim near Würzburg will also see big changes.

44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion leaves Schweinfurt and moves to Grafenwoehr (June 8)

Love, responsibility, history, gratefulness and honor are words and emotions military ceremonies of the U.S. Army focus on. A little unusual for Germans is the fact, that a commander accepting command of a signal battalion thanks his beautiful wife for her support. The wife of the incoming commander received a bouquet of yellow rosebuds – they will flourish just the same as the relations with the families and the Soldiers will flourish in time. The audience appreciates those words just as the statement of the commander: “There is no greater honor than to lead America’s sons and daughters.” A big thank you to the spouses for their support, which is not easy in times of turmoil when Army garrisons are being closed and the 44th ESB is moving from Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr. 400 Soldiers and their families are affected by the move according to Nathan Van Schaik, Garrison Public Affairs Officer. Nobody of the 44th ESB was probably long enough in Schweinfurt to miss it but still Schweinfurt will remain part of the unit’s history, a unit founded in 1944 which was deployed to Afghanistan prior to its move to Grafenwoehr. In an interview, training officer Jared Snawder stated that he is glad to move to Grafenwoehr to new facilities and to leave the old World War II barracks he lived in Schweinfurt. During the ceremony the battalion was also presented a campaign streamer for their operations in Afghanistan. In addition to the change of command, the presentation of the campaign streamer and the casing of the colors, the audience received a basic course in military history and the meaning of the colors which represent the soul of the troops and a distinctive mark. “Commanders and Soldiers come and go but the colors remain”.

ECONOMY

SKF employees go on strike (June 15)

On Thursday morning workers at plants II and III in Schweinfurt went on strike after hearing from the media that 400 jobs will be cut in Schweinfurt. Management had to calm down the workers and had to explain that 140 jobs would be cut in 2012 (as was already known) and the remaining 260 would be cut by 2015 on a voluntary basis – by offering buy-outs and other benefits for early retirements. The period during which the employees could decide if they would accept the offers runs from May 8 – July 31, 2012. The Works Council cannot estimate at this point how many employees will accept the offer.

SKF (Swedish Ball bearing Factory) cuts 400 jobs – Schweinfurt is affected (June 14)

Because of less business caused by the Euro-debt crisis SKF will cut 400 jobs in Germany. According to a spokeswoman the jobs will be cut at the plants in Schweinfurt, where presently 4,500 people are employed. SKF employs about 45,000 people worldwide—6,700 in Germany.

SPORTS

Results of the European Soccer Cup 2012 (11 June, 2012):

Poland – Greek 1:1

Russia – Czech Republic 4:1

Netherlands – Denmark 0:1

Germany – Portugal 1:0

Spain – Italy 1:1

Ireland – Croatia 1:3

France – England 1:1

Ukraine – Sweden 2:1

Greek – Czech Republic 1:2

Poland – Russia 1:1

Denmark – Portugal 2:3

Netherlands – Germany 1:2

Italy – Croatia 1:1

Spain – Ireland 4:0

Ukraine – France

Sweden - England