

Early Bird 20 – 27 July, 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

250 passengers stranded in train (July 27)

Because of a failed signal tower a train travelling from Würzburg to Aschaffenburg stopped—leaving 250 passengers stranded without air condition for 45 minutes. At approximately 5 p.m. the coaches were pulled back to the nearest train station and the passengers were evacuated and received cold beverages from the Bavarian Red Cross. A few passengers required medical treatment. At 6 p.m. all passengers were transported to their destinations by bus.

American WWII aerial bomb found in Würzburg was defused (July 27)

During excavation work an aerial bomb weighing several hundred pounds was found on Thursday afternoon on the properties of the riot police in Zellerau near Würzburg. The bomb containing 43 kilograms of explosives was defused by the bomb disposal team from Munich. The surrounding buildings including a sport center and a public utility building and 60 people from surrounding houses were evacuated.

Würzburg's new emergency concept for large events (July 23)

Once again Würzburg is ahead by a nose. The reason: In 2013 the Bavarian Red Cross will use, two “Segways.” According to a definition in the Internet, the manned vehicle is “an electrical one-person means of transport, on two wheels mounted on one axle.” The “driver” stands between those two wheels. The “Segway” keeps its balance via an electronic drive control. During the presentation of the new emergency concept for large events—such as for the Kiliani fest, the Africa Festival and the residence run and skate night—Professor Peter Sefrin, Chief physician of the Federal Red Cross explained how every minute counts in case of an emergency. To get through crowds quickly, the “Segway” is most suitable. Heiner Distel spokesman for the “Kiliani” carnies stated: “When an event grows – safety also has to grow.”

LEADERS/POLITICS

Schweinfurt trees to be watered from March – till November (July 27)

Schweinfurt belongs to the driest regions in Bavaria. With an average of 522 liters per square meter per year the city area is barely above desertification. And for years it has been raining less and less. Therefore, the trees along the streets have to be watered from March until November. Three tractors with 10,000; 4,000 and 3,000 liter containers continuously make their rounds watering trees with water taken from the Main River. On a summer day the water containers have to be filled 8 times approximately 120,000 liters are taking from the Main River the rest from city water out of water hydrants. The trees in the city have a life-expectancy of only 25 years. Without the care they receive they would only last a few years.

Europe heading for a disaster – Experts fear collapse of currency union (July 26)

In the opinion of leading economists, Europe is living on a razor-edge and has to reform the currency union as quickly as possible. The opinion of 17 economists states: “Europe is sleepwalking into a huge disaster.” As an immediate action they demand the transfer of all debts

of crisis-stricken countries be placed into a redemption fund with joint liability. This so they can breathe again. They also demand stronger intervention of the European Central Bank. However; they refuse a long-term transfer union as well as Euro bonds. The Federal government reacted calmly to the warning. “The Federal government does not agree with the assessment of Europe being on the edge of a disaster.”

Foundation for new Schweinfurt underground parking garage completed (July 26)

The new face of “Hadergasse” is taking shape. The biggest construction site in Schweinfurt where 470 parking spaces will be available in the future is already built up to street level. In August construction of two apartment and business buildings will begin according to architect Stefan Schlicht. The buildings consisting of 27 upper class apartments and various stores on the ground level should be completed by the end of 2013. The parking garages should be ready for use in April 2013.

City fire department will test digital radio beginning February 2014 (July 25)

The volunteer fire department of Schweinfurt will participate in trial operations for digital radios. During its last meeting before the summer break the city council agreed in an agreement between the city and the state of Bavaria. It has been known for years that digital radio will be implemented in the city of Schweinfurt. In order to successfully test the new technology, participation of the volunteer fire department is very important in order to test if the existing digital radio network is functioning and to familiarize personnel with the new technique and the tactical changes associated with it. There are two transmitter masts in the city – one on the roof of the police department and one in the “Haardt” forest. The city council also agreed on the cost: Each €50,000 in 2013 and 2014 for the purchase of the digital radios and installation into the vehicles.

No warning strikes for German railroad personnel (July 25)

Relief for train travelers. The negotiations between the locomotive engineers union and the German Railroad Company ended in an agreement. There will be no long lines at train stations like it was during the strikes in 2007/2008 and 2010/2011 when negotiations lasted for more than 9 months.

Europe is expecting a flow of refugees from Syria (July 24)

Europe is preparing for a rush of refugees and puts the Assad-regime under pressure by imposing stricter sanctions. For the 200,000 Western foreigners in the region an evacuation plan has been prepared, as stated during the meeting of the European Secretaries of the Interior on Cyprus. Should the refugees not receive sufficient aid in the neighbor countries they will move to Europe, according to Eleni Mavrou, Secretary of the Interior of Cyprus. The European Secretaries of the Interior imposed stricter sanctions against the regime and imposed further entry bans.

Schweinfurt in 3D on big screen (July 21)

After a preview in the morning for the mayors who attended the “Städtetag,” the actual premiere took place in the evening for invited guests. Max Kidd, main character, director and producer and Matthias Triebel co-producer and 3d expert presented an 18-minute long image movie, ordered by the city of Schweinfurt, Public Utility Company and City- and Residential Construction Company. Its make and length alone indicate that it will be more than the common

image movie which each city has in its repertory. Kidd and his team—80 percent of whom are Schweinfurt citizens—were completely free to create an unusual product. Even Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele had seen only a raw version of the movie with the title: “Don’t break it.” The content of the movie is this: Two aliens land near Schweinfurt and come to the city. They fall in love with it and would like to take it with them. Therefore their cute robot would like to copy Schweinfurt. However; it does not work because you have to experience the “original” Schweinfurt. That the two aliens soon are hunted by “alien hunters” is the dramatic gimmick, that allows the audience to tour the city in movie quality with quick cuts and unusual perspectives it shows well known sites and places of the city: Industrial plants, sunny parks, busy streets, cozy inner courtyards, elegant museums. The views from Leopoldina hospital or from the ten-meter platform of the diving tower of the Silvana outdoor pool display city scenes between the Renaissance-town hall and industrial architecture, between peaceful residential areas and pulsing arterial roads. Combined with rocking, moody music by the Schweinfurt band “Vein,” a few slow-motion scenes of the break dancers “Dance Floor Destruction Crew” and an ironic performance of Lord Mayor Remele in a “Hitchcock” manner, complete a different type of image movie. That the entire production does not only have an artistic purpose show the smartly inserted facts: 35,000 commuters daily, more jobs than citizens, largest job density in Germany, only Frankfurt and Munich have a higher economic output per head. A very pleased Lord Mayor Remele stated: “This movie will find its audience” – no wonder, one of his colleagues had asked him: “How much did it cost?”

ECONOMY

Study shows Würzburg and Schweinfurt attract customers (July 27)

Locals sometimes like to complain in regard to what retail offers in Würzburg and Schweinfurt. However, reality is different. Both cities are very attractive for the people from surrounding areas. In regard to “retail centralization” Schweinfurt and Würzburg are taking top places in Germany, according to a study of the association for buyers’ intentions research. According to this study the city Straubing attracts most customers Germany-wide, followed by Weiden, Paussau and on 4th place Schweinfurt and Würzburg on 7th place.

Prices for Schweinfurt city bus tickets to increase (July 26)

Because of higher gasoline prices, the bus tickets will go up in Schweinfurt as of Aug. 1, 2012. There has not been an increase since 2008. However, now the tickets for tariff zone 1 will go up by 10 cents to €1.30. The 8-tickets card will go up 60 cents to €7.50 and the day ticket for adults will increase by 20 cents to €2.70. The tickets in tariff zones 2 and 3 will also increase accordingly.

The fastest computer in Europe was dedicated in Munich (July 21)

On Friday the fastest computer in Europe was dedicated in Garching near Munich. Annette Schavan the Federal Minister for Education and Research and her Bavarian colleague Wolfgang Heubisch officially started the new computer during a dedication ceremony. The computer can manage three quadrillion steps of calculation per second. Worldwide, it takes 4th place. With a new technique it also works extremely energy efficient: It is cooled with warm water. With the start of the new computer the Leibniz data center celebrates its 50th anniversary.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

Warning: New HIV test not sufficient (July 24)

A new HIV test that can be done at home will be available in drug stores and super markets in the USA in October. The uncomplicated test should help to get more people tested on the dangerous HIV virus and get them treatment as soon as possible. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the test just a few weeks ago. In Germany the sale of such tests is prohibited. And for a just reason, according to Michael Koch, Chief of the Aids consulting center in Lower Franconia. "The tests are good but only if they are done under laboratory conditions." The risk of a false diagnosis is too high if done at home. The German Aids Aid and the Robert-Koch-Institute also warn not to order the tests on the Internet since the test cannot give a 100 percent guarantee and the following consultation by a physician is not provided. The FDA however counts on the test because more people will take the test at home without having to go to a doctor's office or to the public health office. Therefore diagnosis can be made sooner, which plays a large role in the treatment. Dr. Johann Löw, Director of the Public Health Office in Würzburg explained: "The sooner treatment is started the greater the chance for success." Aids tests are available at the public health office in Würzburg without prior appointment, at no cost and totally anonymous.

SPORT

Soccer Club FC 05 Schweinfurt – wins first home game of the new season (July 25)

The Schweinfurt soccer club FC 05 won its first home game against FSV Erlangen-Bruck 5:3. The team tied the first game of the Bavarian league season against the Würzburg EV in Würzburg with 2:2. All in all the FC 05 team had a good start into the season and hopefully will continue its success.