

Early Bird 1 – 7 September 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Fatal accident on A-7 near Biebelried (Sept. 1)

On Monday night a truck broke through the median barrier and collided with a truck on the oncoming lane. One person died and three people were seriously injured in the collision. The cause of the accident has not been determined, while investigations by the Autobahn Police continue. The A-7 was blocked in both directions for several hours.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Many planes stay grounded – Lufthansa airline on strike (Sept. 7)

The Lufthansa airline is preparing for the first Germany-wide strike of its flight attendants. For Friday Lufthansa—Europe’s largest airline—has cancelled 983 of 1,781 scheduled flights. The railway company, taxi companies and Lufthansa’s competition “Air Berlin” are preparing for a rush of customers. [Airline strike having little effect on military travelers in Germany...](#)

Schweinfurt monument of industrial past and present set in Château dun Park (Sept. 7)

A giant self-aligning roller bearing made by FAG was set-up in the [Château dun Park](#) on Thursday as a monument of the past and present. Three plaques will be set-up to explain the monument—one for the site (Schweinfurt), one for the product roller bearing, and one for the destruction in World War II and the rebuilding. Altogether the monument cost €55,000. The Sparkasse Schweinfurt will sell a limited edition medal minted for this purpose, which help finance the monument to be officially turned-over to the public in a ceremony held on Sept. 21 at 3 p.m.

Prominent citizens bake bread, brew beer on day of crafts (Sept. 6)

On Saturday, September 15th Lord Mayor Remele will have to get up quite early to start his work day at a bakery at 5:30 a.m. At bakery Drescher he will work for a day and learn how to bake “Brötchen.” “The day of the crafts” is observed all over Germany. In the district of Schweinfurt, however, there is a special activity: “the politicians shall experience the work of a craftsman first hand,” according to the head of the district’s craftsmen’s association. Next to Remele, eight other politicians will be participating, each of them could choose their craft. Bavarian Secretary of State of the Interior, Gerhard Eck, will work at a construction company, County Commissioner Harald Leitherer at an agricultural engineering company and his opponent in the election, Florian Töpfer, will work at an optical store. The District Chairman of the CSU party, Stefan Funk, will try his skills in a brewery.

Close ties between citizens of Schweinfurt and the French city Albi (Sept. 6)

Seinäjoki, North Lanark shire and Château dun are the official partner cities of Schweinfurt. Spurred by the town hall and supported by a growing circle of friends, an active exchange is cultivated. There is a 45-year old tie between Schweinfurt and the city Albi in southern France

because the ties go back to the Elysee contract between former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and former French President Charles De Gaulle. The contract included an agreement to found an organization to further relations between German and French youth. In the following years the bonds were established through youth clubs, associations and church-based youth organizations. In Schweinfurt, the first contacts were made by the Boy Scouts St. Georg of the Christkönig Parish who organized the first joint skiing trip with the Boy Scouts of Albi during the winter 1967/68. Almost 45 years later the bonds with France still exist. Since then, 40 youth skiing trips were organized and there was an active exchange between athletes, teachers and musicians. Always in the year of the summer Olympic Games, the friends, who are no longer youths, get together for one week and enjoy their friendship.

The Black 5th September 1972 (Sept. 1)

On the eleventh day of the Olympic Games in 1972, terrorists took Israel athletes hostage. Hans Held, a construction engineer and project manager of the Olympic village supported the police with his knowledge of the Olympic village. But the aimlessness of the police ended into a catastrophe. Eleven Israel athletes were killed, one policeman was killed by a ricochet shot, five of the eight terrorists were killed and the remaining three arrested. When Hans Held says today that nobody expected anything like to happen, he speaks about the persons in crisis management. 40 years later the news magazine “Spiegel” has evaluated tens of thousands of intelligence service files that proved that there were concrete leads for possible terrorist attacks in Munich beforehand. It was foreseeable that terrorists would use the Olympic Games to reach global public. And it should have been known, that the lax strategy of the police in 1972 was not up-to-date. Georg Sieber, then working for Manfred Schreiber, Munich Chief of Police, who trained 4,000 police officers for the Olympic security force stated that he had developed 26 possible scenarios prior to begin of the Olympic Games. One of them in many details was identical with the attack of the group “Black September.” In February 1972 Sieber wanted to present those scenarios to the Chief of Police in a meeting and was told: “This is not on the agenda – we don’t need this.”

“House Schweinfurt” will open in November (Sept. 4)

An orphanage will open in North Namibia in November. The orphanage in North Namibia is almost completed as reported by Brother Varghese Pulikkiyil in an e-mail to the chairman of the association “Aid for children in Third World Countries” Heinrich Hackenberg. The name of the orphanage located in the five-country point—Zambia, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia—will be named “House Schweinfurt.” During the visit of a delegation from Schweinfurt in May 2011, Brother Pulikkiyil promised that the orphanage would be named “House Schweinfurt” if the donors could come up with the required €48,000. Only a few weeks later it was clear that the project could be started.

More musicians at the street music festival “Pflasterklang” (Sept. 3)

Thousands of people enjoyed the music performed by 42 groups and individual musicians who played in 20 locations between Rückertstrasse and Rossmarkt on Saturday. The program ranged from Soul, Blues, Swing, Folk music, Didgeridoo to Franconian songs. For the most part the musicians were satisfied with the generosity of the people and enjoyed getting not only money but also food. The festival is subsidized from the program “experience Schweinfurt” city and district.

Bayern 1 – Sommerreise (summer journey) (Sept. 3)

Lord Mayor Sebastian Remele refers to the family festivity within the scope of “Bayern 1 – Sommerreise” (summer journey) as a great image booster for Schweinfurt. The festivity took place on Sunday and drew approximately 24,000 visitors to the Willy-Sachs-Stadium. He stated that he was surprised that so many people from the city and the surrounding communities participated in the festivities and he was especially happy that the entertainment offered was appealing to several generations. Remele pointed out that it officially was a city event, since the city supported the last stage of the Bayern1 “summer journey” financially and logistically. Lord Mayor Remele stood in front of the audience and played an odd instrument and even sang an odd song to support Schweinfurt in the so-called “city championship.” He was supported by members of the city council.

ECONOMY

Schweinfurt’s citizens unfazed by crisis, survey says (Sept. 5)

The people in Schweinfurt are optimistic and sure that their jobs are safe, according to the results of a survey conducted by young business managers. Throughout Germany, approximately 9,000 people participated in the survey. In Schweinfurt alone, 193 people participated. Other results indicate that the people in Schweinfurt are unfazed by the economic crisis and do not expect that it will affect their personal situation. Basically, they assume that the developments in the economy will be positive and that their own financial situation will stay stable. “The trust in the employers is huge” said Christian Störcher, district spokesman of the young business managers in Schweinfurt. “This is also a sign of the appreciation that we, as employers, have kept as many employees as possible during the economy crisis.” Another result showed that the salary alone does not decide how attractive an employer is. Being able to work self-determined is important for 42.5%, flexible working hours for 41.4 % and only 38.4 % state the salary. For women the compatibility of family and work is more important than for men. The young business managers also asked why more people are not willing to have children. 51% stated too much pressure on the job, less career opportunities, 47.5 % a lack of child care facilities and 44.8 % limiting personal scope. Störcher drew the following conclusion from the results: “If we as young business managers want more women to have a job/career and if the politicians want people to have more children that politics and economy have to pull on one string when it comes to compatibility of family and work.” People cannot imagine that having children and a career are possible. “We have to make clear how family-friendly the German economy really is.” In order to contribute to this matter, the young business managers have been cooperation partners of the district of Schweinfurt since the foundation of the initiative “family oriented personnel politics.” One of the questions asked about attitudes in regard to the drawdown of the U.S. Army in Schweinfurt. 59 % saw it as a new opportunity for the city and 36.5 % saw it as a loss. 9.6 % said it would not make a difference and 1.9% do not know.

SKF (ball bearing plant) faces a fall of trade fairs (Sept. 5)

Since the competence areas and target groups are very diverse, the themes of the trade fairs are also diverse. The fall fairs begin with “Transport engineering by water, by land air”. On Sept. 7,

SKF will be represented at the “SMM, (Shipbuilding, Machinery and Marine Technology)” fair in Hamburg. From Sept. 11 – 16, SKF will present its variety of products for the automobile aftermarket at the “Automechanika” in Frankfurt and at the same time SKF aerospace is represented at the “International Aeronautic Exhibition” in Berlin. The presentation will show that the company is the leading supplier of bearings, sealing gaskets and light constructional components in the fields of aeronautic and astronautic. From Sept. 18 – 21, the “Inno Trans,” the most important fair for railway technology, will take place in Berlin. At the same time SKF is represented at the “Husum Wind Energy,” the leading fair for wind power. The nautilus rotor bearing produced in Schweinfurt is somewhat the star of the presentation. In October, SKF will be represented at the “Motek” International Trade Fair for assembly, handling techniques and automation in Stuttgart and the “Maintain” International Trade Fair for industrial maintenance in Munich. The culmination will be the “Medica” held in November in Düsseldorf, where the “glass operating table” will be displayed for the first time.