

EARLY BIRD 6 – 12 October 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Tragic accident on A 73 claims fifth victim (6 October, 2012) The accident caused by a female “ghost driver” on A 73 in the county of Bamberg a week ago claimed a fifth victim. On Friday, the front seat passenger of the car that was hit by the ghost driver also died – resulting in the death of the drivers and all passengers in the cars involved in the accident. The fatalities include the woman causing the accident and her 4 and 7-year old daughters, the 25-year old driver of the oncoming vehicle and his front-seat passenger.

Intoxicated man walking across A3 – car hits 22-year old man (8 October, 2012) On Saturday night a 22-year old man caused the blocking of A3. According to a police report a 22-year old man who returned from a party attempted to cross the autobahn. A 40-year old driver who was travelling on A3 direction Nürnberg at approximately 0100 hit the young man. He called the police and told them that he hit a pedestrian; however, cannot find him. The intoxicated 22-year old man was nowhere to be found. A large number of police and rescue services came to the sight and blocked the A3 where the accident occurred. After approximately 45 minutes, the police were able to locate the man, with the aid of a police helicopter. The man had sustained injuries to his legs and continued walking to the parking space after the accident. He was admitted to a hospital. The damage on the car was estimated at 10,000 Euro.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Argument in regards to energy turn-around - is 2015 still realistic for shutting off the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld? (11 October, 2012) A scandal occurred in the Bavarian state parliament when the members of the “committee for support of the energy turn-around in Bavaria” wanted to present what they had accomplished in 17 sessions. However; the press conference with legislators of all five political parties suddenly turned into a fierce argument.

Backgrounds for the argument apparently are deep-seated causes in regards to the basic course in the energy turn-around. In its interim report the committee stated that the expansion of renewable energy is advancing in Bavaria. However; everyone agreed that there is still much to be done to expand power networks. Furthermore, the spokespersons of the five parties agreed that the nuclear power phase-out in Bavaria will begin with the shutting down of the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld in 2015. However; which consequences can be drawn from this first report is as questionable as is the question what influence the committee will have in the politics of the Bavarian government.

St. Josef Hospital has new head physician for geriatric medicine and a new administrative director – changes in personnel in administration management also means changes in clinic operations (9 October, 2012) Only two head positions changed but they are an example for “improvement through change” at the St. Josef hospital in Schweinfurt. The geriatric ward is a new addition to the hospital - and there is no other one in the city or the county of Schweinfurt. However; it is most important because of ongoing demographic changes. The administration director Erwin Göbel states: “we see administration as service for medicine” and therefore we

will support our physicians to the best of our ability". His title also includes "Director, organization development".

Bavaria is looking for engineers, technicians and skilled workers – there is a shortage of qualified personnel in Bavaria. Now politicians want to bring back out-migrants (9 October, 2012)

For years companies and trade associations have been pointing out the shortage of qualified personnel in technical professions. Yesterday the Bavarian minister for economic affairs, Martin Zeil, and four Bavarian top corporations invited to a campaign, similar to the ones usually conducted by environmental activists. Professional climbers unveiled a gigantic banner on top of the telecom towers near the East train station in Munich reading: "We will bring the best heads (brains) to Bavaria". This spectacular kick-off was followed by a press conference with an exceptional number of prominent participants. The dimension of the problem was demonstrated by two numbers: According to studies performed by Prognosis AG for the Association of the Bavarian Economy there will be a shortage of half a million qualified technical personnel by 2015 in Bavaria alone. And now the Bavarian medium sized businesses already are losing annually 6.6 billion Euros due to a shortage in qualified personnel. To counteract this development the Bavarian ministry for economic affairs developed the program "return to Bavaria" to get qualified personnel which moved to other federal states back to Bavaria. Another government program is "Study and stay in Bavaria" which aims to get foreign students who study at technical universities in Bavaria to stay here once they have graduated. Furthermore, an internet portal "Work in Bavaria" aims to recruit qualified personnel worldwide.

ECONOMY

Former indoor market now a Woolworth department store (12 October, 2012) On Thursday a Woolworth department store opened in the building of the former "Markthalle" (indoor market) in Kesslergasse, downtown Schweinfurt. A sign reads: "The cheapest department store since 1879". In 2009 Woolworth in Germany was bankrupt in 2010 it was taken over by a holding company and only had 158 stores open in Germany. In 2010 the "Markthalle" also was losing tenants and closed. Woolworth recovered and went on an aggressive expansion course. The store that was opened in Schweinfurt is the 202nd in Germany and Woolworth is planning to open 400 to 500 stores in Germany. The store will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with the option of staying open until 8 p.m.

Metal Branch cuts working hours (10 October, 2012) Companies in the metal and electro industry prepare for cutting hours. According to a report in the "Bild" newspaper working hours were cut for 29,500 workers in September. This is an increase of more than 50 % compared to August, based on figures provided by the industry association for the metal industry.

More than 70,000 visitors at the UFRA - 65% of the visitors plan to attend the next UFRA in 2014 (8 October, 2012). With more than 70,000 visitors this year's UFRA exceeded the numbers of 2010 with 68,000 visitors. Heinrich Sandner, UFRA Manager estimates that the high numbers of visitors can be attributed to hall 18 where sport clubs and associations introduced themselves with various programs. Also very positive was the fact that weeks before beginning

of the trade fair the UFRA with its 400 exhibitors in an area of 20,100 square meters was common talk in Schweinfurt. Two of three visitors are planning to visit the next UFRA in 2014.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

Bavaria has no flu vaccines – Company “Novartis” will not be able to deliver for a long time – there are no substitute products on the market (12 October, 2012) This fall patients in Bavaria will have to wait a long time for their flu vaccines or will not get any at all. The reason: Pharmaceutical producer “Novartis” who was supposed to produce 1.9 million individual vaccinations for Bavarian patients – has postponed the delivery date once more to the end of November or beginning of December. Even though the health insurance companies now are allowing physicians to use other vaccines, for example “Begrival”; however, what was meant as a solution is none since other vaccines are hardly available. Dr. Christian Potrawa, a general physician in Würzburg stated that every day 15 to 20 patients are waiting for vaccines; however, all pharmacies he contacted are “out”. There are not even enough vaccines for the patients that are at risk. This is a scandal. The president of the Association for General Physicians in Bavaria, Dieter Geis stated: “The shortage of vaccines is not the fault auf “Novartis” but it is the fault of the Bavarian health insurance companies, for giving only one company the entire production of vaccines for all of Bavaria, an action that is totally irresponsible and at the expense of the patients. Such actions will not be tolerated in the future”.

Diarrhea with vomiting caused by frozen strawberries from China (6 October, 2012) Most likely frozen strawberries from China were the cause of the illness affecting more than 11,000 people. Holger Eichele, spokesman for the Federal Office of Food and Consumer Protection stated: “We have made a big step forward in the investigations.” The food investigators found that the suspect strawberries were coming from China. A wholesaler had delivered the frozen strawberries to dining facilities of Company Sodexo, with its headquarters in Rüsselsheim and to two other caterers for school cafeterias and dining facilities. The infections were probably caused because the strawberries were only defrosted and not fully heated before being served as desserts. If the strawberries are not heated, not all germs are killed. In addition, the noro virus is very cold and heat resistant. In Eastern Germany 11,200 people were sick according to recent numbers of the Robert Koch institute.

SPORT

Schweinfurt Break dance Crew wins World Championship once more (8 October, 2012) On Saturday the break dance formation Dance floor Destruction Crew from Schweinfurt became Word Champion of the International Dance Organization for the second time, the first time in 2007. This makes the Schweinfurt crew reigning champions Germany wide, European and World wide.

OTHER

8,000 year old settlement found near Wipfeld (6 October, 2012) Until now Schwanfeld in the county of Schweinfurt was known as oldest village in Germany based on findings of a 7,500 year old settlement. Now it has competition in the area of its neighbor village Wipfeld.

Geophysicists of the Bavarian State Office for Preservation of Historical Monuments proofed the existence of an 8,000 year old settlement. Through highly sensitive measurements of disturbances of the earth's magnetic field they found traces of a 100,000 square meter large settlement including 50 meter long wooden houses, surrounded by an earth mound. What is unique for the scientists is the fact that the site of the find, contrary to others, is totally undisturbed.