

Early Bird 27 Oct – 2 Nov 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Police officers suffer from having to work too much overtime (Nov. 2)

The overtime Bavarian police officers have to put in for OT is increasing, according to Harald Schneider, spokesman for security policy in the Bavarian parliament. He stated that a member of the Bavarian police force has to work an average of 38 hours overtime which cannot be tolerated any longer. He demands that the Bavarian government increases personnel. In Schweinfurt, the average overtime per police officer is 44 hours. According to a statement made by the Bavarian Department of the Interior, the Bavarian police received 470 new police officers this year and an increase of 1,000 personnel is expected for next year, when the students at the police academies graduate, increasing personnel at the police stations.

Police called 60 times on Halloween (Nov. 2)

In spite of an increased police presence, the police force in Lower Franconia was very busy on Halloween. According to the police headquarters in Würzburg, 60 of 300 missions were related to Halloween. However, they were less than last year when the police had 170 Halloween related missions. Most of the offenses were property damage and disturbance of the peace but also fights and assaults. In Würzburg, the city resembled a “giant party mile” with costumed people on the street and in every pub. Also in the rest of Bavaria the police had more than 200 extra missions due to Halloween but there were no major incidents reported. In downtown Schweinfurt the property damage was €5,000 caused by eggs that were thrown at house walls. Also two youth were caught letting off fireworks.

In spite of cold and snow 1,000 bikers came to final “bikers’ mass” (Oct. 29)

In spite of cold and snow, 1,000 bikers showed up for the final “bikers’ mass” at St. Michael’s church in Schweinfurt. Stefan Philipps and Roland Breitenbach, the two priests of St. Michael’s, care for the bikers and their families all year around. During the mass the names of 20 bikers who lost their lives on the road this year were remembered. At the same time all bikers expressed their trust in God and renewed their commitment to their responsibility on the road

LEADERS/POLITICS

Judge and soon to be County Commissioner visits Humboldt High School (Oct. 29)

The Director of the Humboldt High School in Schweinfurt, Christoph Zänglein, initiated a new program inviting top- class guest speakers to address students of 10th, 11th and 12th grades giving them advise in regard to decisions they have to make when choosing their future careers, such as selecting the appropriate university, field of study and career goal. The first guest speaker was Florian Töpfer, a former student of Humboldt High School who is presently a judge and soon to be County Commissioner. He won the recent elections and will be inaugurated on Feb. 1, 2013. Two hundred students listened to his speech and had many questions pertaining to the subject but also political questions. The next guest speaker scheduled for the end of November is Hermann Sigle, former executive president of ZF Sachs AG (producer of automotive parts/components).

Community council of Üchtelhausen not happy with wind energy plan (Oct. 27)

The community council members are not satisfied with the regional plan regarding the designated wind power areas. One of the issues is that the area of the military training area “Brönnhof” has not been included in the plan, since it will be used by U.S. Army until the end of 2014. However, the community council recommends to also designate this area for this purpose and, furthermore, to add an “optional” area north-west of Madenhausen (forest area Lindach). A respective statement from the community was agreed upon – with only 1 vote against it – and will be sent to the planning association Main-Rhön, responsible for this project.

ECONOMY

Slight upswing on the job market this fall (Oct. 31)

In October, almost three million people in Germany were unemployed – more than a year ago. It was no golden October on the job market. With a reduction of only 35,000, the Federal Employment Agency had the weakest fall upswing in 10 years. In October 2.753 million people were unemployed – 16,000 more than a year ago. The unemployment rate in Germany stayed at 6.5%. In Bavaria it is 3.4%, in Lower Franconia 3.3%, in Würzburg 3.1% and in Schweinfurt 3.5%.

German Rail Road Company increases personnel (Oct. 27)

The German Rail Road Company (GRRC) increased its personnel again this year. This year the number of employees in Germany increased by 2,200 to 195,300, according to a report released on Friday. In 2011 hired 4,000 new employees in Germany and counting the 104,100 employees in foreign countries the company had 299,400 employees at the end of September and is expected to reach 300,000 by the end of the year.

ENVIRONMENT

First time in decades “Mainfranken” had snow in October (Oct. 29)

The region “Mainfranken” has not experienced snow in October for decades. Only a week ago people were sitting in street cafes in Würzburg, Schweinfurt or Bad Kissingen wearing T-shirts and enjoying the Franconian late summer. Within 8 days the temperatures dropped by nearly 25 degrees centigrade. According to meteorologist Christoph Hartmann of the German weather service, this only happens every 30 to 40 years. Many drivers were not prepared driving with summer tires on their cars or driving too fast for the road conditions. However; most of the accidents that occurred were only minor, except for one when an 18-year old driver in Baden Württemberg who was driving a convertible started skidding and crashed head-on into a tour bus. He died at the scene of the accident.

SPORT

The Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs lost again (Oct. 30)

On Sunday the Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs lost against the Deggendorf Fire 1:4. It seems that this season the same is happening from game to game. The Mighty Dogs fight and play good ice hockey but do not score enough. Plus they are getting punished by their enemies, and therefore at the end of the game they have nothing to show for it. However, at the end of each game Coach

Viktor Proskuryakov states that the team cannot be blamed and that they will try to do better in the next game against Peiting on Wednesday.