

Early Bird 8 – 14 December 2012

LIFESTYLE

15 couples in the city and county of Schweinfurt got married on 12/12/2012 (Dec. 12)

A normal weekday, a Wednesday, cloudy and cold - why would people want to get married on such a day – because of the date 12/12/12 is an unforgettable date. Therefore there is a great demand to get married that day. Two couples, one in Schweinfurt and one in Schwebheim, said their wedding vows at exactly 12:12 p.m. 15 couples came to the city's bureau of vital statistics requesting to get married on Dec. 12, 2012, or 12/12/12. There will be a wedding ceremony every 30 minutes. Normally most wedding ceremonies are held on Saturdays with an average of eight weddings. Also many parents planned to have their babies born (by Cesarean delivery) on that date. According to a health insurance provider there were more than twice the number of babies born by Cesarean delivery on 11/11/11 and they expect as many Dec. 12, 2012.

SAFETY/SECURITY

Seven accidents caused by drivers going too fast on icy roads (Dec. 12)

According to a police report, seven accidents occurred in the county of Schweinfurt within 24 hours from Sunday 6 a.m. until Monday 6 a.m. Estimated damages cost €17,000. The accidents were caused by drivers going too fast on icy roads. Therefore, the police emphasized once more how important it is to adjust speed to road conditions.

Window of a regional train shatters injuring passenger (Dec. 11)

For still unknown reasons, a window in a regional train travelling from Stuttgart to Würzburg shattered and a passenger sustained injuries to his hands and face. According to the Federal Police who investigated the incident, throwing a rock on the moving train was not the cause. The probable cause is that a piece of metal scraped along the window. What has not been determined yet is whether the metal was a piece of the contact wire or was a piece hanging off an oncoming train.

Heavy snowfalls and freezing causes discomfort, but not traffic chaos (Dec. 10)

The railroad company lowered the speed for many trains to 200 kilometers per hour, which caused many delays. At the airport in Frankfurt hundreds of flights were cancelled. In Sachsen-Anhalt a woman froze to death. According to a police report the traffic in Lower Franconia went quite smooth mainly because there were only a few trucks on the road on Sunday and because a lot of people stayed at home because of the weather conditions.

Smoke in a school bus: 21 children injured, 12 admitted to hospital (Dec. 8)

On Friday morning, a smoking vehicle heater in a school bus injured 21 children. During the bus ride to a school near Kitzingen some of the students noticed that smoke was coming out of the heater. When the bus driver turned-off the heater the smoke cleared and the driver continued his route. However, later on at school some of the children, ages 6 to 10 years old, complained of headaches, nausea and coughing. Twenty-one children were treated and 12 of them were admitted to a hospital in Würzburg for further examinations. According to the emergency physician, none of the children was seriously injured and will be able to leave the hospital, soon.

The school bus was taken to a special company for inspection. According to the police no deficiencies had been found on the vehicle heater during the last quarterly inspection.

LEADERS/POLITICS

Roof on Ice Dome deemed safe (Dec. 11)

When it snowed last February the city was happy that it hadn't snowed too much. If it had, the Ice-Dome [near Yorktown Village] would have had to close because the roof was in a desolate condition. Last Sunday it snowed again, and this time there was a lot of snow. However, no one had to worry about it since the renovation work on the roof was completed and ventilation and dehumidifying system was installed just in time before the big snow. The ice skating and roller skating club, the main users of the Ice Dome, took the heavy snowfall as an opportunity to inform the public that the Ice Dome is safe in all weather conditions, according to the results of an inspection performed by the technical control board (TÜV). The renovation of the roof construction and installation of ventilation and dehumidifying systems cost of €50,000.

ECONOMY

Load your electric car for free until New Year's Eve (Dec. 14)

The third loading station for electric cars opened in Schweinfurt near the Technical College at the corner Gabelsbergerstrasse/Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse. This year, users can load their e-cars for free by registering with a cell phone. "Electric cars are an important theme for the future," stated the director of the city utilities works, Thomas Steputat. In 2010 the city electricity works opened the first public electricity loading station at the indoor-outdoor pools "Silvana." This summer the second loading station was opened at the city electricity works administration building at Bodelshwingstrasse. With the newly opened loading station Schweinfurt now has three public loading stations for electric cars and more are planned.

Children earn €1,143 for worldwide relief organization for needy children (Dec. 10)

During the past several weeks students of the Schiller elementary school in Schweinfurt participated in a campaign to help children. The boys and girls helped with chores around the house, ran small errands for neighbors, swept side-walks and offered a variety of help to friends and relatives. The money they earned for their services they gave to the school. The children of 4th grade also baked cookies at home and sold them in a bookstore downtown. Altogether the children collected €1,143, which they donated to a worldwide relief organization for children in need. The money will benefit children on the Indonesian island "Nias," where children have to work in rock quarries to help support their families.

Rich harvest for "Ice wine" in Franconia (Dec. 10)

The wine-growers in Franconia finished the wine year with a big success. Many wine-growers in Franconia were picking grapes for the "ice wine" late Saturday and early Sunday in temperatures of -10 degrees Celsius or 14 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the wine-growers' association, this year's harvest promises excellent ice-wine and a good profit. The "Riesling" grape is favored for ice wine all over Germany because it has just the right amount of sweetness and sourness.

SPORT

Hockey: Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs lose again (Dec. 13)

The Mighty dogs lost another game against the Hockey Club Selb 1:2 last Sunday at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt. In spite of a series of bad luck and the team's last place in the "Oberliga" (Premier League), the team's spirit is still high and Coach Viktor Proskuryakov sees a clear upward trend in the team's performance and is determined to play in the play-offs. His advice to the players is: "In the 'Oberliga' you have to play simpler, you have to try to score not keep on passing and passing again. Every chance has to be taken." He states: "This is a maturing process the team had to go through but which should be completed now." He is very positive concerning the team's future.