



WARNER WEEKLY

News & Information at Your Fingertips



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Official Announcements

Need to Talk?

Military Family Life Consultants are available to help Soldiers and family members with all kinds of problems. Are you feeling depressed, stressed or overwhelmed? The Military Family Life Consultants provide completely confidential counseling to those in need. Counselors rotate out of the community on a monthly basis. No records are kept. Contact the consultants at CIV: 0175 600 8373 or CIV:01511 6989433.

Make a Mental Health Check

Are you puzzled about your emotions? Take an online, anonymous self-assessment available to family members and service personnel affected by deployment or mobilization at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org. The online self-assessment is available in English and Spanish. If you are feeling disconnected, angry or persistently sad, take this first step. It can help you put the pieces together.

OPENING MARCH 23!



Fri. March 23— Skateboard Park Grand Opening!

All skateboarders, inline skaters, and community residents are invited to attend the grand opening of the Bamberg Skateboard Park on Fri. March 23 at 4 p.m. The 7,000 sq. ft. asphalt area is located directly across the street from the Bamberg High School and will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The concrete skateboard park components include elements for beginners as well as experienced riders such as grind

boxes, rails, pyramids, launch boxes and even a mini half-pipe. Helmets, knee and elbows pads will be required. No bikes will be allowed. Be one of the first to hang ten at this new community park.



Sun. March 25—Spring Ahead

REMINDER! Don't be late! Europe will 'Spring Ahead' this year on Sun. March 25. Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead to Daylight Savings Time on Sun. March 25 at 2 a.m. The United States switched to Daylight Saving Time on March 11.

Retirees Get Red Carpet Treatment

USAG Bamberg is rolling out the red carpet for retirees on Sat. March 31. European-wide retirees (possessing a Blue Retired I.D. card) and their family members (possessing a Retired Dependent I.D. Card) are invited to attend Retiree Appreciation Day at the Basics Building on Warner Barracks in Bamberg. Starting at 9 a.m., a variety of Garrison services catering specifically to retiree's benefits will be available under one roof. Find out how to obtain and uphold your commissary and exchange privileges, or visit with representatives from the Pass and ID Office, IACS, the Dental and Health Clinic, VFW, Legal Assistance, Post Office, USAG Mail Room, Red Cross, Customs Office, Retirement Services, Public Affairs Office, ACS and many more. You've earned it, so take advantage of this opportunity to learn more.

Assistance will be provided for the following services:

- Updating ID Cards and passports
- Installation Access Control (IACS) Registration
- Obtaining and maintaining shopping privileges
- Benefits and claims from the VFW, Retiree Council and a V.A. Representative
- Legal Assistance
- Assignment of USAG Mail Box numbers
- Post Office support
- Registering with the customs office and customs forms
- Red Cross informational support
- International Direct Deposit
- Retirement Services
- myPay account
- Army Emergency Relief
- Keeping in touch with the military community and many more...

The Bamberg Medical clinic will be providing Dental and Optometry exams as well as blood pressure checks and records maintenance. Shuttle service will be available between the Basics Building and the Health Clinic. For more information contact the Bamberg Directorate of Human Resources at 0951-300-7713 / 8651 / 7522 or 469-7713.

Tue. March 20—V.A. Benefits Briefing

ACAP is offering a VA Benefits Briefing on Tue. March 20 from 8 a.m.—noon at the Reeltime Theater. The briefing will explain what programs and services are available through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please call your Bamberg ACAP Office for more information at 469-8925. VA Benefits Briefings will be held once a month in Bamberg through August.

Published weekly by the USAG Bamberg Public Affairs Office. To submit an announcement call 469-2000 or e-mail bambergpao@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Community Closures /Changes

CLOSURE: Bamberg Health Clinic

The Health Clinic will be closed Fri. March 16 and Mon. March 19 due to the scheduled Training Holidays. Emergencies should be taken to the Bamberg Klinikum.

The POINT will merge with Bavarian News

The final issue of The Point will be distributed Fri. March 23. The bi-weekly newspaper is merging with The Bavarian News which is produced by the USAG Grafenwoehr public affairs office. Beginning with the April 6 edition, The Bavarian News will be distributed to all locations where The Point is currently distributed and will include command information for and about USAGs Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt. Free classified advertising will be accepted in the same manner as in the past.

Weekly Reminders

Thur. March 29 - Attend Community Resource Forum

All community members are encouraged to attend the next Community Resource Forum on Thur. March 29 at 9 a.m. in the Post Briefing Room. All handouts must be submitted by Fri. March 23. If you would like to brief a topic, please contact Alfredo Bonilla at ACS at 469-8399 or 469-7777.

Ray's Diner Operating Hours

The Bamberg Military Community dining facility operations have shifted from Nieves Webb DFAC to Ray's Diner. Food service operations at Ray's Diner are as follows. A revised weekend Post shuttle schedule can be found online at www.bamberg.army.mil.

Monday-Friday

Brkfast: 7 — 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30—6 p.m.

Weekend / Holiday

Brunch: 10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Supper: 3:30 — 5 p.m.

Bamberg Tax Center Hours of Operation

The Bamberg Tax Center is open Mon. through Fri. 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are being taken on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call to make an appointment to file your return at 469-8261.

AER Campaign underway

Army Emergency Relief is Soldiers helping Soldiers! The AER 2007 campaign is underway March 1 through May 15. Unit representatives are requested to contact Sandi Cox at 469-7633 for more information.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at the Chapel every Friday during Lent at 5:30 p.m. (Except Good Friday) Share in fellowship, soup and bread immediately after.

Tue. March 20 - Lenten Confessions at Chapel

Lenten Confessions / Reconciliations will be heard on Tue. March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bamberg Community Chapel.

Donate dry goods for orphanage through April

The CYS Middle School Teen Program and the Keystone Club (*A Boys and Girls Club of America program for 9th through 12th graders*) are still in need of food donations for a community service project. The clubs are collecting food donations to benefit an orphanage in Lwowek, Poland now through April. Items needed are bagged rice, dry beans, pasta noodles and American cereals. Food donations can be dropped off at Bamberg's Youth Center, Bldg 7669. The food will be delivered in May. For more information contact Randy Lambert at 469-8641 or e-mail randy.lambert1@us.army.mil.

Health and Safety

Civilian Fitness Program Spring Assessments

Spring Assessments for individuals wishing to start the Civilian Fitness Program will be conducted at the Freedom Fitness Facility on Thur. March 22 and on Fri. March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Civilian Fitness Program helps you adopt a healthier lifestyle by incorporating a regular exercise program into your work week. Once enrolled, DOD civilian employees are allowed three 1 hour exercise sessions per week during normal work hours over a 6 month period of time. For more information please contact Health Promotion Coordinator Angela Hunter at 469-7043 (Tue. and Thur.) or 354-6793 (Mon-Wed-Fri)

Drivers Course Required for Troops 26 and under

USAG Bamberg Safety Office release

The USAG Bamberg Safety Office is offering the next Intermediate Driver Safety Course on March 20 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. As of March 2007, all Soldiers 26 and under who live in Europe are required to take the two-and-a-half hour driver's safety course geared towards reducing the number of fatalities in this high risk age group. The course will be offered twice a month in the training room of Bldg. 7119.

The Army-wide implementation of the Army Traffic Safety Program (ATSTP) training consists of six courses which are above and beyond the training required for a USAREUR driver's license.

The Intermediate Driver's Training Course schedule for Bamberg Warner Barracks can be found on the IMCOM website at <http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/local/>. Click on ATSTP in the upper right hand corner then "Intermediate Driver's Training", then Bamberg. The next courses will be offered April 3 and 17 and May 1 and 15.

For more information contact Mr. Robert Wachter at USAG Bamberg Safety Office at 469-1670.

Get Tracking Today - at MyPyramid.gov

MyPyramid Tracker is a web-based interactive tool that helps consumers compare their diet and physical activity to current health recommendations. Individuals can enter the foods they eat and their physical activities for a day and obtain the energy balance between them. MyPyramid Tracker provides each user with detailed, personalized results. Go to www.mypyramid.gov and start tracking!



MyPyramid tracker can help you:

- Compare your food choices for a day to current nutrition recommendations from the Dietary Guidelines.
- See if you are eating the right amount of foods from each of the MyPyramid food groups.
- Analyze daily physical activity to see how many calories you use and check your energy balance – comparing calories eaten with calories burned through physical activity.
- Track your progress over time – up to 1 year – by entering information for multiple days.

Continuing Education

Bamberg Education Center

Registration for Term IV begins on March 12
 Bamberg Education Center: 469-7715
 Central Texas College: 469-7467
 University of Maryland University College: 469-7466 / 7670
 Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: 469-9279

Take next FAST Class

Preparing to take the GED or just need to polish up on your math skills? Sign up to take the next FAST Class Tue. April 10 through Tue. May 8. Class runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. FAST Classes focus on improving basic math and reading skills. Prior to enrollment Soldiers must stop by the Education Center and pick a memo for your commander to sign and take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) 7D. The TABE will be given on Tue. April 3 at 9 a.m. Wed. April 4 at 1:30 p.m. or Thur. April 5 at 9 a.m. Contact the Bamberg Education Center for more information at 469-7715.

School News

BES March Newsletter Online

The Bamberg Elementary School's community newsletter for march is available online at <http://www.bamb-es.eu.dodea.edu/>. A copy can also be picked up at the elementary school.

BES reminders

Spring Recess will be April 9 through April 13 for all BES and BHS students.

Kids & Teens

Mark your calendars for MOMC!



Did you know that more than one million American children have at least one parent serving in active military? These kids are heroes, just like their parents! Month of the Military Child is celebrated in April to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, sacrifice, and unconditional support shown to their parents.

Sat. March 31— Month of the Military Child Kick-Off Party!

Bamberg Child and Youth services has put together a great program to celebrate the Month of the Military Child starting with a Kick-off Party on Saturday, March 31. The day will be filled with activities devoted to fun for all ages. Check out the schedule of events planned for the Kick-off and check back throughout the month April for more.

- 8 a.m. **5k Fun Run / Family Walk** — JFK Gym
- 10 a.m. MOMC Opening Ceremony
- 10 a.m.—2 p.m. **Youth Services Open House—Bldg. 7669**
 Featuring games, races, contests, chili cook off, K-9 show (11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.) cowboy/girl dressing, lasso throwing lessons, poster making, displays and more!
- 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Bratwurst, Chips, Lemonade and cake served at the **ACS Gazebo**

CYS offers Spring Break Activities!

Looking for something to do over spring break? USAG Bamberg Child and Youth Services has you covered! A variety of exciting trips, tours and activities are being offered daily for middle school / high school teens the week of April 9 —13. Pre-registration is required and space is limited on these trips so sign up today. For more information about the Spring Break programs listed contact Randy Lambert at 469-8641 or e-mail randy.lambert@eur.army.mil

April 10—12 - Spring Break Trip to Garmisch Sign-up by April 1



Bamberg Child & Youth Services is offering a spring break trip to Garmisch-Partenkirchen for High School students grades 9 to 12. The trip will depart from the Bamberg Youth Services, Bldg. 7669 at 8 a.m. and will be joined by youth from Schweinfurt and Garmisch.

Trip activities include swimming, hiking, and possible side trips. Spring Breakers and staff will be staying in Kean's Lodge — youth will need to bring a sleeping bag. Trip price is \$60 per teen. Space is limited. Sign-up and payment must be made by April 1

Tue. April 10 - Kristall Palm Beach

Sign-up by April 6



Youth Services is offering a one day swim trip to Kristall Palm Beach on the Tue. April 10. The group will depart the YS Bldg. 7669 at 10 a.m. and will be joined by Hohenfels and Ansbach youth programs. Trip price is €15 per youth and includes a sack lunch. (bring extra euros for dinner.) Space is limited. Sign-up by April 6.

Wed. April 11 - Europa Park

Sign-up by April 6



Youth Services is offering a trip for middle/high school youth to Europa Park on Wed. April 11. The bus will depart YS Bldg. 7669 at 4 a.m. and return around 11 p.m. Trip price is \$25 per youth and includes a breakfast snack and sack lunch. Please bring extra euros for any additional purchases and food. Participants must be CYS registered.

Sat. April 14 – Go-Cart Racing



Sign-up by April 12

Don't miss your opportunity to jump in the drivers seat! Join the YS trip to Stucks Kart / Event Center in Gollhofen (near Ansbach) for Go-Cart Racing on Sat. April 14 This event is open to CYS registered middle/high school youth. Trip price is €30 per youth. Space is limited. Sign-up up by April 12. Participants must be CYS registered. www.stucks-event-center.de. Get ready to start your engines!

Entertainment & Leisure



Photo by Jack Austin

Bamberg Stable Theater presents Little Women— The Musical

Don't miss the upcoming production of Louisa May Alcott's classic American novel, LITTLE WOMEN, the Musical, opening on March 24 for 7 shows. Set during the Civil War, the show chronicles the lives of the March family through triumphs and tragedy, with wonderful music and dance. A great show for the whole family!

Seats will go quickly; call to reserve at 0951-300-8647 .

Tickets are \$9/9EUR for adults, \$7/7EUR for students, kids 5 and over, Soldiers E4 and below; \$25 family card for unlimited immediate family members with parent or grandparent; \$20 if family of E4 or below.

Showtime's in March & April:

Opening Night is Sat. March 24, Wed. 28, Thur. 29, Fri. 30 & Sat. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 25 and Sun. Apr. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

REMINDER: Yard Sales Require Authorization

Residents who wish to hold a Yard Sale must receive authorization from the USAG Bamberg Directorate of Human Resources located on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 7089 Rms. 209-211. An application from DHR must filled out first and then taken to the customs office. For more information please contact Sigrid Villalon or Barbara Baeuerlein at 469-7713 /8651.

Sell or donate household goods to Thrift Shop



If you don't have the time to organize your own Yard Sale then call the Bamberg Thrift Shop! The second hand shop is a great alternative for recycling those gently used household items back into the community! The Bamberg Spouses' and Civilians' Club Thrift Shop associates

will happily consign and sell your used household items, clothing, toys and appliances for you. A small percentage of what you make goes back to fund their efforts and the organization. Make an appointment to consign your items with the shop at 0951-32408. A drop box is located to the left of the entrance for donations.

Thrift Shop Operating Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Thursday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 First Saturday of the month: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 (CLOSED Fri, Sat, Sun and Mon)

All proceeds go back in to the Warner Barracks community through grants and scholarships.

Sun. March 18— Brunch at the Warner Club

Dreaming of a Denny's Grand Slam or IHOP Country Griddle Cakes? Look no further! The Warner Club offers a brunch buffet the first and third Sunday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The next brunch will be Sun. March 18. The all-you-can-eat buffet is \$7.50 per adult and \$4.50 for children under 12 or \$22 for families (2 adults, 2 children) Reservations are recommended. Call the Warner Club at 0951-300-7596.

Thur. March 22 – Etiquette Luncheon

The Bamberg Spouses' and Civilians' Club invites you to attend an informative Etiquette Luncheon on Thur. March 22 at the Warner Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is \$11. Please RSVP at bscc_reservations@hotmail.com by March 19.

Celebrate Women’s History Month at Your Library

Women’s History Month takes place annually during the month of March. The 2007 theme, "Generations of Women Moving History Forward" recognizes the wisdom and tenacity of the generations of women who have come before us and those who will follow. The month long observance provides opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the courage, determination, and steadfastness needed to move history forward.

Visit the Bamberg Library during the month of March to find out more about the remarkable women who have changed, or are still fighting to change, the course of history.

Learn more by ‘checking out’ these recommended reading titles during Women’s History Month :

- *Cleopatra*, by Fiona MacDonald
- *African American Writers*, by Brenda Scott Wilkinson
- *Eleanor Roosevelt*, by Karen McAuley
- *Elizabeth Dole*, by Richard Kozar
- *Notable American Women*, by Barbara Sicherman
- *Cleopatra’s Palace*, by Laura Foreman
- *Amelia Earhart*, by Elgen M. Long
- *My Life in France*, by Julia Child
- *Katherine Hepburn*, by Barbara Leaming
- *Gilda*, by David Saltman
- *Ball of Fire (Lucille Ball)*, by Stefan Kanfer

The library is located in Bldg. 7047 and is open Mon. through Thur. from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sat. and Sun. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Fridays. For more information about the programs and services available at the Bamberg Community Library call 0951-300-1640.

Trips & Travel Opportunities

Go trippin’ with the CAC this March

The Bamberg Community Activity Center offers the following trips for the month of March. These trips fill up quickly, so don’t delay, sign up today. For more information contact the CAC at 469-8659 or 0951-300-8659.



Sat. Mar. 24—
Shopping in Poland
 Cost: \$60 per person.
 Departs at 4 a.m.

Sat. Mar. 31—Apr. 1 - Skiing in Austria III

Cost: \$150 per person. Includes 2 overnights, 2 meals per day and transportation.

Job Corner

Jobs opportunities listed on CPOL

For more job opportunities in the local area and world-wide go to the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Online Web Site at www.cpol.army.mil

AAFES Bamberg Movie Schedule

AAFES Reeltime Theater is
 CLOSED Tues. and Wed.



Fri.	Mar. 16	Wild Hogs (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 17	Happily N’ Ever After (PG)	4 p.m.
		Wild Hogs (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 18	Happily N’ Ever After (PG)	4 p.m.
		Primeval (R)	7 p.m.
Mon.	Mar. 19	Alpha Dog (R)	7 p.m.
Thur.	Mar. 22	Primeval (R)	7 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 23	300 (R)	7 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 24	Stomp the Yard (PG-13)	4 p.m.
		300 (R)	7 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 25	Stomp the Yard (PG-13)	4 p.m.
		Freedom Writers (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Mon.	Mar. 26	300 (R)	7 p.m.
Thur.	Mar. 29	Freedom Writers (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 30	Dreamgirls (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 31	The Queen (PG-13)	4 p.m.
		Dreamgirls (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sun.	April 1	The Queen (PG-13)	4 p.m.
		Shooter (R)	7 p.m.
Mon.	April 2	Dreamgirls (R)	7 p.m.
Thur.	April 5	Shooter (R)	7 p.m.

Outside the Gate

Weekend Events in and around Bamberg

Friday, March 16

- 7:30 p.m. Shakuhachi Music at Studio 13 (*Luitpoldstr. 40*)
- 8 p.m. Gods of Noise - "Dawn Of Flames - Metal Festival at Live-Club (*Obere Sandstraße 7*)
- 9 p.m. Lick - Soul, Funk, Rock at Sound’n’Art (*Obere Sandstraße 20*)
- 9 p.m. "Take 4" (Jazz-Funk-Bop) at Club Kaulberg (*Unterer Kaulberg 36*)
- 9 p.m. Bernd Rinser Duo at Blues Bar (*Obere Sandstraße 18*)
- 10 p.m. Macca Fat! (Ragga, Dancehall, Dub) at Morph Club (*Siechenstraße 7a*)

Saturday, March 17

- 5 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Party at Pelikan (*Untere Sandstraße 45*)
- 8 p.m. Tom Gaebel & Big Band GOOD LIFE - Tour 2007 at Jako Arena (*Forchheimerstrasse 15, next to Kaufland store*)
- 8 p.m. Yu-Gi-Oh-Tournament at ImmerHin (*Dr. Von Schmitt Str 16*)
- 9 p.m. Schmidt-Brandt Quartett - Jazzity 2007 at Jazzkeller (*Obere Sandstrs. 18*)

Outside the Gate

Saturday, March 17 (continued)

- 9 p.m. Evil Genius at Sound'n'Art (*Obere Sandstraße 20*)
 9 p.m. Punk Rock at SubOptimal Stage Club
 (*Böttgerstraße 4*)
 9 p.m. Mojo Rock (Swing and Blues) at Club Kaulberg
 (*Unterer Kaulberg 36*)
 9 p.m. Slop at Blues Bar (*Obere Sandstraße 18*)
 10 p.m. 30 plus party (non-smoking) at Live-Club
 (*Obere Sandstraße 7*)
 10 p.m. Beat Virus (Technohouse) at Morph Club
 (*Siechenstraße 7a*)

Sunday, March 18

- 4:30 p.m. Chamber Concert of the Bamberg Symphony
 Orchestra at Spiegelsaal, Schillerplatz 5
 8 p.m. Tango Suerte at Haas-Säle (*Obere Sandstraße 7*)
 9 p.m. Open Sessions with Heiner, Martin & Friends
 at Sound 'n' Art (*Obere Sandstraße 20*)
 9 p.m. Eddy Deckert at Blues Bar (*Obere Sandstraße 18*)

Monday, March 19

- 5 p.m. Huppendorfer Josephi-Bock Beer-Start
 at Pelikan (*Untere Sandstraße 45*)
 7 p.m. Jour fixe: Alwynne Pritchard, composer
 and musician at Villa Concordia (*Concordiastr. 28*)
 9 p.m. Dance at Live-Club (*Obere Sandstrasse 7*)

Tuesday, March 20

- 9 p.m. ToMac at Blues Bar (*Obere Sandstr. 18*)

Wednesday, March 21

- 9 p.m. Heiner (Acoustic Gitarre/Vocals) at Sound'n'Art
 (*Obere Sandstraße 20*)
 9 p.m. Andi Lauth at Blues Bar (*Obere Sandstraße 18*)
 9 p.m. Pit Pop with DJ Peter at Stilbruch (*Obere Sandstr. 18*)
 10 p.m. Uncommon Men From Mars (Melodic Punkrock)
 at Morph Club (*Siechenstraße 7a*)

Thursday, March 22

- 8 p.m. Avitall: "Walking the corniche"
 Tour 2007 at Live-Club (*Obere Sandstraße 7*)
 9 p.m. Los Chicos Muertos at Blues Bar
 (*Obere Sandstraße 18*)
 10 p.m. Sense and Sin Party at Morph Club (*Siechenstraße 7a*)

As seen in the Fränkischer Tag ..

Fränkischer Tag.de

News summaries from March 9 through March 15

Women earn less

According to an EU report, women in Germany earn almost 25% less than their male colleagues. That puts Germany way behind the European average. Only Cyprus, Estonia and Slovakia have worse figures.

Lower taxes for enterprises

The Federal government decided to pass a bill to reduced corporate tax for enterprises. The goal is to attract more companies to produce in Germany. According to the bill the capital tax for enterprises is to be lowered from 38.6% to under 30% starting in 2008. This will result in a tax loss of 6.47 billion Euros in the first year it is introduced. Minister of Finance, Peer Steinbrueck, is convinced that the loss will be recovered.

Climate protection: Could atomic power help?

A new discussion started whether the use of atomic power plants could help stop global warming. While many other nations are trying to develop new types of reactors, the Federal government plans to end the nuclear power phase-out. A recent study shows that if the climate change can not be stopped or slowed, this will create a costs of 800 billion Euros for Germany alone, amounting to some 250 Euros annually per household.

Government and auto industry reject speed-limit

In the ongoing discussion regarding measures to combat climate change, the German government has again come under fire. EU Environment Commissar Stavros Dimas called for a speed-limit to be imposed on the German Autobahn network of expressways; he added that such limits are usual in most European countries as well as the United States. It is only in Germany, Dimas said, that the issue is strangely controversial. He also said that a speed-limit is a simple measure to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions. Dimas' suggestion has been met with rejection on the part of the German government and automobile industry. A spokesman for the federal Transportation Ministry said that Dimas is disregarding the facts, and that even a limit of one hundred kilometers per hour would only reduce CO2 emissions by 0.6 percent. He added that such merely symbolic policies would not help matters. Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel and the German Automobile Industry Association expressed similar views. On North Bavarian highway, many passages have speed limits anyway, especially on A73.

No alcohol for minors?

More and more teenagers regularly drink excessively. As a result many politicians are calling for a general prohibition of alcohol for teenagers under 18. While purchasing wine, beer and the like is legal at the age of 16 in Germany, the purchase of brandy etc. is not allowed until a teenager becomes an adult according to the German law. In Germany, teenagers under 18 are minors, but once 18 they can vote, get a driving license and are allowed to go out all night. Experts discuss whether the prohibition will result in increased consumption as shown from figures in other countries.

"Oscar" for Bamberg

Wednesday night the city of Bamberg received an award for providing the best support to its local industry. Lord Mayor Starke received the "Best Supporting" award from Bavarian Minister for Economics, Erwin Huber.

As seen in the Fränkischer Tag ...

Fränkischer Tag.de

News summaries from March 9 through March 15

Fuchsenwiese made "Ecological Point"

The Fuchsenwiese, the meadow of the Bird Society LBV (behind the park and ride lot near Babenberger Ring/Bamberg Suedwest) that is used for environmental education, has now been selected to be an "Ecological Point" by the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment. There are only 36 such points all over Bavaria. Every year, the LBV hosts some 250 events and attracts 11,000 visitors. The award will bring some monetary support for the LBV since so far, the Society has to finance 85% of the events on its own.

Pilgrims: "The Madonna gives us a sign"

Many pilgrims confirm that they have witnessed the "miracle of the tears" in Heroldbach four weeks ago. At the time, the statue of the Holy Mary is said to have shed real tears. Pilgrims who wiped off the tears with a tissue are calling for an official investigation of those tears.

"People want the crowns!"

This Friday, Lord Mayor Andreas Starke and Second Mayor Werner Hipelius will drive to Munich to see the Prime Minister of Bavaria, Edmund Stoiber. One reason for the journey is to discuss whether Bamberg can get the Dome Treasures permanently. This conflict has been going on for several months now. While Bamberg has been calling to get the treasures back for the duration of the Dome anniversary, the Munich authorities will ultimately retain the treasures in the Bavarian capital. Getting the treasures to Bamberg means a lot to many Franconians, as many as 12,000 people have already signed a petition (Bamberg has some 70,000 inhabitants).

Final appearance still needs to be discussed

Even though a blueprint has already been chosen for the new Kettenbruecke, the CSU fraction of the city council is not yet satisfied with the future design of the bridge. For example, the politicians want an area on the bridge that invites pedestrians to rest and stay on the bridge for a while and to attract more people to cross the river and visit the shops on the other side (which currently suffer from lack of business).

Not lady-like

When a 39 year old woman entered the B173 and immediately changed to the left lane of the Autobahn, another car had to hit the breaks very hard. She then gave the other driver her middle finger. As a result she is now faced with a charge of insult in court.

No cash to donate? Master Card will do!

In the church of Schaeftlan Monastery in Upper Bavaria you can now donate to the offertory box with a credit or Euro cards. "Now everybody can donate just as much as he wants, no matter how much cash he's got right at hand!" says Abot Gregor Zasche.

Enrollment date at Bamberg elementary schools

Anyone wanting to send their children to a Bamberg City elementary school, needs to enroll their child on March 27. To do so you have to bring your child, birth certificate and medical records (U9).

Lionel Richie thrilled about Bamberg people

More than 5,000 fans came to see Lionel Richie perform at the Jako Arena last weekend. Richie is on his "Coming Home" tour. While he initially ridiculed the name of the city, he became delighted with the Bamberg audience during the course of the evening: "This is the first time ever in my career that the audience took over with the show." Richie will be on stage in Munich, April 14, (Olympia Halle) and Nuremberg, April 21(Arena).

"Do your homework first!"

Bamberg county politicians are criticizing the public transportation systems of city and county for lack of coordination. Before joining the public transport system of Nuremberg, they feel the city and the county should get their local transportation problems solved first. For example, students that have to change from the city busses to the interurban busses, often have to wait an extremely long time until the next bus arrives. If at all. That has already caused parents to car-pool to get their students to school in time.

World Championship in Bamberg?

City councilors Christian Lange and Helmut Mueller (both Christian Social Union, CSU) suggested that the World Championship of Women's Soccer 2011 be held in Bamberg. According to councilors, the matches could take place in the Volkspark stadium which will get new stands soon. With that and Bamberg being a beautiful town, the city councilors want Bamberg to apply for hosting the Championship.

Vladimir Klitschko still heavy-weight champion

Professional boxer Wladimir Klitschko retains the IBF and IBO title of heavy-weight champion of the world. The 30 year old Ukrainian-born German resident defeated challenger Ray Austin of the United States yesterday evening in Mannheim, with a knock-out in the second round. It was Klitschko's 48th victory out of his 51 professional fights

Leaving the car engine running will get you a fine

A 29 year old man from Hassfurt went to court because he did not want to pay a fine. The man had been caught leaving his car engine on the street running while he was in the house for a moment. Traffic police caught him and gave him a fine for a regulatory offense. The man felt he was treated unjustly and tried to file an appeal at court, but failed. Now he has to pay the fine.

Upper Franconian police are the best

The local police have a crime detection rate of 71%. That is the best result in all of Bavaria. The number of crimes has gone down as well. However, according to police statistics, more and more often, people get into physical disputes.

Starting time: 2015

Building a "Transrapid" (extremely fast train) from the Munich Main Station to the Munich airport is in the planning stages and is scheduled to be completed by 2015. However, the plan is encountering many problems, one of which is where to get the estimated 1.85 billion Euros to build it. The operating company is the German Bundesbahn who insists that the time frame will be met.

Bamberg Senate decides to cut down ramps

Finally, Bamberg politicians have decided to cut down the concrete ramps that have been built along the Main Donau canal near Luitpold bridge. While some thought the ugliness could have just been covered by plants, the council has now put an end to the discussion. The cut down pieces of the wall are to be auctioneered for a good cause. The ramps were built last winter and received enormous amounts of criticism right from the start. It was never found who had approved the plans in the first place and thus had become a political issue.

Every third child knows judo

In a ceremony, Litzendorf honored its best athletes. Judo coach Juergen Greiner and Helmut Uebelacker were honored for their support of the local sport of Judo. As a result of their efforts, 530 children received Judo training – that amounts to every third child of Litzendorf.

Nine year old boys play traffic police

Two 9 year old boys from Wuerzburg, decided to play traffic police. They set a up control check point station and stopped passing cars by holding up wooden sticks. Then they told the drivers about not exceeding the speed limit of that road (30K per hour). The police caught the boys and suggested they discuss the speed limit with their parents.

Female trickster with black hair

A woman in Zapendorf asking for donations for animals is really running a door-to-door scam. While waiting at people's front door for donations she secretly manipulates the door lock and comes back at a later time to enter the home and steal money. The woman is approximately 20 years old, has long black hair, is slim and wears black clothes.

Acquittal for aged lovebird

An elderly lovesick lady was charged with breach of domestic peace after chasing a catholic priest for the past six years. She had bombarded the man with obscene calls and SMS's. By reason of insanity, she was found not guilty and the charges have been dropped.

Federal government reaffirms engagement in Afghanistan

Despite new threats against Germany by Islamists, the federal government intends to maintain its engagement in Afghanistan. Development Minister Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul said in an interview that the focus of German efforts is not on military confrontation with the Taliban, but rather on the

political, social, and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, another video has appeared on the internet calling for Germany, and now Austria too, is called upon to quickly withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. Otherwise, according to the video, an Islamic group is threatening to attack. The German authorities are currently examining the recording. While the Islamists threaten to kill the two German hostages, the Secretary of the Interior, Wolfgang Schaueble, made it clear that the government will not succumb to blackmail. Authorities estimate the situation as very tense. In the video, the 61 year old German woman and her son were pleading for help.

Fires in Trosdorf – police have no suspects

People in Trosdorf/Bischberg are getting more and more nervous. An arsonist has struck again and the police have no suspects. This time it was a garage that was lit on fire. The arsonist has lit fires in the surrounding area for the past year, one fire being quite spectacular when a lumber mill was set ablaze. The police assume that the person is a local since their actions show knowledge of the neighborhood. He also tends to prefer to start fires on Saturday night.

Compromise for residency right

Federal and state governments have agreed on a residence right for tolerated foreigners after months of arguments. Thus, the 180,000 tolerated foreigners who have been living in Germany for more than six years will be granted a permanent residency right provided that they find paid work until 2009. The federal Cabinet is expected to adopt the bill at the end of the month. The opposition has severely criticized the compromise between Social Democrats and Christian Social Union. The regulation would benefit only those who were economically usable, said head of the Green party, Claudia Roth. Those who really needed protection were falling through the net. Vice chair of the Left fraction Petra Pau said the winners were the hard-liners in the Union and the losers were the concerned people. The Liberals, too, criticized some of the rules. Chancellor Angela Merkel called it a "very, very good compromise".