

THE Clare People

CLARE 10K

Saturday, June 25, 2011



register online at www.clare10k.com

The Clare 10K Helps Support Clare Haven Services

Volume 7 Issue 15 Tue 12 April 2011

www.clarepeople.com (065) 6895500 €2.00 (UK £1.80)

West Clare school leads fight against closures

Joe Ó Muircheartaigh

ONE of the smallest schools in Clare has launched a national campaign to fight the cause of schools facing possible closure under the terms of the controversial McCarthy Report that wants all units with under 50 pupils shut down.

The 'Save Small Schools Ireland' campaign was launched two weeks ago by the parents of Doonaha National School on the edge of the Loophead peninsula, who now say that it's set to "snowball nationwide" as primary schools across the country join forces to keep their doors open.

"The parents are leveraging the power of social media, by launching a Facebook campaign called 'Save Small Schools - Ireland' to allow the voices of all small schools to be heard," Tony Collins said on behalf of the Parents of Doonaha National School.

"The response in just two weeks has been very encouraging, including responses from all across Ireland.

See page 2



NOW HOLD STILL... John Giles under the supervision of Cyril Corry, uses Johnny Moroney as a tee as he prepares to drive off at The Mike Mac Memorial Golf Classic at Ennis Golf Club on Saturday. Over 200 golfers played in the classic which raised funds for Cahercalla Hospice and the John Giles Foundation which benefits local soccer in Clare. The successful day was organised by the Ennis Leeds United Supporters Club.

Flann Howard

Timmy is only Clare TD on list

Joe Ó Muircheartaigh

CLARE Fianna Fáil TD Timmy Dooley is the only Oireachtas representative in the county with a property portfolio outside his primary place of residence that generates income, new figures secured by *The Clare People* his week have revealed.

The 2010 register of interests for TDs published last Friday show that Deputy Dooley, a poll topper in the 2007 General Election in Clare and was recently returned to Dáil Éireann for a second term, is also a landlord in Dublin, from which he derives income.

The Mountshannon man, who is hotly tipped to become a member of Micheál Martin's front bench team later this month, owns a semi-detached house in South Dublin and an apartment in the city centre.

See page 6

A cure for cancer

Doolin foundation raises the money to fund breakthrough research

Andrew Hamilton

A CLARE man is on the verge of helping to achieving the impossible - discovering a cure for cancer.

Doolin native Gerry Dunleavy has been informed by experts at the Cancer Centre of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston that a cure for paediatric brain tumours is between 18 months and two years away.

This breakthrough has been made possible as a result of a large amount of research funding made avail-

able to the institute by the Dunleavy Foundation. The foundation, which is based jointly in Doolin and Boston, was set up in 2002 following the death of Gerry's son Michael as a result of a brain tumour. Eight-year-old Michael Dunleavy died on October 28, 2002, after losing his four-year-long battle with brain cancer.

A number of annual fundraising events take place each year on both sides of the Atlantic, with the money raised donated to a number of child cancer research initiatives both in

Boston and in Dublin.

"With all the money that has been raised by the Dunleavy Foundation, they have just been told that they will have a cure for paediatric brain tumours in the hospital within the next two years," said Gerry's sister, and Doolin coordinator of the Dunleavy Foundation, Mary O'Donoghue.

See page 4

Right: Gerry Dunleavy and his son Michael, taken just five months before Michael's death from cancer in 2002.



THERE are plenty of positive news stories happening in Clare every week and where there is good news, *The Clare People* will be there. So look out for the good news logo every week from now on in our pages. Let's talk ourselves up.

EUROS 4 GOLD

WE BUY 9, 14, 18, 22 & 24CT GOLD/SILVER

OLD OR NEW NECKLACES, RINGS, BRACELETS, COINS, SOVEREIGNS, KRUGERRANDS, ETC REGARDLESS OF CONDITION

We won't be beaten on price

KEVIN FROM LIMERICK RECEIVED €350 FOR RINGS

SHANE FROM TULLAMORE RECEIVED €2350 FOR GOLD CHAINS

NATIONWIDE • FULLY IRISH OWNED

- Fast,
- Easy,
- Secure!

1 UPPER WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK
2 SALTHOUSE LANE, ENNIS

WE NOW BUY MOBILE PHONES FOR CASH!

For confidential enquiries call: 087 150 4438

OPENING HOURS: Mon-Sat 11am-5pm

I.D. REQUIRED

www.eurosforgold.ie

News in brief

Stars of our Bars reaches the final stage in Charlie's

THE countywide trawl for Clare's participants in the regional Stars of our Bars final comes to a conclusion in Charlie Stewart's Bar in Ennis on Thursday night.

Fourteen musicians and performers will take part in the Clare finals after a two-month talent search.

The finalists from Brandon's, Ennis are: (1) Release The Dinosaurs, duet/singers (2) Natalie Leahy, solo/singer (3) Leading Armies, band. The finalists from Murty Browne's, Tullycrine are: (1) Brazen Hussies, trad group (2) Noel Morrissey, singer (3) Derrick Lynch, singer. The finalists from Shenanigans, Kilrush are: (1) Anita Madigan, singer (2) Simone Casey, singer (3) Declan McCann, singer.

The finalists from Johnno's Bar, Ennis are (1) Lillian Finucane, singer (2) Noel Ryan, singer. The finalists from The Olde Brogue, Killimer are (1) Anne McInerney, singer (2) Mary O'Driscoll, singer (3) D-ToxicLoanz, rappers.

Natalie Leahy, Release The Dinosaurs and band Leading Armies will represent Brandon's Bar in the Clare Stars of Our Bars competition after qualifying from their heat on Friday night.



Cure for cancer

Continued from page 1

"With all the fundraising and the money for research that has been made available, they are now so close [to a cure] that they are sure that they will have a cure within two years for paediatric brain tumours.

The hospital is one of the best cancer hospitals anywhere in the world. It is a great boost to get this news about the really exciting progress that they are making."

With the news of this major breakthrough in the treatment of paediatric brain tumours, it is more important than ever to keep the fundraising efforts in operation.

The ninth annual Micheal Dunleavy Walk will take place in Doolin this Sunday, April 17. The 5km walk begins at the Russell Centre in Doolin at 1pm. Sponsorship cards are available from any member of the Dunleavy Foundation Committee. Donations on the day are also welcome.

Above: Gerry Dunleavy and his son Michael, who's death prompted the formation of the foundation that has funded the cure for cancer

'I'm very sorry for what happened'



Andrew Hamilton

A 39-YEAR-OLD Ballyvaughan man charged with the murder of Deirdre McCarthy apologised for what had happened when charged and cautioned by gardaí.

Colm Deely, with an address on School Road in Ballyvaughan, was remanded in custody to appear before Ennistymon District Court, sitting in Kilrush, by Judge Joseph Mangan, tomorrow morning, April 13.

Detective Thomas Molloy of Ennistymon Garda Station said the defendant replied, "I'm very sorry for what happened" when he was charged.

The father of two, who wore a navy jumper, navy slacks and a white shirt, sat silently with his eyes lowered during the brief hearing.

An application for legal aid was made by solicitor Gearoid Geraghty on behalf of Mr Deely. He said the defendant was a married man with two young children and was on a part-time FÁS course three days a week.

A number of members of Deirdre McCarthy's family, as well as relatives of the defendant, sat on either side of the courtroom during the hearing.

The body of Deirdre McCarthy was found at Fanore beach on the morning of March 31, three days after she was reported missing from her home. She was last seen alive on March 27 around 11.30pm, when she returned home after a night socialising with friends in Ballyvaughan.

Her disappearance prompted one of the largest searches undertaken in North Clare in recent time. Family and friends joined with members of the gardaí and the Doolin and Killybegs Units of the Irish Coastguard to begin a painstaking three-day search for missing woman.

Left: Colm Deely (39) from Ballyvaughan, who was remanded in custody on charges relating to the death of Deirdre McCarthy (below), Liam Burke/Press 22



Deirdre's family bid a sad farewell

Andrew Hamilton

THE voice of Robbie Williams filled the packed halls of St John the Baptist Church in Ballyvaughan last Tuesday morning as the family and friends of Deirdre McCarthy said goodbye to their very own angel.

Deirdre made her short final journey from the small local church that she knew so well to the windswept graveyard at nearby Bishop's Quarter Cemetery following what was one of the largest and most emotionally draining funerals in recent memory.

Clearly still in a state of shock, the family of the 43-year-old were comforted by the hundreds of friends, locals and well-wishers who packed into the small church. So great was the number that people had no choice but to stand close to the altar in all three isles of the church, while outside special speakers were set up so that those who could not gain access could still take part in the ceremony.

A number of family members, including Deirdre's younger sister Helen, took part in an emotional service which was led by local priest

Fr Richard Flanagan.

Music was also a large part of the Mass, as it had been in Deirdre's life, with a lone female singer leading the hymns.

Following the service, Deirdre was carried from the church by her brother Tom and her brothers in law to the sounds of her favourite song, 'Angels' by Robbie Williams.

The wind began to rise as the funeral procession made its way along the coast road from Ballyvaughan to the McCarthy family plot in Bishop's Quarter.

There were tears at the graveside as Fr Flanagan led the large crowd in a decade of the Rosary before saying a last few words over Deirdre's final resting place.

Light spatters of rain began to fall, obscuring the tears that so many shed on the long journey home from Bishop's Quarter.

Deirdre McCarthy is survived by her mother Helen, brother Tom and sisters Helen, Christina, Bernie and Ann, as well as a large extended family in the North Clare area.

Beaches cleaned up

Andrew Hamilton

THE NEWLY formed Burren Ecotourism Network (BEN) hosted its first conservation event in north Clare over the weekend when a number of local volunteers completed a beach clean-up at Ballyryan, on the coast road between Doolin and Fanore.

The Burren region became Ireland's second official ecotourism destination earlier this year when it was granted official accreditation last month. This is the first major event undertaken by the group since it received official ecotourism status and hopes are high locally that the new development could mean an increase in the number of ecotourist attracted to visit Clare.

More than 40 geologists from Leeds University volunteered to join the weekend's clean-up and future conservation events will involve local schools as well as members of the wider community.

With their help, more than a quarter of a tonne of rubbish was collected from the beach and taken for disposal

to the Central Waste Management Facility at Ballyduffbeg.

"It was great to be involved in preserving the Burren Landscape," said Dr Jeff Peakell from Leeds University.

"We have been coming to the area for 20 years and witness the increased volumes of tourists and inevitable impacts on the landscape. We ourselves have a 'leave no trace' policy and are happy to be part of this new exciting initiative by the Burren Ecotourism Network."

The Burren Ecotourism Network is made up of a large group of local businesses and other organisations, each of which have an interest in protecting the Burren and creating a sustainable future for people and businesses of north Clare.

Local members who also took part in the clean-up included representatives from the Burren Painting Centre, the Boghill Centre, Kiltenera Hostel, Heart of Burren Walks, Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Burren Fine Wine & Food, Burren Coaches and the Cliffs of Moher.

First for Fine Gael

Joe O Muircheartaigh

FRESH from becoming the biggest party in Clare General Election politics for the first time in the party's near 80-year history in the county, Fine Gael are on the cusp of more electoral success in the coming week.

That's the battlecry from the local organisation this week as Fine Gael's 24-strong team of county and town councillors prepare to cast their votes in the Seanad Éireann election this coming Monday.

"We have two TDs and we have three candidates in the Seanad elections and can win three seats to give five Oireachtas members for the party in Clare," Cllr Joe Arkins, the leader of Fine Gael group of councillors for the elections to the Upper House of the Oireachtas.

"That's what we're aiming for," added Cllr Arkins, "and it's a realistic goal because Fine Gael have enough votes around the country to

get 23 or 24 Seanad seats. Having five Fine Gael Oireachtas members in Clare would be unprecedented."

Councillor Martin Conway flies the Clare flag in the Administrative Panel, in which there are seven seats up for grabs. Cllr John Crowe contests the Industrial and Commercial Panel, in which there are 11 seats, while Cllr Tony Mulcahy is in the running for the Labour Panel that also has 11 seats.

"Cllr Conway's panel is a difficult one," admitted Cllr Arkins, "because there are only seven seats, but there are still three Fine Gael seats to be won."

Clare Fine Gael has never had more than two members of Seanad Éireann at the same time. The last time they had two members was between 1993 and 1997 with Madeleine Taylor-Quinn, who was elected on the Labour Panel, and Michael Howard, who was returned on the Industrial and Commercial Panel for the sixth successive Seanad election.