



Irish Examiner

Harris Targets Housing Targets

SOCIALLY MEDIA personality and part-time Taoiseach Simon Harris has announced his commitment to deliver "like, loads of houses, yeah?" to the people of Ireland by 2030.

Speaking in a TikTok video, he said: "If all of our followers give us a like and subscribe at the next election it would mean the world to us. We could then do things like build houses for everybody, because it's so not fair for anybody



to not have a house to go to – unless they're a Shinner TD."

In a post shared through his Snapchat, the Taoiseach declared: "Guys, Fine Gael are like the Uber Eats of politics, we have a strong track record in delivery – 50,000 houses a year is totes doable. We have nothing if not a strong track record on major infrastructure projects.

"Now, I've some unfortunate news about the National Children's Hospital budget and another delay to the Metrolink..."

UNITED IRELAND TO COST €20BN A YEAR SHOCK

HARDLINE LOYALISTS have reacted angrily to a new report estimating that Irish reunification would cost around €20bn a year for two decades.

Interviewed on RTE's *Mourning Ireland*, TUV leader Jim Allister said: "This nightmare vision would mean exorbitant taxation and widespread impoverishment for nationalists while forcing millions of God-fearing British citizens to live under an oppressive foreign regime.

"Sinn Féin dictators are hell-bent on forcing unionists into a booming economy where there's full

employment and generous social welfare – and this will result in a dystopian future with pensioners starving in the streets."

Meanwhile, the DUP's interim leader, Gavin Robinson, said: "Public money should be directed towards funding Northern Ireland's urgent needs rather than wasting billions of pounds to placate all these Shinners."

URGENT NEEDS (IN FULL)

- ✓ Legal costs for ex-leaders
- ✓ That's it

COSGRAVE TO LIMIT CONTROVERSY

Having returned as CEO of the Web Summit after a six-month absence, Paddy Cosgrave has revealed ambitious new plans to limit his controversies to five or six per day.



While the announcement has been met with some scepticism amongst the tech community, the combative entrepreneur insists the target can be met.

"Clueless tech reporters

doubting my ability to steer clear of controversy!" he posted on X. "Typical of the political reporters in this country, most of whom are shamelessly in bed with FF/FG establishment. Will post

more later, after I've read more of the Pulitzer-worthy reporting in *The Dutch*. Also have to attend emergency Web Summit due to some controversy or other I caused earlier... Doh!"

"On another planet" Mary Lou McDonald

"Terrible Si-Fi" Holly Cairns

3 PARTY PROBLEM

IT IS A PROBLEM THAT HAS LONG BAFFLED POLITICAL SCIENTISTS: JUST HOW LONG CAN THREE ERRATICALLY MOVING BODIES, JOINED TOGETHER BY FORCES UNKNOWN, SURVIVE WITHOUT DESTROYING ONE ANOTHER. WILL THEIR NEW STAR ATTRACTION, UNDERSTOOD BY EXPERTS TO LACK ANY GRAVITY, PROVE ENOUGH TO SAVE OR DESTROY THE FRAGILE BALANCE?

MARTIN HARRIS RYAN

IRELAND TO RECOGNISE PALESTINE ...BUT NOT JUST YET

Tánaiste Micheál Martin has pledged that he will bring forward proposals for Ireland to recognise the state of Palestine, but not while Government TDs are risking their political lives on a daily basis.

Speaking in the Dáil and looking even more mournful than usual, Mr Martin said: "While the tragic conflict in Gaza is terribly complex, I have always empathised on a human level in both an emotive and vague way.

"But we should not add to the horrendous suffering of ordinary



people on the front benches. Morale is desperately low as we wait for US President Joe Biden to tell us what to do."

Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "It would be very easy to sweep all this under the rug to avoid flak over the coming months – so that's what we're doing."

BACIK'S ASYLUM PLEA

Vulnerable people should be given shelter

Still trying to merge with the Soc Dems?



TUBRIDY REVEALS FIRST BOOKS TO BE COVERED ON NEW PODCAST

How To Disappear by Dee Forbes

Fascinating insight into RTÉ payment saga, which I had some experience of. Shame about last chapter being blank due to Dee's failure to appear before PAC.

RTÉ Pay Saga by Public Accounts Committee

Definitely a rough read and not one for the faint of heart, especially for those of us caught up in the controversy. Some harrowing sections, particularly the chapter about barter accounts and Renault sponsorships.



The Genius Of Noel Kelly by Ryan Tubridy

Fascinating observational account of one of the greatest showbiz agents of all time. I'm his biggest fan!

(That's enough Tubridy - Ed.)

THOSE POSSIBLE GAELIC FOOTBALL RULE CHANGES

- Leinster counties to be given 15-point head start on Dublin
- Players to be given additional training in hand-to-hand combat
- Club championship games to go on double bill with UFC/WWE bouts
- Additional bars to be opened in grounds for bouts of lateral passing
- Tackle crisis of mass brawls (ie there aren't enough of them)

Catholic Church "downsizes"

by Des Perate

Pope Francis has introduced the most radical revamp of Irish Catholic Church structures in more than 900 years. As a result, two west of Ireland dioceses are to lose their bishops.

The announcement was made last night by the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Bunga Bacardi.

Speaking outside a deserted cathedral in Tuam, he said that bishops are rattling around in churches much too big for their needs.

"As in all families, things change for us when congregations grow up and leave for good," said the archbishop.

"But downsizing really solves the issue of clerical loneliness and social isolation - caused by empty pew syndrome."



TAOISEACH HARRIS OUTLINES HIS POLITICAL PRIORITIES:



Climate change: Make a few digs about low-energy Leo

Finance: Don't bet on any progress on health or housing

Justice: Blueshirts hoping Harris can bail them out

Agriculture: Fine Gael keen to avoid reaping what it sows

Education: Writing on the wall for the Government

Social Protection: Only a few ministries to dole out

Defence: Expect plenty of indefensible ones from Cabinet

NURSERY RHYMES FOR OUR TIMES

Taoiseach Simon met a pieman,
Going to the Dáil
Smirked Taoiseach Simon to the pieman,
I'm the leader of you all!

Said the pieman unto Simon,
Check the polls when you've a minute
You'll see why Leo called time on
The job - to drop you in it!

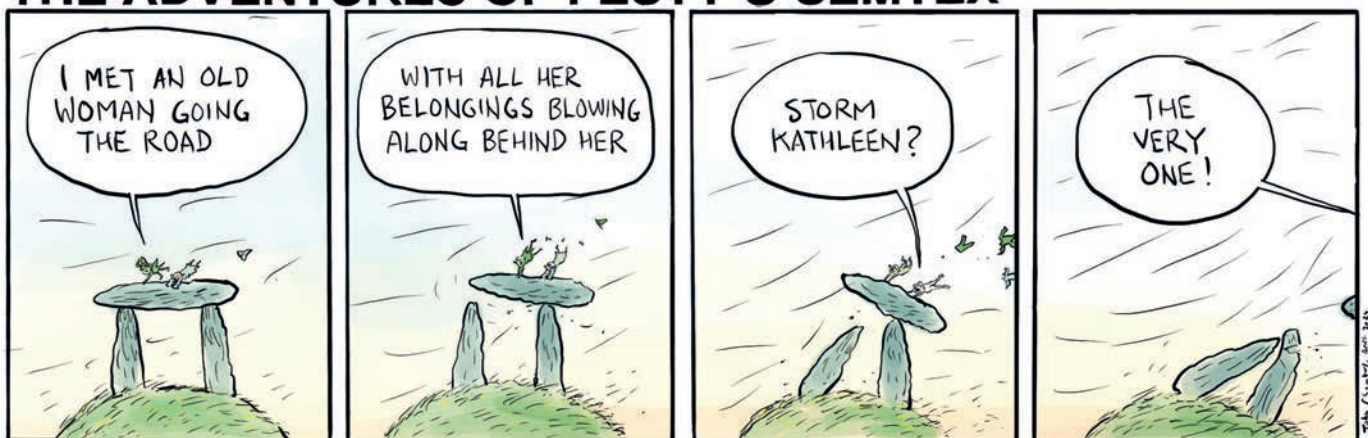


Hey diddle diddle Micheál's in the middle
Of halting "false ads", he alleges
But will Google be pleading
They are no more misleading
Than Fianna Fáil's election pledges?!

DONNELLY TURNS SOD ON RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

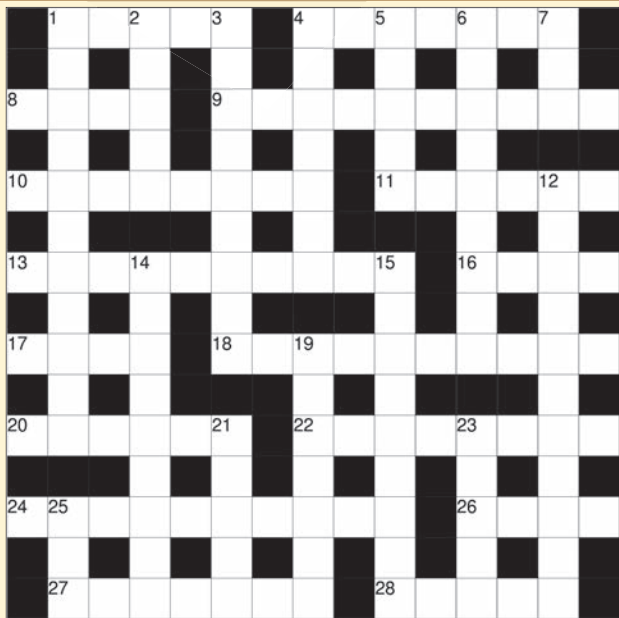


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Crossword by Procrustes

ACROSS

- 1 Old musician can travel without tour leader to non-stop dance gig before Lent starts. (5)
- 4 It's never too early for dam to play a role in what she must do to nourish her offspring. (7)
- 8 It's hard being treated as not truly precious among Episcopalians. (4)
- 9 Such loose erotic chat would not be tolerated by a government like Iran's! (10)
- 10 As you'd expect, oral testament included area where body parts will be found. (8)
- 11 Appalled that tag has been tampered with. (6)
- 13 One with an unhealthy pallor passed it around. That should be forbidden! (10)
- 16 Blow it! This instrument, making a comeback will touch directly on others in the orchestra. (4)
- 17 So you will have managed to solve at least one clue! (4)
- 18 Warning shout before craven one is fouled, possibly, but not only, at Craven Cottage. (6,4)
- 20 The deal is broken, by the principals we are told. (6)
- 22 What a savage! Putting trash can back into waterway! (8)
- 24 It's a big deal in the east when title-holder gives fit man drug to upset him! (5,5)
- 26 Is Leinster House upset on seeing how both hawks and doves have filled their own nests? (4)
- 27 Wild lad rode up to that gentle, sweet grandmotherly figure? (3,4)
- 28 Sudden large swelling giving rise in hospital to an on/off situation for operator. (5)

DOWN

- 1 How agitating helps dine until their strength and energy levels have been restored. (11)
- 2 I leave famous heavyweight in charge of boxer's medical attendant or his servant. (5)
- 3 It's exactly how an American would write a volume in measured terms to a friend. (9)
- 4 Keeps out of sight. Such tales are not true but they're not tall ones either. (4,3)
- 5 Achieve a merger of two small companies before a drink is served, a nightcap often. (5)
- 6 Be totally indifferent to fate of small bird mangled in collision with US military helicopter. (9)
- 7 Did the old high priest from Shiloh live in celibacy? No; he begat two nasty sons. (3)
- 12 A rustic, bucolic type is Brian, but Sue, perversely, is most definitely not. (11)
- 14 Despite varieties of beans ad, it does not mean that one indulged one's appetite for them. (9)
- 15 On bumpy road, combined UK/Irish rugby team on tour is proverbially as dead as them. (9)
- 19 If ulcer bursts, the resulting pain is going to be a hellish one. (7)
- 21 Not all get about a thousand red flowers to remember this engagement, and others. (5)
- 23 In other words, gets annoyed and worked up about work-shy one who does nothing. (5)
- 25 Place where citizens always seems to be on the brink of massive civil unrest, but not quite. (3)

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Closing date: Fri 26 April

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:

Post only to: **CROSSWORD COMPETITION, Phoenix Magazine, 44 Lr Baggot St, Dublin 2, Ireland**

Across: 1. Pagan. 4. Acrobat. 8. Eros. 9. Fradulent. 10. Kilogram. 11. Emetic. 13. Stationary. 16. Imam. 17. Inca. 18. Saturnalia. 20. Hermes. 22. Pastoral. 24. Montessori. 26. Iris. 27. Messina. 28. Elgin. **Down:** 1. Persistence. 2. Gusto. 3. Nefarious. 4. Anaemia. 5. Ridge. 6. Ballerina. 7. Tin. 12. Imagination. 14. Teammates. 15. Yorkshire. 19. Tapioca. 21. Sushi. 23. Owing. 25. Ohm.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Clodagh Fennelly, Portarlington, Co Offaly

Craic & Codology ... Craic & Codology ...



England's Lionesses Tamed by Irish Throw-ins!

Football fans across the island were cock-a-hoop at Ireland player Megan Campbell's extraordinary throw-ins against England. As one fan, Jenny Blinkers, put it: "The Sassenachs had no idea what hit them. She was throwing the ball 38 metres, every throw-in was like a corner. She's deadly!"

Writing in the *Irish Times*, Fintan O'Toole eulogised the player, saying: "Megan has created a synthesis of association football and the Poc Fada in her elongated throw-ins. This mishmash of English and Irish culture means that every time she launches her trademark throw-in, she is reaffirming an optimism for greater Anglo-Hibernian co-operation."

It went largely unnoticed in the Irish press that Ireland lost 2-0.



World reacts to death of OJ Simpson

Benjamin Netanyahu

His ludicrous attempts to try and deny appalling acts of murder meant he would have made an excellent spokesperson for my government. He became synonymous with a pair of gloves but my hands are too bloody to wear those things.



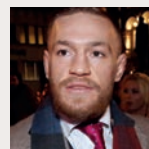
Donald Trump

OJ started out as an American icon but ultimately became a hate figure for half the country because of his behaviour. He did spend nearly a decade in prison for stealing some memorabilia, which is pretty harsh considering I'm still free after trying to steal an election.



Conor McGregor

The Juice was regarded as a great offensive player but, in fairness, I don't think he was half as offensive as yours truly can be. I think all the money and fame went to his head and it created a deluded sense of self-entitlement but, you have to give him some credit, he was a much safer driver than me.



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