

# THE IRISH TIMES

## Aid organisations call for RTÉ ceasefire

International aid organisations have repeated their calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to put a halt to the bloodbath being self-inflicted upon the RTÉ board.

"We just want them to lay down their weapons and try go one single day without shooting themselves in the foot or triggering yet more incredibly damaging explosive revelations," said an observer from Amnesty International.

With the board having already suffered heavy



losses and the remaining members coming under daily flak, there are growing calls for this war of

attrition to come to an end.

"Seeing those beleaguered board members, trudging in to be put to the sword in front of the PAC is brutal to watch. When will it end?" asked a disgusted doctor from Médecins Sans Frontières. "And why is no one thinking about the real victims here? Innocent members of the public who are bombarded every day with yet more of this increasingly tedious drivel. When will those responsible just bite the bullet?"

### Those RTÉ chair contenders!

Here they are – the front-runners to replace last week's occupant in the RTÉ hot seat.

#### Niamh Brennan

Leading academic with a proven record as the go-to saviour of failing state organisations. One insider (her husband) said: "She did a fantastic job of governance on me, advising me throughout my countless triumphs as justice minister. She's the obvious choice."

#### Enoch Burke

A charismatic, breath of fresh

air, Burke has a long history of expressing his righteous principles during court appearances going as far back as yesterday, when he made it clear that he would stamp out the national broadcaster's mismanagement, gender-neutral culture, programmes etc.

#### Catherine Martin

The media minister will soon be available to take up a challenging new job where she can use all her problem-solving expertise... (That's enough contenders – Ed.)

### Farmers' fury over Nature Restoration Law

Farmers throughout the country have reacted with fury to the new Nature Restoration Bill.

Irish MEPs, however, have generally welcomed the legislation. "It's a great deal for us – although obviously not for many farmers," said Ciarán Guff.

But rural TDs have hit out at the legislation.

"Green ecosystem nonsense and half-baked claptrap about rewilding and electric heat-pumps will wipe out food production and lead to mass starvation," according



to Mattie McGabfest. "It's a slap in the teeth to poverty-stricken farmers, who have always gone the extra mile to support conservation measures – and the thing they want to conserve most is their annual €1.2bn CAP funding."

Dairy farmer Mick Madeup echoed these concerns.

"People like myself have our rural traditions – tractor convoy protests and similar day-to-day activities such as milking the system," he claimed.

FOLLOWING A MESSY BREAK-UP, THIS FAMILIAR FACE NOW FINDS HIMSELF CENTRE STAGE. WITH BELIEF IN SHORT SUPPLY, THE FAI FAMILY STRUGGLES WHILE THEY DESPERATELY WAIT FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE THEM FAITH...

## FAITHLESS



"Avoid at all costs" LEE CARSLY

"I miss the old lead" STEPHEN KENNY

### Referendum update

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has clarified that the reference to "durable relationships" in the proposed constitutional amendment

does not include the current coalition. With the Government increasingly likely to be booted out at the next election, their relationship is instead coming apart at the seams.

"Craven lust for power is



the fundamental unit of this Government," said Vlad.

"Everyone seems to be falling out with Catherine Martin and there is a general sense of

chaos and disintegration.

"For this reason, the coalition partners don't have a durable relationship and it looks like a messy political divorce is inevitable," the Taoiseach concluded.

### MET'S ICY REPLY TO SNOW GAFF



We don't have a crystal ball

Just very expensive supercomputers

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

# METROLINK LATEST



## Those Cheltenham favourites profiled



### Catherine's Car Crash

Has been having an absolute 'mare since arriving on the scene back in 2020 and was thought by experts to be well off the pace. However, she impressed many with her ability to run for cover when things got tough during the RTE hurdle recently.

most people now convinced working for the FAI is a major handicap. Still saddled with enormous debts and completely blinkered when it comes to dealing with those jockeying for position.



### Kevin's Catastrophe

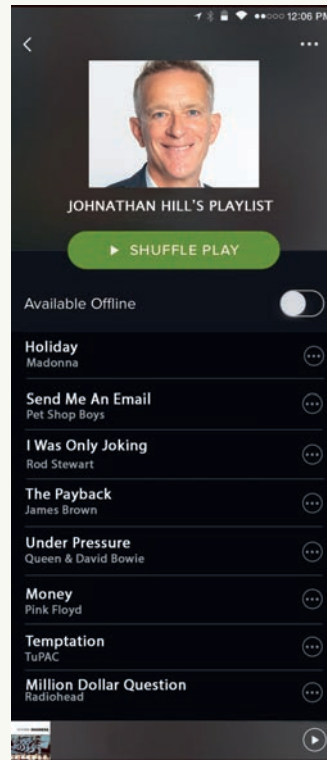
Hopes that Kevin would be a stable influence on



### Ireland's Unanswered Call

Credible runners and riders have been few and far between for this post, with

Montrose have proven to be premature as he is getting a rough ride from all corners. Denies he is failing to crack the whip on fat-cat salaries or that he plans on doing a runner later in the year.



## IRFU defends Aviva's 'lack of atmosphere'



The IRFU has dismissed criticism that recent Six Nations matches have been played to "deafening silence" and that "Mars currently has a better atmosphere than the Aviva Stadium", saying it's what match-goers want.

Said one spokesperson: "The few high-flying corporate execs who can still afford tickets to live games are busy people. They need to be able to make an important call, be it for business or to a divorce lawyer, at any moment. The last thing we would want is for them to be distracted by the sound of wild cheering. Then, in their spare moments between emails, they can take in some of the rugby."

## Bishops still opposed to referenda

CATHOLIC BISHOPS have repeated their call for a 'No' vote in the referenda on the role of care and the definition of a family. In a statement issued last night, the Irish hierarchy said: "Everyone recognises the enormous commitment that women in Ireland have given as mothers and homemakers."

"Their enduring service within stable marriages is vital to Irish family life - particularly in their

primary role serving tea and lovely sandwiches.

"In contrast, Government leaders are not in a long-term relationship with the nation and are likely to flounce off to cushy new jobs in Europe at the first opportunity.

"We can't have such people going around confusing everyone by telling them how to vote in these uncalled-for referenda. Just who do these meddling politicians think they are? Bishops?"

## RTÉ'S KIELTY TO LEAD PADDY'S PARADE

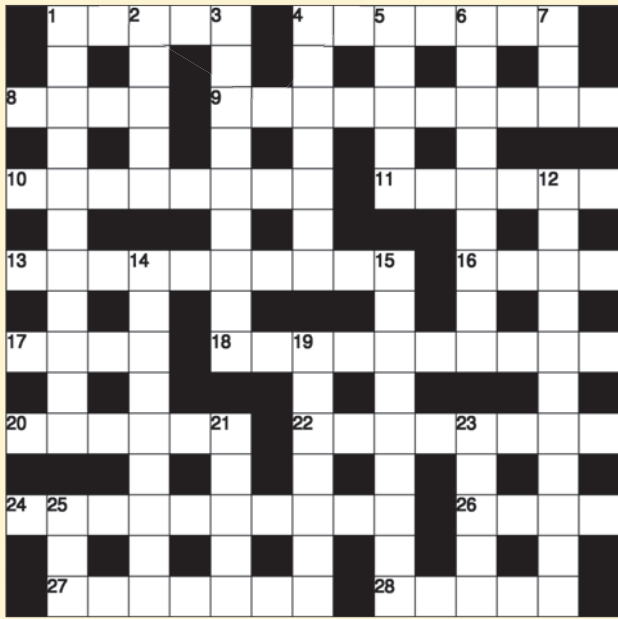


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Crossword by Procrustes

**ACROSS**

- 1 In the old days, suitor was in trouble like this. (5)
- 4 Geronimo makes a loud harsh noise if his woman gives him a kiss that is lacking content. (7)
- 8 Doing imitation but had to cry off in the end and become an operatic heroine instead? (4)
- 9 Bow as Helen destroys the raw materials for scrimshaw. (10)
- 10 Man overboard! (8)
- 11 Guides provide beasts of burden, like oxen. (6)
- 13 The link that remains intact when one gives a pal's joint back. (10)
- 16 In other words, the guy steering the yacht includes elements of the forest. (4)
- 17 Amoral, debauched and dangerous short character found lurking in Supervalu. (4)
- 18 When upset, Anna relied on it to help her cope with a bad situation. (10)
- 20 Exhausts supply held by house superior. (4,2)
- 22 Give rough estimate about pub and name the drink it serves. (8)
- 24 Did Spice Girl Halliwell do nothing in the end to find such a primitive instrument? (10)
- 26 Poet of old metamorphoses, decapitating recent mass killer. (4)
- 27 Call on the wife of Sir Robin, famous political journalist, to celebrate it on 25th March? (4,3)
- 28 Following his mother's lead, Charles III is just about managing to make a precarious living! (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Stressed hermits seen to have a breakdown, to go to pieces, actually. (11)
- 2 Re explosion in Bali, I can prove I wasn't even there at the time. (5)
- 3 In Sweden I am odd enough to be reported and commented upon by them. (4,5)
- 4 Thus can rewrite introduce a reliable and steadfast supporting character. (7)
- 5 The late Queen of England initially was surrounded by America's addicts and exploiters. (5)
- 6 Though it sounds as if it's for the entire repast, it's actually just for the bread course, brown. (9)
- 7 Observe how it can be sown when the final piece of thread is gone. (3)
- 12 Turning in since grim talk about the good old days with friends has ended. (11)
- 14 In other words, face, in the end, having pictured a scenario where vegan dies broke. (9)
- 15 Churning about in the soap covering half of the ladies in the country. (9)
- 19 Strictly consider how nodding donkey is just standing by, unproductively. (7)
- 21 Was it cut back to bare minimum because boss's Man Friday had communist sympathies? (5)
- 23 I make a low cry of pain and it's up to her to find a solution. (5)
- 25 Tough old hero with soft spot had pains on the outside but was actually sick inside! (3)

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**LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:**

**Across:** 1. Acted. 4. Engaged. 8. Epic. 9. Ameliorate. 10. Plethora. 11. Libido. 13. Acquainted. 16. Loin. 17. Limb. 18. Narratives. 20. Ananas. 22. Bloaters. 24. Bratislava. 26. Utah. 27. Passive. 28. Satin. **Down:** 1. Appalachian. 2. Tactic. 3. Draconian. 4. Elegant. 5. Grill. 6. Garibaldi. 7. Dot. 12. Dáil Éireann. 14. Urbanites. 15. Diagonals. 19. Ribcage. 21. Sushi. 23. Taunt. 25. Rip.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Mary Byrne, Newbridge, Co Kildare

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



"St Brigid never got Putin off the front page."

**LYNCH ISSUES  
WARNING AGAINST  
WORSHIPPING RTÉ**

By Lucy Fer

In a new condemnation of Satanic influence being exerted by art and media entities, Boyzone crooner Shane Lynch has warned against falling under the influence of RTÉ.

"That place has completely gone to Hell," said the 47-year-old singer. "People don't understand

what is happening when they see finger-pointing and shoulder-shrugging ritually practised on air, even when there are children watching. Bakhurst has openly promised fire and brimstone. All who follow the station are doomed to eternal pain and suffering – as any long-time viewer can attest."

**Oscars latest**

Several Irish actors have made dramatic late entrances into the Oscars race, with members of the Oireachtas committees charged with questioning Catherine Martin and RTÉ board members being hailed for their scenery-chewing performances. In particular, Shane Cassells and Alan Dillon have enjoyed a late surge thanks to their epic grandstanding and melodramatic delivery.

"The Oireachtas commit-

tee are in with a shout for Best Ensemble," said an Academy insider.

"More generally, the number of TDs in the Dáil pretending that they give a damn about the public is extraordinary – many Oscar voters have never seen such play-acting and histrionics. And that's not where the Irish Oscar hopes end, with RTÉ themselves a virtual certainty for Best Disaster Movie."

**Snow apologises to Met Éireann for lack of warning**

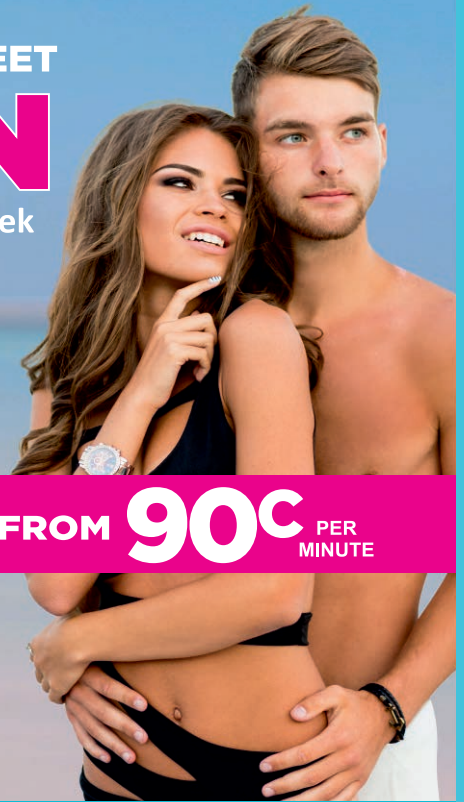
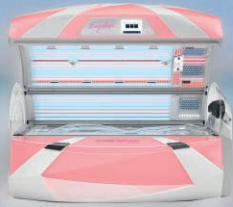
The recent snowfall that surprisingly blanketed the country has issued a statement of apology to an embarrassed Met Éireann, which was caught unawares. The snow has promised, in future, to keep the meteorological service informed of all plans to make an appearance.

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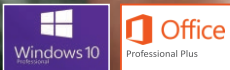
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