

# THE IRISH TIMES

## New housing target soars to 83,000 units

Local authorities are supposed to zone more land for housing as part of an exciting (surely unrealistic? – Ed) Government plan to raise the national annual target to 83,000 units. The latest guidelines cover the period to 2099.

Housing minister James Browne joyfully stated: "I can confidently describe this bold construction scheme as ambitious, visionary – and definitely going to happen, oh yes indeed.



"With regard to the chronic shortage of housing, I fully accept the accusation that I

myself have done absolutely nothing wrong – unlike previous ministers.

"This is why I'm particularly pleased to have taken such effective action in unveiling an incredible range of new building projects."

Those projects (in full)

- High-rise log cabins in every garden
- Huge pie in the sky over entire country
- That's it

## Goldhawk profiles this season's Premier League stars



**Drew Harris**

Finds himself a free agent following his high-profile transfer to Dublin a number of years ago but faced constant criticism that he wasn't really a team player and built a reputation for scoring impressive own goals.



**Michael O'Leary**

Often known to go in two-footed on opponents, his erratic at-

tacking style doesn't always yield positive results. Loves racking up media appearances but ironically despises caps – especially passenger ones at busy airports.



**Ursula von der Leyen**

Doubts are growing over her fitness after she was given the runaround by an aged, American right-winger. Her position might increasingly come under threat from upstarts on the benches.

## Key points of that historic US-EU trade agreement

**Pharmaceuticals:** Plenty of bitter pills for Irish Government

**Automobiles:** US negotiators definitely in the driving seat

**Chemicals:** Trump's behaviour to get more sulphurous

**Precious metals:** Elements of deal look like fool's gold

**Agriculture:** Von der Leyen happy to buy some magic beans

**Booze:** Whole thing generally considered to be hard to swallow

**Manufacturing:** Europeans denying that they were taken apart

## HOW THEY WILL SPEND THE DÁIL RECESS



I've never seen any merit in staying in one place for very long, so I intend visiting the southern Sahara this month to study the nomadic Igot Nohouce people. They live solely in tents and enjoy very fulfilled lives, so I hope to learn more about what sounds like a truly wonderful lifestyle.

– **Housing minister James Browne**



I've always had a secret passion for big houses with rolling lawns, stately dining halls and spacious quarters in which to

welcome visitors. I plan to visit some large domestic establishments to learn how occupants maintain and staff them and so on. Just a hobby, you understand...

– **Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald**



I'll again be spending all my time off visiting Speakers' Corner in London, although

I don't agree with one word of the utter gibberish and unbelievable garbage I hear spouted, so fair play to them all and long may they continue to say it.

– **Independent TD Michael Lowry**

## FLATLEY'S SHARK JAW FIASCO



**JUSTIN KELLY**

"An eagerly awaited reboot"  
Jim O'Callaghan

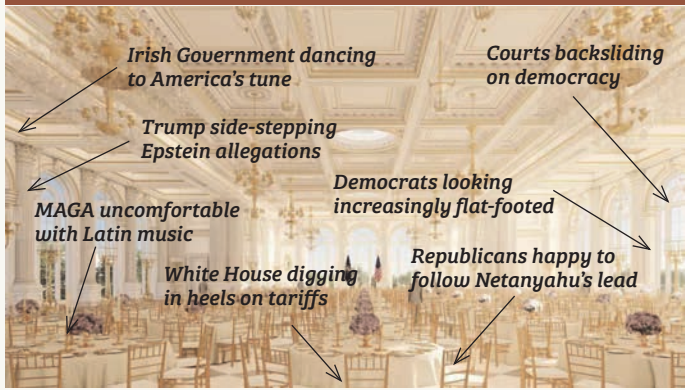
**THE NAKED GUN**

"A thankless leading role"  
Drew Harris

LOOK OUT CRIME, THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN! WITH SOME WELL-WORN AND UNPOPULAR SHOES TO FILL, THIS IS A MAN ON A DAUNTING MISSION ... TO BRING THE FEARSOME UNIONS INSIDE



# Trump's €200m Ballroom Plan



# That Jim McGuinness apology

Exclusive to all sports pages

On behalf of all media outlets, we would like to apologise profusely to our respective audiences for implying that the Donegal football team were invincible.

Headlines such as "Jimmy is a genius", "Crooked Kerry limp towards doom" and "Donegal to dominate for decades" may have given people a misleading impression about the Tyrconnell men's footballing ability.



However, in line with most other GAA experts, we now accept our analysis was slightly flawed and graciously accept Kerry as our new sporting overlords.

Nevertheless we reserve the right to change our minds about the current kingdom squad and revert to our justified criticism if they don't win every game between now and the rest of the century.

# 'Not a PR stunt' - Liam and Pamela

Are Liam Neeson and Pamela Anderson really madly in love?

Amid rampant true romance rumours, the glamorous Hollywood stars were recently spotted cosyng up together on the *Naked Gush* red carpet.

Several of the couple's closest friends (who cannot be named because they don't actually exist) insisted: "Pamela and Liam are a hugely essential part of each other's lives - and, more importantly, of their respective



movie career pivots."

Asked about their future plans, the loved-up couple said: "For the time being, we are just head over heels in front-page stories about our sensational movie.

"Naturally, we hope we're blessed with having more publicity by announcing our sudden separation or going off to make new films with other celebrities considering their own change in direction." (*That's enough silly season fillers - Ed.*)

# LISTERIA STORIES 'LIKELY TO GET WORSE'

By Con Sultant

Consumers in Ireland remain on red alert today amidst warnings that the recent outbreak of listeria stories may be "only a taster of what's to come".

"People are still digesting half-baked reports and regurgitating the information. I saw it happening all around town this morning," said one worried GP in Tipperary.

"A lot of it is being imported

from England," she added.

Meanwhile in Cork a mother of five was said to be "nearly out of danger" after throwing up her arms while chewing over a headline in the *Oirish Daily Mail*.

If you experience sweating, panic attacks and nausea after swallowing what you read in a newspaper, contact your nearest library immediately.

# RECRUITMENT FORM FOR EVENTUAL MICK O'LEARY SUCCESSOR

Due to an anticipated readjustment of our senior management framework, a vacancy will shortly, any year now, sooner or later, arise in our senior management infrastructure.

Have a go if you think dealing with half-witted politicians or cry-baby punters is something you can tolerate.

The successful candidate will be expected to - are you that stupid that I really have to spell it out to you!? You need to wise up!

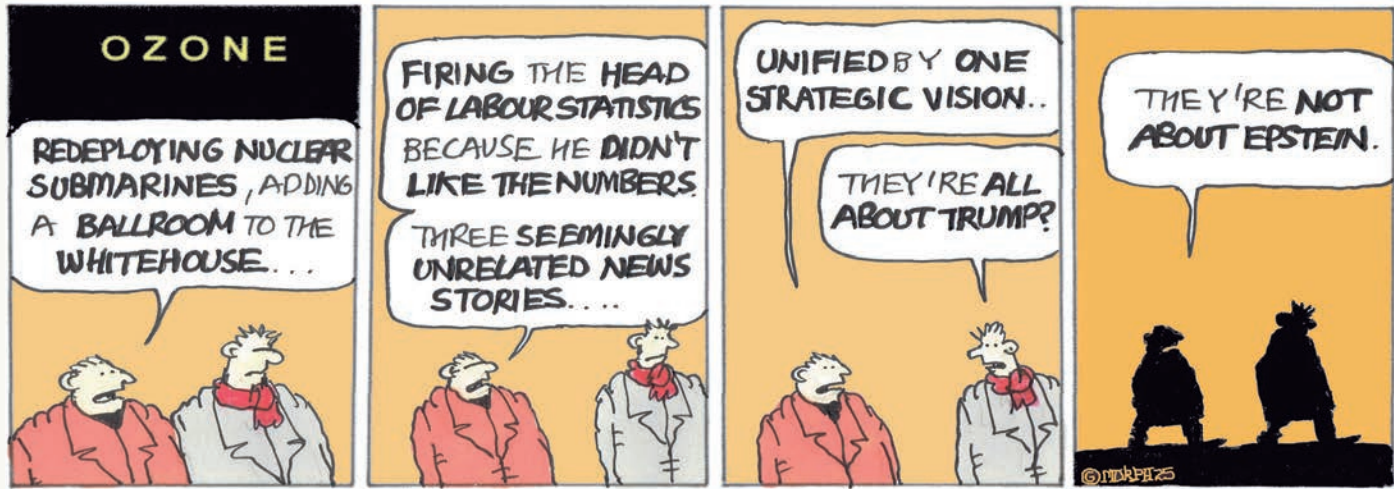
The position involves - if you're too lazy to work that

out for yourself then you should be in Dáil Éireann.

Average working hours will be - if you've a problem with long hours then f\*\*k off and join RTE.

Always remember that customer care is a prior... - B\*\*\*\*x. We're not a charity. Never mind, I'll stay on and do the job myself! P\*\*ck!

# MICHAELLA MCCOLLUM'S CELEB SAS APPEARANCE



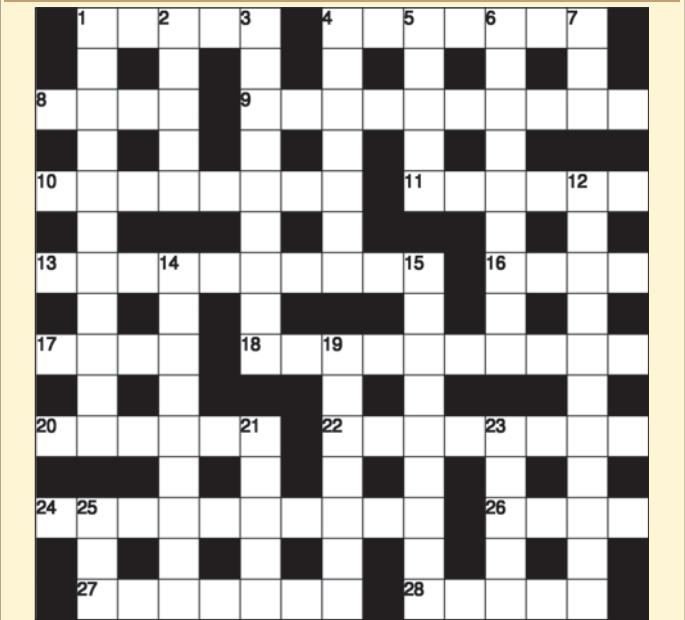




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Irish Pens  
THE WRITERS' CHOICE



Crossword by Procrustes

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Move it towards cup, of course, before you begin or it will just have to keep in glass. (5)

4 Girl embracing her baby's resting place? Oh, that's hard cheese! But, actually, not really. (7)

8 Find a pulse in back in vicinity of Barbados and St Kitts. (4)

9 Misses title pre Act of Union. (6,4)

10 Catch the bad guys who have broken in to fancy houses on the Riviera. (8)

11 Of course from the driver's position, following article shows what all babies have to do. (6)

13 For all of us, especially those with broken heart, poems provide a lifeline; it's all over for us. (10)

16 Gain height, but lose the head, or the arm or the leg. (4)

17 Girl coming from the opera gets a takeaway from American city centre. (4)

18 Defendant in civil court case may feel aggrieved by having to go round very small lake. (10)

20 Tackle a hard course by going for a trip in a yacht around Slyne Head. (6)

22 Being nervous I badly need one to remind me. (8)

24 A cargo ship was wrecked and bodies were found inside several special containers. (10)

26 How to get from Thurso hotel to somewhere in London. Or New York for that matter. (4)

27 In places like Japan, China and Korea, karaoke ends behind one at sea. (7)

28 They'll be coming together from all over next, endlessly, to you and me. (5)
- 1 Being qualified, I practised a branch of medicine that took care of minor ailments only. (11)

2 It's the quality of music we expect from Elton always. And Parton also. (5)

3 Big day for some non-Christians when Connacht river runs up most of Leinster mountain. (3,6)

4 Drunk uses ire concerning offspring to give the exact same orders again. (7)

5 Choosing one of only two musical symbols before start of Turandot will surely cause a split. (5)

6 As they passed through rock musicians prepared guitars to include little Dickensian heroine. (9)

7 Object to the name of Woody Allen's ex being brought up? (7)

12 Would crazy hitman shrug as he robs victim of what, ideally, are held to be universal? (5,6)

14 Are big shot multi-millionaire foreigners to be found mixing in rich Lagos society? (9)

15 It's shocking to think that by removing false cert, one can take proper lessons, so to speak. (9)

19 Mark follows you and me up for support. (7)

21 Sounds like they can go for round after round, staying on track, then fall back off the wagon. (5)

23 At last, couple from Thurles have it to consummate marriage in an English county. (5)

25 Get copy from paper centre. (3)

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**Closing date: Fri 15 Aug**

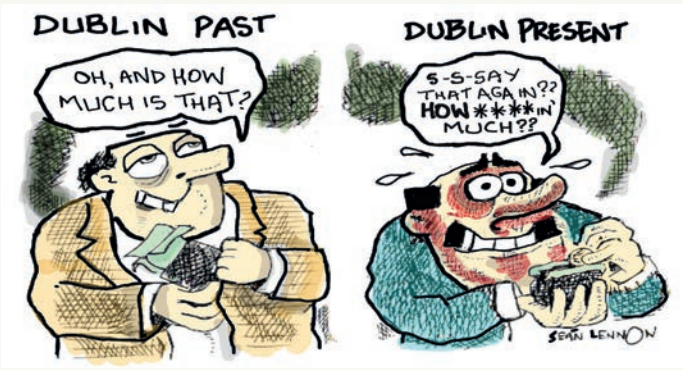
**Post only to: CROSSWORD COMPETITION, Phoenix Magazine, 44 Lr Baggot St, Dublin 2, Ireland**

**LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:**

**Across:** 1. Quack. 4. Macabre. 8. Calf. 9. Noel Coward. 10. Stalwart. 11. Animus. 13. Trampoline. 16. Each. 17. Lion. 18. Sanitisers. 20. Eskimo. 22. Generate. 24. Collateral. 26. Zoom. 27. Rosetta. 28. Doris. **Down:** 1. Quarterlies. 2. Awful. 3. Kangaroos. 4. Maestri. 5. Cocoa. 6. Bawdiness. 7. Err. 12. Ulcerations. 14. Mandibles. 15. Entangled. 19. Nigeria. 21. Octet. 23. Razor. 25. Oar.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Elaine Kennedy, Lucan, Co Dublin

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





### Government unveils modular homes recommendations



- Micheál Martin constantly dwelling on what's next for his career
- More walls of silence about child homelessness
- Fine Gael denying they're planning to oust Simon Harris
- Cabinet happy to mortgage people's futures
- Public to be led up the garden path on housing figures
- Roof will continue to fall in on James Browne

## That Booker Prize longlist – Irish writers dominate as usual

by Phil More-Pages



FANS OF unflinching dystopian literature have hailed the continuing dominance of home-grown novelists on the 2025 prestigious Booker Prize longlist.

Although there are no Irish-born authors among this year's nominees, Trinidadian-Irish writer Claire Anon, whose mother is from Cork, has allowed us to shamelessly plug her inspiring story, *Love in the Title*.

The book has been hotly-

tipped by *Irish Times* columnists to repeat the success of the cream of our award-winning national literary glitterati such as Jawn Banville, Sally Looney (*We get the idea* – Ed.)

Roddy Doyle, chair of this year's judges, said: "Claire Anon's buke isn't half as brilliant as Roddy Dull Ha Ha Ha, but she once spent her summer hols in Cork – and that gives our hacks more than enough to write about."

### BLACK FORGE FIRE FURORE



The place went up in smoke

Like McGregor's appeal

Scribble Box

**A PAIR OF MAD YOLKS**  
**MORNING GLORY WITH PJ & JIM**  
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