# FINDING MY FATHER **RÓISÍN INGLE MAGAZI**



**'SOMETIMES FAME CAN BE OVERWHELMING' SPORT** 



# THE IRISH TIMES

irishtimes.com €4.20 (£3.10 Northern Ireland) Saturday/Sunday, May 17/18, 2025

#### **Farewell to** a colleague Gardaí honour **Kevin Flatley**

The funeral cortege of Garda Kevin Flatley leaving St Peter and Paul's Church in Balbriggan, Co Dublin. The garda, killed while on duty last Sunday, was remembered in the eulogy as 'a family man, a great guard'.

Report: page 2

Photo: Tom Honan





**WEEKEND** 

#### The rest is... TikTok's **Irish** historians





**MAGAZINE** 

# Plan to expand Citywest asylum facility

State to buy Citywest Hotel for €100m and double asylum-seeker numbers

Government criticised over U-turn on setting up of IPAS centre in Coolock

#### **JACK HORGAN-JONES** and KITTY HOLLAND

The Government is planning a significant expansion of asylum-seeker accommodation at Dublin's Citywest Hotel as it closes in on a purchase of the facility worth at least €100 mil-

The hotel has been a cornerstone of the State's response to a surge in migration, with Government sources now saying the final steps are being taken towards a purchase of the 764-bedroom hotel, which has been expected since before

Christmas. It is believed that if the plan is put in place, it will potentially lead to a doubling of the capacity there - with indications that up to 1,000 more people could be accommodated. Cabinet is expected to consider the purchase, possibly as soon as Tuesday.

It comes after the Department of Justice scrapped plans to open a controversial 547-bed facility at the former Crown Paints site in Coolock, north Dublin.

The site was the scene of violent clashes last year between gardaí and protesters

ment in the wake of the U-turn, which emerged yesterday.

Labour MEP Aodhán Ó Coolock, had been "shambol-Ríordáin, formerly a TD for the ic". Dublin Bay North constituency where the proposed site is locat- Denise Mitchell, said it had nevhow the process should be run.

"Now it's the opposite of that. And the department have handed a template to every protest group around the country for what they need to do if they feel the need to stop an integration centre from going ahead,' he said.

The Department of Justice said it engaged with a number of entities in relation to International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) accommodation and regularly did not take up offers. "This is the position with the offer of accommodation at the Coolock site," it said. Social Democrats acting

There was significant Opposi- leader Cian O'Callaghan said tion criticism of the Govern- there was no doubt that the handling of the proposals for the site on Malahide Road,

Sinn Féin TD for the area,

66 The department have handed a template to every protest group

tre at the site. The company that leased the Coolock site, Remcoll Capital, said it "respects the decision of the State" not to proceed with the site. It could not comment further, it said, due to proceedings before the courts.

Remcoll is understood to have spent €13 million on the project, none of which it ex-

pects to get back, in what would have been a €30 million investment by its Townbe Unlimited company. The Department of Justice said no State funds had been spent on development or site related costs.

ed, said he had wanted it to be a counties of the counties Dublin, Kerry, Leitrim and Westmeath, accommodat-

ing more than 780 people. Townbe has leased the Coolock site. Costs incurred on the project, which has been under way for more than two years, include rent, legal costs, planning applications as well as security and preparatory

works. It is understood Townbe was told at a meeting with Department of Justice officials last week of the U-turn, a week after responsibility for IPAS accommodation provision transferred from the Department of

Children. Townbe officials are understood to have been shocked and

disappointed at the decision. The company has not received any money from the State. Instead it entered into an agreement under which it would receive payment only on Townbe, founded in 2018, delivery of a ready-to-go facility

> Locals say plan for asylum-seeker centre



Thyroid | Male & Female Hormone

Vitamin D | Iron | Cholesterol | Diabetes

# mishandled: page 3

# Nina Carberry warns EU over US horse tariff plans

**JACK POWER** 

Europe Correspondent

Fine Gael MEP Nina Carberry raised concerns with the European Commission about its plan to hit imports of thoroughbred horses from the United States with trade tariffs during a closed-door meeting. Ms Carberry, whose hus-

band recently took over a thoroughbred breeding company the couple set up together, questioned commission officials about the EU executive body's proposal to threaten tariffs on

The commission, which is leading the EU's response in the transatlantic trade fight, has drawn up a range of US products it proposes putting tariffs on, in an effort to increase pressure on US president Donald Trump to roll back sweeping import taxes he has introduced on goods from Europe.

The Government is con- onthoroughbreds and bourbon cerned at the inclusion of US aircraft, medical devices, agriculthe US thoroughbred industry. tural products and bourbon whiskey on the commission's

proposed list of targets. Ms Carberry flagged concerns she had about proposed retaliatory tariffs on thoroughbetween MEPs and officials. The former champion jockey

bred horses sold from the US to EU states, at a recent meeting

Until recently Ms Carberry ran a small thoroughbred breeding business with her husband, Ted Walsh Jnr. It is mainly involved in the trade of hors-

pean Parliament on Tuesday.

es between the UK and Ireland. Ms Carberry stepped back from her role in the business queried the rationale for tariffs and resigned as a director after

she took her seat in the European Parliament last July. Mr with a high-ranking official during a private briefing organised Walsh has since taken over full for MEPs and staff in the Euroownership.

In a statement, the Fine Gael MEP said the commission had "responded positively" to her concerns. She said Ireland's thoroughbred industry had hugely benefited from free trade with the US. "Any threat to these flows is deeply concerning and something I strongly oppose," she said.

#### Weather Today will be another warm

and sunny day. Highest temperatures 17-19 degrees in light breezes.

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# Home News

Murder: A jury has convicted a 39-year-old man of murdering his ailing 58-year-old mother, who he strangled and smothered to death in her home. Page 4

Presidency: Public health specialist Mike Ryan is the latest to be linked to a potential presidential run. Page 2 | Page 9

## World **News**



Ukraine and Russia agreed to a prisoner swap but made no progress on a ceasefire in talks in Istanbul.

Home 2-8. World 9-11. Opinion 12-14. Letters 15. Business 16-17. Fine Arts. 18-19.

# **Business Today**

Special dividend: FBD, the Republic's only indigenous general insurer, is likely to pay an almost €19 million special dividend later this year. Page 16

Lego revenue: Lego grewits revenue by 16 per cent in Ireland last year after it opened a second store. Page 16

## **Sports** Weekend

Golf: Rory McIlroy carded a second round 69 for a one-over total to make the cut at the USPGA. Tom McKibbin also made the cut and sits at one under par

Rugby: Munster beat Benetton 30-21 to secure their place in the URC playoffs and next season's Champions Cup



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