



# BEST OF CULTURE NIGHT

WHAT TO SEE NEXT FRIDAY TICKET



# LEO VARADKAR

## 'COMING OUT WAS LIKE EMIGRATING'

PATRICK FREYNE INTERVIEW WEEKEND

+  
VARADKAR'S  
NEW MEMOIR  
REVIEWED  
TICKET

# THE IRISH TIMES

WEEKEND  
EDITION

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Saturday/Sunday, September 13/14, 2025

## Warming up in Tokyo Roll with it

Sharlene Mawdsley rolls out her muscles with the help of a sliotar as she warms up with the mixed relay team for the World Championships that began overnight.

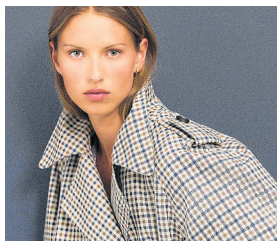
Report: Sports Weekend  
Photograph:  
Inpho/Morgan Treacy



## How Dingle became Ireland's Greenest Place

MAGAZINE

## Style switch Make the autumn change



MAGAZINE



## World Cup countdown Ireland v France

SPORT

# Assassination of Kirk 'a watershed moment'



## Keith Duggan

Washington Correspondent

An atmosphere of fear and fragility now dominates political discourse

The arrest of Tyler Robinson, the 22-year-old Utah native who last night was expected to be charged with the murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, bookends the latest episode of extraordinary Ameri-

can political violence. But an atmosphere of fear and fragility continues to dominate political discourse across the country.

The manhunt for Kirk's killer coincided with the emotionally freighted anniversary events of 9/11 on Thursday. News that a suspect was in custody was delivered by US president Donald Trump in an appearance on the Fox & Friends live morning show yesterday. During the conversation he was asked how "we" fix the country.

"I'll tell you something that's gonna get me in trouble but I couldn't care less," Trump replied.

"The radicals on the right are often radical because they don't want to see crime. The radicals on the left are the problem and they are vicious and they are horrible and they are politically savvy."

It is believed a family member of Robinson raised an alert that ended the intense FBI

search. He was arrested late Thursday evening in Washington County, close to Zion National Park. Early profiles suggest no political affiliation and that he had acted alone in shooting Kirk.

### Message board in-jokes

Messages etched on to the shell casings left behind at the crime scene included online message board in-jokes, and the phrase "Hey Fascist, Catch".

Several political figures from the left and right have spoken openly of a general, deepening fear as the targeting of public figures heightens their sense of vulnerability. Democratic congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez postponed an event in Raleigh, North Carolina, scheduled this weekend.

The shocking manner of Kirk's assassination, as he spoke in an open-air forum in front of a crowded gathering of students at Utah Valley State



## Tyler Robinson is in custody after eluding police for more than 24 hours

university in Orem, will cause other public speakers to question the safety of such close-proximity events.

During a period when the national mood is frayed and heightened, it fell to Spencer Cox, the Republican governor of Utah, to strike a reasoned and compassionate tone that transcended political affiliation as he called for a halt.

"I absolutely believe this is a watershed in American history, yes. The question is what kind of watershed. If you look at true political assassinations in this country of someone of this stature, this feels a lot like the late 60s and having one so grie-

somely displayed on camera in all of our hands and all of our pockets.

"We are not wired as human beings biologically, historically, we have not evolved in a way that we are capable of processing those types of violent imagery. Social media is a cancer on our society right now and I would encourage people to log off, touch grass, hug a family member."

### Manhunt

Kirk's killer had eluded police and federal agents for more than 24 hours after Wednesday's shooting, in which a sniper fired a single gunshot that killed the right-wing commentator during an appearance at Utah Valley University.

"Robinson reached out to a family friend who contacted the Washington County Sheriff's Office with information that Robinson had confessed to them or implied that he had

committed the incident," Cox said. This information was relayed to the Utah County Sheriff's Office and scene investigators at Utah Valley University, he added.

Cox added that investigators interviewed a family member of Robinson's who said that he had become "more political in recent years". - Additional reporting by agencies

➔ Blame game after Kirk shooting: page 13



## Mike Murphy 'I never felt I had a major talent'

WEEKEND

# Creche worker filmed dragging girl 'like a rag doll'

ÓRLA RYAN

The mother of a child at a south Dublin creche has described her horror at seeing CCTV footage of her daughter being dragged across the floor "as if she was a rag doll" by a staff member who has since been sacked.

Earlier this week The Irish Times reported that the female staff member was dismissed in August after allegedly physically mistreating a number of

young children under her care. Clare Quinn, whose daughter Isla attended the creche, was one of a number of parents shown CCTV footage of the woman allegedly assaulting their children.

"I can still see Isla screaming in fear," Ms Quinn said.

The creche is one of several branches run by Once Upon a Time in Dublin.

It is understood a colleague of the woman raised the alarm on August 12th, prompting

management to review CCTV footage. Based on what they saw, the woman was fired "with immediate effect". The company also said "the matter was reported without delay to Tusla and An Garda Síochána".

Ms Quinn said she was called to a meeting at the creche on August 13th.

"[Isla] was walking along on her own and a woman came up and pulled the legs out from underneath her, and her head smacked on the floor," Ms

Quinn said. "The woman then dragged her across the floor back and forth, as if she was a rag doll."

The couple have given a statement to gardai.

Once Upon a Time said: "All communication and timing of such with parents has been followed on the instruction of An Garda Síochána."

The staff member in question was "fully Garda-vetted", it said. The company said it could not comment further while a

Garda investigation is ongoing.

A Tusla inspection report said the facility had high levels of compliance related to issues such as child safety and staffing levels.

Gardaí said they were "carrying out inquiries" but "due to the sensitive nature" of the complaints, could not comment further.

➔ CCTV in creches: Does safety outweigh privacy concerns? page 8

## Weather

A mix of sunny spells and scattered showers, some heavy or thundery. Highs of 13-16 degrees.

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## Home News

**Presidential race:** Conservative campaigner Maria Steen's route to a nomination narrowed after receiving only 10 Oireachtas endorsements. Page 2

**Education:** A teacher who had a sexual relationship with a pupil was removed from the register. Page 4

## World News



**Poland:** France, Germany and Denmark pledged jets to support Polish defences on its border with Russia. Page 12

## Business Today

**Airports:** DAA chief executive Kenny Jacobs is close to a mutual settlement to exit the airport group following a rift with the board. Page 18

**Energy:** Bord Gáis Energy customers are facing electricity price hikes of more than €200 a year. Page 18

## Sports Weekend

**Bronze for Walsh:** Ireland's Gráinne Walsh had to settle for bronze after a 5-0 defeat in her world boxing championships semi-final in Liverpool

**Rugby:** Ireland received a boost with the return of Aoife Wafer for tomorrow's World Cup quarter-final

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