

At your service

Meet Bryan Meehan, the new owner of Kenmare's Park Hotel



Weekend

Rental restyle

Why you should revamp your not-forever-home



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Backing it up

Cork primed for another 'final' in Thurles



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Irish Examiner

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Weekend

No. 63,102 €4 (£2.20 in N Ireland)

'She is not the same child... we just have to wait for her'



Alison O'Reilly

The mother of a five-year-old girl who was left fighting for her life after a stabbing that sparked unprecedented riots across Dublin city centre has said she never wanted people to respond with violence because "hate only generates more hate".

In her first interview since the attack at Parnell Square last November, the child's mother said her precious daughter was in the "wrong place at the wrong time".

The little girl remains in Temple Street Hospital but her family is clinging to the progress she has made since being on the brink of death.

"We don't want any hate over this," her mother told the *Irish Examiner*.

"Hate only generates more hate. We don't have any time for that negativity. Our daughter is our priority. She is very resilient and has shown us how determined and strong she is; we have to match her determination."

Her daughter is now communicating with her family and medical team by "using her eyes".

"I know when she does or doesn't want something, she sometimes rolls her eyes. Even the doctors can see that."

"The future is unknown,

My heart will ache when you look at yourself and don't recognise who you once were and who you were so eager to be

But my heart will mend every time I see how happy you still manage to be

— Land of Memory And Hope, Page 8

but it's only been a few months. So for now, our daughter is where she needs to be.

"We are with her, and we want everyone to know we are very grateful for all their support."

"We have to keep going for her because she wants to keep going, and she is telling us that very clearly."

"My husband and I help each other. When he is down, I help him, and he then helps me. She is not the same child, even

though she is our child, so we are learning to live a new way of life and we know she is in there. We just have to wait for her to be ready to come out."

The mother described how her little girl has started to move her arms. "She is enjoying her Irish lessons with the hospital school and loves watching *Paddington 1* and *2* for laughs," she said.

The girl was born in the Rotunda Hospital. Her parents are from

South America and Eastern Europe.

"She loves Ireland. This is her home," said her mother.

The family wants people to know how grateful they are for their support, saying: "Thank you for all the love sent our way."

Three children and a creche worker were injured in the random incident on Parnell Square in Dublin on November 23.

Two other children, a boy aged 5 and a girl aged 6,

were treated for less serious injuries and returned home shortly afterwards.

Creche worker Leanne Flynn was discharged from hospital earlier this year.

Riots broke out across the city that night, with shops looted and a Luas sent on fire.

The five-year-old girl was undergoing emergency surgery in Temple Street Hospital while the city was under attack and the family heard the noise on the streets from inside

the hospital.

"My husband said: 'Don't go out there.' I asked him what is it like, and he replied: 'A war zone.'"

Riad Bouchaker, aged 50, appeared at Dublin District Court in November, charged with the attempted murder of three children and the assault of Ms Flynn during the Parnell Square incident.

News: 8&9

Golfer Scheffler's 'shock and fear' after arrest

Phil Casey
Louisville

World No.1 golfer Scottie Scheffler has spoken of his "shock and fear" after being arrested on his way to the US PGA Championship.

Scheffler was detained by Louisville Metro Police after trying to drive into the golf club in heavy traffic caused by an earlier unrelated accident in which a pedestrian died after being struck by a shuttle bus.

Tournament officials said they were "devastated" by the death of local man John Mills, who was working for an on-site vendor at Valhalla.

Scheffler faces charges of second-degree assault of a police officer, third-degree criminal mischief, reckless driving, and disregarding traffic signals from an officer directing traffic.

After his release, he shot a remarkable second-round score of 66 which left him two shots off the clubhouse lead held by Collin Morikawa.

Scheffler began his post-round press conference by expressing his sympathies to the family of Mills.



Scottie Scheffler's mugshot after his arrest early yesterday.

"I can't imagine what they're going through this morning," Scheffler said. "My situation will get handled."

"It was a chaotic situation and a big misunderstanding. I can't get into what transpired, outside of my heart goes out to the family."

Two times in the second round were delayed by 80 minutes due to the fatal accident, with Scheffler arriving around an hour before his revised time.

A mugshot of the two-time major winner, released by the Louisville Metropolitan Department of Corrections, showed that he had been released

after an hour and 12 minutes.

"I was pretty rattled to say the least," Scheffler admitted.

"I would say in shock and in fear."

"Coming out here and trying to play today was definitely a challenge, but I did my best to control my mind, control my breathing."

Scheffler said he began thinking about making his tee time when he saw himself on television from his cell.

According to the police report, Detective Bryan Gillis stopped Scheffler's car and "attempted to give instruction".

"Subject refused to comply and accelerated forward, dragging Detective Gillis to the ground. Detective Gillis suffered pain, swelling, and abrasions to his left wrist and knees."

"He was transported to the hospital for further medical treatment by emergency medical personnel."

Detective Gillis' uniform pants, valued at approximately \$80, were damaged beyond repair."

In a statement, Scheffler's attorney Steve Romines said the player was proceeding as directed by a traffic officer and is alleged to have disregarded signals from another officer "in the confusion".

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Attack on security staff at refugee site

Mairead Sheehy and Cianan Brennan

Investigations are underway after security workers were assaulted and vehicles damaged at a site designated for refugees in Clonmel, Co Tipperary, on Thursday.

Several security personnel contracted to work on the site were assaulted by a number of individuals.

The Department of Integration and the Office of Public Works (OPW) are planning around 80 modular homes for Ukrainian refugees on the site.

One of the workers required hospital treatment.

"No arrests have been made at this time," said a Garda spokesperson.

It is the latest in a wave of public order incidents across the country as pro-

tests by anti-migrant groups escalate. Incidents have culminated in fires and unrest as politicians grapple with how to deal with the burgeoning refugee accommodation issue.

Separately, trucks carrying modular homes was stopped by protesters from entering a site in Coole, Co Westmeath, yesterday after reports the site was to be used to house asylum seekers.

In relation to Clonmel, the OPW said: "The OPW is aware of an incident in relation to damage caused to machinery on the site. The OPW is engaging with the contractor Sisk in relation to site security and An Garda Síochána in relation to the public order issues arising at the site."

Gardaí are appealing for any person with any information to contact them.

Measles alert at CUH

Niamh Griffin and David Kent

A measles alert has been issued to people who were in certain areas of the emergency department or the Puffin Ward of Cork University Hospital on two days last week.

Contact-tracing teams are trying to get in touch with contacts of anyone known to have been there at specific times on Sunday and Monday and warn

them to watch out for measles symptoms.

Public health medicine consultant Margaret O'Sullivan said they wish to reassure people that public health measures are being followed.

"Contact tracing means that we will be in direct touch with close contacts," said Dr O'Sullivan.

"Anyone who is concerned about symptoms should contact their GP."

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Colin Sheridan and Mick Clifford on the woes of GAAGO

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Green screen

The Irish films making waves at Cannes

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Newbridge shows Princess Diana's couture to mark its 90th year

Weekend



Michelle Darmody

How to bake the perfect lemon meringue pie

Food



THE EVERYMAN PRESENTS

The Summer I Robbed a



SAT 8-SUN 16 JUN

SAT, 12PM & 4PM | SUN, 2PM

ISL-interpreted and audio-described performance with touch tour SUN 16 JUN



THE EVERYMAN



Cathair Chathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

arts council
funding the arts

'The riots were nothing to do with our daughter - it was anger and hate'

In an exclusive interview with Alison O'Reilly, the mother of the five-year-old girl stabbed outside her school on Parnell St, Dublin, last November talks about how 'hate' fuelled the riots that followed in the city, her daughter's slow recovery, and her gratitude to the public for their support

On November 23, 2023, Dublin was set ablaze. Anger raged as rioters seized streets in the capital, attacking Gardaí and setting fire to public transport.

The riots came about after a child was senselessly attacked earlier in the day.

Now the mother of the child, neither of whom can be identified for legal reasons, wants the world to know that none of it was justified and it wasn't done in her little girl's name.

"We do not want hate to be the narrative of what happened to our daughter," she tells the *Irish Examiner*, six months on from the day that changed her family's life forever.

"The riots were nothing to do with our daughter, which was anger and hate," she says the mother of the "strong-willed little fighter" who remained in a Dublin hospital nearly six months on.

The little girl was left with life-changing injuries after being stabbed on Parnell St on that overcast November day.

After the attack, Dublin city centre quickly descended into a violent hell-scene, as rioters burned, looted, and destroyed.

"They used the attack on the little girl, two of her classmates, and their creche minder, as an excuse to rampage across the city."

In her first interview since that dark day, the mother, in a softly spoken voice, says she does not want anyone to "respond with hate" to the incident.

Her daughter, she says, was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time".

"The main message we have is that we don't want any hate over this and that hate only generates more hate," says the mother.

"We don't have time for hate, we just want to focus on our daughter," she adds, speaking under a cloud of anonymity.

"I never wanted to receive that call"

The girls' parents met in Ireland and decided to start a family here.

The child's father is Eastern European, and the



A burning bus on Dublin's O'Connell Bridge during riots in Dublin city centre last November. The mother of one of the children has stated that the riots were not justified and wasn't done in her daughter's name. "We do not want hate to be the narrative of what happened to our daughter," she says. The girl was born in the nearby Rotunda Hospital, pictured below. Picture: Alan Betson

Land of memory and hope

I live in a land of memory and hope I close my eyes and I see you I see every morning when you would wake up and walk towards me for a hug, even without being able to open your eyes properly

I see your eyes gladden when the swing in the playground was free I can picture every laugh, jump, word, tantrum, fall I can feel your hugs, your love, your just for life I can almost touch you... that is how much I remember of you I remember everything

The good and the bad The good was just so perfect And so was the bad The temperament, the looks, they were what made you YOU I would tell you how brave you were and how much I loved you You never liked it when I called you brave But you always believed me when I asked you: 'Do you know how much I love you?'

My memories are intact, fresh, almost palpable My hopes are playing catch-up I hope that I can hug you the way I used to How you would look at me and trust that I could make it all better My hopes are that you manage to, somehow, come out the other end YOU

I know that is a big ask I will never be the same My heart will break every time you ask me why I do not know why My heart will ache when you look at yourself and don't recognise who you once were and who you were so eager to be But my heart will mend every time I see how happy you still manage to be

And how excited you are through all the accomplishments My heart will mend when you look at me knowing who I am My heart and yours will mend when the gap between memory and hope shrinks

And that we can find ourselves back to where we were I will take now as a pause, a timeout With hopes of hitting play soon

This is a poem written by the girl's mother that she posted, among other inspiring updates on the GoFundMe page Barrog do Chailín Beag (A Hug For A Little Girl)

The parents rang relatives from the hospital while their daughter was undergoing surgery.

"It was very difficult to break the news to my family, at first," she says.

"My father became emotional and took his time to speak with me over the phone."

"My brother made and received calls for me when I couldn't, they gave me a lot of help. Other family members and friends sent their love and positive vibes."

Her mother has now come to Ireland to help her.

"I'm happy my mother is here now."

After months of treat-

'She is very smart and incredibly determined and spoke up for herself all the time. She also loved to dance and liked her dads' music. One minute she will be in her princess dress, but it wouldn't be long before her dress is getting in the way of her climbing a tree'

and so has my husband." She says there have been "great milestones for our little warrior; she has started on feeds now (not orally yet) and moving her arms a good bit."

"She is enjoying her Irish lessons with the hospital school and loves watching *Paddington* 1 and 2 for laughs. These are huge achievements."

"The future is unknown, but it's only been a few months, so for now, our daughter is where she needs to be. We are with her, and we want everyone to know we are very grateful for all their support."

"We have to keep going for her because she wants to keep going, and she is telling us that very clearly."

"My husband and I help each other. When he is down, I help him, and he then helps me."

"She is very resilient and has shown us how determined and strong she is. We have to match her determination."

"We talk to her and ask her things and she can definitely hear and understand us, and we are being guided by her."

"The questions regarding her future and ours are there. Despite all the heart-aches and maybes, we have to believe in her, mainly because she does."

Even with all the heart-aches, there was not the slightest hint of anger or resentment from the parents.

"While no one can truly imagine the pain endured by the family, the child's mother says that, at times, she feels guilty over the support they have received when "other parents are suffering with sick and injured children too".

"I have spoken to one of

Strength of naval service falls to new low

The strength of the Irish naval service has fallen to a new low of 722, official figures show.

The figure suggests the staffing crisis in the Naval Service could be leveling off and is just three fewer than in 2023.

Figures revealed by Tánaiste and Minister for Defence Micheál Martin show that the strength of the naval service has collapsed in the last five years, dropping from 936 in 2019, to 875 in 2021 and to 786 in 2022.

Mr Martin said that, as well as general service recruitment campaigns for the Defence Forces naval service there are eight direct entry competitions for the naval service and three naval service cadetship competitions.

In response to a question from Sinn Féin's defence spokesman, Matt Carthy, the Tánaiste said a marine recruitment specialist company has also been contracted to target individuals with specific skills required by the naval service, such as engineering.

Mr Martin said that the maximum recruitment age has been increased to 39 for those roles that had a recruitment age below that and to 50 for direct entry officer

specialists.

He said that, from last January, the patrol duty allowance has been doubled (from €65 to €131) for those at sea longer than ten days.

In addition rates of pay for new recruits had also improved, starting at €39,321, rising to €42,005 by year three.

He said private secondary medical care had also been extended to all personnel.

Separate figures show that 1,546 people attended interviews for the Defence Forces in 2023 and to end of March 2024 and that so far 563 have been inducted.

The naval service is conducting visits to different parts of the country as part of its recruitment campaign and the LtE George Bernard Shaw was docked on Malbeg Quay in Cork city over the May bank holiday weekend just gone.

Of the six navy patrol vessels, two are operational, with one on patrol at any given time and a third ship is on standby.

Mr Martin said that the first of two inshore patrol vessels, purchased from New Zealand at a cost of €32m, will become operational next month.

He said €20m was spent refurbishing accommodation at naval service HQ at Haulbowline, Cork, with a new 66m gym due to come on stream in 2026.

We could all learn a powerful lesson from this woman and her family

Alison O'Reilly Brave, compassionate, forgiving. In a word, remarkable. It was a privilege to get to meet the mother of the five-year-old girl critically injured in the Parnell St attack, and more importantly to relay the messages she wants to send to the people of Ireland — which is one of gratitude, not anger.

Her daughter, she says, was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time".

"The main message we have is that we don't want any hate over this and that hate only generates more hate," says the mother.

"We don't have time for hate, we just want to focus on our daughter," she adds, speaking under a cloud of anonymity.

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The girls' parents met in Ireland and decided to start a family here.

The child's father is Eastern European, and the

Woman and her family

determined young girl who dresses in princess clothes but also loves to climb trees and splash in puddles. A little girl who wanted to make new friends in her new Irish-language school. It was simple: she was the innocent five-year-old child stabbed on Parnell St. But now her mother has generously shared so much of her daughter's personality with us — a

tremendous courage and bravery over the past six agonising months.

Her mother is so softly spoken, but shows compassion, empathy, and love for those around her with no hint of any resentment or anger.

We spoke for more than two hours, and sometimes she let the tears come silently, other times she continued to speak through

Star of David drawn on path outside Cork cafe

Michelle McGlynn A Star of David marked on the path outside a Palestinian restaurant in Cork City has been condemned as an attempt to intimidate the owners and staff.

Yesterday morning, the graffiti was found outside Izz Cafe on George's Quay. It was first discovered by a neighbouring business owner, who then alerted owner, Izzeddeen Alkarajeh.

Mr Alkarajeh came to Ireland in 2016 with his Jordanian wife Eman and their children.

"I do not know if he is someone related to Israel or not," he said of the person who made the mark.

Speaking to 96FM's *Opinion Line* with PJ Coogan, Mr Alkarajeh said the incident, while unfortunate, was nothing compared to what is being done to people in Gaza.

"This is not war, this is not something acceptable and it must end," he said.

"Occupation is not accepted anymore."

"Genocide cannot be committed in front of our eyes."

The person who did the graffiti has a limited understanding of the conflict and they should go and educate themselves more on the matter, Mr Alkarajeh added.

"The Israeli flag is not about a respectful, normal state that they can express any respect to," he said.

"It is a flag that represents a rogue state that is not abiding by international law and they are performing a live genocide."

"If they are real human beings, they would disapprove that they are not on the right side of the conflict."

The popular restaurant owner spoke of the kindness he and his family have witnessed since the escalation of the attack on Palestine.

A local woman who is Jewish approached Mr Alkarajeh's wife and asked to speak with her to express her solidarity with the people of Palestine.

"She hugged her and she was crying," Mr Alkarajeh said. "She said, 'I don't support this. I don't want this to be happening to your people. We love you, we know you are good people.'"

"She said she was deeply sorry for what is going on and did not support genocide."

Star of David drawn on path outside Cork cafe



Eman and Izzeddeen Alkarajeh at the Izz cafe. A star of David was drawn on the pavement outside their business yesterday.

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The popular restaurant owner spoke of the kindness he and his family have witnessed since the escalation of the attack on Palestine.

A local woman who is Jewish approached Mr Alkarajeh's wife and asked to speak with her to express her solidarity with the people of Palestine.

"She hugged her and she was crying," Mr Alkarajeh said. "She said, 'I don't support this. I don't want this to be happening to your people. We love you, we know you are good people.'"