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Roscommon people

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Knockcroghery woman is San Francisco Rose

There could well be two Roscommon ladies at the 2010 Rose of Tralee finals with the news that Knockcroghery girl Roisin Hunt has been chosen as the San Francisco Rose for 2010. Roisin's win means that she will join the Roscommon Rose Deirdre Lenehan, who was chosen at the ball in Kiltronan Castle a few weeks ago. Deirdre Lenehan will have to compete at the regional finals in Portlaoise in a couple of weeks, however Roisin, daughter of Seamus and Dawn Hunt, is through to the final in Tralee. See story on page four.

The Local Paper

Volume: 166

Finneran: I'm here to stay!

■ Paul Healy

Fianna Fail Minister Michael Finneran has dismissed rumours that have been circulating which claimed that he might retire from politics ahead of the next General Election. Speaking to the Roscommon People last night (Wednesday), Minister Finneran said that he was aware of the rumours.

The Minister, who will be in his 65th year at the time of the next election if the current Dail runs its full term (to 2012), said: "As for Cllr. Kelly's criticisms of me, I don't normally get into rows with political opponents but I must say I find it a bit rich that someone who was an Independent, then HAC (Cllr. Kelly ran in the last general election with HAC backing), who then lost the election and announced he would happily join Fianna Fail or Fine Gael... I think that makes him an opportunist and if he thinks he will get somewhere jumping all those fences, well and good."

Minister Finneran's reference to Monksland was

a response to jibes from the Labour Party, who will hold a high profile meeting in Monksland

on Monday night next, May 10th in the Athlone Springs Hotel (8 pm). Asked about criticism

of him by Labour Party Councillor John Kelly, Minister Finneran said: "This has been my first

opportunity to serve as a Minister and I am only in my second Dail term. I am determined to see my agenda through... in fact Fianna Fail could be in Government with Labour after the next election.

Minister Finneran said that he appreciates that families are "hurting" at the moment. "This Gov-

ernment is making tough decisions but we are doing so in the best interests of the people. There are positive signs, such as a big increase in exports through Dublin Port. Ireland (our finances) is not even being mentioned now in the same category as Greece or Spain or Portugal."



Minister Ml. Finneran



Jade Hatter from Boyle who won the schools' poetry competition at the Strokestown Poetry Festival chats to Geri Maye during the Winning Streak broadcast. Last week the 'Dream Maker' segment of the Winning Streak programme was broadcast from the Strokestown International Poetry festival in the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown, where Brian McNally from Donegal spun the wheel to win €40,000.

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