

## Anti-head shop group step up campaign

The 'Roscommon Anti Headshop' committee met with the Fine Gael's spokesperson on Health, Dr. James Reilly in Gleeson's Townhouse last week.

The group were seeking support for their campaign to close 'High Times' at Castle St., Roscommon. Dr. Reilly expressed the view that if there was a will on the part of Government to close head shops they

could bring about this aim in the morning. He said the Government could introduce what he described as 'secondary legislation,' which would allow immediate closure of these drug shops which would avoid long delays in bringing primary legislation into force.

Dr. Reilly said that his party had asked the Government to look at other measures such as planning conditions, opening

hours and licensing to deal with the current situation. Dr. James Reilly gave a commitment to the group that his party will put forward their own bill on the closure of head shops given the delay on the part of Government to deal with this issue.

Though protests may be less frequent, the 'Roscommon anti Headshop' protest group report increased numbers and support for their weekly

pickets on 'High Times' at Castle Street, Roscommon. A spokesperson for the group confirmed that sporadic pickets will continue to be placed on the premises until it is closed down. They call on the public in general to urge the landlord to consider the damage this store is doing to the health of the young and vulnerable in the community. The group continue to lobby legislators and local

politicians and hope that Minister Carey, who has indicated his personal desire to see such premises closed, will take action immediately to affect their closure.

After speaking with a sister in charge at A&E in Roscommon Hospital during the week, it was confirmed that there has been an increase of people presenting with symptoms after taking products from head shops.

## Kelly slams dental scheme changes

The circular sent to dentists which effectively takes away all but emergency dental treatment from medical card patients, must be withdrawn, according to Cllr. John Kelly.

"The recruitment moratorium, the savage slashing of budgets and now the virtual withdrawal of dental service for medical card holders are all a clear indication that Health Minister Mary Harney has all but abandoned public health service.

"The Irish Dental Association has described the move as unsafe, unworkable and unethical and they are right. This circular brings us back to the dark ages of dental treatment when teeth were extracted without any other options.

"As a result of this circular, preventative work such as scaling and filling are to be abandoned, which means that serious dental problems, rather than being tackled, will simply be stored up for the future. What are these same patients to do if they need dentures at some stage in the future?"

"Furthermore from a jobs prospective this measure will mean that more people will be joining the dole queues as dentists will not be able to maintain the same levels of employment if anything up to 60 percent of their work is taken away."

## Labour host public meeting

A major public meeting highlighting the future needs of Monksland, South Roscommon, is being held by the Labour Party on Monday next, May 10th in the Athlone Springs Hotel.

Guest speakers on the night will be Longford/Westmeath Deputy, Willie Penrose, Dr. Jerry Cowley and Cllr. John Kelly, Roscommon. The meeting, which is planned for 8 pm, shall be chaired by Denis Rohan, Assistant General Secretary, IMPACT.

Deputy Penrose will speak on the current jobs crisis while Dr. Cowley will speak on the health services. Cllr. Kelly will talk on the future needs of Monksland, including planning and social concerns. Feedback from the people of Monksland on these and other issues affecting the local community will be most welcome at the meeting.

## Retired nurses to meet in Ballinasloe

Over 300 retired nurses from all parts of the country will arrive in Ballinasloe next week to hold their 13th annual conference in the Carlton Shearwater Hotel. The two-day event takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11th and 12th.

The Ballinasloe Branch, which is hosting this 13th annual national conference, is inviting all retired nurses to attend. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated in the hotel at 5 pm and this will be followed by a gala dinner at 8 pm. On the preceding night (Tuesday) a social evening will get under way at 8.30 pm to welcome old and new members to Ballinasloe, many of who trained in either Portiuncula or St. Brigid's Hospitals in the town. A variety concert and dancing to Country Comfort is also planned with refreshments provided.



Deputy Denis Naughten and Cllr. Eugene Murphy who took part in the Roscommon Lamb Cook-off competition last Friday. Picture: Andrew Fox.

## Call for new entrants to free preschool scheme

Are you a childcare provider who is thinking of opening a new childcare service in County Roscommon or an existing service that is not currently in the ECCE scheme and wishes to apply to join the new Free Preschool Scheme?

If so Roscommon County Childcare Committee is inviting applications from new applicants only for entry into the Free Pre-School Place Scheme. Appli-

cation forms can be accessed from Roscommon County Childcare Committee. Closing date for receipt of applications from Childcare Services not already in the scheme is 5 pm, May 14th, 2010. For any further details please contact Roscommon County Childcare Committee at (094) 9622540, or at info@roscommonchildcare.ie. Address: Knock Road, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

## Time to renegotiate deals on natural resources – Mulligan

Sinn Fein County Councillor Michael Mulligan has called on the trade union movement to put the renegotiation of all deals and licenses for our natural resources on the table of social partnership.

Cllr. Mulligan said that the trade union movement had a moral, social and economic responsibility not just merely to its own members but also to the people of Ireland to claim

back the enormous wealth that had been given away by successive governments. Cllr Mulligan was making his comments following an announcement by the Norwegian Government that its oil and gas sovereign wealth fund rose by 26 percent last year.

Cllr. Mulligan said, "With Fine Gael and Labour virtually singing off the same hymn sheet as

the Government in relation to our natural resources, the trade union movement has both the power and the ability to force a renegotiation of all oil and gas licenses issued by successive Governments. In this time of economic crisis the unions must be seen as not just acting in the interests of their own members, they need to be seen as acting and promoting the interests of the common good," he concluded.

## news at a glance

### Fianna Fáil conference in Ballaghaderreen

The Roscommon CDC Fianna Fáil Conference will be held in the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon this Saturday, May 8th.

A number of Fianna Fáil Ministers will be in attendance including local Minister Michael Finneran, Minister Micheál Martin, Minister Noel Dempsey, Minister Eamon Ó Cuív and Minister Dara Calleary.

They will address Fianna Fáil members from County Roscommon on issues of local and national importance. The event will be chaired by P. Burke, Chairman of Roscommon Comhairle Dáil Ceanntar of Fianna Fáil.

### Untimely death of Ann Trimble

There was widespread shock and sadness throughout the county on Monday at news of the sudden and untimely death at her home of Ann Trimble (nee Gormley) of Kilrooskey, Roscommon. She was one of the most popular people in the local area and her family is well-known throughout the county and further afield.

Mrs Trimble is survived by her husband Harry, sons Gordon and Ivor and by daughter Hazel. She is also survived by her sister Mary, brothers Seamus and Peter, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, grandson, in laws, relatives and friends. Her removal will take place this evening (Thursday) from Smyth's funeral home Roscommon at 8 pm to St Mary's Church, Ballagh. Requiem Mass will be held tomorrow Friday at 10.30 am. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

### Leyden welcomes conservation grants

Senator Terry Leyden this week expressed his delight at the significant allocation made by the Government to projects in Roscommon under the Civic Structures Conservation Grants Scheme.

The aim of the Scheme is the preservation of heritage structures such as libraries, churches and gate lodges which are in civic ownership or occupation and open to the public to enjoy. The projects to benefit from the funding are: Kilronan Hermitage (€15,310), Donamon Church of Ireland (€15,310), Rinn Duin Parish Church Ruins (€15,310), Mount Talbot Church (€15,310), Strokestown Park House (€15,310) and the Shannon-bridge Napoleonic Fortifications (€20,000).

Speaking after the announcement, Senator Leyden praised the energy and commitment of the groups involved. "This tranche of funding is a great testament to the sense of community and vision that the individual groups have, and I have no doubt it will be built upon in the years to come."

### Minister attends official opening of Boyle GAA facility

Government Deputy for Roscommon/South Leitrim, Michael Finneran, Minister for Housing and Local Services attended the official opening of the new GAA dressing rooms at Abbey Park, Boyle, on Saturday last.

"I was delighted to be in the esteemed company of the great football legends Gerry O'Malley and John Joe Nerney who officially opened the new GAA dressing rooms.

"On Friday 2nd May 2008 I received a deputation from the GAA Club namely Aidan Lavin Chairperson, Michael Brennan, Michael Gilmartin Treasurer, and former Mayor of Boyle Mary Clifford TC, who put a very strong case to me for support for this project. I secured funding of €110,000 in July 2008 from my colleague former Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism Martin Cullen TD under the Sports Capital Grants for 2008.

"I express my thanks to Michael Gilmartin, Treasurer, for including me in his treasurer's report for securing the funding. Also Cllr. John Cummins for his many representations and former Chairman John Kelly who made ongoing representations to me over a three-year period.

"I was well impressed with the standard of work carried out on the dressing rooms as the Boyle GAA Club caters for U10, U12, U14, U16, Minor, U21, junior and intermediate teams and also ladies teams. I take this opportunity to wish to current officer board, players, supporters and parents, continued success with our national games," concluded Minister Finneran TD.