

Tralee Times

Volume 3 No.1

Caherslee News

May 2008

Kerry Regional Hospital

Why should the people of Co. Kerry suffer a continual degrading of public health care?

5 more years of Harney's cuts



FIGHT FOR TOP QUALITY, FREE, PUBLIC HEALTHCARE!

Kerry has the 6th largest population as a county outside of Dublin, CSO 2006 Census figures. The geographical spread within the county is also quite large and difficult to negotiate, more so if you are sick. The people of Kerry from all political persuasions and none need to stand up and fight for what we deserve. After all we have paid our taxes, none more so than the old and infirm who for decades propped up this country when times were really bad. This government is degrading our public services now, having wasted vast sums of money on 'pet' projects in the past decade. Please do not think that this situation will be alright eventually—it won't—unless we the people of this county realise that we will fight for what we are being deprived of today. The staff in the hospital are doing tremendous work under immense pressure to deliver a service that does not allow them to work to their full potential.

Contact Us if You would like to suggest a story or topic for a future editions.

Shameful School Buildings

As far back as 2002 the then Programme for Government stated, in regard to school buildings that: *"We will ensure that every school building attains set modern standards."*

Six years later and more promises and another Programme for Government and still many students still await the day when they can experience education in "...school buildings which attain set modern standards...."

For how long more will people wait, in the hope that this government will actually deliver on promises which they have continually renege upon?

Most of the students who are affected by these shameful conditions are of the youngest school going age.

Should parents and teachers take more drastic action by refusing to send their children / refusing to work in such diabolical conditions on the grounds of health and safety ?

Many adults would not work in the conditions that their children have to put up with in school!!!

*Kingdom County Fair
Sunday 11th May 2008
Ballybeggan Racecourse*

**Tralee Times Website
www.traleetimes.com**

This website includes many useful local and national links for all. We would value your help and input too.

Log on and Contact Us.

Download this edition and give it to a friend when you have finished reading it.

Lisbon Treaty

'From Kilmoyley to Kilimanjaro'
On the 9th of May, Brian Crowley MEP and Martin Ferris T.D will debate the Lisbon Treaty. The Chairperson for the night will be Sean Lyons who is a teacher in Holy Family and Chairperson of KADE. The event will be held in the Kilmoyley Centre at 8 p.m. There will be a Q and A session after the debate. Public are welcome. The EU have the Lisbon Treaty available to you on the web at the address:

http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm
Do inform yourself of the issues surrounding this Treaty and don't just vote Yes or No based on political allegiance. To vote in ignorance of the issues attached to the Treaty would be irresponsible.

Government V's Special Needs

Between 2003 and 2007, the Departments of Education and Health spent almost €22 million of taxpayers' money on court actions regarding the provision of resources and school places for students with special needs.

Driving Safety Tip

Always drive with your lights ON!

Castleisland By-Pass

According to recent research undertaken by us in relation to this project, on the National Roads Authority (NRA) website, it seems that there has been little or no progress toward completion of the by-pass.

Despite election promises in 2002 and again in 2007 the road is still at the Preliminary Design Stage (as it was in 2002!).

There was a time in the past when Castleisland used to be congested during the summer months only but now the congestion is all-year round at certain times. For a road that delivers significant business, tourist and local traffic on a daily basis to this part of Kerry the NRA does **not** view the road as a 'significant inter-urban route' (!)

Check this out for yourself on:

<http://www.nra.ie/RoadSchemeActivity/KerryCountyCouncil/N21CastleislandBypass/SchemeName,14598,en.html>

What is Identity theft? Are you at risk?

Your identity and personal information are valuable. Criminals can find out your personal details and use them to open bank accounts and get credit cards, loans, state benefits and documents such as passports and driving licenses in your name.

Criminals commit identity theft by stealing your personal information. This is often done by taking documents from your rubbish or by making contact with you and pretending to be from a legitimate organisation. Identity theft can result in fraud affecting your personal financial circumstances, as well as costing government and financial services millions of euro a year. If your identity is stolen, you may have difficulty getting loans, credit cards or a mortgage until the matter is sorted out.

The following tips will help you protect your identity and prevent criminals from committing fraud in your name:

Your identity and personal information are valuable assets. Keep them secure.

It is particularly helpful to check your personal credit file 2-3 months after you have moved house.

Be extra careful if you live in a property where other people could have access to your mail. In some cases a bank or credit card company could arrange for you to collect valuable items such as new plastic cards or cheque books from a local branch.

If you suspect your mail is being stolen, contact:

**An Post Customer Service:
Tel. 1850575859 or 01-7057600 Customer Services:
An Post, Ground Floor, GPO,
FREEPOST, Dublin 1**

Check whether a **mail redirection** order has been made in your name without your knowledge.

If you **move house**, tell your bank, card issuer and all other organisations that you deal with immediately. Ask the *An Post* to redirect any mail from your old address to your new one for at least a year.

If your **plastic cards are lost or stolen**, cancel them immediately. Keep a note of the emergency numbers you should call.

When giving your card details or personal information over the phone, Internet or in a shop, make sure other people cannot hear or see your personal information.

Never **carry documents** or plastic cards unnecessarily. When not in use keep them in a safe place.

Keep your personal documents in a

Contact Us
editor@traleetimes.com

safe place, preferably in a **lockable drawer or cabinet** at home. Consider storing valuable financial documents such as share certificates with your bank.

If your **passport or driving licence** has been lost or stolen contact the issuing organisation immediately. Don't **throw away entire bills**, receipts, credit-or debit-card slips, bank statements or even unwanted post in your name. Destroy unwanted documents, preferably by using a shredder. **Check statements** as soon as they arrive. If any unfamiliar transactions are listed, contact the company concerned immediately.

Never give personal or account details to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly. Be suspicious even if they claim to be from your bank or the police. Ask for their phone number, check it is genuine and, if so, call them back. Be aware that a bank will never ask for your PIN or for a whole security number or password. Keep them secure.

Don't use the same password for more than one account and never use banking passwords for any other web-sites.

Using different passwords increases security and makes it less likely that someone could access any other accounts.

Keep your **passwords safe** and never record or store them in a manner which leaves them open to theft, such as in your purse or wallet.

If you receive a **suspicious e-mail** purporting to be from a bona fide institution which requests personal details.

Criminals sometimes use the identities of **deceased persons** to commit fraud, which can be very distressing for those close to the deceased. One way of reducing the chances of this happening is to register with services that remove the deceased's details from mailing lists.

Citizens Information  Public Service Information
Provided by the Citizens Information Board

**4 Bridge Lane
Tralee
Co. Kerry**

**Tel: +353 66 712 3655
fax: +353 66 718 1865
email:
tralee.cic@comhairle.ie**

**Opening Hours:
Mon / Tue / Thur / Fri:
10.00am -1.00pm & 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Weather Statistics Valentia Observatory, Co. Kerry 2004—2008

Precipitation in mm

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
2004	174.4	79.0	164.4	85.6
2005	184.9	90.1	81.9	152.8
2006	144.9	86.7	149.1	79.4
2007	108.1	201.4	111.0	50.9
2008	274.1	110.4	164.0	51.0
Averages	177.3	113.5	134.1	83.9
1960—1991 Averages	167.0	123.1	121.7	77.0

Average Temperature in °C

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
2004	7.7	7.2	8.6	9.7
2005	8.7	6.8	9.0	9.6
2006	7.9	7.2	7.4	9.2
2007	8.6	7.9	8.3	10.9
2008	8.7	8.3	7.9	8.1
Averages	8.3	7.5	8.2	9.5
1960—1991 Averages	6.8	6.6	7.6	8.9

Further Information available:
www.met.ie or on
<http://www.traleetimes.com/files/weatherdetails.html>



Banna Beach – Summer Sunset
Hopefully we'll get some of this in
2008!



Why is Rice Price Rising?

Several factors are contributing to the steep rise in rice prices. Rising affluence in India and China has increased demand. At the same time, drought and other bad weather have reduced output in Australia and elsewhere. Many rice farmers are turning to more lucrative cash crops, reducing the amount of land devoted to the grain. And urbanization and industrialization have cut into the land devoted to rice cultivation.

In Vietnam, an obscure plant virus has caused annual output to start leveling off; it had increased significantly each year until the last three years.

It would seem that these are the principal reasons why the price of Asian rice has rocketed—trebling in price this year alone. But since the beginning of 2004 it has gone up a whopping 490 % to just under \$1000 a tonne or €650.

‘Liars when they speak the truth are not believed’.

Aristotle



Tralee Court House

If, as is being suggested, the Court Service is to vacate the existing Court House in Ashe St. what will become of this fine historic building? Should it become a civic / ceremonial Centre for the town?

Statistical Yearbook of Ireland

2007 Edition

National Average Prices

Motor Fuel

Price in € per litre

FUEL	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Unleaded	0.846	0.871	0.874	0.956	1.039	1.110
Diesel	0.753	0.785	0.811	0.896	1.027	1.081

www.cso.ie

Bio-Fuel Production

Are There Enough Farms and Crops to Support a Switch to Bio-fuels?

A major hurdle for widespread adoption of bio-fuels is the challenge of growing enough crops to meet demand, something skeptics say might well require converting just about all of the world's remaining forests and open spaces over to agricultural land. "Replacing only five percent of US diesel consumption with bio-diesel would require diverting approximately 60 percent of today's soy crops to bio-diesel production," says Matthew Brown, an energy consultant and former energy program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures. "That's bad news for tofu lovers."

Does Producing Bio-fuels Use More Energy than They Can Generate?

Another dark cloud looming over biofuels is whether producing them actually requires more energy than they can generate. After factoring in the energy needed to grow crops and then convert them into bio-fuels, Cornell University researcher David Pimental concludes that the numbers just don't add up. His 2005 study found that producing ethanol from corn required 29 percent more energy than the end product itself is capable of generating. He found similarly troubling numbers in making bio-diesel from soybeans.

"There is just no energy benefit to using plant biomass for liquid fuel," Pimental says.

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July05/ethanol.toocostly.ssl.html>

Oil Sands

Future Oil Reserves

Second only to the Saudi Arabia reserves, Alberta's oil sands deposits were described by Time Magazine as "Canada's greatest buried energy treasure," and "could satisfy the world's demand for petroleum for the next century". Oil Sands are deposits of bitumen, a molasses-like viscous oil that will not flow unless heated or diluted with lighter hydrocarbons. They are contained in three major areas beneath 140,200* square kilometres of north-eastern Alberta - an area larger than the state of Florida, an area twice the size of New Brunswick, more than four and half times the size of Vancouver Island, and 26 times larger than Prince Edward Island. However, only about two per cent of the initial established resource has been produced to date. Oil sands are found in three places in Alberta - the Athabasca, Peace River and Cold Lake regions - and cover a total of nearly 140,200* square kilometres.

For more information:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/01/20/60minutes/main1225184.shtml>



**Advertise with Us
On the Web
www.traleetimes.com**

Best Wishes to Munster in the Heineken Cup Final 2008

Tralee Times wishes ALL students the best of luck in their examinations.

Eight Reasons to Eat Local Foods

1. Local Foods Are Fresher (and Taste Better)

Local food is fresher and tastes better than food that been trucked or flown in from thousands of miles away. Think you can't taste the difference between lettuce picked yesterday and lettuce picked last week, factory-washed, and sealed in plastic? You can. And fresh food? It lasts longer too.

2. Local Foods Are Seasonal (and Taste Better)

It must be said: Deprivation leads to greater appreciation. When does a cosy room feel best? When you've come in from out of the freezing cold. Fresh corn in season tastes best when you haven't eaten any in 9 or 10 months--long enough for its taste to be a slightly blurred memory that is suddenly awakened with that first bite of the season. Eating locally means eating seasonally with all the deprivation and resulting pleasure that accompanies it.

3. Local Foods Usually Have Less Environmental Impact

Those thousands of miles some food is shipped? That leads to a big carbon footprint for a little bunch of herbs. Look for farmers who follow organic and sustainable growing practices and energy use to minimise your food's environmental impact.

4. Local Foods Preserve Green Space and Farmland

The environmental questions of where you food comes from is bigger than its "carbon footprint." By buying foods grown and raised closer to where you live, you help maintain farmland and green space in your area.

5. Local Foods Promote Food Safety

The fewer steps there are between your food's source and your table the less chance there is of contamination. Also, when you know where your food comes from and who grows it, you know a lot more about that food. During the *e. coli* outbreak in spinach in 2006 I knew the spinach in my refrigerator was safe because I knew it was grown in Yolo County by a farmer I knew, and, as importantly, that it didn't come from Salinas County where the outbreak was. (The knowledge would have worked in reverse too: if the outbreak had been in Yolo County instead, I would have known to throw that bunch of greens and scrub down the fridge!)

6. Local Foods Support Your Local Economy

Money spent with local farmers, growers, and locally-owned purveyors and restaurants all stays close to home, working to build your local economy instead of being handed over to a corporation in another city, state, or country. Since the food moves through fewer hands, more of the money you spend tends to get to the people growing it.

To make the biggest local economic impact

with your food budget, seek out producers who pay their workers a fair wage and practice social justice in their business.

7. Local Foods Promote Variety

Local foods create greater variety of foods available. Farmers who run community supported agriculture programmes (CSAs), sell at farmers' markets, and provide local restaurants have the demand and the support for raising more types of produce and livestock. Think Brandywines, Early Girls, and Lemon Boys instead of "tomatoes."

8. Local Foods Create Community

Knowing where your food is from connects you to the people who raise and grow it. Instead of having a single relationship--to a big supermarket--you develop smaller connections to more food sources: vendors at the farmers' market, the local cheese shop, your favorite butcher, the co-op that sells local eggs, a local café that roasts coffee.

Eating locally? It connects you to a larger world.

Molly Watson
(about.com)

Summer Holidays
Children At Play
Drive with Caution!



Revenue in excess of
€25 million from
January to December
2007. The PASS rate
was 51.8%

Lee Valley Walkway



A very exciting project which will enhance the civic amenities of Tralee for many years to come. Let us be proud of this venture and applaud it. One hopes that the funding to maintain it will be budgeted properly in future years.

Further to this project, let me suggest that, in the short to medium term, there be an examination of the feasibility of developing i.e. constructing, a footpath from Mounthawk to the Spa along the Fenit road.

This would effectively mean that there would be a circuit for walking / cycling in safety. Such a pathway to the Spa would link Cockleshell, the Lock Gates and the Canal to the Lee Valley from a north and westerly direction giving more options for walkers and cyclists.

This would also mean that the long running saga that is the railway line could be forgotten and buried or overgrown as the case may be!

Tralee Times
Directory of Services
Information for All
www.traleetimes.com

Contact
An Taoiseach
email Campaign
This is just one way of ensuring
that the
people of Co. Kerry are un-
happy with the downgrading of
Kerry Regional Hospital
AND OTHER ISSUES
webmaster@taoiseach.gov.ie



Big Loss for
Tralee
Major Gain for
Killarney

Next Local
Elections
June 2009

Tralee Times
Editor: Leonard O' Donnell
editor@traleetimes.com
Tel. 087—76 152 76

FIGHT ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR
SUPPORT THE GARDAI
REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY
IF YOU DON'T REPORT IT
NO ONE MAY KNOW ABOUT IT
DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS
Garda Confidential Line:
1800 666 111
or
999 or 112