

The best
100
places to stay in Ireland

Weekend



Donal Lenihan

To take down South Africa, Ireland need key men to come to the fore



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Weekend Sport

'Spike' O'Sullivan

For a boxer, a torn bicep is a real gut punch



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Irish Examiner

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Weekend

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Horns of a dilemma



South Africa fan Patrick Cruywagen with his Springbok in Temple Bar, Dublin, ahead of today's game against Ireland in the Aviva Stadium. SEE: Sport, Pages 2-5

Picture: Sam Boal/Collins

UCC business school shelved

Mick Clifford

A major plan by University College Cork (UCC) to develop a world-class business school on a city centre site that cost €17m has been abandoned, the *Irish Examiner* has learned.

The university has not yet officially announced that it will not go ahead with the project, but multiple sources have confirmed it is all but dead.

In addition to the €17m cost of the site, around €2m has been spent on architectural and associated services over the last three years.

The proposed development was earmarked for

City site cost €17m, plus €2m on services

the old Brooks Haughton site on South Terrace in Cork city.

It was to be a building of 17,000sq m, incorporating teaching space, laboratories, meeting facilities, office space and catering facilities on site.

The university is currently finalising its long-term plan for capital projects, which includes the Cork University Business School (CUBS), in light of what the college calls "significant recent construc-

tion inflation and changes in the provision and delivery of higher education".

Its governing body is expected to consider any new proposals in the coming months, despite the plans for the South Terrace site being in train for nearly four years.

"UCC is fully committed to developing a building for its business school and will provide an update on Cork University Business School in the new year,"

the college said in a statement.

The site was purchased in 2019 and in January 2022, UCC announced that it had appointed RKD Architects following a tender process for a contract worth €3.5m.

This was to include architectural services, electrical engineering services, supervision of the design process and a masterplan for the entire site. Much of that work has already been done now.

Planning permission was obtained in 2023 and construction was due to begin last January, but nothing has happened.

At the time of the launch of the plans, it was suggested that the school would lead to the "regeneration" of the city centre with an expected student population of up to 5,000, along with 250 jobs.

The reference by UCC to the "changes in provision and delivery of higher education" is understood to relate to the reality of lower numbers attending lectures since the pandemic, and associated with the housing crisis, which means there is now greater existing space available to third-level institutions than previously was the case.

Another factor is that one strand of funding earmarked for the school's construction was income from foreign students, particularly those from China.

Postgraduate courses for foreign students can yield up to €20,000 per student for the college.

While the numbers attending have increased in recent years, international conditions have affected the flow of Chinese students to this country in the current academic year.

News: 6

'Reluctance to move off addiction to fossil fuels'

Greg Murphy

The host of the UN's Cop30 climate change summit in Brazil urged countries to unite for a deal as a show-down loomed over whether the accord should set the world on a clearer path away from fossil fuels.

The rift over the future of oil, gas, and coal underscored the difficulties of landing a consensus agreement at the annual conference, which serves as a perennial test of global resolve to avert the worst impacts of global warming.

For days, nations have wrangled over the future of fossil fuels, whose burning emits greenhouse gases that are by far the largest contributors to global warming.

Dozens of nations, including Ireland, have been pushing hard for a "roadmap" laying out how countries should follow through with a promise made at Cop28 two years ago to move away from oil, gas, and coal.

Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations are opposing this.

A draft text for a deal contained no reference to fossil fuels.

Maynooth University professor of geography (climate change), Peter



Activists participate in a demonstration at the Cop30 UN Climate Summit in Belem, Brazil. Picture: Joshua A Bickel/AP

Thorne, said: "Not enough countries showing any where near enough ambition, and even less evidence of actual action on emissions reductions to keep warming well below 2C above pre-industrial levels. At this juncture, keeping warming below 1.5C is a pipe dream."

According to the landmark Paris Agreement struck at Cop21 in 2015, countries voted to take measures to limit global warming to below 2C, or 1.5C ideally, to stave off the worst of climate change in the future.

There remains a reluctance to move off "our addiction to fossil fuels", said Prof Thorne.

"Globally, we still subsidise fossil fuel use more than moving to alternatives."

"No amount of window dressing will do more than present a mirage in front of these broader issues."

Meanwhile, a narwhal washed up on a Co Donegal beach in what experts say may be a stark sign of a changing climate.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service confirmed that a female narwhal, a species never before recorded in Ireland, was recovered after being found on Sweet Nellies Beach on the Inishowen Peninsula.

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group chief executive Simon Berrow said the stranding was "remarkable", and noted a wider pattern of shifts in marine species as waters warm. ■ Reuters and Irish Examiner

Green light for action over manganese levels

Ann O'Loughlin

Residents of a Cork city suburb have been given permission by the High Court to mount a legal challenge over concerns arising from manganese levels in the city's drinking water supply.

Elaine Eagar and Daniel O'Shea, both with addresses at Mount Farran, Assumption Rd, are taking the action with Friends of the Irish Environment (FIE), claiming the basis on which Uisce Eireann and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declare water containing manganese safe to drink is mistaken.

Manganese is a naturally occurring metal found in rock, soil, and the waters that flow through them.

Trace amounts are needed for human health, but repeated consumption of high levels is linked to neurological conditions and developmental problems in infants and children.

FIE, Ms Eagar, and Mr O'Shea are seeking an order quashing the EPA's purported decision to approve Uisce Eireann's action plan aimed at remedying non-compliance with drinking water standards in Cork city.

They claim the action plan does not deal adequately with manganese levels in the water.

In written evidence submitted to the court, Gabriel Scally, a professor of public health, claims repeated breaches in permitted le-

vels of manganese in the city's water supply represent a "potentially serious public health concern".

This week, Ms Justice Emily Farrell granted permission to the applicants to bring the High Court challenge against the EPA, with Uisce Eireann and the HSE as notice parties.

According to the applicants' court documents, the city's issues with problematic manganese levels in its water supplies can be linked to the commencement of operations at a new water treatment plant.

The majority of Cork city's water supply is provided via a water treatment plant on the city's Lee Rd. The Lee Rd plant is a new facility, with construction completed in July 2022.

However, the city's water supply continues to rely on an old system of piping, dating back to the 1920s.

When the Lee Rd plant commenced operations, treated water began reacting with iron and manganese sediment in the old pipework, according to the applicants.

An EPA investigation into Uisce Eireann's non-compliance with water quality standards has been ongoing since August 2022, and remains open.

The applicants argue that 61 recorded manganese exceedances between August 2024 and July 2025 show Uisce Eireann is not adequately addressing the problem and that the EPA is failing in its duty as a regulator.

INSIDE

Simon's gamble

The risks in trying to fill Paschal Donohoe's shoes

News



Mick Clifford

Yates cries foul while eroding trust in the media

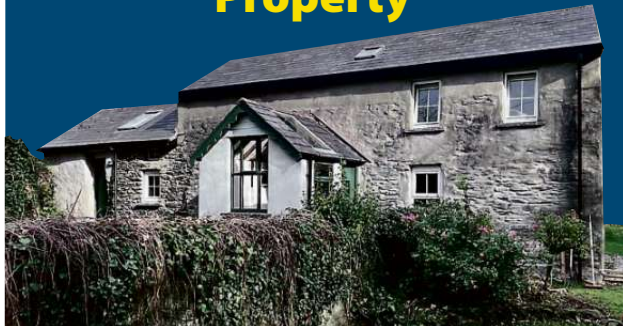
Forum



The poet's house

West Cork hideaway for €275k

Property



Darina Allen

Little white soda bread loaf

Food



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