

Irish Examiner

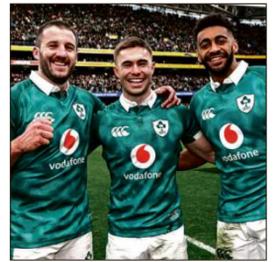
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Tuesday, March 17, 2026

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No. 63,673

€2.60 (£1.70 in N. Ireland)

Buckley: Carve from your own passion

Liz Dunphy

Jessie Buckley has made history as the first Irish woman to win a best actress Oscar.

Jessie, 36, triumphed at the 98th Academy Awards for her role in the film *Hamnet*, playing Agnes Shakespeare, the wife of playwright William Shakespeare, portrayed in the film by Irish star Paul Mescal.

Wearing a vibrant custom Chanel dress to the ceremony held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, Jessie was beaming as she held the award.

"My family, my Irish family, they're all here," she said. "Mum, Dad — thank you for teaching us to dream and to never be defined by expectation, but to carve from your own passion."

Posters of Jessie wearing a green cape hung from lampposts throughout her hometown of Killarney, while masks bearing her face were sold in local shops. Her extended family had gathered in the Arbutus Hotel, which has been in the family for 100 years, to watch the ceremony.

The "roof almost lifted off" the hotel's Buckley's Bar when her name was finally called just after 2am Irish time on Monday morning.

Owner Seán Buckley, Jessie's uncle and godfather, said that words could not describe the atmosphere there last night.

"She was the favourite to win, but there was still that fear that she may not," he said. "So then when the words were actually said... the roof nearly lifted off the house. It was great."

"The authentic, genuine Irish girl that you see, that's Jessie."

"It is incredible to see that she got the rewards for all her hard work and for her art. I'm just so, so proud."

Jessie's creative talents were clear from a young age, he said. As was her dedication to anything she loved, getting up at 5am to train for swimming when growing up in Killarney. And that dedication stayed with her into adult life.

"She is constantly improving, constantly upskilling herself," he said.

Emer Buckley, Jessie's first cousin, travelled home to Killarney from Vancouver to take in the Oscars ceremony.

"Our Nana would have been such a strong matriarch, and storytelling, fun, grá, love would have been so core to everything. And I think those roots have been set down... and you can just see it in her. And that's probably what, as a family, we're most proud of."

Brendan Fuller, Jessie's first cousin, said the win is not only a proud moment for the family, but also for Killarney, for Kerry, and for Ireland.

"And it's for the history books now," he said.

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No Irish action to reopen Strait of Hormuz, Martin confirms

■ Taoiseach adamant despite pressure from Trump

Tadhg McNally
Political Reporter
Washington DC

The Taoiseach has ruled out Irish involvement in any EU mission to reopen the strategic oil route in the Strait of Hormuz before his visit to the White House today, as US president Donald Trump piled pressure on European countries to assist America.

Micheál Martin will meet Mr Trump in the Oval Office this morning ahead of the traditional shamrock ceremony.

Mr Trump has been putting pressure on EU allies to carry out a mission to reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz, a key artery in the global supply chain, with 20% of oil going through the waterway.

However, Mr Martin ruled out any Irish involvement. "We don't have that offensive military capacity in any shape or form, so obviously it's not something that's on our agenda," he said.

Other European countries also rejected calls to send warships to the Strait of Hormuz, despite threats from Mr Trump that Nato faces "a very bad future" if members fail to help reopen the vital waterway.

Germany ruled out participation in any military activity, including efforts to reopen the strait.

"This is not our war, we have not started it," said the



Micheál Martin: Looks forward to meeting with Donald Trump.

country's defence minister, Boris Pistorius.

Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, said "diplomacy needs to prevail" and his country was involved in no naval missions that could be extended to the area.

Australia, France, and Japan also said they had no plans to send warships.

Mr Trump called on other countries to enter the war by sending ships to the strait to protect commercial vessels and unblock oil shipments.

The Taoiseach was also pressed on whether comments by President Catherine Connolly placed an obligation on him to declare the war on Iran to be illegal.

President Connolly last week said the war in the Middle East constitutes "deliberate assaults on international law" and affirmed Ireland's constitutional commitment to peace.

Mr Martin said he did not feel pressurised by those comments ahead of his White House visit.

"Successive Irish governments have pursued and supported a rules-based approach to global conflict," Mr Martin said.

"The world is in a very challenging situation and no one likes war. We certainly don't as a country, and we want a specific resolution."

The Taoiseach said he did not have a specific gameplan for meeting with Mr Trump.

"I don't have time for that," Mr Martin said. "We have a broad position as a country. We're confident in our contribution to America on a number of fronts."

The Taoiseach acknowledged that politics is "unpredictable" but said he is looking forward to his engagement with Mr Trump.

Mr Martin said he did not expect to be ambushed by Mr Trump, when asked about previous difficult encounters in the White House for Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa.

"This is a week in which, what we're essentially doing and we have been doing for many, many years is honouring, affirming a very historic relationship between the United States and Ireland," Mr Martin said.

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Planning extension for 34-storey hotel on quay

Catherine Shanahan
Property Editor

The developer behind proposals for a 34-storey hotel on Cork city's quays has been granted a three-year extension to planning permission and has pledged to commence construction "as soon as possible".

Tower Development Properties Ltd sought to extend its planning grant for a 140m, 240-bedroom hotel on Custom House Quay last month

and its request has been approved by Cork City Council.

The developer has committed to commencing specified works by February 1, 2027, including approving construction contracts, commencing works to upgrade quay walls, demolition works and conservation work.

The construction period for the project, according to planning consultants McCutcheon Halley, is expected to be "in the region of



Custom House Quay is proposed as the site for 34-storey hotel.

20-24 months".

The ambitious proposal has strong backing from the local business community: Ibec and Cork Chamber wrote letters in support of an extension to the original planning grant, which was due to expire in May.

That deadline has been extended to June 2, 2029.

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Gardaí investigate suspected stab death of man, 30s

Donal O'Keeffe

Gardaí were last night investigating the death of a man in his late thirties following a suspected stabbing in Cork City centre.

The incident occurred at around 7.30pm near a property at Camden Court on Carroll's Quay and Knapp's Square. Emergency services responded to reports that a man had suffered injuries in what is understood to have been a stabbing.

Paramedics are believed to

have worked on the man for some time at the scene before he was pronounced dead.

His body remained at the scene overnight pending a full forensic examination by garda specialists.

In a statement last night, the Garda Press Office confirmed that gardaí and emergency services were attending "a serious incident" near Knapp's Square.

"At this early stage, no additional information will be available tonight," the statement said.

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