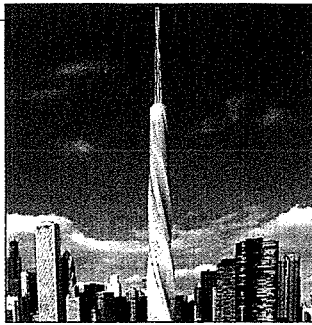


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Aiming high in the US

An Irish developer is to build the US's tallest skyscraper at cost of \$1.2bn. The development is planned for Chicago. *BusinessThisWeek*

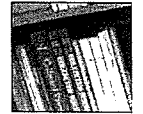


Hurler on the ditch

Frank McNally argues that to raise the profile of hurling it needs to go the bullfighting route, *Irishman's Diary*, page 17

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"If you intend tak holiday and your ghost-written me then it is advisabl arriving at the air



Forced closure of Donegal shop costs 80 jobs

KATE CHAMBRÉ

The forced closure of a Co Donegal supermarket yesterday has caused much anger and prompted a number of business people in the region to talk about setting up their own political party entitled New Ireland.

Last month Ann and Danny Sweeney, owners of Ramsay's Stores in Dunfanaghy, were ordered by Dublin Circuit Court to close up shop or go to jail - following a two-year battle with Donegal County Council's planning department.

The closure of the coastal resort's only supermarket during the height of its tourist season has left 80 people without jobs, in an area blighted by unemployment.

Brian O'Domhnaill, chairman of the council's planning special policy committee, said he was "deeply saddened" that the store had to close.

"I endeavoured to do my utmost in pressing the planning department to pursue an extension to the closure date. Unfortunately this was not possible, and I very much regret that. I will be raising this issue and other planning issues pertaining to Dunfanaghy at a meeting of Donegal County Council on Monday."

Eunan Quinn, Milford and Glenties area manager of the council's planning and economic department, said yesterday: "Our position hasn't changed on the matter. The Sweeneys contravened a court order and planning decisions, and as a council we had little option but to seek a

remedy to the situation through the courts."

Supermarket owner Ann Sweeney believes the people of Dunfanaghy have been "totally let down" by the council. "We're the biggest employer in this town, where well over 60 per cent of buildings are lying empty and derelict, but they're doing nothing to help us. This is what has spurred us and others on in the locality to start the New Ireland party."

Using the motto "clean up public service, clean up planning and clean up Donegal", she said the group would attempt to ensure that a better public service is provided by the council.

The Sweeneys insist that when they were informed that they were operating out of illegal premises they did everything to rectify the situation. "At this stage, it will be up to the Ombudsman to decide whether public service was delivered to Dunfanaghy or not. Ramsay's Stores have over 5,000 signatures so far supporting the maintaining of jobs and services in the town."

Georgina Sterritt, who has lived in Dunfanaghy for 34 years, thinks the closure of Dunfanaghy's only supermarket is absurd. "From a customer's point of view, I'm not saying I condone going against the law, but the situation here is crazy, just crazy. There was bound to be a way around it. I shop locally because I firmly believe we have to keep our villages alive, because if we don't the whole rural community is going to fall apart."



Sarah Paramore and Oil Handasyde at Cork Week at the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Crosshaven yesterday. Glorious sunsh finishes today, a storming success for 5,000 or so competitors and 50,000 spectators. Photograph: Jelly O'Sullivan/Prov

Cork Week ends with a flourish

BARRY ROCHE

"Champagne sailing" was how one veteran described the fare on offer in Crosshaven, as glorious sunshine and good winds combined to make for one of the best ever Cork Weeks for the 5,000 or so competitors and 50,000 spectators.

This year the organisers created a new Super 0 class to deal with the super-sized Super Maxis, and although the number of entries was down about 100 on 2004, with just over 400 boats this year, the number of larger boats with larger crews meant that in terms of yachtsmen and women, participant numbers were up.

Among those competing on one of the larger boats was experienced Cork sailor Grattan Roberts from Currabinnu, who was one of a truly multinational crew on board the 82ft-long *Malgaya* owned by Andreas Soriano from the Philippines.

"The weather has been superb," said Grattan. "We had fog this morning but it

cleared for another cracking day's sailing. I'm acting as a local pilot for *Malgaya* - I know the harbour pretty well - and with a 15/ft draught, you have to know where to avoid."

Among the newcomers to Crosshaven was Grattan's fellow crew member Gianluca Frremi, from Bolzano in Italy, who revealed that he grew up in a ski resort near the Alps but came to love sailing when visiting his mother's home town near Lecce in the south.

"This is my first time coming to Crosshaven," said Frremi as he relaxed in the tented village that lines the docksides at the Royal Cork Yacht Club. "I was not expecting such a great event but it is impressive - it has opened my eyes and I will definitely be back again."

As yacht after yacht emerged from the hazy distance of Cork Harbour to come alongside at the RCYC, well-known yachtsman and former chairman of Cork Week Clayton Love said he is delighted

with how the event has developed.

"I left in 2000 after being involved in first six events. It's totally relaxing for now to watch and see what a great event has become. I just get a personal thrill from seeing a young team take over event and drive it on," he said.

Fred Cudmore from Myrtleville was yesterday on his brother Peter's boat *Oneiro* and he enjoyed the occasion. "It's just spectating, but there's been wonder sailing with 18 to 20 knots of wind with great atmosphere both on and off water."

Also enjoying the event were Beth Cudmore and her husband Gerry from New Zealand, who have a house in Ballycotton and who had just arrived at Crosshaven from London, where they live.

"We were out with Peter Cudmore his boat today and we're having a wonderful day - I was at the America's Cup when it was in New Zealand and this is better," said Beth, who was impres-