

Phoenix article was 'unfair': Hunt chief

By JOHN HOGAN

THE director of the Hunt Museum has labelled an article in the Phoenix "unfair and inappropriate" for suggesting that the museum would seek a financial bail out from JP McManus.

November's Phoenix magazine claimed that the Limerick museum was in financial dire straits after its financial report for 2007 revealed a deficit of €370,643.

While the article acknowledged that expenditure had been increased in 2007 by emergency remedial works and a big drop in income, it also reported a "24 per cent increase in wages and salaries at the museum despite the number of employees remaining the same."

It then speculated that "given the precarious financial situation at the Limerick institution, maybe JP McManus can expect a call." McManus previously donated half a million euro to the museum between 2004 and 2005.

Virginia Teehan, director at the Hunt, said the Phoenix article was an "incomplete

analysis" of the financial report and denied that the museum would approach Mr McManus or any other individuals for donations.

"The implication this article is making is that we all received huge bonuses but that's just not correct. The number of staff was different in 2006 from 2007. We were looking to fill a senior post in 2006 that was filled the next year, we also have a number of part-time staff throughout the year.

"As the article said, we also had emergency work which of course put a huge hole in our expenditure. The year 2007 was tough for us, but its stabilised more this year and we'd be confident looking into 2009," said Ms Teehan.

"We benefit from philanthropy at the Hunt Museum and it was unfair and inappropriate to highlight an individual donor who kindly came to help us when we were in difficult circumstances. We're unhappy with the article to say the least".

Hunt director Virginia Teehan, claims the article in Phoenix was 'unfair and inappropriate'



LEADER BRIEFS

Murder trial

A DATE has been set for the trial of a 16 year-old boy, who is accused of murdering scaffolder Pat Coleman in Southill last year. The 33-year-old died when he was attacked near his home in John Carew Park. The teenager will go on trial at the Four Courts in Dublin next June.

No money

THE Office of Public Works has confirmed it can't afford to pay for preventative measure to stop flooding on the Limerick to Ennis rail line. Services between Limerick and Ennis were suspended for 8 weeks earlier this year when the line was flooded near Newmarket on fergus.

Appeal

AN appeal has been lodged against the decision to grant planning permission for construction of a two storey apartment block at the Groody Student Park, Castletroy. Planning permission was granted to Bellisle Properties on November 19 last but that decision was appealed on December 11.

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