

LIMERICK LEADER

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105 hours waiting

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at Ennis Hospital. However, she said they were told that she needed to be treated in Dooradoyle.

On Saturday afternoon, Michelle's mother and sister were told that there were "no updates" on Annie's condition. At this stage, Michelle said, Annie was "feeling confused." It was absolutely heartbreaking to think that she was sitting on a corridor on her own at that age," she said this Tuesday.

On Sunday, Michelle said that they were told Annie "is priority and that she is first on the list for a bed". However, by 9pm on Sunday, they were told that there were no beds.

The family were informed on Monday morning that Annie was to receive another CT scan. Ms Roughan said when she asked a nurse when she was to receive a CT scan, a nurse read through her grandmother's notes and confirmed that she wasn't receiving the scan.

"What she was looking at was Friday's notes, and that there was nothing ever written in her notes.

The last thing that was written in her notes was Friday, and there was nothing else added."

Michelle said that her mother left the hospital on Monday at 8.30pm when Annie was still on a trolley, 105 hours after attending the ED.

The family were informed that Annie secured a bed on Monday night or Tuesday morning, and was later transferred to Ennis.

She said: "I would like if Simon Harris or Leo Varadkar to come down and arrive down and maybe they sit there and witness what we had to witness. It was just unbelievable how they think they can sit up there and think: 'Oh no, Limerick is fine.' It's just absolutely not."

Mayor of Limerick City and County, Cllr James Collins emailed the Taoiseach, urging him to visit UHL during as part of his visit.

The Leader contacted the Taoiseach's office three times since Friday, asking if he was to visit UHL this Thursday, but did not receive a response. The UL Hospitals Group did not issue a response at the time of going to print.

■ Relatives of legendary American president witness unveiling of bronze statue

# Memorable day in Bruff as Kennedy comes 'back home'

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"IT'S like he has come home – there is a real sense he has come back, he is back among us."

The words of Margaret Ryan, a fourth cousin removed of John F Kennedy.

Rain gave way to sunshine and a clear sky in Bruff this Wednesday, as a bronze sculpture of the 35th American president was unveiled by the vice-president of the European Parliament, Mairead McGuinness.

The life-size statue of the president, who has deep Limerick roots, has been described as "a new landmark for our town and South Limerick" by Mark Nagle, who has helped make the plan a reality.

Mark described JFK as "Bruff's most famous great grandson".

The president's great grandfather was one Thomas Fitzgerald who lived on the town's main street.

Leaving Bruff in 1852, he headed across the Atlantic Ocean to Boston, where his son John 'Honey' Fitzgerald became the first son of an Irish emigrant to crack Boston politics, becoming City Mayor.

In that same year, Michael Hannon from nearby Lough Gur also emigrated, where he met and married Mary Anne Fitzgerald, also from Bruff. Thomas's first cousin. Their daughter Mary Anne Hannon married Honey Fitz, with their daughter Rose being the mother of JFK, so the family's links to the area run deep.

Relatives of the legendary politician joined local dignitaries and a crowd of over 200 for the occasion.

Catherine Doherty, Grange, who is another fourth cousin of JFK's, said: "It's a great day, and it means so much to us as a family. It's an awful big honour, and means so much to those distant relatives who are still here in Bruff."

The unveiling brings to three the number of JFK-themed attrac-



The vice-president of the European parliament Mairead McGuinness unveiled the statue of US president John F Kennedy in Bruff this Wednesday, alongside Cathaoirleach of the local electoral district, Cllr Eddie Ryan and Mark Nagle, of the steering committee behind the project PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

tions in the town – there is the Fitzgerald trail and the Thomas Fitzgerald Centre, which contains photographs and other memorabilia.

Michael Fitzgerald, a sixth cousin of the politician, said his closer family in America could re-

turn soon to visit.

"They think the statue is marvelous. I'd say it will only be a matter of time before they come back and see it. They are mad to come here. It's an excellent statue: it's a great resemblance of JFK – we are very happy," he added.

His son, Emmett, 9, a seventh cousin, said he is "very proud" and it is an "exciting day" for him.

Symbolically, the statue depicts JFK holding a bible – Thomas Fitzgerald had carried that bible on leaving Bruff and it was used two generations later at the inaug-

uration.

Ms McGuinness said: "His legacy will be remembered forever, as it should be."

A wonderful day was rounded off by the local Wild Oats band playing both the American and Irish national anthems.

## Election posters

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had been torn from their poles."

However, her team found the majority of her missing posters in various locations near Caherdavin. They were per-

"My team didn't put them up on ESB poles because we know there is a risk. We put the posters up on the official places where we are supposed to put them up," Ms O'Donovan said.

"I am not a fan of posters, I would prefer