

## LEADER BRIEFS

### Cigarettes are seized in raid

OFFICERS from Revenue's Customs Service in Limerick, together with the Gardai seized over 90,000 cigarettes and a quantity of wine in an operation in Limerick City.

The seizure of the 'L&M' brand cigarettes, which is a part of Revenue's ongoing operations targeting the supply and sale of illegal cigarettes, has a potential retail value of €38,000 and a potential loss to the exchequer of €30,000.

A man and a woman, both in their late forties, have been questioned and investigations are ongoing. A file is being prepared for the DPP.

### Boating exhibition

LIMERICK photographer Maurice Gunning will display a photographic collection of the country's traditional boating heritage in the Hunt Museum next week. The exhibition will be opened on Thursday, April 7 by well known film maker and writer Bob Quinn at 6pm, and will run until April 27.

Mr Gunning applied for a grant from the Heritage Council in 2005, after the council published a report on maritime heritage and awareness.

He was successful in maintaining the funding over three consecutive years. This exhibition will be the first showing of the work in Ireland and will contain 34 large archival colour prints.

## DEATHS

**COLLINS** (Limerick) March 28th 2011 (peacefully) at St. John's Hospital. Kathleen, 'St. Anthony's', Coolraheen, Ennis Road. Beloved sister of Mary. Sadly missed by her nephews, nieces, grand-nephews, grand-nieces, great-grand-niece, relatives, her wonderful neighbours and friends. Rest in Peace. Reposing at home this (Wed.) evening from 6 o' to 8 o'clock. Requiem Mass in Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Thursday at 11 o'clock. Funeral afterwards to Kilmurry Cemetery, Castletroy.

**O'REILLY** nee Nolan, Limerick, March 29th, 2011, peacefully at Corrigoran Nursing Home in her 99th year. Julia, 7 Bourke Avenue, Edward Street, and formerly of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. Beloved wife of the late Jim, doted mother to her loving sons, daughters, sons in law, daughters in law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family, relatives and friends. Rest in Peace. Reposing in Thompsons Funeral Home, Thomas Street this Wednesday evening from 3pm to 7.00 pm followed by removal to St. Josephs Church. Requiem Mass tomorrow Thursday at 10.30am, funeral afterwards to St. Lawrence Cemetery, Limerick.

# Curtain raised on Royal cinema plan

www.limerickleader.ie

By MIKE DWANE

THE silver screen could return to the Theatre Royal as the City of Limerick VEC seeks tenders from architects to help draw up a planning application for a three-screen cinema and cultural centre at the historic Cecil Street institution.

VEC chief executive Paul Patton confirmed a feasibility study had been completed and interest was now being sought from architectural firms "to draw up detailed drawings and to go towards a full planning application" in respect of the VEC-owned building.

Talks had taken place with private investors but Mr Patton said he could not go into detail on these discussions. But the plan was to develop a cultural and educational centre in conjunction with a three-screen cinema which would be commercially run by a private company, Mr Patton said.

Limerick city centre has not had a cinema since the closure in the early 2000s of the Savoy Cineplex, a building that was eventually demolished in 2005. The last film screened at the former Royal Cinema itself was Police Academy 2 in 1985.

The three-screen cinema now being planned could accommodate 160, 80 and 60 patrons respectively, Mr Patton said.

Amid reports that the plan was to reopen the Royal as an arthouse cinema, Mr Patton was asked if he anticipated Hollywood blockbusters being shown again in the city centre.

"It might not necessarily be the case that you couldn't show the likes of your 'Toy Story 3' there but maybe not on the release date. The Omniplex and Storm show the major releases but the cost comes down after a few weeks. Those kinds of films could be shown but possibly not on the date of release."

The facility could be used to show Irish films or others that are not as obviously commercial.

"From the VEC's point of view, education would obviously be a big part of what we would like to see happen. There would be a significant educational side to it and we would hope that film students, like our own students at Limerick College of Further Education would be

able to use it to screen their own productions. The space could also be available, for example, for school classes to come in and watch a screen adaptation of a novel they might be studying and we could facilitate that at a low cost," he said.

But a cinema is only one element of what the VEC hoped to see happen. Plans include a cultural centre and exhibition space, digital media lounge and

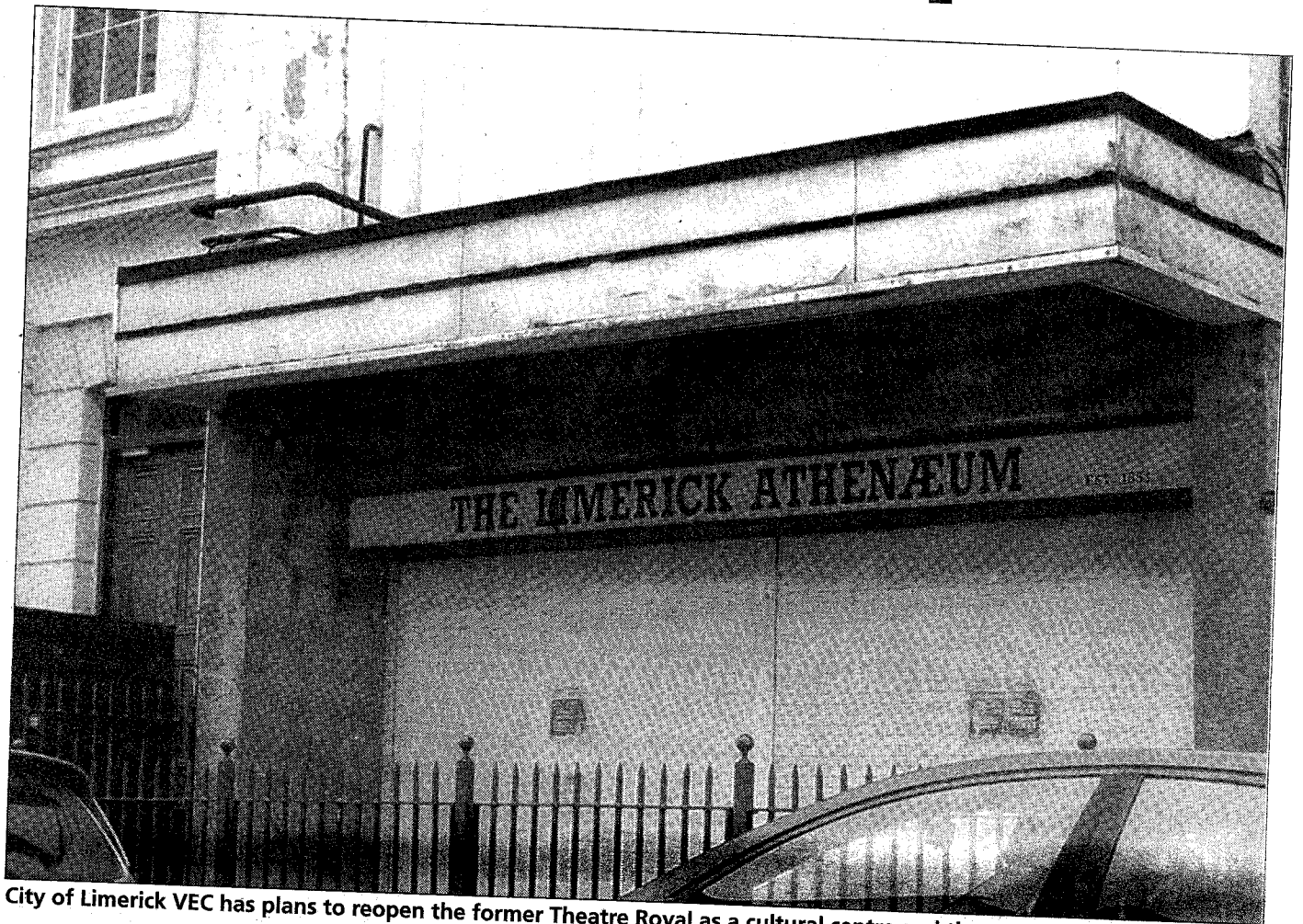
editing suites and a cafe/bar.

Shannon Development and the Department of the Arts partly funded the feasibility study and Mr Patton said he hoped Government bodies would eventually support the plans to add a cultural attraction to the city centre.

"Regeneration isn't all about providing facilities on the outskirts. We need to regenerate the city centre as well and

bring more life into the place so we hope to get Government support," Mr Patton said.

In its various incarnations since it opened in the 1850s, the Royal has been a cinema and a concert hall - playing host to everybody from John McCormack to the Cranberries. Political leaders including Parnell, Davitt and Pearse all addressed Limerick crowds in the building.



City of Limerick VEC has plans to reopen the former Theatre Royal as a cultural centre and three-screen cinema

## Students celebrate appliance of science

By LEADER REPORTER

STUDENTS at St Clement's College are celebrating today after finishing in first place following a Limerick inter-schools science quiz last week.

The team from the South Circular Road pipped teams from Salesian Secondary School and Laurel Hill into second and third place respectively.

Questions in the quiz - sponsored by pharmaceutical giant Stryker - focused on science in reality.

The quiz was organised by the team behind well known educational resource 'Science and Technology in Action', a multi-media series which caters for all second level students in Ireland.

To this end, the quiz hall was alive with budding scientists. Miriam Garry, Stryker's HR director was present at the quiz encouraging students to embrace their education. Anna Gethings, MD of Science and Technology in Action said: "Collaboration with industry is key to educating our young people for a new Ireland."



Alan Ronan, Oliver O'Brien, Stephen O'Sullivan and Tahir Saqib, St Clement's College, received first prize in the Limerick inter-schools science quiz from Miriam Garry, Stryker, Raheen, Limerick. Also in the picture is Anna Gethings, managing director of AG Education Services and their teachers; Joan Chawke, science teacher and Nora O'Connell, technology teacher.



Samantha Prior, Nicola Hackett, Mairead Broggy and Liana Cechladze, Salesian Secondary School, received second prize in the Limerick inter-schools science quiz from Miriam Garry, Stryker, Raheen. Also in the picture is Anna Gethings, managing director of AG Education Services and their science teachers Mary Dillon.



Robyn Griffin, Elayne Ahern, Ciara Hayes and Sarah Dillon, Laurel Hill team A, received third prize in the Limerick inter-schools science quiz from Miriam Garry, Stryker, Raheen. Their physics and maths teacher Siobhan Crowe and Jim Salisbury, AG Education Services, Anna Gethings, and Rory Geoghegan, AG Education Services quiz master