



Armed robbery

GARDAí in Henry Street are investigating an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Charlotte Quay yesterday morning around 10:00.

A masked man armed with a hatchet entered the pharmacy demanding cash.

He held up staff and got away with a substantial amount of cash.

Gardaí are appealing for any eye witnesses to contact them on 061-414222.

Weather

TODAY will be mostly overcast. Outbreaks of rain, becoming heavy and persistent this afternoon. Cloud will break this evening, but it will remain dull and cool at 11 or 12 degrees.

Occasional showers tonight. It will be rather cool with temperatures falling as low as six to eight degrees.

Course

Schizophrenia Ireland is inviting its Limerick members to its next family support course in the Killfeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, from Friday, May 26, to Sunday, May 28.

For further information about the course, and for an application form contact Aoife Clabby, Schizophrenia Ireland, Blessington Street, Dublin 7, ph: 01-8601620.

Funeral Mass

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

HUNDREDS of mourners packed the Holy Family Church in Southill yesterday for the funeral Mass of Derek Cooper, 395, O'Malley Park, who was found dead in a cell in Roxboro garda station last Wednesday night.

Mr Cooper 24, had been arrested on Wednesday night for public order offences.

Gardaí tried to revive him, but he was pronounced dead in Limerick Regional Hospital. Superintendent Willie Keane confirmed that Bruff Superintendent Michael O'Keefe has been appointed to carry out a full investigation into Mr Cooper's death.

Smoke in plane

AN AMERICAN airline en route from London to Boston was diverted to Shannon airport yesterday evening when smoke was detected in the entertainment system.

The 151 passengers were taken off the plane while the origin of the smoke was investigated.

It is believed that the smoke came from a faulty wire.

The plane departed Shannon airport at midnight following a thorough check of the system.

Dell confirms EMF1 is to be closed down

By LAURA RYAN

DELL has confirmed that its manufacturing facility, EMF1, is to close, four weeks after rubbingish claims of its closure to the Limerick Leader.

The company is to move the 1,200 staff based in the old Raheen Atari plant, known as EMF1, to its manufacturing bases EMF2 and EMF3.

No job losses are planned in the centralisation move which the company says will enable it to gain maximum benefit from investment in new continuous flow manufacturing (CFM) processes and technology.

It said manufacturing costs will be reduced, lead times will be shortened

and productivity will increase, while still allowing significant capacity for future growth.

However, in response to two Limerick Leader queries last month, one regarding the closure of EMF1, a Dell spokesperson said there were "no plans" to close or re-locate the facility.

"The query was made at a quiet period which precluded us from making comment and the decision wasn't finalised at that stage," said a spokesperson this week. "Anyway, EMF1 is not exactly going to close, it will be used as an office block."

EMF1 will now be used to facilitate the return of staff, who have been temporarily based in rented accommodation in the area.

The re-location is expected to be completed by October.

LIMERICK LEADER
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