Slashers and hurleys used in row

GARDAI in Rathkeale were this morning continuing their investigation into a row which broke out at a licensed premises in the town last night.

While not wishing to comment on the matter, a spokesman said they expected to charge people later today.

The row, which local people claim involved slashers and hurleys, broke out before closing time last night and turned into a general melee which spilled out from the bar on to the street.

Armed raid

ARMED raiders got away with a substantial sum during a raid on the credit union in Newport this morning.

The three raiders, armed with guns, entered the credit union at 11am and took the cash, estimated to be in the region of £60,000. No shots were fired.

They then made their getaway in a white car, and gardaí believe they headed off in the direction of Ballyhooly.

Gardaí believe the raid may be the work of an IRA gang suspected of being involved in a number of other raids around the area in the past number of months.

On 10 June this year £9,000 was taken from a post office in Carrigaline, while on January 11 £3,000 was taken from two banks in Millstreet. Several other armed raids since 1988 are believed to have been the work of the gang.

By ANTHONY GALVIN

LIMERICK is in mourning this Monday morning for former Mayor Tommy Allen, who passed away suddenly last night.

Mr Allen, who served two terms on the city council, was a popular and hard-working councillor. He was just 56 at the time of his untimely death. A lifelong resident of Southill, he later moved to the Greenfield, where he was the first resident from Southill to be elected Mayor.

He was elected an Alderman for Labour in 1976, ranking in Ward 3. But he changed to Ward 4 when he moved to Greenfield, and was not re-elected.

Former city council colleague Paddy Madden, Fianna Fail, remembered him as a hardworking and friendly councillor.

"He was bred by everyone, of all parties, and his sudden death will come as a shock to everyone," said Mr Madden, himself a former mayor.

"He was involved in restoring the canal and loved Limerick. He will be sadly missed by all," he added.

"He was a great community worker and a model for others to follow," said Labour councillor Frank Pimpinella.

Mr Allen, who worked as a train driver for 30 years, before becoming manager of Hancocks Tyres, then setup a petting business.

He served as Mayor in 1981-82, the year Limerick tied with Quinnipiac.

Deputy City Manager Pat O'Sullivan paid tribute to him this morning, saying:

"He was absolutely conscientious in the discharge of his duties. He was a man of integrity and exceedingly good humour."

Deputy Jim Kenny, a Labour colleague of Mr Allen's for many years, until Mr Allen switched to the Progressive Democrats in later years, said that he was a hardworking councillor and a good mayor.

"He was the first Mayor from Southill," said Deputy Kenny.

"I have fond memories of him. He dropped out of politics in more recent years. I am shocked at his untimely death, and I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Mr Allen is survived by his wife Freda, their three sons, Martin, Thomas and Kevin, their daughters, Mary, Mr Allen's mother, and his brothers and sisters.

Mr Allen's remains will be removed from Cross's Funeral Home on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm, for Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He will be buried in Mount Oliver after 11am mass on Wednesday.

Germans robbed

A German couple have cut short their holiday after they were robbed in Bunratty on the second day of their stay.

The couple from Schmalkalden, Germany, had arrived in Shannon on Sunday, hiring a car. But the car was broken into outside Bunratty Folk Park on Sunday morning, with many personal effects and some credit cards stolen.

Most of the personal effects were later recovered in Limerick, but the couple are understood to have been greatly upset by the incident, and have cancelled the rest of their holiday.

They were due to fly home today. And also in Bunratty a car hired by an American was broken into, and several items stolen. None of these were recovered.

Gardai in Shannon are investigating both incidents.

Woman killed

THE Limerick woman who was killed in a car accident in Bunratty on Monday morning was identified as 32-year-old Marie O'Donovan from Southill.

Marie O'Donovan was a well-known and respected member of the community, and is survived by her husband, two children, and her mother.

Marie O'Donovan was a dedicated and hardworking journalist, and was known for her tireless work ethic and commitment to her craft.

Marie O'Donovan's death has left a huge void in the community, and the loss of such a dedicated and hardworking journalist will be felt for years to come.

Marie O'Donovan's wake will be held on Tuesday at 10am, followed by a mass at this afternoon at 11am in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. She will be laid to rest in Mount Oliver after 11am mass on Wednesday.