

Mayor backs US troop traffic at Shannon

Mike Dwane

MAYOR Jim Long has said he wouldn't back a motion calling for the end of the use of Shannon Airport by the US military.

Local human rights organisation Shannonwatch has called on local authorities to follow the example of Dublin City Council, which last week adopted a motion by Sinn Fein's Cllr Larry O'Toole supporting the Irish peace movement's campaign to "terminate



Mayor Jim Long: backs Shannon troop traffic

the use of Shannon Airport by US troops on their way to and from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq".

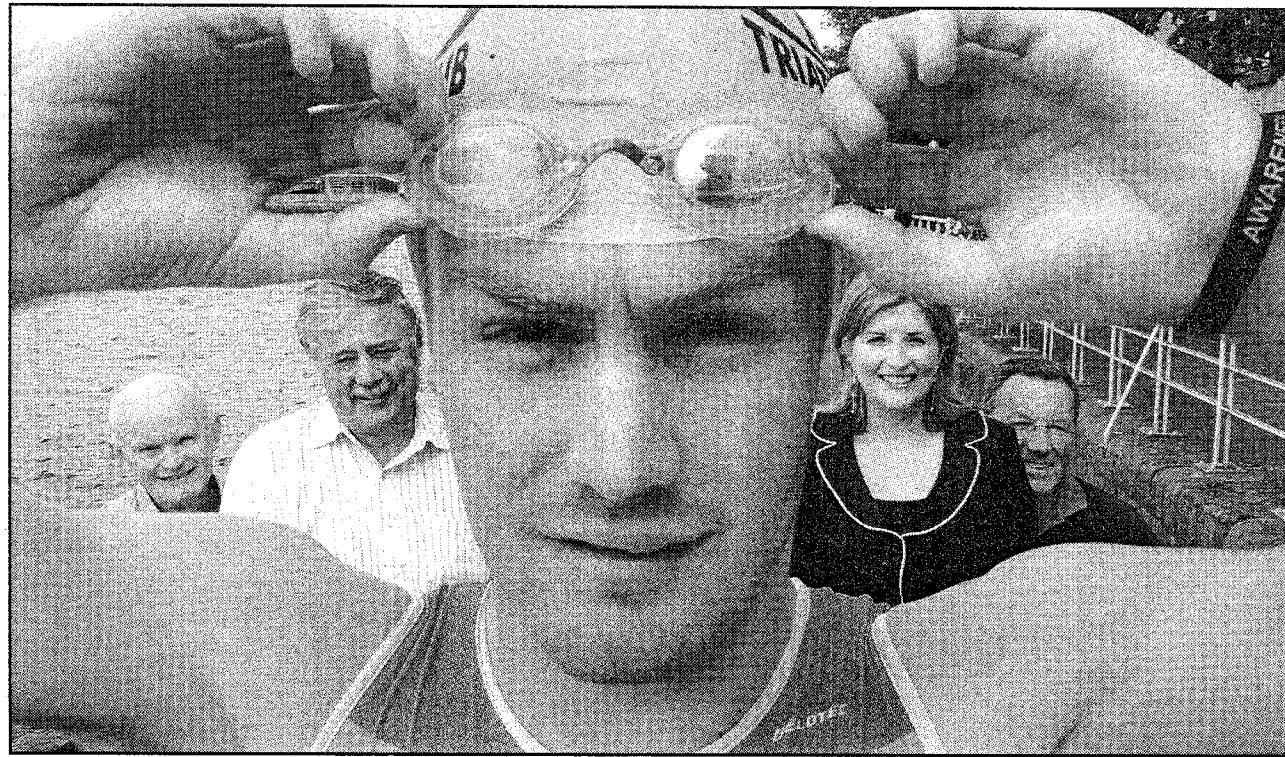
In 2008, Limerick City Council backed a motion by former Labour councillor John Ryan critical of the CIA's rendition programme, which has been linked to Shannon.

But Mayor Long says the Dublin motion goes too far in opposing general troop traffic. While he expressed opposition to extraordinary rendition, the mayor said he welcomed "every single one" of the ordinary US troops.

"I would not support the motion Sinn Fein put down in Dublin. Having US troops come through Shannon is a lifeline to the airport and it is remiss of Sinn Fein in Dublin to look for a big chunk of Shannon's revenues to be withdrawn. Do they want the suck the lifeblood out of the Mid-West altogether? During the 70s and 80s, Sinn Fein and the IRA relied heavily on money from America," he said.

When it was suggested this support came from Irish-American republican sympathisers rather than the US Government, the mayor said: "regardless of where it came from, it came in dollars and Sinn Fein have a short memory".

Getting ready to brave the cold waters of the Shannon



Pictured at the launch of the 2011 Thomond Swim which takes place in Limerick city on Saturday, August 27 are left to right, Tommy Moloney, Dee Maguire, Thomond Swim PRO; Mike Yelverton, Aoife Cowman, Shannon Development and John Dempsey. (All swimming except for Aoife Cowman)

PICTURE: PRESS 22

Thomond Swim will make a splash

Petula Martyn

LIMERICK'S top open water swimmers will brave the cold waters of the River Shannon to take part in the Thomond Swim on August 27.

This is the first year that the competition is open to all registered Swim Ireland swimmers and a large entry is expected as Limerick celebrates its designation as 2011 Limerick European City of Sport.

The 1.7km swim will start at St Michael's Boat Club slipway, head up past the Curragower Falls to Thomond Bridge, pass by King John's

Castle and return to finish at Howley's Quay.

Limerick Marine Sea and Rescue will patrol the Shannon and keep an eye on the competitors during the swim, and they will also be the beneficiaries of the funds raised as part of the event.

A strong contingent from Limerick Masters Swimming Club will take on one of the toughest challenges of their annual calendar and they will be joined by other swimmers from Dublin, Cork and Galway. Members of the public are invited to support the swim which takes place at 5.30pm on August 27 and

will be officially launched by Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Jim Long.

Thomond Swim PRO Dee Maguire said the event is growing in size after being revived in 2007 following a break of 21 years. "It is one of our great annual sporting spectacles and the sporting rivalry between the swimmers is immense," he said. "We're looking forward to a fantastic swim this year that takes in all of Limerick's wonderful landmarks and this isn't lost on the swimmers who will be representing the city with the Treaty Stone emblazoned on their swim caps. It's a tough

swim but a great event to watch from a spectator point of view. The recent addition of the boardwalk provides the perfect viewing platform to view the swim. The spectator numbers are increasing every year and this urban event affords the habitants of this sporting city the chance to come out and support what is a truly special event."

The Thomond Swim 2011 is supported by Shannon Development. To enter the Thomond Swim, please visit www.limerickmasters.com or email Andrea Newport andrea_newport@hotmail.com

Community care foot treatment service reduced

Owen Hickey

CONCERN has been voiced for a foot treatment service in the HSE health centre on Bishop Street after it was downgraded at the start of June.

On June 1, the chiropody treatment - for people with foot disorders such as corns or verrucae - was reduced from six treatments per year to four.

The treatment is provided free of charge to medical card holders by the Rural Community Care Network (RCCN), a non-profit community based



Eileen Hegarty's treatment has been reduced

organisation, funded by the HSE.

In addition, patients have been informed that no new clients can avail of the treatment.

General Manager of

the RCCN, Collette Ryan, explained why there has been a reduction in services.

"Chiropody services are available for medical card holders. Previously the chiropody service comprised of six treatments per year.

"In 2011 this service has been reduced to four treatments per year due to budgetary restrictions. RCCN are endeavouring to maintain chiropody services to existing clients, new clients are not facilitated since June 1, 2011," she said.

One existing patient, Eileen Hegarty, from Athlunkard Street, is worried that the clinic may close in the near

future.

"When I asked the doctor she told me she wasn't taking on any new patients. My feeling is when the patients die out, the place will close.

"It's usually very busy, there are a lot of patients around here who would need the treatment," she said.

Ms Hegarty says the cutbacks have left her frustrated.

"Treatment every two months was fine but once every three months just isn't enough.

"I've been in and out of orthopaedic hospitals with my feet, so I'd be very reliant on it."

Jerry and Rose get zipped up with Caroline

Eugene Phelan

HAVING had a great come back with the Irish rugby team on Saturday, Jerry Flannery is getting all zipped up for the World Cup next month in New Zealand.

The popular hooker, who has had a miserable time of late with injuries recently teamed up with Limerick Rose of Tralee, Orlaith Carroll to get the measure of Zip Yard proprietor, Caroline Wallace, who runs the Thomas Street, garment alteration company.

NO stranger to success herself, Caroline is part of the Limerick born father/daughter team that makes up The Zip Yard franchise in Ireland, the fastest growing clothing alteration company in the country. At a time when people are spending less money, The Zip Yard offers an alternative - mend, adjust and update to peoples existing wardrobe.

With 10 already successful stores - Thomas Street & Newcastlewest in Limerick, Cork, Galway, Waterford, Letterkenny, Nenagh, Dublin, Tralee and Waterford - Caroline Wallace and her father Don plan to open a further fifteen in the next two years. Having already taken two awards in this year's Ulster Bank Irish Franchise Awards, The Zip Yard is on track to become a high street brand name nationwide.

As official sponsors of this year's Rose of Tralee Fashion Show, The Zip Yard congratulated Limerick Rose Orlaith Carroll on her hard work and excellent representation of the city, despite not having made it through to the live finals. "The Rose of Tralee is one of the highlights of the summer in this country and as an emerging Irish business we support this celebration of Irish fashion and culture" says Caroline Wallace.

Continuing to support home grown success, The Zip Yard will also be cheering on Jerry Flannery in the Guinness Summer series for which he is currently training hard with the ultimate goal to get on the plane with the Irish team when they fly out to the World Cup. The Zip Yard offer a range of specialist services from curtain making, suit tailoring, manufacturing from design patterns and a convenient One Hour Service.



Get dressed for success at The Zip Yard Limerick! Rose Orlaith Carroll, together with Munster and Irish hooker, Jerry Flannery, get the measure of Thomas Street Zip Yard proprietor Caroline Wallace.