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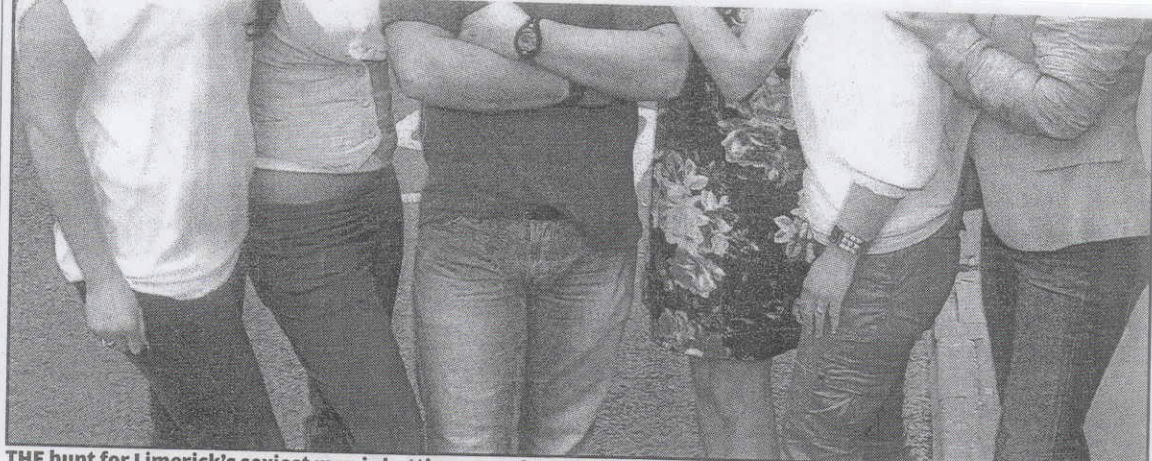
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THE hunt for Limerick's sexiest men is hotting up and nominations are flooding in thick and fast to the Chronicle on email and facebook. This week, our team of judges met for the first time to begin the process of choosing the men who will make the top 50. The panel is made up of Laura Ryan of the Limerick Co-ordination office, Denise McCarthy of Synotts, Sinead Clohessy of Specsavers, Lisa Marie Smith of Clohessy's bar, Chronicle staff members Debbie Moloney, Jean Ryan and Lynsey McCoy, and the sole male representative, Glenn McLoughlin of the White House bar. Over the coming weeks, they will be sifting through all your suggestions to come up with a truly representative list of Limerick's most desirable men which we will publish here in full over the coming weeks. Will last year's winner, David Wallace, retain his crown? Or will there be a new man at the top. There's still plenty of time to get your votes in. Just email news@limerickchronicle.ie or go onto the Limerick Chronicle facebook page to make your suggestions. Pictured are the judges for Limerick's Sexiest Man, from left, Denise McCarthy, Debbie Moloney, Glenn McLoughlin, Laura Ryan, Lynsey McCoy and Sinead Clohessy. Missing from this picture are Lisa Marie Smyth and Jean Ryan

Top alpine rescue award for heroic Ger McDonnell

Alan Owens

THE FAMILY of Kilcormon climber Ger McDonnell - who died tragically two years ago last weekend on K2 after becoming the first Irishman to summit the treacherous mountain - are to receive a posthumous Italian alpine rescue award on his behalf.

The McDonnell family will receive the Targa d'Argento Pinzolo Gold Medal in honour of the Limerick climber's efforts in attempting to save a group of Korean climbers on his descent from the summit of K2.

The medal honours those who risk their life for others in the mountains and Mr McDonnell was nominated by Mountain Rescue Ireland.

The Targa d'Argento Pinzolo medal was the brainchild of Pinzolo Alpine Rescue Squad chief Angiolino Binelli, who initiated it in 1972, and it is considered a top award among the mountain climbing community.

Mr McDonnell was one of 11 climbers killed on the ill-fated expedition on the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2008, the events of which have also been recalled in a new book by New York Times journalist Graham Bowley.

"No Way Down: Life and Death on K2" went on sale in Ireland last week, and is an hour-by-hour dissection of the events over the days of August 2 and its aftermath. Mr McDonnell is believed to have been



The late Kilcormon mountain climber Ger McDonnell pictured on the summit of K2 in August 2008, before losing his life trying to rescue Korean climbers

killed by a falling ice serac - literally chunks of ice - on his descent, after stopping to help the Korean climbers. The events around Mr McDonnell's death are recalled in some startling detail in the new book.

English author Bowley interviewed a number of the surviving climbers and their families to recount the events of the fateful expedition.

The book follows one written by the Kilcormon man's team leader,

Dutchman Wilco Van Rooijen, who described his friend Ger in the book as a "hero" who "fought for the lives of three strangers".

A Swedish documentary about the K2 events has already been aired, while a number of other books are in the offing with regard to the tragedy.

A pending RTE and Image Productions collaboration, made with the participation of a number of McDonnell's family and friends, is also being produced.