

MICHIGAN'S MUSLIMS ARAB-AMERICANS TURN TO TRUMP

Keith Duggan
World News



Think about how many people you know who are good at hugging. Not many I'll bet

Ceire Sadlier
Life



DON'T WRITE OFF GRÁINNE SEOIGE AND CELEBRITY CANDIDATES

Kathy Sheridan
Opinion & Analysis



IF SHE STAYS THERE, SHE WILL DIE.

- A DAUGHTER'S APPEAL FOR HER MOTHER TRAPPED IN GAZA

JUSTINE MCCARTHY
INTERVIEW, PAGE 7

Parents advised to apply to 'multiple' secondary schools due to places shortage

Nearly half of all secondary schools set to be oversubscribed due to rising population

CARL O'BRIEN
Education Editor

Parents of children in commuter belt counties are being advised by education authorities to apply to multiple secondary schools due to the volume of oversubscribed places in areas of high enrolment pressure.

Almost half of all secondary schools across the State are set to be oversubscribed in the coming school year, with the highest concentration in parts of Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow,

Galway and Cork where there has been rapid population growth over recent years. In a bid to ease enrolment pressures this year, the Department of Education is writing to parents to advise them to apply to multiple schools in their area in case their child misses out on their first-choice school place.

To free up spaces for children, the department has also requested that parents not accept multiple school places. School population projections show post-primary enrolments

are climbing across more than three-quarters of school planning areas across the State and due to reach the highest level on record in about two years, before declining. At a national level, the Department of Education says there are more than enough school places for children with an excess of 10,000 places available for the 2025-2026 school year than sixth class children. However, many local areas where there have been sharp population increases have experienced acute pressure for school places.

Last year, these areas included some parts of Co Kildare (Prosperous/Clane, Celbridge, Naas, Kilscock, Kildare Town/Curragh, Maynooth, Newbridge), Dublin (New-



Many areas have experienced acute pressure for school places

castle/Rathcoole, Lucan, Malahide/Nevinstown, Carpenterstown, Castleknock, Portmarnock, Co Cork (Clonakilty, Fermoy, Midleton), Co Wicklow (Greystones, Kilscoole) and Co Galway (Athenry, Galway City, Oranmore). The department would, as part of planning for September 2025, ask post-primary schools across areas of potential enrolment pressure to share their admissions data to help identify

duplicate applications and determine whether there was a need for additional places. "It is expected that, as in previous years, the data sharing will provide confidence that there is sufficient school place availability in the majority of areas," a spokesman said. "However, if a shortfall of places is identified in an area, the department will work with schools to put the necessary solutions in place."

Justin Gleeson, director of the All-Island Research Observatory at Maynooth University, said education authorities were facing new challenges posed by the fact that new housing developments nowadays tended to attract more mature families with older children who immediately needed school places.

SF accused of misleading Dáil over Senator

Party may have misled the Oireachtas with tribute to resigning Ó Donnghaile

Series of controversies dogging Sinn Féin likely to continue in the days ahead

JACK HORGAN-JONES
and JENNIFER BRAY

Sinn Féin is facing renewed pressure amid political charges that it may have misled the Oireachtas with a tribute to resigning senator Niall Ó Donnghaile last year.

With the party facing intense pressure amid a series of controversies, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald told the Dáil yesterday that Mr Ó Donnghaile stepped down after sending inappropriate text messages to two individuals. One of the people was a 17-year-old male party member, who contacted the party asking for the contact to stop, triggering a formal party procedure. The second person did not make a complaint.

Ms McDonald told the Dáil that on October 5th, 2023 Sinn Féin's party chairman, chief whip and Belfast chairman told him his actions were not acceptable and Mr Ó Donnghaile indicated he would be resigning from the party and Seanad.

Political focus quickly shifted to a statement issued by Ms

McDonald last December praising Mr Ó Donnghaile's contributions in politics and expressing the hope that he can "overcome the health challenges that he has had to deal with over the past number of months".

Tánaiste Micheál Martin said it "appears the Oireachtas was misled on the full reasons" for Mr Ó Donnghaile's resignation.

Legal advice Ms McDonald said that the party had received legal advice against naming Mr Ó Donnghaile as there was no charge brought against him after the matter was referred to the Police Service of Northern Ireland - and that it did not inform the Oireachtas of the circumstances around the resignation as he was suffering a mental health crisis following the complaint.

"We were very worried that publicly naming him would be dangerous to his health, and that is not to make an excuse for his behaviour," Ms McDonald said.

Labour leader Ivana Bacik

said that Mr Ó Donnghaile continued to hold office between September and December 2023 even though he had been suspended, and that Ms McDonald's tribute to him suggested the only reason he was standing down was for ill-health, asking if there was a "secret suspension" in effect due to the lack of disclosure by Sinn Féin.

Social Democrats leader Holly Cairns accused Sinn Féin of "glossing over" the reasons for his resignation.

"Whatever about not publicly naming him in relation to allegations because of concerns around his mental health, her statement was utterly glowing," she said, adding that he was in fact "resigning in disgrace".

The series of controversies dogging Sinn Féin is likely to continue to dominate the days ahead, with a public social media post showing that Ms McDonald sent a supportive tweet to Mr Ó Donnghaile in June.

Fine Gael TD Ciarán Cannon questioned whether there may be a role for the Oireachtas Commission, which is responsible for running the Oireachtas, as the reasons for Mr Ó Donnghaile stepping down were not publicly known.

McDonald defends handling of sex abuse case and controversies: page 2; Editorial comment: page 11

Dublin steakhouse Shanahan's on the Green closes

SARAH BURNS

Shanahan's on the Green restaurant in Dublin city centre has had to close until further notice due to financial challenges.

John Shanahan, owner of the steakhouse on St Stephen's Green, told employees and suppliers in a notice circulated in recent days that the company was in an "alarming, almost impossible situation". The businessman, a dual Irish and US citizen,

made reference to "anticipating a promised meeting" with the Revenue Commissioners to discuss the repayment of tax debts dating back to the Covid pandemic when restaurants across the country were forced to close.

Mr Shanahan said that "until further notice, we will have to cease doing businesses as usual". "I feel confident that I will resolve this matter quickly and have all taxes and vendor invoices

satisfied quickly," he added. "It may require that fast trip to the States to pull this all together but fortunately, I'm still above the sod and am up for it. That's a promise."

Not taking bookings

The restaurant is currently not taking bookings via telephone or online via OpenTable. Neither Mr Shanahan nor the restaurant responded to multiple queries seeking comment.

Dr John O'Malley made a booking with the restaurant last week for eight people in December and was required to pay a non-refundable deposit of €400 (€50 per person).

Dr O'Malley said he contacted the restaurant via email on Monday regarding the booking and the deposit paid as he had heard about its possible closure. In response, the restaurant said to him: "Unfortunately the business is closed tempo-

rarily. A reopening date is to be confirmed. Our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience."

Dr O'Malley said it was "disappointing" as he was now unsure if he would get his deposit back if the booking did not go ahead and there was no information on the restaurant's website or social media pages.

Hospitality sector warns of mass closures: page 3

Weather

Today will be mostly cloudy with outbreaks of heavy rain. Highest temperatures 15-16 degrees.

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Home News

Prison releases: Sex offenders and other high-risk offenders should be considered for early release to relieve overcrowding, officials have suggested: page 2

Destroying records: It will be an offence to destroy the records of abuse survivors under new legislation: page 3

World News



Hizbullah call: Hizbullah's deputy secretary general Naim Qassem called for a ceasefire as the conflict continues in Lebanon: page 6

Business + Commercial Property

Finance Bill: Minister for Finance Jack Chambers has denied the Finance Bill is being fast-tracked to facilitate a November general election.

Alias Tom: Dublin fashion retailer Alias Tom has gone into liquidation with losses of almost €1 million.

Sports Wednesday

Soccer: The Republic of Ireland's European Under-21 Championship qualification hopes came to an end with a draw away to Italy in Trieste last night.

Racing: The Irish-trained Alphonse Le Grande has been disqualified from the English Cesarewitch.

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