

# WexfordEcho



Est. 1902



TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY, 2015

TEL: 053 91 42948

PRICE €2.20 / UK £2.00

## Passing of Olive Quaid

by Anna Hayes

THE FUNERAL of Olive Quaid takes place today (Tuesday) at Bride Street Church at noon.

Mrs. Quaid, who passed away peacefully on Sunday afternoon, was the wife of well known detective garda Seamus Quaid who was killed in the line of duty on October 13, 1980.

The mother-of-four will be laid to rest in St. Ibar's Cemetery following the funeral mass and donations, if desired, can be forwarded to Wexford Hospice Homecare.

Detective Garda Quaid had been investigating bank robberies in Co. Kilkenny when he stopped a van in Cleariestown driven by a known member of the Provisional IRA. The van was searched and explosives were discovered which lead the driver to open fire. The Wexford detective sustained fatal injuries.

Mrs. Quaid is predeceased by her husband Seamus and is survived by her children Mary, Caroline, Eamon and Angela, her sister Madeleine, brother Teddy, extended family, friends and neighbours.

The Echo extends its sympathy to the bereaved.



Olive Quaid

# Early check up saved my life



Leanne Meyler pictured with her cervical cancer awareness pearl. Pic: Jim Campbell

by Anna Hayes

A YOUNG local girl is calling for a review of the approach to cervical cancer screening after her own battle with the disease before Christmas, despite not even being old enough to have a free smear test.

Leanne Meyler, from Belvedere Grove has called for a lowering of the minimum age for testing, remarking that if she had waited until the regular age of 25 for hers she would probably be dead.

Leanne spoke out about her experience of cervical cancer during European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week and made the call for a better screening procedure.

The 23-year-old was diagnosed with cervical cancer last September after various tests and treatments: "I had been getting lots of cramps for about three months but I thought nothing of it, I just thought it was regular woman pain. When I did go to the doctor, they couldn't find anything wrong after various tests but I was put on four different sets of antibiotics. I eventually asked them to send me to the hospital because nothing was working."

Ctd on page 3

## Hope & Dream

### Get Fit!

Pages 74-75



## Ready, Steady, Bake

Page 80



## Best of Style tips

Pages 78-79



## Plan your month ahead

Page 38



## Early Season Offers in-store now

## Doyles Garden Machinery

Distillery Road, Wexford

Tel: 053 9124707

Web: [www.doylesgardenmachinery.ie](http://www.doylesgardenmachinery.ie)

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams



# Triathlon Club hosts Open Night

by Anna Hayes

WEXFORD TRIATHLON Club is opening its doors to potential new members and is asking anyone with an interest in getting involved to come along to their Open Night at the Riverbank House Hotel on Thursday, February 12.

The event is open to everyone, of all levels of fitness, so whether people are thinking of entering their first tri event, training for an Ironman or just curious about triathlon training, the open night will prove a good introduction.

Attendees will have the chance to meet club members of all abilities who will be on hand to answer questions, share their personal experiences and give tips and encouragement. There will also be a range of gear and equipment on display.



Betty Beata, Aga Maksyuk and Christine Winters pictured at the second semi finals of the 'Wexford has Talent' in Whites Hotel. Pic: Jim Campbell

There will also be information about training sessions and special events. Each week the club holds coached swimming sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Ferrybank swimming pool. Lanes are also available for members early on specific mornings during the week. There are also cycles

on Saturdays and sea swims coming into the summer.

The club holds a timed 5km run on the quay on the last Friday of every month and also has brick sessions in Rosslare. A brick session is a training session combining running and cycling. There are also social nights occasionally with a guest speaker.

Other special events and training sessions are organised throughout the year. The most important of these is the annual Rosslare 10km Run held on Easter Monday.

Karen Shannon of Wexford Triathlon Club: "Every year the open night is a great success. I myself got involved after attending the club's last open night in November 2013. Soon after, I signed up for my first triathlon in Athy in May. Training for it was made so much easier by joining the club. I had so many questions about races and gear and transitions and there was no shortage of people to answer them. Having done a sprint distance last year I'm hoping to complete an Olympic distance this year."

The event from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, log on to [www.wextriclub.com](http://www.wextriclub.com).

## Early check up saved my life

Ctd from page 1

In hospital, she underwent more tests and had biopsies done before the eventual diagnosis of September last year, to the devastation of her family in which she is the youngest member: "I was sobbing; I thought I was going to die."

"When the diagnosis came out, the doctors were surprised. They said it was really unheard of for someone so young to get cervical cancer. The thinking was that young people get STIs and older women get cancer."

Since then, Leanne has undergone a rigorous treatment programme including

28 radiation sessions, five chemotherapy sessions and three brachytherapy sessions and she now faces an anxious wait for scan results to see if her tumour will be gone.

"The doctors were confident from the beginning that the outlook was good. If cervical cancer is caught in time, it can be treated or if the tumour hasn't gone, the hope is that the chemo and radiotherapy will have shrunk it enough to be operated on."

However, a bigger blow to Leanne was being told that she will not be able to have kids: "That upset me more than having cancer I think. Most girls grow up and even-

tually want kids and that's why it's so important to get checked out. I told the doctor that I'd go through the treatment forever if I could still have kids but unfortunately my womb was too scarred."

While in hospital, Leanne said she was struck by the thought that people were not really talking about cervical cancer or raising awareness of the symptoms or the fact that it didn't discriminate in terms of age.

"I was in the hospital and I just thought 'this is crazy, what's going on.' There's lots of awareness of cancer but not cervical cancer. So I decided to put a post on Facebook just urging my friends to get checked out if they felt something was wrong. I put the symptoms up too because they're such regular things that people could just brush them off as something else."

Leanne thought nothing of putting the status up for her friends but soon her anecdote had spread through hundreds of shares: "I had random women messaging me, that I didn't know, saying thank you and they were booking their smear tests because of what they'd read. If it even saves one life then that's enough."

At present, women are usually encouraged to undergo smear tests from the age of 25 up if they are sexually active but Leanne

believes that this should be lowered: "I think once someone is sexually active they should be entitled to have the test done."

She pointed out that people were becoming sexually active at a much younger age now but at present were not entitled to smear tests until they were 25: "They could have had any number of sexual partners before then."

She remarked that if women get a lump in their breast, cancer is the first thing that is ruled out but this is not the case with cervical cancer: "I know the doctors say that up until the age of 25 a woman's body is still developing and that could result in abnormal smears but it should be a case of being safe rather than sorry. You clearly can get it before you're 25."

Leanne felt that her own concerns were brushed off a bit by doctors because of her age and she believed her original complaint of pain should have been more rigorously examined.

"All I would say is if you feel something is wrong, keep pushing and get checked out. People know their own bodies and they know if something isn't right. I had to keep pushing for testing and I had cancer. Don't put it off."

For more details on cervical cancer and smear testing, log on to [www.cervical-check.ie](http://www.cervical-check.ie)

## O'Brien's sandwich bar broken into

GARDAI ARE appealing to people who may have witnessed a break-in at O'Brien's Sandwich Bar in Redmond Square to contact them.

The incident occurred between 3:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. The back-door was forced open and money

was taken from the premises.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the gardai on 053 91 65200.

It was a quiet weekend otherwise in Wexford with just one drunk-driving arrest and two public order incidents in the town.

A spokesperson for the gardai urged people to remain vigilant in terms of home safety and ensure that all windows and doors are locked if the house will be empty.

He also reminded drivers to take care on the icy roads with frosty conditions continuing.

## Surprising Cuts

---

SHAMPOO & BLOWDRY  
(Short) FROM **€21.00**

---

LADIES CUTTING & STYLING  
Incl. Blowdry FROM **€38.00**

---

TINT RETOUCH  
Incl. Blowdry FROM **€58.00**



peter mark

You can see the difference

L'OREAL

North Main Street, Wexford. Tel: 053 915 2120. Late Nights Thursday & Friday.

### SCHOOL ASSESSMENT DAY AND TIMES

Saturday 7th February 2015

**New Ross Vocational College:**  
9.30am - 12pm

**Christian Brothers Secondary School:**  
9.30 am - 12pm

**Good Counsel College:**  
9.30am - 12.30pm

**Our Lady of Lourdes:**  
10am - 12pm

**St. Mary's Secondary School:**  
9.30am - 12pm

## NEW ANAR KALI

- INDIAN RESTAURANT -

### VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL OFFER

From our A-la-Carte Menu

Starter of your choice + Main Course of your choice  
+ Add Rice, Naan or Chips + Any Soft Drink  
+ Any Dessert from our menu

**JUST €24.95 per person**

Reservations on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

At New Anar Kali:

You can bring your own wine, beer or cider  
We don't charge for corkage!

11 Rafter Street Enniscorthy | T: 053-9239625 | M: 086-4460160