

News in Brief

Germ obsession can harm children

PARENTS can damage their child's immune system because a majority think it's important to protect children from exposure to all bacteria, not realising that some exposure is crucial in developing a child's immune system.

Parents are obsessed with keeping them in a sterile bubble of antibacterial wipes, sprays and antibiotics.

Dr Bernard Mahon of the Institute of Immunology, Maynooth, says: "The marketing hype pushing total annihilation of bacteria indicates that there is real concern that we are misunderstanding bacteria and the vital role some bacteria can play in our overall health and wellbeing and the development during early years."

Plans for major store in Bantry

DEVELOPERS applying to build a new store in Bantry, Co Cork say the plan would re-invigorate the town centre and create 150 full-time construction jobs and 100 local jobs after it is built, according to developers.

Richard Coffey and Donal Hunt, who have a contract with Tesco, will seek a material contravention of the Cork county development plan at a meeting tomorrow. They say the store will generate €3m a year in salaries.

Death of young show jump star

THE death of Benny Kuehne, 20, has been described as a "personal tragedy" by gardai. Many tributes have been paid to the promising young show jumper from Coolrain, Co Laois, who died after competing in a horse show in Cavan.

His funeral will take place at 2pm next Tuesday with burial at Camross Cemetery.

'Destructive' response to stress

PEOPLE are turning to hard partying, binge drinking, obsessive cleaning, and excessive exercise as they try to cope with increasing stress levels.

Therese Ryan, stress management consultant and director of Renewal Consultants, said a significant number of people are in denial about the pressures they are facing — using destructive means of coping rather than facing up to reality, such as drinking more or working harder.

Company director leaves €22m in will

A DIRECTOR of a Co Wicklow construction company has left more than €22m in his will, which went to probate in Dublin last week. Vincent Raymond Wilson, Kilcool, Co Wicklow, of Ravoc Construction, left €22,496,115.

Michael French-O'Carroll, Terenure Road East, Dublin, former Independent TD and senator and medical doctor, €1,712,916; Patrick Phelan, prison officer, Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise, Co Laois, €5,402,471; Dorothy M O'Neill, doctor, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, €4,924,853; Patricia Gorby, B&B owner, Northumberland Ave, Dun Laoghaire, €1,826,340; Patricia Charlotte Langlois, professor, Clarinda Park East, Dun Laoghaire, €1,439,098; and James Beary, brigadier general (ret), Thornton, Kilsallaghan, Co Dublin, €136,121.