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A quarter of hospital beds now shut – Feighan

The Government is presiding over the closure of almost a quarter of the country's hospital beds, according to Frank Feighan TD, *right,* who added that the inevitable result would be more patients on trolleys, more cancelled operations and longer waiting lists.

"HSE figures revealed show that there are over 1,500 beds closed or unavailable around the country for a variety of reasons including delayed discharges. Three hundred and thirty three more beds are closed due to cost savings, infection control or refurbishment than this time last year. Together with the 1,100 closures the Minister is planning this means that almost a quarter of our hospital beds will be closed.

"The Government that promised 3,000 extra hospital beds is now slashing almost the same amount out of the system. With a summer of cutbacks ahead and planned reductions in emergency admissions the result will inevitably be more patients on trolleys, more cancelled operations and longer waiting lists.

"Long-term facilities that are publicly funded are also facing the Government's axe. This makes no sense when these long-stay beds are going to be needed to care for people who are stranded in acute beds. How can the HSE confidently predict a positive impact from the Fair Deal if long-stay beds are being closed down? Only a Government which is incapable of caring for patients could think it is acceptable to remove bed capacity at a time when 300 people are on trolleys on a daily basis, 9,000 operations were cancelled in the first half of last year and over 270,000 bed days were lost due to delayed discharges in 2009 declared Deputy Feighan."

Funding for Roscommon Sports Partnership

Roscommon Sports Partnership has been allocated €156,157 in core funding for 2010 along with an allocation of €1,500 for the Women in Sport programme.

The Irish Sports Council will invest a total of €6.3 million in the network in 2010. Council funding will accounts for approximately 48 percent of the total Partnership funding. The remaining 52 percent is raised from a range of partners including Local Authorities and the Health Service Executive. It is anticipated that overall investment in 2010 will equal that of 2009 which exceeded €12.6 million.

Summer School launch

The 15th Annual Dr. Douglas Hyde Summer School of Traditional Irish Music will be launched in Spells, Pound Street, Ballaghaderreen at 9.30 pm on this Friday night, June 4th. This will be followed by a seisiún. This year's Summer School takes place from July 3rd to July 10th. The Summer School has also been sanctioned by the Dept. of Education as an approved course for Primary School teachers.

Cllr. Jimmy Kenny and Cllr. Liam Callaghan pictured at the launch of Roscommon Life magazine which was held in Roscommon County Library. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com

Win tickets to the
MIDLANDS HOME & GARDEN FESTIVAL 2010

Friday 11th June, 2 - 8 pm
Saturday 12th June, 11 am - 6 pm
Sunday 13th June, 11 am - 6 pm

At Belvedere House, Gardens & Park, Mullingar

Send your name, address and contact number to Roscommon People Midlands Home & Garden Festival Competition, Abbey Street, Roscommon

Name: ____________________
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____
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Information night for Alzheimers carers

Western Alzheimers is organising an information night for carers. The event, which is a one-stop-shop for queries relatingto Alzheimer's Disease, will take place at 8.30 pm on Thursday, 10th June in Monksland Community Centre. Guest speakers will include Dr. Gerry O'Meara, County Geriatrician, Roscommon; John Grant, CEO, Western Alzheimer's; John Kelly, Community Welfare Officer and solicitor Mary Frances Fahy. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Increase in new cars – truck, van numbers fall

110 new cars were registered in County Roscommon in May 2010, an increase of 93 percent on the figures for 2009.

Figures recently released from the Society of the Irish Motor Industry reveal that in May last year, 57 new cars were registered in the county. However, the number of trucks sold declined considerably.Two new trucks were registered in the county in May, compared to nine last year.

There was also a drop in the number of new vans purchased, two in May 2010 compared to nine in May 2009.