

New initiative to combat suicide

Roscommon and Athlone Lions Clubs are urging those who work with young people to attend a seminar to help reduce suicides in the midlands area.

The Lions Clubs of Ireland have teamed up with the Heath Service Executive (HSE) to encourage as many people as possible from their local areas who work with children to undertake Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to help prevent suicide in the community.

Essentially, ASIST is a two-day workshop designed to teach the skills to competently and confidently intervene with a youth at risk of suicide in a bid to help young people who are at risk and prevent the loss of life.

RTE Midlands Correspondent Ciaran Mullooly, who is Vice District Governor of the Lions Clubs of Ireland, is encouraging people in the locality and particularly those who work with young people on a professional or

voluntary basis, to take part.

"By taking part in this special two day training programme the local community can help young people at risk and prevent the loss of life in our community," he said.

Ciaran explained: "We are particularly inviting all those who work with, or are in daily contact with, teenagers and those at risk especially parents and those in sports clubs, youth groups and other organisations to take part in this

seminar. "These are the people on the front line and in the position, where given the training, can spot the signs of depression and get that young person the help they need and ultimately save their life."

People can nominate someone who they feel would make a difference in the community by attending the course, all you have to do is ask their permission.

The next course will take place in

Athlone IT on Tuesday May 25th and Wednesday May 26th and your nominees will be notified.

Forms can be obtained from Trease Fox at Athlone IT and can be sent to either Roscommon Lions Club ASIST Project Office, The Quad Youth Centre, Circular Road, Roscommon or email the person's name and number to roscommonlionsclub@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Mass for Dermot Earley

Boyle C Company, 56th Battalion of the Reserve Defence Forces have arranged a special Mass to pray for the recovery to good health of Major General Dermot Earley, Chief of Staff of the Irish Armed Forces and former Roscommon football star, in St Joseph's Church, Boyle on Wednesday evening next, 26th May at 8 pm. Boyle GAA Club cordially invites all attendees for light refreshments in the new Clubrooms in the Abbey Park immediately after the Mass.

Boxing Board meeting

A meeting of the Roscommon/Leitrim Boxing Board will take place in The Sideline premises, Frenchpark on 28th May 2010 at 9 pm. It is hoped that Sligo boxing clubs will join and increase strength in boxing competitions. All affiliations and insurance to be paid on the night.

Tony Nicholson

Darts Tournament

The Tony Nicholson Perpetual Darts Tournament will take place in Gannon's Lounge, Creggs, on Friday night, 28th May.

There will be a raffle and an auction held on the night and all proceeds will go to Bóthar. Admission is €10 and the darts competition will start at 8 pm sharp. For further information please contact Pat at (090) 66 63537.

The late Ronan McCormack

Further to our report in last week's issue on the tragic death of Ronan McCormack, we have been asked to publish the following: "Ronan Patrick McCormack, formerly of Gortgallen, Lanesboro and Roscommon was predeceased by his doting grandfathers and his one and dearly loved auntie Kathleen. Ronan is deeply mourned by his heart-broken mother Jeanette (Leckey), his loving grandmothers Margaret and Frances, godparents John and Rita, the extended Leckey and McCormack family, uncles, cousins, grand-uncles and grand-aunts, colleagues in the Defence Forces, Custume Barracks, Athlone, his teachers and school friends from Cloontuskert NS and Community College Roscommon; all at St. Faithleachs GAA club, loyal friends and good neighbours and all others who mourn his passing.

"Masses have been offered at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, Co. Mayo for the happy repose of his soul. Ronan's burial with full military honours took place in St. Coman's Cemetery, Roscommon on Tuesday, May 11th.

"Lord grant him eternal rest in his Heavenly Home. You still live on in the hearts and minds of the loving family and friends you left behind. Peace, perfect peace."



Michael Kelly, Ballintleva NS was a winner in the School Art Competition. He's pictured here with his father Micheal and James Shevlin, President Roscommon/Athlone PTAA.



Back row (left to right): Committee member Joe Morgan, Carla McDonagh, Elaine Woods, Bridie Mitchell, Committee member, Caroline Acton, Committee member, Elaine Gibbons, Lisa Brogan and Noel Finnegan Committee member. Front row (left to right): Catriona Lennon (winner), Leona Corless, Margarite Collins, Shari Carroll, Tara Haverty and Avril Healy.

Williamstown Rose thanks

The Williamstown Rose committee would like to thank everybody who supported its recent Rose selection dance.

A special word of thanks to the ten Roses who took part and to the following sponsors: McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris; the White House Hotel, Ballinlough; Potter's Hardware, Glenamaddy;

Connaughton's Car Ballymoe; Joe and Bernie Morgan, Williamstown; Michael Whyte Engineering, Williamstown; Hubert Deane and Associates, Williamstown; D&G Oil, Williamstown; Smyth's Mace, Williamstown; Michael Kitt TD, Castleblakeney; Kennedy's Bar and Lounge, Williamstown; Cheerz Bar, Ballymoe; Michael Connaughton;

Tarmey's Tavern, Williamstown; Olivia's Hair Studio, Williamstown; Bea Noone Florist, Polredmond; Comhals Williamstown branch; Tierney's Pub and Restaurant Ballygar and John Larkin. Finally a special word of thanks to Catriona Lennon who represented Williamstown so well in the Galway Rose selection night.

Naughten raises A&E threat in Dáil

Local TD Denis Naughten has called on the Minister for Health to outline her plans to protect the 24-hour operation of the Accident & Emergency Department at Roscommon County Hospital.

Deputy Naughten raised the matter in the Dáil on Thursday morning last and called for urgent action to be taken to secure non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs) for the hospital from July.

"I called on the Minister for Health to outline her plans to address the impending crisis within the health service due to the lack of non-consultant hospital doctors from July. This staffing issue now threatens the operation of A&E departments at hospitals like Roscommon and Portlincula on a 24 hour, seven day a week basis, and the real fear is that this will be

'Hanly by hatchet' and that the Government will use the staffing shortage to implement its downgrading policy for smaller hospitals – the Hanly Report – overnight and without planning which will result in the loss of life locally."

Deputy Naughten also raised the issue of work permits and visas for NCHDs in the Dáil with the Minister for Enterprise & Employment. He pointed out: "The Government's haphazard and lazy approach to the issue of attracting key immigrants to Ireland is undermining the potential to do just that. It is again waiting until it is too late to take action. This inaction has led to a situation where A&E Departments in hospitals will be forced to close due, in part, to the Government's refusal to reform the visa procedure for Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs).

"While there are a number of reasons why foreign NCHDs are not coming to Ireland, red tape and the short duration of the visas is a major problem. Having access to a stable visa system, which facilitates NCHDs and their immediate family to relocate to Ireland, is seen as a key determinant for staff that is vital to the running of our health system. Unfortunately that is not the system in place at the moment.

"Even now, at the last minute, the Government is only at the discussion stage in trying to resolve the problem. It is too little, too late. It seems to me that the Government wanted this crisis in order to implement Government policy overnight with A&E services relocated to regional centres as early as this August," concluded Denis Naughten.



Deputy Denis Naughten.

Habitat survey in Tarmonbarry

Local Independent Cllr. Tom Crosby, *right*, Secretary of Tarmonbarry



Development and Tidy Towns Association, has arranged with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to conduct a wildlife habitat survey with local groups and local schools in the Tarmonbarry general area and the River Shannon.

The main aim is to provide participants with an introduction to wildlife studies. This will be achieved through a series of approximately four two-hour sessions for adults and one full day with a local school.

The councillor encourages as many adults to get involved in this very worthwhile survey in their locality which will have many benefits to the participants and the local community, he would like to thank the National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Rangers who will conduct the training and survey.

For further information in relation to enrolment for which there is no cost, contact Tom Crosby at (086) 6005530.