

# CHILLING REVELATION

## OAPs seven times more likely to be hospitalised during freezing weather

BY EAMON DONOGHUE

**PENSIONERS are seven times more likely to be hospitalised during freezing weather, it was warned yesterday.**

Statistics from Alone revealed people aged over 65 are by far the most likely to become ill during low temperatures compared with those aged 18 to 44.

And the news is all the more shocking as Scandinavian nations, which suffer far more severe winters, have considerably fewer deaths as a result of the weather.

Age Action spokesman Gerry Scully said: "Scandinavian countries are more used to severe weather. We don't really expect it.

So we're not as prepared. A total of 70% of older people own their own homes.

"But they would be old housing stock and not necessarily properly insulated. And they struggle to heat these homes.

"These are issues that need to be faced.

"The Government needs to be investing a lot more money in insulating older people's homes.

"Older people are really suffering recently. Fuel allowance has been cut by six weeks.

"And they're now paying carbon tax, which is going to go up.

"The household allowance has been kept and we appreciate that, but it now has to pay for a lot more

than it did in previous years. Older people being hit over the last few years has adversely affected their capacity to keep themselves warm in winter."

As temperatures plunged below zero last night, experts predicted the cold spell will cause serious hardship for OAPs.

And Mr Scully called on the Government to roll out a full insulation programme to keep older folks' homes as winter bites.

He told the Irish Mirror: "It's a

massive concern because it's still quite early in the year.

"It's such a big change from the weather we have been having.

"People may not be prepared for it, or aware of it."

Temperatures will drop to at least -2°C in the coming days, with frosty and icy conditions

expected.

Mr Scully added: "Older people or older couples who live alone

**“People who don't drive and need to walk are vulnerable at these times**

GERRY SCULLY AGE ACTION CHIEF YESTERDAY



PREGNANT Gwen Stefani

## Singer Gwen is a working mum-to-be

BY SAM HAMILTON

SINGER Gwen Stefani has vowed her pregnancy won't stop her working.

The No Doubt star is expecting her third child with singer husband Gavin Rossdale.

But insiders told Radar Online the 44-year-old doesn't want to take things easy at all.

A source said: "Gwen is working through this and even going to a lot of parties and social functions as if she isn't pregnant at all.

"She's not interested in having long conversations with her friends about it.

"She's clearly trying to be the ultimate low-maintenance mum."

And Gwen, who has two sons Kingston, seven, and five-year-old Zuma is finding this pregnancy a lot easier.

The source added: "Everybody is wondering how Gwen is doing it."



LEGEND James Gandolfini

## Gandolfini taken home in Irish plane

BY MARIE KIERANS

A PLANE owned by an Irish billionaire was used to transport the remains of Sopranos star James Gandolfini home to the US, it has emerged.

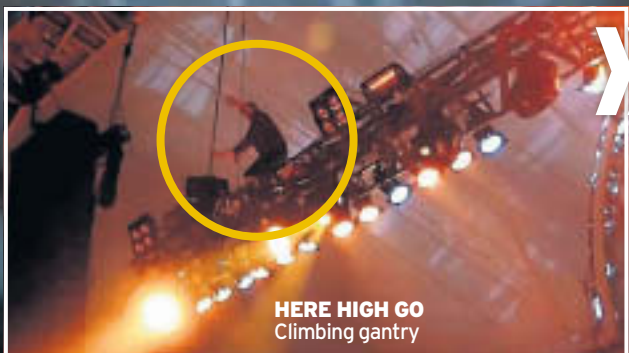
The 51-year-old actor died from a heart attack in June while on holiday in Italy.

Gandolfini's friend Michael Kobold told the latest edition of GQ magazine how the late star's family did not want his remains returned via a public, commercial airliner as they didn't want to see his casket splashed across newspapers.

But private jets don't typically have the space to house someone of his stature.

Kobold said: "I frantically called everyone I could think of who might help - HBO, wealthy clients - until finally a solution appeared: an Irish billionaire's Airbus A319 was available and could land in Rome in less than a day."

# Slam dunc



HERE HIGH GO  
Climbing gantry



CATCH ME  
IF YOU CAN  
Singer jumps  
from rigging



SPLAT'S YER LOT Fallen star, below, stretchered away

THIS is the moment a stage dive goes disastrously wrong as a rapper leaps 35ft from a gantry into the crowd - putting himself and two fans in hospital.

US artist George Watsky, 27, scaled the lighting rig during his last song before asking 7,000 spectators: "Have you got my back?"

But as he jumped, terrified fans scattered and he ended up crashing onto a man and a woman, pinning them to the concrete floor.

The female festival-goer had a broken arm and her male companion was left with back injuries, while Watsky escaped with bruising.

All three were stretchered off as organisers temporarily halted the Vans Warped punk rock tour at Alexandra Palace in London.

Watsky apologised on Facebook for his "shameful" actions and has visited the female fan in hospital to say sorry.

Stunned Alex McCabe, 24, of Plymouth,

who captured the drama on video, said: "Watsky was really pumped up and asked us all if we had his back no matter what he did.

"Everyone shouted, 'Yes'. We all thought it was scripted. But as he jumped the crowd parted and he hit the concrete, taking a couple of people with him."

Watsky said in a message to fans at Sunday's gig: "I have no excuse. I was not drunk or on drugs. I feel terrible."

