

January 25, 2008

TO: News Room: ATTN: Schools Section
Peninsula Clarion <safe:morris>

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, January 29)

Spring semester enrollment up at Kenai Peninsula College

At the end of the first week of classes, overall enrollment at KPC are up over ten percent in headcount and up over four percent in credit hours over the same period last year. There are almost 300 full-time and over 1100 part-time students enrolled at KPC campuses and extension sites this semester. There are over 125 students enrolled in adult basic education or non-credit classes.

KRC professor gets book deal

KPC director Gary Turner has announced that History professor Dr. Cathryn Pearce's book proposal, "Cornish Wrecking, 1700-1860—Myth and Reality," has been accepted by Boydell and Brewer Publishing Ltd. in Suffolk, U.K.

HPV vaccine informational presentation at KRC

The KRC Student Health Clinic is hosting Autumn Leach, Health Educator for Planned Parenthood, for a one-hour lunch time health presentation called "HPV Vaccine: The shot that can save your life". The presentation will be at noon on Jan. 30, in room 107. The event is open to the public and there will be a question and answer session about the vaccine, the diseases it prevents and who the target population is. Leach is currently presenting information about the vaccine to area schools and at community events. This is an opportunity for parents, teens and all women to educate themselves about this new health advancement.

According the Centers for Disease Control website, genital HPV infection is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is the name of a group of viruses that includes more than 100 different strains.

Kathy Becher, Advanced Nurse Practitioner at the KRC Student Health Clinic, provided information that HPV is the cause of cervical cancer; the second leading cause of cancer in women. It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the U.S. and it usually has no symptoms. Becher says that 50% of men and women who are sexually active have HPV infection. The new vaccine prevents cervical cancer and genital warts and is 100% effective with minimal side effects. The vaccine has also been shown to prevent oral/pharyngeal cancers caused by HPV. Becher is adamant that “the vaccine will not encourage sexual activity; much like using a seatbelt doesn’t promote reckless driving!”

The vaccine is given in a series of three injections. Most insurance policies, including Medicaid, cover the cost of the vaccine and it is free to income eligible recipients. Currently the vaccine is recommended for female’s ages 9-26 years old

For more information, contact Kathy Becher at 262-0347.

Health Community Health Fair at the Kenai River Campus

The second annual Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Feb. 20 in room 107 at the Kenai River Campus commons.

Kathy Becher, ANP, said, “There will be free health screenings and referrals, low cost blood tests, information promoting health awareness, disease prevention and healthy lifestyles.”

Exhibitors include community agencies such as Love, Inc., Peninsula Smoke-Free, Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Disaster Preparedness, Dena’ina Health Clinic Nutrition Educator, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Planned Parenthood, Nature’s Remedies (SAD lights/herbal supplements,) LeeShore Center, National Caregiver Association, Hospice, Red Cross, and many others.

Door prizes will be health related items such as blood pressure monitors, relaxation CD’s, fruit baskets and more.