

# Keen closes business doors

Diane Poelker  
for the Index

Louie Keen has left the building. Not only has he left his business at the historic Travelers Square Hotel, but he has closed it and put it on the market for sale. Century 21 agent Mark Whitney said the building is for sale for nearly \$1 million.

"It was sudden," Whitney said. "He called me, it was Tuesday morning [Sept. 5], and said he had decided to put it on the market."

Kirkville resident Barbara Gillum said she has an attachment to the hotel.

"I wish I had the money to buy this place," she said. "I've always been associated with this hotel. I've always loved it."

One of Keen's other Kirkville ventures, the novelty store Pungo Jungo, closed its doors Sept. 6. Keen will vacate the building he rented for the store by the end of September.

Keen's presence in the Kirkville area has often been the subject of controversy. When he first purchased the Travelers Square, citizens protested because Keen owns an adult entertainment business in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Residents expressed concern that Keen would open such businesses in the Kirkville area, according to the Jan. 19 issue of the Index.

Most recently, citizens formed Adair Night Sky in response to spotlights used as marketing for Travelers Square. The group successfully lobbied to pass an ordinance that limits future uses of searchlights in the Kirkville area.

However, Whitney said Keen just decided to go back home, making no references to previous controversies.

Since its closure, the door of Travelers Square Hotel bears a note about the closure, and any calls to the hotel go directly to a recorded message.

Keen also had purchased Minn's Cuisine in June.

"Mr. Keen told me that there was going to be an Irish pub," said Julie Minn, former owner of Minn's Cuisine and instructor in Chinese. "Closed for three months to forget about Minn's first. Nothing else."

Whitney said he and Keen are still setting a price for Minn's.

"It will be going up for sale or lease, whichever comes first, available next week," he said.

Despite the many closures, Keen has not completely left the Kirkville market. Keen's tattoo parlor, Skin City, remains open for business.

"He's part owner in the real estate," Whitney said. "He owns the business."

The increased number of vacancies on the Square is no cause for alarm, said Phil Tate, di-



Phil Jarrett/Index

The Travelers Square Hotel stands empty in downtown Kirkville after closing Sept. 6.

rector of job creation for the Kirkville Regional Economic Development Inc.

"Kirkville's Downtown Square is more viable than nearly any community I know," Tate said. "Very few open buildings. It has to do with the proximity to the campus."

In terms of job loss, Tate expects the effects to

be very minor.

"I wouldn't think it would exceed five [positions]," Tate said. "The hotel is a piece of property that will be picked up by someone."

Keen's former press secretary Michelle Steele did not respond to repeated calls.

Keen could not be reached for comment.

# New vaccine helps prevent cervical cancer

Lisette Metz Grulke  
Index Staff

Junior Jamie Luedtke doesn't do anything to keep herself from getting cancer.

"I wear sunscreen sometimes, but that's about it," she said.

However, since June, she could be doing more. On June 8, the Food and Drug Administration licensed Gardasil, a new vaccine designed by Merck that aims to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV), the cause of cervical cancer in females. The vaccine is now available to women in the Kirkville community from several local health-care providers and will be available nationwide by the end of the year.

Students interested in getting the vaccine can get a prescription for it at the Student Health Center to be filled at a local pharmacy and administered at the health center for a \$5 fee. The vaccine is given in a series of three doses in six months.

"HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease and ... it affects as much as 50 percent of the female population and some estimates are as high as 80 percent by the time a woman is 50 years old," said Brenda Higgins, director of the health center. "We know that it is the primary and almost all-inclusive cause of cervical cancer. This is the first vaccine we have available that protects against cancer. So we are very, very excited about its development and the success of the vaccine in preventing cervical cancer."

The vaccine is effective against four major strains of HPV: types 6 and 11, which cause 70 percent of cervical cancers; and 16 and 18, which cause 90 percent of genital warts, according to a press release from Merck.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site recommends that girls receive the vaccine between the ages of 9 and 11 — well before their first sexual contact of any kind.

"You can get HPV without having penile-genital intercourse," Higgins said. "Just sexual contact and touching can spread HPV. So avoidance of those activities is the only 100 percent safe way."

Nationwide, there has been controversy about administering the vaccine to young girls because it is a vaccine against a sexually transmitted infection. Higgins said she admonishes this controversy.

"Hepatitis B can also be a sexually transmitted disease, and you didn't hear an uprising when we were giving Hepatitis B vaccines to our infants to protect against Hepatitis B," she said. "I think that we need to look at the Gardasil kind of in the same way. It's a way to protect against cancer."

Health professionals advise women ages 13 to 26 to receive the vaccine even if they already are sexually active.

"We'll hopefully be seeing a lot of college-aged students receiving the vaccine, simply because it was not available to them when they were 9, 10 years old as it's now recommend-

## HPV & Cervical Cancer

- 6.2 million Americans become infected with genital HPV each year.
- An estimated 74 percent of all new HPV cases occur in 15- to 24-year-olds.
- Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women, causing more than 470,000 new cases and 233,000 deaths each year.

Source: www.tell-someone.com  
Design by Lisette Metz Grulke/Index

ed to be given," Higgins said.

While ideally a woman would receive the vaccine before becoming sexually active, the CDC recommends that all sexually active women, even women who already have been diagnosed with one type of HPV, receive it as soon as they can.

The health center will not stock the vaccine because each of the three doses of the vaccine costs between \$120 and \$180.

"The advantage to that is that the health center does not file insurance," Higgins said. "There are some insurances that will cover the Gardasil, so if your insurance plan pays for it, you're better off picking it up at your local pharmacy than you are getting it from us."

The vaccine is available from several local doctors' offices as well, including Northeast Missouri Women's and Family Health Clinic.

Cindy Long, a licensed nurse practitioner at the clinic, said that in the last two years, 95 percent of their patients

under the age of 2 received all of their recommended vaccinations — a hopeful statistic for the vaccine's future.

"This is an excellent rate, statewide, and once the HPV vaccine is covered by insurance plans and the Vaccines for Children program through the state, [I hope] it will be added to this," Long said.

Even after being vaccinated, health officials urge women to continue getting regular Pap tests to check for abnormal cervical cells, the first sign of potential cervical cancer.

Hailey Hulse, community educator at Tri-Rivers Planned Parenthood, said she stresses this point.

"This is something girls need to be aware of," Hulse said. "We, as older women still go to get our Pap smear every year. They should continue to do this after they get vaccinated."

Luedtke said she thinks the price of the vaccine is well worth its potential safeguards.

"You can't put a price on human life or quality of life," Luedtke said.

## NEWS | In Brief

### Salvation Army's cupboard is bare

The Kirkville Salvation Army has virtually no food left on its shelves. Three boxes of crackers, two boxes of taco shells, some cookies, vegetables and other odds and ends are the customary ingredients of a food basket distributed by The Salvation Army now, according to a Salvation Army press release.

The organization is asking residents to help stock their shelves with nutritious, non-perishable food, such as beans, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, soup and peanut butter. To donate, bring food to The Salvation Army at 1004 W. Gardner St. For more information, call 660-665-7885.

### Man will serve nine years for offenses

Joshua Graham, 19, of Kirkville, was sentenced Sept. 5 to serve a combined sentence of nine years in the Missouri Department of Corrections after Judge Russell Steele revoked his probation.

Graham originally was placed on probation March 8, 2005, after pleading guilty to a count of tampering with a motor vehicle. A Kirkville Police Department investigation linked him, along with Tom Jones, also of Kirkville, to about 25 reports of property damage to vehicles and Kirkville businesses.

Graham was sentenced to serve five years for the tampering charge and four more years for the property damage charge. Graham was ordered to successfully complete substance abuse treatment while in the Department of Corrections.

### Judge gives meth offender seven years

Judge Russell Steele sentenced Lanita Heath on Sept. 5 to serve seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Heath, 35, is from Kirkville. Heath was placed on probation in January of 2005 after she pleaded guilty to the class C felony of possession of methamphetamine. She was originally placed in the Adair County Drug Court, but she was removed when it was discovered she was using marijuana.

### Residents form gay support group

Local residents have formed a chapter of the national organization Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. PFLAG NEMO will meet at 7 p.m. every second Thursday beginning Sept. 14 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 124 N. Mulanix St. Anyone who wishes to show support of the GLBT community is welcome. Names of members and participants will remain confidential. For more information, contact Richard Rankin at 660-341-1871.

## Student Senate | In Brief

- Senator senior Ryan Huber, external affairs chairwoman junior Mindy Maness and senator sophomore Matt Szweczyk were absent from the meeting.
- Senate voted to create an aide to the speaker position and appointed senior Ashley Young and junior Taylor Burks to the post.
- Senate appointed freshmen Andrew Tipping and Stephen Jarnagin to associate senator positions.
- Senate appointed senior Emily Gebhardt as organizational representative for Tau Lambda Sigma.
- Ethics justice junior Brett Pierson announced that two signature requirement numbers were omitted from election packets. Candidates for incoming senators must collect 75 signatures, and 10 are required for graduate senator candidates. Petitions for fall election candidates are due by 5 p.m. Friday to the Center for Student Involvement.
- Senate approved a motion to spend \$1,400 on the Senate retreat, scheduled for Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 at the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Edina. An amendment proposed by senator senior Robert Kelchen to use the agency account to cover lodging costs failed.
- Campus diversity chairwoman junior Nadia Mozaffar proposed a motion to spend \$20 for sponsoring and decorating a bra for Alpha Sigma Gamma's Breast Cancer Awareness Week. After being informed that the week was partially funded by Funds Allotment Council, Mozaffar withdrew the motion but received \$20 cash from A. Kay Anderson, staff adviser and ASG sponsor.

## DPS | Reports

- 9/11 Report of bicycle theft from Ophelia Parrish
- 9/10 Junior Anna Lammert was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/5 Report of theft from a vehicle
- 9/4 Report of theft from Parking Lot 16
- 9/2 Sophomore Neil Bleish was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/2 Report of theft on University property
- 8/31 Report of theft from Parking Lot 22
- 8/29 Junior Christopher Lim was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for theft under \$500 and false declarations.

# Huge Army Surplus Sale

Under the tent in the Hy-Vee parking lot

**Sept. 15 to 24**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day

- seasonal closeout merchandise
- ammo boxes
- camouflage clothes
- coats: gortex jackets
- cold weather sleeping bags
- combat boots
- tools

# Beta Theta Pi

Welcomes its New Sons of the Dragon

- Ben Reine
- Nick Alexander
- Nate Weimer
- Ben Stubbs
- David Bulen
- Kyle Busch
- Jake Cushing
- Rich Hill
- Brian Hillard
- Pat Kilgore
- Ryan Huber
- Dave Siebert
- Tim Sitton