



Krista Goodman/Index

Libraries received a one-year extension to come into compliance with the Consumer Product Safety Improvement act and remove any children's books with lead levels which exceed the need maximum.

Library receives reprieve

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

Libraries across the nation received a reprieve and now can postpone testing their children's books for lead.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 established that products intended for children 12 and under must be tested or certified to contain less than 600 parts per million of lead. Late January, the Consumer Product Safety Commission exempted books that were published after 1985 and granted a one year extension for testing books printed before 1985.

This was welcome news to Glenda Hunt, Adair County Library Public Director. Because the Adair County Public Library first opened in 1987, Hunt said she would estimate that few children's books printed before 1985 are still on the shelves.

"We do what we call 'weed' the collection, periodically," she said. "We try to go through the collection every three years, and we use a lot of data to make that decision — what to leave on the shelf and what to take off — because we become overcrowded."

Because the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act includes toys, Hunt said that the library has pulled stuffed animals and games from the floor and has gradually been putting them back out as the library receives compliance letters that certify each toy is within the legal limit of lead.

"That is one of the things that draws kids into the library are those toys," Hunt said. "We'd like to think we are a destination library, and the kids want to come in and have something fun to do here and check out books. That has been a real concern of ours."

Pickler Memorial Library has a children's collection in the second floor Curriculum Library. Richard Coughlin, dean of libraries and museums, said he has followed the advice of the American Library Association which was to wait, in anticipation of a correction.

"This is a tiny part of our business,"

Coughlin said. "We obviously don't teach children. And for the most part, we don't have children come in and borrow the books. They are not our primary customers."

The ALA has remained optimistic that the Act eventually will exclude libraries, if not all paper-bound books.

"If they don't exempt libraries or exempt books, the consequences could be very detrimental for libraries," said Jenny Terry, press officer for the ALA Washington Office. "This includes school libraries, museum libraries and also, textbooks in the classroom. It would cost more to

test a book than the book itself actually costs and libraries just don't have the resources for that."

With the current extension, libraries with children's books printed before 1985 have until February 2010 to either pull those books from the shelves or test them for their lead content.

"We have been working with the American Association of Publishers and they have conducted many tests that have proven, time after time, that books are safe and do not have the lead levels in them that this law is going after," Terry said.

Throwing the book at lead

Libraries were granted a one-year extension and have until 2010 to meet the new lead law requirements

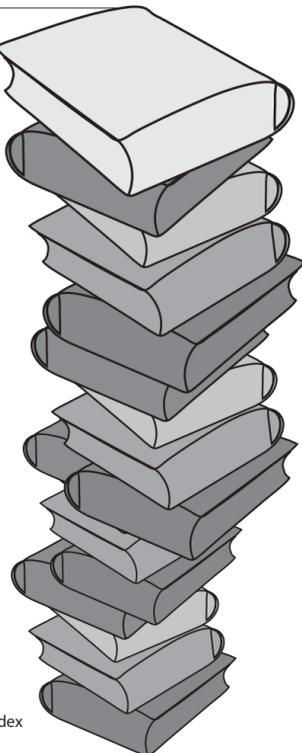
Acceptable Lead Levels in products designed for children:

February 10, 2009 – must be less than 600 ppm

August 2009 – must be less than 300 ppm

2011 – lowest level that is technologically feasible

Design by Antionette Bedessie/Index



Meth360 fights illegal drug use in Adair county

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

A new program designed to combat methamphetamine use is reaching hundreds of residents statewide.

Meth360 is a preventive program educating people in Kirksville and the surrounding area about meth addiction as the use of this drug threatens to rise in Adair County.

"The specific goal of the program is to unite communities in the fight against meth," said Karah Waddle, prevention coordinator at Preferred Family Healthcare. "The objectives are to educate about the threat of meth and to motivate [people] to take action in [their] family and community."

She said The Partnership for a Drug-Free America created the Meth360 program to mobilize communities in stopping the spread of meth use and distribution. The PDFA approached Preferred Family Healthcare about beginning the program in December.

The PDFA's goal is to reach more than 1,000 people in Missouri through Meth360. Larger Missouri communities such as St. Louis and Springfield also are implementing the program.

Waddle said Preferred Family Healthcare performs an average of three Meth360 presentations each week. They present to schools, businesses, community organizations and other groups in northern Missouri. They made presentations to health classes at Truman on Tuesday.

Nick Cook, project coordinator for the Adair County Drug Coalition, said these presentations focus on educating the public about the addictive quality of meth and the physical consequences of long-term use.

Cook said meth has a 92 percent addiction rate for first-time users. Once a person is addicted, the drug changes brain chemistry and can result in loss of memory and motor function.

"A lot of those people just don't know what the outcome's going to be ... how it's going to degrade your system," Cook said. "And over time it's going to degrade it enough that there's going to be permanent effects."

Cook said he hopes the Meth360 program will raise awareness of meth's harmful effects and prevent people from even considering trying it.

When the Adair County Drug Coalition began five years ago, meth activity was rampant in Adair County. Cook said the coalition was extremely successful in combating the high rates of drug abuse.

In 2003, there were 57 meth lab incidents in Adair County. After the

coalition was formed in 2005, there were only nine, Cook said.

He said there has been a recent increase in meth activity in the Adair County area, perhaps because of previous offenders being released on probation.

"We are seeing a lot of those people come back out, and we just want to reeducate the people as to what meth is and [its] harmful effects," he said.

Cook said the increase in meth activity could be one reason for the interest in the Meth360 program, but that he doesn't think the meth problem will escalate to its former state.

"I don't think it will ever reach as high as it once did ... because I think the community is prepared and ready," he said. "You may see some incidents, but I don't think they're going to be as bad as what they were in the past."

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said he's concerned about the recent resurgence in meth-related crimes, and the community needs to help keep the problem from escalating.

He said the past success of the coalition shouldn't stop people from a continued fight against meth.

"Just because we won one battle doesn't mean that the war is won," he said.

Hughes said it's important for the community to be aware that meth still is an issue in Adair County. He said law enforcement can't solve the problem alone and community involvement is vital in battling meth.

"It's impossible for one segment of the community by itself to be successful unless the community bands together to take a stand," Hughes said.

He said the coalition and Meth360 are helping create a united front against meth.

Angie Stuckenschneider, prevention coordinator for the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, said she agrees that community involvement is important in preventing drug abuse.

"This effort involves the entire community, including law enforcement, schools, prevention and treatment programs and others working together to change community norms and behavior," Stuckenschneider said.

She said the division has seen a drop in meth lab seizures in Adair County. In 2007, there only was one seizure.

Meth admission treatment rates have decreased more in Adair County than they have statewide. From 2007 to 2008, there was a 33.33 percent decrease in Adair County meth admissions as opposed to a 16.81 percent decrease statewide.

Multiple bar thefts puzzle local police department

BY KELLY KIESEL
Staff Reporter

Some Kirksville residents have been crime victims at local bars lately, reporting stolen items like purses, wallets and cash.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes has been working with the multiple reports of thefts in the last few months and said he thought it was time to inform the public.

"Right now it is an education effort," Hughes said. "Based on the randomness of the crimes, there is nothing to really allow us to move much beyond."

Hughes said the police have

not found any suspects yet. There are no sufficient leads because the thefts have occurred at more than one establishment. Hughes said he thinks these are crimes of opportunity.

"It is important that everyone, regardless of their surroundings, exercise personal responsibility in helping keep themselves and others safe," Hughes said. "Kirksville is not immune from those who would prey on the trusting nature of the general public."

Following some of the reports, the police later found items behind toilets, in trash cans, on rooftops and in alleys. Hughes

said he thinks the thieves mostly are after cash, so they get rid of the purses and wallets as fast as they can.

The police informed Dukum owner Craig Shorten about the thefts.

"After hearing it on the news, I was a little surprised," Shorten said. "We look after our customers — we always have. That would be something hard to catch, but we keep people on the floor that are paying attention."

Dukum kitchen manager Rob Champagne said there is always someone at the door of the bar to watch for thefts.

"I think the thing that both-

ers me the most is that everyone kind of thinks the bar should be watching better," Champagne said. "You kind of have to be responsible for your own stuff."

Shorten and other workers at the Dukum said they want people to have a good experience there.

"When these things do occur, we start paying attention," Shorten said. "We bring it up at our meetings, so we are a little bit more aware. I want customers to be glad they came in and sorry they had to leave."

Bliss Kelley, who works at Dukum, had her wallet stolen from the Wooden Nickel Feb. 18.

"I thought I didn't have to

worry about anything like that happening in Kirksville," Kelley said. "I had my purse with me the entire night so I don't know when it actually happened. Now I don't set my purse down at all when I am out."

A worker at Party-Mart later found Kelley's wallet.

Hughes said those who have any information regarding the thefts should call the department at 660-785-6945 or the anonymous tip line at 660-627-BUST.

Outsmart the thieves:

- Keep your belongings with you at all times, or leave them at home.
- Report suspicious persons to the police
- Remember, not everyone you meet is as trustworthy as you

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