

# Another Toy Recall Issued

For toys with magnets or lead paint

(AP)--Toy-making giant Mattel Inc. issued recalls Tuesday for about 9 million Chinese-made toys that contain magnets children can swallow or which could have lead paint.

The recall includes 7.3 million play sets, including Polly Pocket dolls and Batman action figures, and 253,000 die cast cars that contain lead paint.

Tuesday's recall was the latest blow to the toy industry, which has had a string of recalled products

from China. With about 80 percent of toys sold worldwide made in China, toy sellers are worried shoppers will shy away from their products.

It was also the second recall involving lead paint for Mattel in two weeks. Earlier this month, consumers were warned about 1.5 million Chinese-made toys that contain lead paint.

Toys recalled Tuesday include 253,000 "Sarge" cars from the movie "Cars," because the surface paint could contain lead levels in excess

of federal standard. The 2 1/2-inch, 1-inch high car looks like a military jeep.

Lead is toxic if ingested by young children.

Also recalled Tuesday were 345,000 Batman and "One Piece" action figures, 683,000 Barbie and Tanner play sets and 1 million Doggie Day Care play sets.

Two weeks ago, Mattel's Fisher-Price division announced the worldwide recall of 1.5 million Chinese-made preschool toys featuring characters such as Dora the Explorer, Big Bird and Elmo.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Alberta Street's Community Energy Project hosts a free lead-testing event. Running the testing machines last Friday were Sarah Gourde, lead programs coordinator for the Portland Development Commission and James Pasmore of ThermoFisher Scientific.

## Coordinated Lead Testing Underway

Community responds to a broadening recall

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A steady stream of people entered the Community Energy Project's building on Alberta Street last Friday for free lead screening of toys, jewelry, pottery and other small items while the Josiah Hill III Clinic provided free blood testing.

The coordinated testing efforts were a city first to be continued by the coalition in other venues.

Originally seen as a limited problem of certain Chinese imports, the potential for lead poisoning is now feared in hundreds of items that continue to be discovered.

"Lead is one of those things that people think is something from the past, but that couldn't be further

from the truth," says Perry Cabot, a Community Energy Project organizer.

Health experts in attendance pointed out that lead is sometimes used as a base metal in jewelry, in the glaze of pottery, as a stabilizer in vinyl and many other everyday items.

"We find lead in toys, water, household items, soil, and most of all in our homes," said Sarah Gourde, lead programs coordinator for the Portland Development Commission. "The primary cause of lead poisoning in children is dust from lead-based paint and lead contaminated soil. Our goal in performing these tests is to make people aware of the risks of lead exposure and to let them know PDC has a grant program in place to assist low-income homeowners with lead remediation."

These lead-testing groups will be among the more than 60 exhibits at next month's Green Sprouts festival at Peninsula Park in north Portland, scheduled Saturday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Longtime Wrestling Coach Honored

Gym named for Peninsula's everyday hero

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

To honor Roy Pittman for over 35 years of commitment coaching Portland's youth, Portland Parks & Recreation renamed the eastern gym

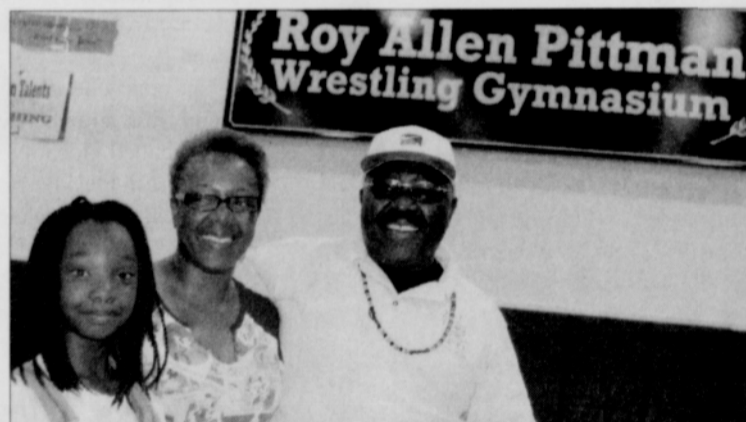


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Wrestling coach Roy Pittman joins his daughter Stephanie Pittman and granddaughter Harranie Chavers at a ceremony renaming a gymnasium in his honor at the Peninsula Park Community Center.

at Peninsula Park Community Center as the "Roy Allen Pittman Wrestling Gymnasium."

The dedication ceremony was held Aug. 7 as part of an annual National Night Out celebration.

"Coach Pittman continues to serve as a leader and a mentor to youth in our community," said Deborah Harris, Peninsula Park recreation coordinator. "Through his instruction, discipline and mentoring, his wrestling club members learn to be both good athletes and good individuals."

Many people spoke to how Pittman has influenced generations of young athletes to succeed in their daily lives, in addition to wrestling competitions.

Children of all ages have come from across the state to learn wrestling techniques from Pittman. Through the discipline and hard work the sport demands, he sees wrestling as a good way to develop the skills to deal with the challenges of everyday life.

"I take young boys and turn them into gentlemen, and now a lot

of them are positive contributing members of the community, with jobs and taking care of their kids," Pittman says. "With wrestling, you don't have to have any special skills like with some other sports. It just takes discipline, direction and determination."

In addition to his volunteer work at Peninsula Park and throughout Portland, Pittman served as an Olympic wrestling Gold Coach, the highest certification in U.S. wrestling. He's also a member of the Oregon Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Pittman sees lots of other people doing things just as impressive in the neighborhood.

"There are a lot of positive people in north and northeast Portland, and all we have to do is look for them because they're there," he says. "Hopefully it's an inspiration for people in the community to know that it can be done."

He encourages parents to sign their kids up for the fall program starting Sept. 17 by calling 503-823-3620.



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