

FDA forces Four Loko off store shelves

Similar products replace banned substance for profit-making purposes

Lea Shores
Managing editor

Four Loko, the alcoholic beverage notorious for making people blackout after consumption, is being pulled from the shelves.

On Nov. 17, the Food and Drug Administration issued a press release that said Phusion Projects, LLC, the makers of Four Loko, and three other companies selling similar drinks were being given 15 days to notify the FDA of the steps they were going to take to correct the problem—the high caffeine content.

This release came after the FDA established that caffeine is an unsafe food additive. In the release, Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Principal Deputy Commissioner, said, “FDA does not find support for the claim that the addition of caffeine to these alcoholic beverages is ‘generally

recognized as safe,’ which is the legal standard.

“To the contrary, there is evidence that the combinations of caffeine and alcohol in these products pose a public health concern.”

According to an M S N B C report, Phusion Projects, LLC, announced on Nov. 16 that they are removing the caffeine, taurine and guarana from Four Loko, though they still believe that caffeine is not a harmful additive.

This move came after the company was pressured by politicians and advocacy groups to

stop selling the product.

In October, 35 students from Washington and New Jersey made national news for being hospitalized with blood alcohol content levels as high as 0.33,

Dan Falk, dean of students, thinks the FDA is making the right choice. “I just think that alcohol products should be over here and caffeine over here. It’s not a good idea to mix the two,”

don’t actually have to stop selling it until we get a letter from the Alcohol Beverage Control saying we can’t sell them anymore,” said Gumm.

C&B has not received this letter yet, Gumm said, but their distributors have, so they do not have any Four Loko to sell. “Once people

companies will try to come out with something new. “I think they’ll move on to the next thing. There’s enough power and prestige with these higher education institutions for Four Loko to not be on the market. There are some publicized occurrences of Four Loko harming students. There’s too much momentum,” said Falk.

While Four Loko undergoes the required changes, a new product is gaining popularity. Gumm said Tilt, manufactured by Anheuser-Busch, contains the same alcohol content as Four Loko, but doesn’t include the caffeine.

Tilt comes in four flavors and sells for \$1.99. “This is going to sell well too, I’m sure,” said Gumm.

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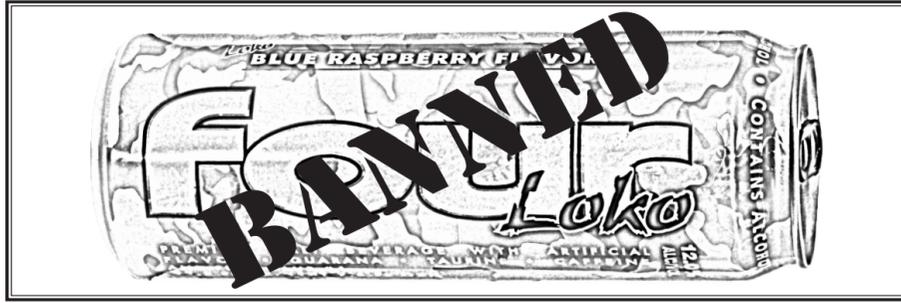


Photo illustration by Carly Budd

which experts blamed on Four Loko.

The drink had recently been banned in several states including Washington, Oregon and New York.

said Falk.

Matt Gumm, clerk at C&B Liquor, said you may still find Four Loko being sold at some liquor stores for a while. “The FDA said it’s unsafe but we

heard that they were about to take it off the shelves, there were a lot of people purchasing it. People complained a bit,” said Gumm.

Falk thinks that rather than change the existing product,

Annual Isle of Lights illuminates holiday season

By Erica Dunigan
Staff reporter

Freezing temperatures or not, the community comes together to build a winter wonderland filled with lights.

Area residents, friends and family can enjoy driving through a land filled with a zoo display, Land of Oz, and toy land. There are about 30 different displays of all sizes set up through Island Park.

Community organizers began

the Isle of Lights tradition in 1993. Generous offers helped start a remarkable show.

Donna Homan, owner of Donna’s Designs, said, “It wasn’t easy getting Isle of Lights started. The first year we had about 19 people donate \$1,000 each for the light show, which helped us get started. Now we just take the money that gets donated at the gate. A lot of the displays can cost up to \$20,000, so it takes a lot to put this together.”

City of Winfield staff work

with community members to ensure the Isle of Lights goes up. Rick Snider, Merle Snider Motors, leads the setup committee.

He said, “Employees of businesses get together to help set up different displays. We set up all the displays in Isle of Lights in one day. Without the help of Rick Myers and the city we would not be able to set up a remarkable event.”

Members of the committee enjoy their work. Pixie McCoy, co-owner of McCoy Electric, said, “My favorite thing about the Isle of Lights has to be the set up and take down. It’s all done by volunteers. No one gets paid for helping put up and run the Isle of Lights. We had volunteers aging from middle school students to retired community members. We have over 100 volunteers setting up the Isle of Lights this year.”

Many businesses have several employees who help with the Isle of Lights every year. Ruth Parman, administrative assistant from Union State Bank, said, “We have five employees that help set up and take down, but

we also have employees from Ark City and Udall Union State Bank that come and help with Isle of Lights.”

Parman said, “All together, we have 38 bank employees that join other community members with set up and with running the Isle of Lights. Each year we have employees that run to get a time slot to help with Isle of Lights.”

“The Isle of Lights brings a small community together for the holidays. I was born and raised in Winfield and lived right by the park. It has to be the biggest memory that I have of Winfield. The way the community comes together to set up such a remarkable display is truly amazing. They don’t get paid for

their generous help, and on top of that there is no entry fee for Isle of Lights.

It’s a free event for the community. No matter what the task, this community comes together to get it done,” said Parman.

Not only does the community enjoy the displays, but people come from out of state to see the Isle of Lights. Homan said, “We counted 38 different out of state tags that came through last year. Altogether we had over 15,000 cars come through.”

Christmas is a time of the year to spend with family and friends. Jordan Unruh, nursing senior, said, “I love Christmas and one of my favorite things to do is to drive around and look at Christmas lights with my room-

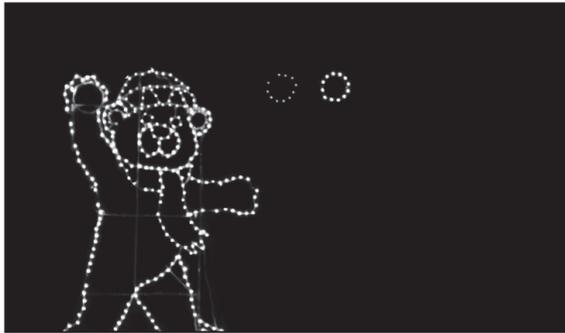
mate and teammates.” Unruh’s family takes a drive through the display each year after the cross country banquet.

“My parents love to see what new lights they will set up in the park each year.”

Isle of Lights opened in Island Park Nov. 21 and runs through Dec. 30. It is open from 6 to 10 p.m. There is no entry fee, but donations are accepted to go toward next year’s display.

After the lights come down this month, the Isle of Lights committee will meet in February to decide what new light display they will buy for next year.

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Samantha Gillis/Collegian photographer

A bear throws a snowball on Nov. 31 in Island Park. The bear is a part of the Isle of Lights.

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Preparation tactics help during finals week

By Lenita Krejci
Staff reporter

Free massages, Christmas cleaning, and extended evening hours at the library. These are signs that finals week is here. Although there are dozens of majors, every student will have to face the challenge of being ready for finals. Finals may mean the same routine for many, but there are many different ways you can prepare.

Usually when preparing for finals week, it is all about time management.

John Badley, English senior, said, “I probably spend about eight hours a day or more, literally every free moment of my day, I spend studying.”

However, this is not always the case. “I probably spend two hours a day, if that,” said Jessica Trout, theatre freshman.

Finding the proper place to study for finals can also be a

challenge. Katie Gomez, communication senior, said, “I can study anywhere in my room, usually my bed. I don’t even have a desk in my room.”

Badley has a different take on places to study. Badley said, “My biggest dangers when I study are either that I will fall asleep or I will talk to people. College Hill Coffee would be my No. 1 choice, but I also study in the library and in my living room where no one talks to me. I never study near my room because I will be too tempted to sleep.”

A number of students find that music helps them study. Badley finds music is essential. However, it can’t be just any music, classical music.

Badley said, “I am very easily distracted so I usually listen to music, because it helps me. I only listen to classical music because it tells my brain, ‘it’s time

to do homework.’”

Another one of Badley’s study habits is having more than one subject to work on. “I always have to have multiple subjects around me. Since I’m ADD, I have to have at least two subjects to switch back and forth between, or I won’t get anything finished,” said Badley.

For Trout, this will be her first week of college finals, and like many others, the final nerves have started to sink in. “I don’t like tests,” said Trout.

Whether day or night, inside or outside, or an hour vs. five, studying is essential to surviving finals week.

In order to do so, many students turn to flash cards, highlighters, and pencils.

Badley said, “I write heavily in books, highlight everything, I always say if you don’t write heavily in a book, you’re not fully engaging in the text.”

Not to worry though, for fresh-

men, there is advice from upperclassmen. Gomez said, “During finals week since you don’t have a lot of classes and just a couple hours of finals, a lot of people tend to goof off, which is fine, but you have to make sure you get your studying done first.”

“Don’t stay up the night before your first final,” said Badley. “If you have a choice between studying for four hours before your final or sleeping for your final, sleep. Never study right before a final.”

Gomez said, “A lot of people cram all through the night and don’t get any sleep. Do what you can do. If you get too tired, go to bed and see what you can do in the morning.

“Give your mind a break.”

Lenita Krejci is a senior majoring in speech and theatre education and musical theatre production. You may e-mail her at lenita.krejci@sckans.edu.

‘Chicago’ hopes to attract cast members

By Nick Hofmeister
Staff reporter

“‘Chicago’ really gives you a slice of the crazy life of people in metropolitan America during the time of prohibition,” said Allyson Moon, associate professor of theatre.

Auditions for the show will be Jan. 12 and 13 at 8:30 p.m. in Messenger Recital Hall. Students who want to audition can check out a copy of the script from Lou Tharp, faculty assis-

tant, in the performing arts office.

On Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a read-through of the musical so that students who want to audition can get a better feel for how it will go.

Roger Moon, associate professor of theater wants students who are interested in being in the play to not be intimidated by the audition process. “We want the people who have not done it before, who want to take this chance, who want to try, to not

be scared off by the auditions. Auditions are probably the scariest part of the whole process,” said Roger.

There are lots of different ways that the cast can be configured. “The actual number of actors the show requires is only about 20,” said Roger. The musical can be cast for several more people though. “It could go as large as 30, or perhaps even larger if we separate some of those roles,” said Roger.

Susan Camp, dance instructor,

will be directing the choreography for the musical.

The musical will be performed March 3, 4, and 5 in Messenger Recital Hall and is being directed by Allyson Moon.

Students who have questions about the auditions or would like more information about the musical may contact Roger or Allyson Moon.

Nick Hofmeister is a junior majoring in new media. You may e-mail him at nick.hofmeister@sckans.edu.

When you don’t know what to do next, stop doing and talking; be quiet and listen, then get up and go forward. Don’t forget to thank God for the inspiration!

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