Along the Coast

THE PROBLEM WITH

PLASTICS

A plastic bag floating in the ocean would be easy to mistake for a jellyfish, a major part of sea turtles' diet.

Long-lasting plastics present serious danger to wildlife

By Willie Howard

Environmental groups are ramping up the fight against plastic pollution in the ocean with campaigns featuring images of entangled birds, littered beaches and research showing that tiny, harmful particles of plastic are entering the food chain.

Their goal is as large as the ocean plastics problem itself: steering convenience-oriented consumers away from bags, cups, straws, food containers and other plastic products that often find their way into the water.

The battle is being waged at the national level through organizations such as the Ocean Conservancy and locally through conservation groups such as the Sea Angels, the Palm Beach County chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and Beach Guardians Atlantic Coasts.

"The issue cannot be resolved without a change in perception regarding its scope, origin and the part we each contribute towards helping or harming the coast," said Linda Emerson, founder of Beach Guardians Atlantic Coasts.

"It's changing behavior," Emerson said. "It doesn't take much to keep a couple of reusable bags in your car and take them into Publix." And releasing a balloon into the sky, she said, is just like dropping it in the ocean. Plastic pollution is easy to spot. Just walk along the beach.

Volunteers with Sea Angels routinely find plastic bottle caps, straws, bottles, bags, cigarette filters and broken pieces of plastic during monthly beach cleanups near Boynton Inlet.

Monofilament fishing line and Mylar balloons are also common finds, especially when the seas are rough, Sea

Second in a two-part series

Read the first part online at www.thecoastalstar.ning.com

See PLASTICS on page 6

Along the Coast

Learning Ally volunteers bring speech to the printed word

By Ron Hayes

How would you describe a map of Africa to a blind person? How would you explain a chart of the fluctuating U.S. economy to someone who cannot see that chart? How would you talk like a pirate? The Gladys Davis Pavilion at Florida Atlantic University does not look like the sort of place where these weighty questions are pondered. To be honest, it used to be the university's police and parking services building. As pavilions go, it's small and nondescript. But every Tuesday through Saturday, six hours a day, men and women, young and old, arrive here to tackle those questions.

The Davis pavilion has been the Florida home of Learning Ally, a national, nonprofit organization that records books for people with visual impairments and learning disabilities.

FAU is paid $1 a year for letting Learning Ally use the building. The nearly 100 volunteers who serve two-hour shifts in seven recording booths get nothing.

"I don't have a specialty," says Lois Dwyer of coastal Boca Raton. "Last week I finished a middle school science book on..."
Lantana’s Ocean Avenue goes Italiano

Dak Kerpirch, who hopes to have an offspring of his Lantana woodfired brick oven gourmet pizza stop open in Delray Beach this spring. A site is being eyed at Northeast Third Avenue and Second Street, pending city approval. This baby, to be called Swell Pizza, will be even less glamorous than the Ocean Avenue site’s half-dozen inside counter stools and equally limited, umbrellated outside tables. Pizza and salads only, with the same locally harvested organic and freshly caught ingredients, but take-out and delivery only.

Max’s Social House has finally opened in mid-January in the old Falcon House site on Federal Highway in Delray Beach. Creator Dennis Max has designed “Soho” as a crazy establishment with craft cocktails and beer and finely crafted menu items including house-made pickles and a Kofu-style hot dog, bahn mi style with sriracha aioli, crispy onions and jalapeño.

Santos American Buffet has opened a new location at 3400 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, in the former Gary Wools’ location. The menu combines traditional Japanese sushi dishes and modern, American cuisine. Brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, served from 11:30 am. to 4 p.m., features organic eggs and all-you-can-drink $7 mimosas. Call 923-9378.

Surfing is at once both kinetic and artistic. Anyone who’s seen the peripatetic Palm Beach County Surfing History Project that just wrapped up a run at the Delray Beach Historical Society can appreciate the dynamic interaction of physics and individual expression as well as its historical importance to the Palm Beaches. So there is much excitement surrounding the project’s plans to open its Surfing Museum at 255 NE Sixth Ave, in Delray Beach. The museum will house photos and artifacts in a 3,500 square foot gallery leased to the project by Ocean Ridge resident Matt Leacy, a local surfer since the 1960s. The collection represents 110 years of surfing in Florida. A gallery space is included in the museum plans with high-quality, ocean-related photography and art. Visit surfhistoryproject.org.

Circe (a Southern slang term for a gift or something special) and SWAG have added a touch of Louisville to Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. The boutique at 41 E. Atlantic Ave. (next to Fresh Produce) offers unique women’s contemporary fashions and southern men’s casual clothing, as well as furniture and home accessories.

A grand opening event is planned for 6-9 p.m. Feb. 12. For more information call 270-7935, or visit circewag.com.

Georgina Estefania
Elvis
Noon Buddha
K2 Designs
Lauren Vidal

561-750-7488
21701-7 St. Andrews Blvd., Boca Raton, FL
BOCA VILLAGE SQUARE | MONDAY - SATURDAY 10 AM - 5 PM

CHUKKERS®
LADIES FINE APPAREL

SWEATER
TRUNK SHOW

Ball of Cotton
Pare
Amy Brill
Jaskar
Fianona

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BOCA

Something’s Coming.
For those who may have missed it, the ninth annual Festival of the Arts BOCA is only a month away. The festival opens at 7:30 p.m. March 6, at Mizner Park Amphitheater with a special screening of the Oscar-winning classic West Side Story. In an unusual twist, the original lyrics and dialog will be accompanied by a live score provided by the festival orchestra conducted by Jayce Ogren. Prior to the screening, Jamie Bernstein, daughter of composer Leonard Bernstein, will offer insights into the movie and its influence on modern culture.

The music bill includes banjoists Bedia Fleur and Abigail Washburn (March 7); flutist James Galway, pianist Conrad Tao and violinist Arnaud Sussman with the festival orchestra, Constantine Kitsopoulos, conducting (March 13); and the Young People’s Chorus of New York City performing a program of contemporary music plus

Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with members of the Master Chorale of South Florida and the Festival Orchestra.

Girl Rising is a documentary that examines the lives of nine young women as they try to escape the barriers to education and freedom raised by forced marriage, domestic slavery, sex trafficking, gender violence and discrimination, and poor health care. (Cultural Arts Center, 3 p.m. March 7)


Last but not least, men and women of letters:
“Let Me Be Frank With You”: Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford will be present (7 p.m. March 8).
“The Cancer Puzzle”: Physician, researcher, Pulitzer winner Siddhartha Mukherjee (7 p.m. March 9).
“Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds and Our Future” Technology expert Clive Thompson (7 p.m. March 10).
“That Used to Be Us”: Journalist and Pulitzer winner Thomas Friedman (7 p.m. March 11).
“Saving Paradise”: Journalist and author Michael Grunwald (7 p.m. March 12).”
“Love and Politics”: Pulitzer winner, journalist and author Lucinda Franks (4 p.m. March 14).
“Alex’s Wake”: Broadcast and author Martin Goldsmith (4 p.m. March 15). See festivaloftheartsboca.org.

His nickname, “Steady Rollin’,” is appropriate: In the spirit of peripatetic blues singers such as Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly, Bob Margolin is back on the road, and when he arrives, the music takes him. After bouncing from Memphis to Atlanta in recent weeks, he’ll visit Arts Garage on Feb. 7 then play two dates in Iowa, one in Kansas City, two in Saskatoon this winter, then head 2,000 miles to Tallahassee, and on and on.

Just hitting his prime at 66, Margolin heads an impressive lineup at the Garage: Johnny Rawls, whose 2012 Cadillac won the Living Blues Award for Best Traditional Blues Album, and outstanding blues singer, plays Feb. 13. A day later, Berdie-trained singer and sax player Vanessa Coulter offers a blues Valentine and Danny Brooks, billed as the Texastep Soulman, offers a blend of country, gospel, roots and R&B on Feb. 23.

A week later, ardent supporters of Arts Garage will gather for the third annual