

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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Bottle cap gap

California's bill [AB 319](#) would require plastic bottle tops to be collared to the beverage containers. Environmental group Californians Against Waste is lobbying in favour, calling plastic caps the third most common item found in beach and river cleanups throughout the USA.



Photo, left, comes from the Keep Texas Beautiful calendar for this year, created from winning student designs, this one by Aishani Sil, Grade 11, Liberty High, Frisco, TX.

Calendar out, contest on, conference over
The annual Don't Mess With Texas [art contest](#) is on until April 20 statewide for students from K-Grade 12. Winning works get featured on the annual calendar. 2018's is [on sale now](#). On Friday, the three-day Keep America Beautiful [Conference](#) wrapped up in Dallas.

Litterland milestone reached with this issue

This is Number 250 of weekly editions of Litterland since Number 1 appeared on February 10, 2013. Next week's issue moves this litter monitoring newsletter on to its next quarter thousand.

[£125,000 in fines, zero revenue](#)

Blackpool didn't see a shilling of the £127,280 in fines handed out by its private litter enforcer because all of it went to funding the program. Following a one-year, break-even trial, the city's cutting itself loose from the contractor, 3GS, and will likely bring the job of tackling littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping back in house.

Anglers asked to follow rules

Animal welfare group RSPCA Cymru gave out a menu of tips to people who fish after a crow in Wales became ensnared in line and had to be rescued. Tips for your favourite angler include:

- Taking unwanted fishing line home and cutting it into pieces before putting it in the bin.
- Being aware of surrounding trees – discarded line caught in foliage can entangle wildlife.
- Not leaving bait unattended – always remove from the hook and put it in a safe place.
- Using a bait box – this will reduce the chances of leaving behind an empty bait tin by mistake.
- Not leaving hooks, weights or other paraphernalia behind.

DID YOU KNOW?

If [House Bill 1121](#) passes in Mississippi, the minimum fine for littering as much as a cigarette butt will be \$500, which would be used to fund litter prevention programs. Caught twice, the fine could double and the sentence could include picking up roadside litter.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 14 - 21)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Anti-dumping initiative includes a drone [\(1/15\)](#)

In Ireland, the Council of Waterford City and County has a new tool for gathering evidence against littering people and outright dumpers. A €1,300, made-in-China drone collects and stores photo evidence in a series of 20-minute flyovers once a week. Already it has led to tickets being issued.

Think tank thinks drug rooms make sense [\(1/17\)](#)

Funding supervised drug rooms to deal with Wrexham's 139 percent, five-year increase in drug litter is being proposed by think tank Volteface. A North Wales police commissioner likes the plan to bring the druggies indoors. No word yet on Council's position. Clean up calls for syringes and needles in public places rose to 141 last year from 59 in 2010-11.

Protesting diaper litter [\(1/17\)](#)

A protest on Tuesday in Surabaya, East Java exposed the problem of people throwing used diapers in rivers. Activists from Ecoton held up "stop diaper litter" signs. Diaper-free rivers and waterways, now there's something worth fighting for.

Chewing gum count: 20 blobs per meter [\(1/17\)](#)

In a gum count, as part of its Making Malta Clean & Green campaign, 89.7 Bay radio found 500 pieces of chewed gum littered across 25 meters of pavement and made an [awareness video](#) and [website](#) hoping to get visitors involved and making a difference.