

Kathryn Jeakle
Shorecrest Preparatory School, Pinellas County
2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention

Kathryn teaches marine science at Shorecrest Preparatory School in Pinellas County.

Kathryn was chosen as a 2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention for using the Times to help her students develop into educated coastal citizens.

She uses articles on environmental topics such as red tide, climate change, hurricanes, coastal erosion and marine pollution to connect her students to topics and events relevant to Floridians and extend what we learn in the classroom to real life.

Kathryn employs a variety of techniques in the classroom, including independent reading, guided questions and read-alouds as a class, where students discuss the issues at hand and make connections to the content that they are studying.

She also uses Times articles to help students learn to extract facts from the text as well as to interpret an overall sense of what the author is attempting to express. Is it biased? Where are the facts from? Do both sides of the story get discussed? How did the article make them feel?

Kathryn's goal is to help students develop into educated coastal citizens who will be able to take care of their coastal community when asked to make decision regarding their daily habits as well as the future of St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay area.

The articles that are pictured here are only a few that I have photographed and projected to for my students to read. I have a binder of all the articles I have cut out so I can pull them out when a topic merits a connection. Recently I was able to pull out the full page article on Hurricane Irma and the negative storm surge. The image of Irma's track and the strength of the storm is a great visual and generates many questions. The dates do not show up on some of the photos but my students are always given the date of the article because that is really what draws their attention. When I tell them..... "This was published yesterday!" they listen.

TQA | Thursday, October 3, 2019 | Tampa Bay Times *****

Nation & World

tasapahay.com for the latest news

Plan on to rid India of plastic bags, spoons

BY BHASKAR PRASAD AND VEENITH KUNDA
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India has a mammoth plastic waste problem and no easy way to dispose of the 9.4 million tons it generates each year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to fix that. Fresh from his campaign to provide tens of millions of toilets for India's citizens, he's now aiming to limit the consumption of single-use plastic — bags, cups, spoons, disposable cutlery — and eliminate its use by 2022. The initiative, launched today, marks the 100th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who wanted everyone to "be his own scavenger."

Unlike scrap metal that's recycled almost entirely, about 90 percent of the plastic the world has produced so far has been discarded as waste, resulting in global environmental and social damage of more than \$2.2 trillion every year. More than 50 countries have so far introduced bans and levies to curb single-use plastic waste.

Advisers pointed out as the continent where the largest number of nations have instituted a total ban on the production and use of plastic bags, according to a 2018 United Nations report. In Asia, several nations have attempted to control the manufacture and use of plastic bags through levies, but the enforcement regulations have often been poor.

A crackdown on plastic in India risks job losses in an economy that's seeing the slowest expansion in six years and unemployment at a 45-year high, and rising.

The government's ban on plastic items will disrupt the supply chain, raise the cost of goods from milk to biscuit packets, and impact the food processing and consumer goods industries, said Ankur Bhatn, senior vice president with consultancy firm Technopak Advisors Pvt. in Gurgaon, near New Delhi.

"There should be alternatives to replace plastic products," said Eisen, who has authored Wasteful, a book on India's sanitation challenges. "The right environment should be provided to invest in recycling."

While India has a low per capita consumption of plastic of 24.25 pounds a year, compared with 240.3 pounds in the United States, citizens have been reluctant to shun plastic as it is cheaper than other alternatives.

Plastic waste is a worldwide problem, but it is acutely felt in India where towns and villages do not have adequate waste disposal systems. While about 60 percent of total plastic waste is recycled, the rest ends up on roadsides, landfills, lakes and oceans, eventually making way into the food chain.

The federal government has already prohibited lightweight plastic carry bags, while more started seeing opportunities. Total Corbion PLA, a joint venture between French oil major Total S.A. and Dutch chemical maker Corbion NV, is holding talks with airports, consumer companies, hospitality and food delivery chains in India to offer biodegradable plastic products.

"If jobs shift from the plastic industry alternatives are going to come up," said Anoop Kumar Srivastava, director at Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution in Greater Noida. "Employment opportunities will increase in eco-friendly sectors."

As Modi himself is spearheading the move, the campaign is expected to be popular, following on from his "Clean India" movement under which about 65 million toilets have been built across the country in five years.

Globally, a small change in the supply of plastic carry-bags has successfully reduced their use, said Almitra Patel, who led the 1996 litigation in the Supreme



AKSHAY GADANI | Associated Press

A girl from an impoverished family reaches out to grab a plastic bottle from a metal tray smooth in New Delhi.

Save up to \$40/mo when you switch to Unlimited on the best network

by Mike Baldwin



"Our sustainable seafood special is catch and release of the day."

ccomered@gmail.com www.ccomered.com

Rare whale gets temporary grave

Buried for now at Fort De Soto, it will be sent to the Smithsonian.

BY CRAIG PITTMAN
Times Staff Writer

A rare whale turned up dead near Everglades National Park last week. Now it's buried at Fort De Soto — but not as a final resting place. Instead, in the spring, it will be dug up and shipped to the Smithsonian Institution so its skeleton can be preserved.

That's because this is one of no more than 60 Bryde's (pronounced BROO-dus) whales that live in the Gulf of Mexico. Biologists don't know much about them except that they're genetically distinct from the other types of Bryde's whales,

and that they may deserve legal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

So when a 38-foot-long one turned up dead near Everglades National Park, state and federal scientists seized the opportunity to examine it thoroughly.

An angler first reported the 23,000-pound carcass floating off an island 10 miles south of the park's Flamingo area last week. Biologists towed it to the Flamingo boat ramp, which is a somewhat isolated spot. Nevertheless, biologists from multiple organizations flocked there to take a look at the rare specimen.

See WHALE, 3A



National Park Service

The rare 38-foot whale was found floating dead near Everglades National Park last week. It was examined by scientists and then trucked to Fort De Soto.

From the front page

» WHALE continued from 1A

Although it turned up off the Florida peninsula's southern tip, this particular animal was matched to a photo of a whale observed in the northern Gulf of Mexico in November. That means it's part of the small band of Bryde's whales in the gulf, which were proposed for Endangered Species Act protection in 2014.

Only one other specimen from that family of whales has ever been found dead. It was discovered floating in Tampa Bay in 2009. But because scientists didn't realize then how rare the gulf colony was, they didn't do a full-fledged examination.

They were determined not to make that mistake again.

They began the necropsy — the animal version of an autopsy — by cutting into the whale's skin about 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 31. They worked for four hours, until the night had become too dark to see well. Then they returned the next day and worked another three hours to finish the job.

"If we get to them when they're fresh dead, we can really learn a lot," said Denise Boyd, a researcher for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission who took part in the necropsy. She said biologists get annoyed when well-meaning people push dead whales back out into the water.

Bothered by buzzing insects, and careful not to slip on the slick insides of their study subject, the biologists took several measurements and tissue samples, Boyd said.

They also discovered something disturbing: a 3-inch-square piece of plastic in one of the whale's stomach chambers. At this point, Boyd said, no one knows what killed the whale, but that could be a key piece of evidence.

"The entire case will need to be reviewed" before making a determination on the cause of death, she said. (Many Bryde's whales are killed by being hit by ships.)

Once the necropsy was done, they rented a flatbed truck



After a necropsy near Everglades National Park, the Bryde's whale was trucked for burial at Fort De Soto. This spring, its remains will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution.



Scientists dig a hole and bury the whale on Friday. They don't know what killed the whale, but a necropsy found a piece of plastic in one of the whale's stomach chambers.

loaded what remained of the whale and sent it rolling toward Pinellas County's sandy beaches. The whale's remains were wrapped in a blue tarp so passing motorists couldn't see (or smell) what the truck driver was hauling.

"It was kind of a unique experience for him," said Erin Fougères, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's southeastern marine mammal stranding network.

The truck arrived at Fort De

Soto Thursday afternoon. On Friday, a backhoe dug a hole in an area north of the flagpole at the county park, and the remains of the whale were rolled into the temporary grave and covered up, Fougères said.

There it will sit until spring

when a crew from the Smithsonian Institution will dig it up and take it to Washington, D.C., according to Michael McGowan, the curator in charge of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Once there, it will be put into a special facility for ridding the remains of bugs, and then further cleaned so that only the skeleton remains.

The skeleton will then be transferred to a special Smithsonian warehouse that's full of other whale skeletons, where it will be classified as the "type specimen" representing all of the Bryde's whales from the Gulf of Mexico, he said.

Bryde's whales are named after Johan Bryde, a Norwegian man who built the first whaling stations in South Africa. The whales have slender bodies up to 55 feet long. A British newspaper, the *Daily Mail*, has called Bryde's whales "the world's weirdest whale," in part because when they leap from the water, they look like an enormous eel flying through the air.

To add to their odd appearance, they have three parallel ridges on the top of their heads and between 40 and 70 throat pleats allowing their mouths to expand like a bellows.

Bryde's whales have no teeth. They are baleen whales, meaning they filter their food through hairy strands in their mouths. The ones in the Gulf of Mexico are the only baleen whales that live there, McGowan said. He hopes that an examination of this whale's baleen will give new clues about their diet and overall health.

Federal officials hope to announce their decision about listing the gulf's Bryde's whales as endangered very soon, said Cahua Horn of the federal fisheries agency. She said the public was very supportive of the listing, but the oil and gas industry strongly opposed it.

Contact Craig Pittman at cpitt@tampabay.com. Follow @craigpittman