

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://litterpreventionprogram.com)

November 17, 2019

## Death penalty proposed

The Supreme People's Court of China published guidelines this week on "killer litter", objects deliberately thrown from a high altitude. High rise littering will be defined as endangerment to public safety and will carry strict punishments, which include the death penalty, the court said: 3 to 10 years in jail if the killer littering posed a risk but didn't hurt anybody; life imprisonment or even the death penalty if an incident causes serious injury or death or causes heavy losses of public or private property. It is to be prosecuted as a homicide or an intentional injury, the guidelines deem.



## Contest launched

A German concern is combing the world to find the most beautiful, most practical and most innovative eco-designed packaging to replace plastic. [BeyondPlastic.net](http://BeyondPlastic.net) announced the Beyond Plastic Award 2020 in Kronberg on Thursday. Open to "everyone who has an idea", from student to professional, the jury-selected winners will be feted at a ceremony in May with gold, silver and bronze trophies and cash prizes.

## Toronto's "chair girl" awaits her fate

Marcella Zoia, 19, who notoriously threw a folding chair from a very high balcony of a downtown Toronto condo building as seen on a video that went viral, pleaded guilty on Friday to mischief endangering life. The crown is seeking a six-month jail term. Her lawyer is pushing for probation under a suspended sentence, arguing his client has changed. So-called "Chair Girl" will learn her fate at the sentencing hearing on January 14 in a Toronto courtroom. Lucky for her, it's not in Beijing!

## Pennsylvania study prompts plan

The Pennsylvania Litter Study says 500 million items of litter were cast onto state roads and highways in 2018-2019. Cigarette butts, plastic food packaging, bottles and bags topped the list of most picked up items. Motorists and pedestrians are most to blame for the littering, it says. A full report will come out early next year. Agencies will use the data to formulate strategic measures for tackling specific littering behaviors. "While clean-ups are critical, clean-ups alone are not going to solve Pennsylvania's litter and illegal dumping problem. We need to change behavior," said Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Director Shannon Reiter.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Widespread trespassing and littering by tourists in Japan have [drawn complaints](#) from farmers whose fields are affected. The government of Fukuoka published a "manner comic" in Korean, English and other languages on its home page in April telling people not to leave any garbage behind at the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine.

## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 10 - 17)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **These buses carry more than passengers [\(11/10\)](#)**

Northumberland, UK's fleet of public transit buses will carry riders on the inside and anti-littering messages on the outside that say, "Let's keep our county beautiful."

### **UK group wants all-in deposit return system [\(11/11\)](#)**

Based on tallies from its month-long, Clean Green nationwide litter pick in September, the Campaign to Protect Rural England says all types and sizes of beverage containers should be part of any UK deposit scheme to ensure maximum recycling rates. Of 7,500 containers collected during the cleanup, 28% of strewn plastic bottles were larger than 750ml and 23% of glass bottles were larger than 500ml.

### **Hard drugs washing up on French sands [\(11/11\)](#)**

A drug dealer's sunken boat of possible South American origin is the suspected source of 1,675 large packages of "very pure" cocaine that have washed up along 310 miles of France's southwestern coast through the regions of Loire-Atlantique and Landes, near Spain.

### **New York outlaws youth tobacco purchases [\(11/12\)](#)**

The legal age for purchasing tobacco products in New York State just increased to age 21 from 18.

### **Needle boxes being tested in Minneapolis [\(11/13\)](#)**

Minneapolis health officials are declaring hypodermic needles that litter the ground "a public health menace". They have embarked on a \$50,000 pilot program, installing in carefully selected locations ten secure, needle disposal boxes that will be emptied weekly. One box collected 500 syringes in its first ten days.