

# CARTM to screen documentary 'Bag It'

By JAN BEHRS

NEHALEM — At 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, CARTM will host a screening of “Bag It,” a documentary film that follows one man’s journey as he tries to make sense of our plastic-coated lives. The film will be shown in the North County Recreation District theater on Ninth Street in Nehalem, and its star, Jeb Berrier, will be on hand to answer questions afterward. Admission is free.

“Bag It,” which has won more than a dozen film festival awards, features Berrier’s quest to find out what happens to the tons of single-use, plastic carry-out bags discarded every day. He then discovers the worldwide menace that lurks behind our addiction to disposable plastics.

As plastic breaks down, it releases toxic chemicals, including endocrine disruptors, which are linked to cancer, diabetes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and infertility. When fish, birds and mammals swallow the tiny pieces, Portland’s Office of Planning & Sustainability explains, these poisons enter



SOURCE: BAGITMOVIE.COM

Jeb Berrier, star of “Bag It,” wears a few of the 60,000 plastic bags people in the U.S. use and discard every 5 seconds.

the human food chain.

CARTM doesn’t accept single-use bags for recycling because they are unmarketable and because there are better options, said CARTM Executive Director Karen Reddick Yurka.

“CARTM stopped accepting plastic bags for recycling in 2013,” she said. “It cost more to ship them to market than we received for them, they took a tremendous amount of time to process, and the mess they created required

the baler to be shut down for cleaning afterwards. We encourage our community to choose durable, reusable bags instead of disposable ones.”

Grocery stores started using plastic bags in the 1980s. They’re cheaper than paper but not by much. And, unlike paper, plastic never biodegrades; it remains a hazard forever. Oregonians alone consume more than 1 billion plastic carry-out bags each year, using them for less than 12 minutes, then tossing them in the trash.

The bag problem, at least, has a simple solution: Stop using plastic bags. “Living where we do, it just makes sense to use carry-out bags that don’t end up getting blown into the ocean and becoming litter on our beaches,” said local resident Michael Maginnis.

A petition to ban single-use, plastic carry-out bags in Manzanita will be available to sign at the event.

*Jan Behrs, formerly an editor with The Oregonian and Better Homes and Gardens magazines, is a freelance writer based in Manzanita.*

# Enjoy a community swing dance

ASTORIA — Dust off your best dancing outfit (period correct attire encouraged), and kick up your heels at a community swing dance Tuesday, Jan. 31 at the Astoria Arts & Movement Center, located at 342 10th St. Western swing band The Bar-K Buckaroos will provide lively dance tunes.

The dance will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person or \$10 per couple with a \$2 student ticket available with student ID. Tickets are available at the door. The price of admission includes a one-hour introductory swing dance lesson with dance instructor Jen Miller. The band will take the stage from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further ticket information, contact Brad Griswold at 360-951-9593.

The Bar-K Buckaroos will play traditional Western swing dance music in the style of Bob Wills and his



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Bar-K Buckaroos will provide the lively music for the Jan. 31 community swing dance in Astoria.

Texas Playboys. The band is made up North Coast musicians, featuring Brad Griswold on rhythm guitar, Dave Quinton on bass, Richard Thomasian on lead guitar, Tom Peake on drums and John Orr on pedal steel.

Collectively these musicians have played in such

notable North Coast bands as The Floating Glass Balls, The Bond Street Blues Band, The Swingcats, Acustica, and Ma’Barley. Together they bring their love of bluegrass, Country, jazz, blues and reggae to form a great evening of Western swing and ’20s to ’40s-era swing music.

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