

# Fishing

By Everglades Ernie

The 24th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, May 5 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Old Key Lime House on Ocean Avenue in Lantana. This is a gentleman's start at 7 a.m. and you can start from any inlet. Catching live bait is legal before the Derby starts.

It is important to know if you have been recognized as in line to weigh in at 3:30 p.m. at the Old Key Lime House, but have not unloaded your fish you can still legally weigh-in your catch. Call-ins will not be allowed. Your vessel must be seen and recognized as in line to weigh-in at or before 3:30 p.m.

The Lantana Fishing Derby top prize is \$2,500 for the largest fish, either a kingfish, dolphin or wahoo. If the fish is over 60 pounds an additional \$500 will be awarded. Cash prizes in the species categories are Kingfish, Dolphin and Wahoo. There are cash prizes for the largest fish boated by a Lady Angler and Junior Angler, 13 years old or younger. For more info, contact the Lantana Fishing Derby, [www.lantanafishingderby.com](http://www.lantanafishingderby.com)

Barring any new major weather developments this weekend, the ocean should remain under three foot of wind chop. Once outside the tidal chop even smaller vessels can get into the dolphin action. Big dolphin have taken baits for anglers fishing from 300 yards offshore to 30 miles offshore. The bait you should use changes with the depth you are fishing. Dolphin catches are steady for all boaters during the morning and late afternoons.

Closer to shore, anglers wishing to haul in a dolphin should use a live greenie or troll a bonito belly with a red and black nylon skirt. This combination has caught several dolphin this week. If you are fishing in 150 feet of water out to about 225-foot anglers need to troll ballyhoo with a chartreuse skirt on it at the surface mixed with a few teaser baits. It has been common for dolphin to hit the teaser baits as well as the baited hooks resulting in double and even a few triple dolphin hook-ups at the same time.

Anglers can expect two different styles of fishing near shore. Some fish will be patrolling the edges of the where the darker fresh

water begins to dilute into the blue ocean water. These zones are always good places to drift sardines or free spool a live mullet or greenie. There is no telling what species of fish will strike your bait. Wahoo, kingfish, dolphins, hog snapper, cobia or a shark could take your bait.

Fresh water anglers should be very happy with the amount of rain we have had. Residential lakes are very good places to fish.

Live baits are by far your best choice, with jumbo live shiners being your best bait bet. Fish live shiners at the intersections of canals or where a lake narrows down to become a canal. These places are hot spots after any rainstorm.

Use a bobber to keep your shiner at or near the surface. Bass will find a shiner at the surface of the water an easy target to sneak up on and attack from the bottom. The next best practice is to keep the shiner just off the edge of the shoreline weeds and wait for a bass to come out of the cover and strike the bait as it heads for the cover of the weeds.

Panfish, such as bluegill and Redear sunfish are taking live baits with live crickets being one of the most sought after insect to eat. The rain has washed or knocked all kinds of bugs, lizards and worms into the water and the panfish

will be eating these types of baits until they are complete full. Floating a cricket at the surface near the shoreline weeds should be the best bait to fill your buckets with these fish. Live worms will work, just not as good as a cricket that is twitching the water surface.

Catfish are extremely active right now and they are hitting just about anything they can locate. Just let the bait lay on the bottom and wait for the catfish to come along and pick it up. Then set the hook and hang on as some of the catfish caught this week have tipped the scales over nine pounds.

Water managers may start moving water over the next few days and that means the best place to fish is where the water is moving. The moving water will make the bass and all the other fish work a little harder to stay in their position. This workout will make the fish have to eat more often. Since heavy rain showers are scattered around the county, your location may not be as productive as one just 10 miles away. Anglers who know where and how to catch a variety of fresh water fish will be the ones with the best catches this week.

If you are traveling out to remote canal locations make sure you keep aware of how your hot vehicle exhaust is affecting the dry under brush.

## Car Clinic

By  
Jorge Goyanes  
Car Clinic



## Make Your Vehicle Repair Experience Run Smoothly

Arrive on time for your appointment, if you do not have one remind yourself that others do and we will do everything possible to get to you as soon as we are done with those folks.

Please inform the service advisor if your hood supports are worn or don't work properly so the technician working on your vehicle does not get a concussion when the hood falls on his head. If we see a broom-handle in the engine compartment we know what holds your hood up.

Inform us if any of your windows do not come back up if they are lowered, we don't know this and we usually lower the drivers side window to see if we are going on the lift properly and to let the heat out if the car has been in the sun for hours.

If your car has quirks on starting please let us know what they are. If you have to jiggle the keys, turn off the radio and touch St. Christopher on the dash in order to start the car, we need to know this.

If your driver's seat motor does not work and the seat does not move and you are a small person, let us know so we don't blow

an ACL joint trying to get in the car.

If you had someone work on your car and you don't tell us, we will know. We had a case of a customer asking us to install her radio and when we took it out of the console the wiring was like spaghetti and butchered. She said her neighbor tried to install it but couldn't. This was after I pointed the mess out to her and that it would take us longer than we anticipated because we had to fix that mess first and it would cost more than what we quoted her over the phone.

Don't try to diagnose a vibration problem yourself, nine out of ten times when we are asked to do an alignment due to a vibration the problem is either bad tires or severely worn front end parts.

If you bring cookies and donuts to us you will be in good stead with the staff, if you bring Grand Marnier you will be my favorite customer.

And of course do not bring your own parts, I don't take ham, eggs and a croissant to Farmer Girl if I want a breakfast sandwich.

As always be well, take care and check that air.

## Open Carry Event at Lake Worth Pier

A trip to the Lake Worth Pier usually includes navigating a dangerous parking lot to find a parking space, then after paying to park, walking on a winding concrete pathway through huge seagrape trees over the berm only to encounter another dangerous parking lot. Once safely across the parking lot, there is grass, sand and some more concrete pathway.

Along the way, a fisherman is sure to encounter several, untheathered, children wildly having a good time, enjoying Lake Worth's magnificent beach. They may even en-



counter a surfer carrying his or her surfboard enroute to the water.

Next is to walk down a narrow wooden path alongside an open air bar with beach going patrons sipping adult beverages. To get to the fishing grounds you must stop at the window and pay to gain access to the fishing pier. The pier is about 18 feet above the water, safe from most fish that might jump out of the water. Orca has not been spotted in the area for quite some time.

Now safely on the pier, the fishermen begin fishing and maybe this is where the danger of fishing comes in and creates a need to carry a firearm to the Pier.

Using social media to schedule a gathering, a group of "fishermen" strapped on their side arms for protection from the wildlife they may encounter on the adventure in search of fish. It is legal in Florida to "open carry" a firearm when fishing.

These fishermen weren't likely to encounter any dangerous wildlife on the Lake Worth Pier but they exercised their right under Florida Law and enjoyed a morning attempting to pull fish from the water.



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