



It's official, the family season is here. It's in full swing and the smells inside and outside the homes along with the happy sounds of children playing with cousins can be heard throughout the area. For anglers, it marks a turning point for many anglers and their catches. Right after the carved turkeys, game hens and other assorted birds, and for others, hams, are packed back into the refrigerator for tomorrow's left-over feasting it's time to begin thinking about what kind of fish you might like to eat this week. It is also a time of change for anglers. Snook season for the Gulf Coast of Florida and all the Florida Keys closes December 1. On the Atlantic coast, snook season closes December 15 and reopens on January 31, 2020. The daily bag limit is one 28 to 32-inch-long snook per day. Lately, it's been hard to catch a snook within the slot limit, even with gogglye. Nevertheless, there are a lot of different fish taking baits right now and most of them are very good to eat, two or three times a week. Spanish mackerel are biting for anglers fishing

from the jetties, piers and for some inside the Intra-coastal Waterway. Most of the action is located near the inlets. That makes the Boynton Inlet jetties and the Palm Beach Inlet rock walls are two local area hot spots for Spanish mackerel. Silver spoons, cut mullet, cut sardine or other cut bait along with topwater plugs are favorite baits for these fish. Pompano are active from Cocoa Beach south to Jupiter. The all-time best bait for these fish is sand fleas. These little jewels are good for a lot of different fish, especially snapper. Now for those of you that know how to get live sand fleas you could load up on some very good eating fish. For those of you that do not know how to get sand fleas, you need a sand fleas rake and an hour of your time at the ocean's edge, and some muscle power. If live sand fleas are not available purchase frozen ones from a local bait and tackle shop. This bait will help you catch a lot of fish as well. Ocean conditions have been changing daily. As the cold fronts approach, ground swells build in front

of them. These silent rollers have been greeting boaters just as they leave the inlet. If you exit the inlet just as set of groundswells are pushing towards the beach it could mean big problems for even experienced boat captains. This week's example is the captain of a dive boat getting turned sideways to the swells and getting pitched out of the boat and into the ocean. All this being caught on camera. Fortunately, a jet skier and another vessel were close by and came to the rescue of the swimming captain and those onboard the vessel. For anglers with boats that can withstand large groundswells and choppy to rough sea conditions there are dolphin and sailfish biting. Big dolphin are biting from 150 to 300 hundred feet of water. It's not uncommon to have a 25 to 40-pound dolphin strike one of your baits. Troll big ballyhoo or big mullet. The bigger the better for the biggest dolphin we are going to see this season. If you have bonito strip baits available now would be a good time to set them out because they will not miss. Large bubble-head lures with strip baits work extremely well also. Smaller sailfish are biting near the inlets and over the rock reefs from 80 to 150 feet deep. These fish will strike trolled or drifting baits. Since the ocean is still rough it is best to troll your sailfish baits on the surface. Big mullet, bonito strip baits and for those that can drift a

live mullet is a surefire sailfish bait when the sailfish are in close to shore. If you fly fish for sails, the ocean really isn't your friend, but you can bring up a sail on teaser baits and then cast your fly to the area where the sailfish was spotted. The rough seas will make spotting the sailfish tough, but experienced fly-fishing anglers can make out if you have a spotter up high enough. Bluefish are biting in the rough surf north of the Jupiter Inlet. Fish from the piers and jetties for these fish when they are active, use a silver spoon and any cut bait for these fish. Remember, if you have fishing poles in the boat everyone in the boat should have a saltwater fishing license. Even the family members from up north are supposed to have a State of Florida fishing license if you take them offshore for a day of sport. Temporary licenses are far cheaper to buy online than have that to pay the fine for not having a fishing license. Bass fishing is good all over south Florida. Thanks to the cold fronts that have been moving through the area bass and panfish catches have improved. Even the non-native fish are biting. Bass are striking topwater plugs and spinnerbaits right now. Work these baits near the shoreline weeds. Live shiners are the most productive bait for bass, but a big topwater plug will attract bass to the hooks of your lures.

Oscars are one of the most active freshwater fish being caught by anglers in the eastern lake and canal chain. These fish will strike a wide variety of baits. You can catch a bunch of these fish from Lake Osborne if you fish the western bank area from the campground to Lantana Road. If you fish along the western shoreline near the airport you will catch Oscars. Stay out of the massive hydrilla growth areas. Because these fish are non-native please do not release them. You can eat these fish, I've been told they taste fine, but I've never eaten one. When I catch an Oscar, I feed it to the shoreline birds. I feed all non-native freshwater fish I catch to the birds or at least the ants. Black crappies are biting all over south Florida. The red-hot spot is the northwest section of Lake Okeechobee. The best bait is a Missouri mud minnow. Live minnows are the best bait for black crappie, referred to by most as speck. To keep your minnows alive, you must have a good aerator in your baitwell. It is best to not travel with a baitwell full of minnows as most will not survive the trip to Lake Okeechobee.

Purchase your minnows locally and your catch totals will be well worth the effort you put into getting to the northwest corner of the big lake. With the holiday gift-buying season officially here do not forget your favorite angler this special time of year. A fine fly rod for either saltwater or freshwater is just a few questions away if you shop at your local early opening bait and tackle shop. Any place else and you may just buy the wrong type of rod or reel. Plus, you won't have the panic buying frenzy going on around you. Lures and spinnerbaits make great stocking stuffer's and so do prepaid charter fishing trips on one of the local drift boats or on one of the private charter boats. Fishing is good all over south Florida. With the school kids vacationing for a week from school its time to hit the water with them and enjoy some quality family time. Especially those young visitors from the land of snow and ice and recent really cold temperatures. They will enjoy the fishing trip, and you might just become the favorite relative to visit every year as a result.

Car Clinic

By Jorge Goyanes
Car Clinic

PBLA Has New Art Gallery... Looking for Artists

Palm Beach International Airport, in partnership with Palm Beach County Art in Public Places, has announced the grand opening of its new Art Gallery. The new space boasts enhanced exhibition walls and lighting to better showcase artworks by 15 artists who call the Palm Beaches home. Centrally located on level 2 in the atrium near the putting green, the Art Gallery's pre-security location encourages passengers and locals to stop by to discover unique artistic expressions by locally and internationally renowned artists. Exhibitions change three times a year. In addition, starting in January, video interviews with featured artists will play on a continuous loop titled "Creativity Takes Flight" on PBC-TV Channel 20, with clips shared via social media. The inaugural exhibition's theme, "Artfully Discovering the Palm Beaches" highlights the diverse beauty found throughout Palm Beach County. The first exhibition runs December 11 through April 8, 2020. Curator and artist Nichole Hickey will be the show's

guest judge. Elayna Toby Singer, administrator of Palm Beach County Art in Public Places, is the Art Gallery's curator. "The art gallery at PBI supports the local creative economy every time exhibiting artists sell their work, which happily, is a

regular occurrence," said Singer. "Every artwork has a story, and every artist a story to tell." An Artists Reception will be held February 20, 2020, from 5:30-7 p.m. The public is invited to meet the artists and enjoy live music and refreshments. Complimen-

tary parking is offered to reception attendees in the Short Term Parking Lot, excluding SunPass. For call to artists details, please visit <http://discover.pbcgov.org/fdo/art/Pages/Calls-to-Artists.aspx>. Application deadline is December 2, 2019.

A Little Knowledge...

Can be a dangerous thing. Case in point: A long-time customer who "knows about cars" is well read on them and is very dedicated to doing his maintenance on his two cars one time had called me back when I installed a set of tires on his car and said that they were "noisy." By that he meant that there was road noise while he drove on the highway. This was four years ago by the way. His came from the factory with directional grooved tires, so that is what I sold him. That means that the tread goes in one direction so the tires on the right are mounted with the "outside" marked on the sidewall and it does specify this on the tire. Why did the tire manufacturers do that? To give your car better traction. The downside is that the tires have to stay on the same side of the car and cannot be cross-rotated so they have a tendency to get uneven wear if not rotated regularly. So here we are four years later and he calls me to say he wants me to get him another set of tires because the noise has gotten worse and even though he has only 30,000 miles on the set I sold him, he wants new ones and to make sure I get him

"quiet" tires. I order a set of non-directional treaded tires which I know are very quiet as far as road noise. Tires get installed, he comes back in five minutes and says the tires are as noisy as before. I know for a hard fact that these tires are quiet because I have them on my wife's car. I wonder if there is a crew from Candid Camera lurking in the parking lot. I get in his car and tell him to get in the passenger seat. Start driving and just going one block I can hear a terrible howling noise that I have heard many times before coming from... a bad wheel bearing. You see I did not question his diagnosis because he "knows a little about cars" and he has had strong opinions about what his car's needs are and what he wants done and usually brings a list of the services he wants performed regardless of the time or mileage. I made him an appointment for the next day to determine which bearing it is and he does not know this but I will charge him for the part only, no labor and hope next time he allows me to diagnose the problem for him. Happy Thanksgiving, as always be well, take care and check those bearings!

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