



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Now that kindergarten is fully in session in Austin and the bureaucrats and politicians are drooling over the prospect of more dinero extracted from an unsuspecting public, I was astonished to find some good news other than the fact that federal waters are now open for snapper so you don't need a license to go fish. It came during a beer call held by Fearless Leader and his announcement that the rag is now available at well over nine hundred locations throughout Shrimp and Hidalgo counties.

Thinking' on the tax issue with Gentleman Jim at another watering' hole, we got around to the wide distribution of the rag and its similarities to the venerable old Sears catalogue in the days before indoor plumbing was widely available. Hell it still ain't available in some parts of this region. That brought Gentleman Jim to the conclusion that to hell with raisin' the sin taxes, or havin' a porn tax or forcing teachers to go with only one pension system. Why not just put a big tax on toilet paper, say a buck and a half a roll. The amount of dinero raised would be huge, probably enough to keep them idiots in Sodom on the Colorado at home for the rest of the decade.

The Laguna Madre Fly Fishing Association has just announced year four of a popular tournament series, actually they announced it a couple of weeks ago but being a procrastinator I hadn't checked the PO Box in a while so I didn't see it.

Anyhow, the LMFFA's fourth annual catch and release tournament began on April 19 and ends on November 30th with trophies awarded to the longest redfish, trout, flounder, snook, bonito, Spanish mackerel, ladyfish, and jack crevalle. Don't present a carcass cuz it's catch and release, just take a picture of the critter on a measuring board or by a tape measure and turn the photo in at The Shop in Port Isabel; ask for Larry or Molly Haines. Those interested in entering must be members of the LMFFA. Go by the shop or hit the web site at <http://www.lagunamadreflyfishers.com/> the membership is cheap and the folks are fun, fun, fun.

The 17th Annual Rio Grande Marine Institute Bay Fishing Tournament is this weekend out of Jim's Pier. The fun starts this evening (if it's Friday April 30th when you read this) with a pachanga and boat auction beginning at seven.

This is a fundraiser for one hell of an outfit. It's usually the last stop for wayward kiddos to get their acts straight before they end up in Huntsville or worse. And they've been successful over the years according to Sweet Dawn who used to be a councilor and is now, I believe, a forensic pathologist up north.

The entry fee is 50 bucks a head and the winners are determined by the combined weight of one redfish, trout and flounder. For more information go by Jim's Pier

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.