

Community News



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Roy Rogers, center rear, plays for a group of guitar players at Wolfe Guitars in Jupiter during a slide guitar clinic he conducted.

Blues master Roy Rogers teaches slide guitar clinic

The lessons were given to 12 local musicians at Wolfe Guitars in Jupiter

BY STEFAN HARZEN
YourNews contributor

After a memorable performance Dec. 18, slide guitar virtuoso and blues legend Roy Rogers returned to Jupiter Dec. 21 to conduct a slide guitar clinic at Wolfe Guitars.

Harzen, chairman of the Taras Oceanographic Foundation, coordinated their two events and 12 fortunate local musicians, ages 13 and older, found themselves practicing with the "Master."

Rogers talked about his experience and approach to slide guitar but most importantly he demonstrated his technique and the instruments he uses, and he successfully taught the group a few licks everyone can work and build on.

Rogers also played one of the many guitars Jay Wolfe has in

his store.

It was an all around successful event that ended with autographs and photos being taken and no doubt everyone there felt that time had simply flown by too fast.

Wolfe and Harzen are already planning the next event, so anyone interested should contact Wolfe at (561) 746-2209 or Harzen at (561) 743-7683.

This story has been edited for space. For the full story, go to tcpalm.com/YourNews.

Jupiter tap water above average, utilities chief says

BY KIT BRADSHAW
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A recent report on water quality throughout the United States might have Jupiter residents worried, but David Brown, the town utilities director, said the report doesn't tell the whole story.

The "Drinking Water Quality Report," issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Working Group, stated that the Jupiter water system exceeded health guidelines for two key chemicals, trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.

What isn't apparent is a notation in the footnotes of the report. It states: "Water utilities are noted as exceeding the legal limit if any test is above the maximum contaminant level. Most municipalities exceeding the MCL for one test does not necessarily indicate the system is out of compliance."

"The key is that the federal government and the state monitor the Jupiter water supply," Brown said. "Our levels of contaminants are 22 percent lower than the standard. And we're ahead of the curve on making our water even better."

As an example, the federal standard for trihalomethanes is 80 parts per billion, and Jupiter's water has an average of 63 parts per billion, Brown said.

One of the underlying problems is that the Florida aquifer is 150 feet deep, and most utility companies draw from this aquifer for their water. This water contains organic matter, and when combined with the chlorine and ammonia used to cleanse the water, creates trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids as by-products.

"Our new nano-filtration treatment plant, which will soon be online, will have nearly all of Jupiter's water supply treated through the membrane processes, reducing the amount of organics and, in turn, reducing the potential for the creation of these by-products," Brown said.

Residents of Jupiter know the quality of the water and the efforts of the department to continually make it better, the utilities director said.

"Overall, I think this is good drinking water," said Steven Levine, a Jupiter resident who is professor emeritus of the University of Michigan Department of Environmental Health Services.

"I think when a report like this is published in the media, it not only has to say that the legal limit was exceeded once or twice a year, but that 99.99 percent of the time, it was not exceeded at all."

Over the last few years, Jupiter's water has been recognized as one of the best maintained and operated systems in South Florida by the Department of Environmental Protection. Last year, for the third time in a decade, the EPA office in Atlanta named Jupiter's water utility as the one of the best large groundwater systems in the southeastern United States.

Brown said these entities monitor the water for the 84,000-plus users in the Jupiter area, and the recognition indicates the quality of the water. But if residents are concerned, the utilities department provides home visits where certified laboratory professionals evaluate a resident's water.

"If they have any questions or concerns, residents can contact us for this evaluation," Brown said.

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