High bacteria counts at two PSL sites

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Treasure Coast Newspapers USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Don't swim in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River at Veterans Park and River Park in Port St. Lucie.

The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County issued a warning Thursday afternoon of high levels of enteric bacteria, an indication of fecal pollution, in samples taken Monday and Wednesday at both sites.

Potential health risks for those who ingest or come in contact with the water include upset stomach, diarrhea, eye irritation and skin rashes

How bad is it?

The health department considers levels above 70 enteric bacteria colonies in a 100-milliliter water sample to be unsafe. This weeks samples in the North Forks had bacteria levels of:

Veterans Park: 124 Monday, 591 Wednesday

River Park: 207 Monday, 429 Wednesday

The high-level areas will be tested again Monday. The advisories will remain in effect until results show consistent readings in the good range.

Samples taken this week at sites in Martin County – Leighton



The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County issued a warning Thursday to stay out of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River at two sites in Port St. Lucie, much like this warning posted in July 2018 at Leighton Park on the river in Palm City. TYLER TREADWAY/TCPALM

Park on the St. Lucie River in Palm City, Sandsprit Park on the river in Port Salerno and the Stuart Sandbar in the Indian River Lagoon between Sewall's Point and Sailfish Point - were all in the acceptable range.

What causes it?

The bacteria typically gets in waterways when heavy rains - like those in the area recently - wash fecal matter from pets, livestock and wildlife into the water.

Leaky septic systems and sewage lines also can cause the bacteria to enter waterways.

How's the water?: Check on the status of the water near you with our interactive map. Note: The map will not reflect the new advisories until an auto-update at 5 p.m.

FELONY ARRESTS

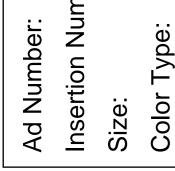
Jarrad Maliak Johnson,

25. 1600 block of Southeast Dixie Highway, Stuart; warrant for failure to redeliver hired vehicle. Tyler Anthony Scott, 23, 900 block of Mades Drive, Fort Pierce; warrant for unlawful use of a two-way communications device. Jason Michael Travis, 44, 900 block of Southwest 28th Street, Palm City; driving while license suspended.

Virginia Marie Tatem, 25, 4400 block of Southeast Village Road, Stuart; warrant for grand theft of property.

Cheyenne Marie Woodring, 22, 7700 block of Southeast Federal Highway, Hobe Sound; possession of fentanyl. Arrested in Indian River County.





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