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**LAKE KNOWLES CLOSED TO SWIMMERS AS NEW WEED GETS THE TREATMENT**

"No Swimming" signs were posted on the shores of Winter Park's tiny Lake Knowles on Friday after the city used special chemicals to try to kill a new breed of algae growing in the lakes. The 14-day ban on swimming is a "precautionary" and routine step, said city lakes and waterways supervisor Al Pieroni. Winter Park closes its lakes to swimmers each time it treats them with herbicides, he said, with the length of the shutdowns varying according to the kind of chemical used. Residents in the area who irrigate their lawns with lake water were also warned not to use the water or risk killing their grass and plants. Lake Knowles is being treated to kill a new breed of algae called Eleocharis. Pieroni said he has received reports that the weed is spreading in Florida lakes and waterways, but Lake Knowles is the first Winter Park lake where it has been found. The chemical used to kill the weed was recommended to the city by the Florida Fresh Water, Fish and Game Commission, Pieroni said.