

GREENFIELD



STAFF FILE PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

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Swimming area to close early for season

By **MARY BYRNE**
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GREENFIELD — City officials announced on Friday that the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area, which has been closed to swimmers since July 26, will close early for the season.

River use, restrooms and concessions will close for the season on Monday, according to Recreation Director Christy Moore. The playground and park amenities, however, will stay available for public use.

The swimming area, which typically closes for the season on Labor Day, was closed on July 26 due to the suspected presence of the parasite cryptosporidium. The presence of two parasites, cryptosporidium and giardia, was later confirmed on July 29, with a subsequent test on Aug. 1 confirming the continued presence of the bacteria.

“It was super hot that week, and we haven’t had a significant amount of rain since,” said Moore, explaining that per state Department of Public Health guidance, further testing couldn’t occur until the area had heavy rains that would flush the river.

Moore added the Recreation Department is at the point in the season when its college students who work

for the department in the summer are getting ready to head back to school.

“It just wasn’t fair to them to give them false hope that Mother Nature is going to cooperate,” Moore continued. “She clearly had different plans for us.”

In her time with the department, Moore said the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area has never closed early for the season due to drought or bacteria.

“We have certainly had our share of too much rain and having to move stuff or close because of flooding, but never in my years of service have we been in such a drought status,” she said.

On Aug. 10, the state issued a Level 3 critical drought designation for the area, which remains in effect. Greenfield subsequently banned all non-essential outdoor watering and water use.

“We just want to thank the community and staff for their patience and being able to handle the adversity that Mother Nature gives us each year,” Moore said. “Each year there’s a different challenge, and that’s what is so unique about the field of recreation — we never know what’s going to come to us.”

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