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## HEALTHY BEACHES IN WALTON COUNTY HIGHLIGHT OF STATE SURGEON GENERAL VISIT



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**Santa Rosa, Fla.** — Today, State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong visited Walton County to highlight their recurring excellence in water quality. The event at Grayton Beach State Park featured a number of activities including a water quality testing sampling demonstration and opportunities for the public to join in on free outdoor activities. Dr. Armstrong led kayakers and paddle boarders in a trek around the lake, demonstrating the number of outdoor activities available to residents and visitors in Florida.

The Health in All Places Tour is a chance for state, local and community leaders to come together and highlight what each coastal county has to offer when it comes to health. County Health Departments are located in each county and are charged with promoting health and providing necessary health services to their communities. This tour is a chance to highlight those services and how they move health forward in communities across Florida.

The department is offering free, broadcast-quality video for use by the media from this event. You'll find 40 seconds of video followed by two interviews at the FTP link [http://ww10.doh.state.fl.us/pub/dohcomm/HIAP\\_WALTON.mp4](http://ww10.doh.state.fl.us/pub/dohcomm/HIAP_WALTON.mp4). Below is a suggested script followed by verbatim from the sound bytes.

WALTON COUNTY IS BEING HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE HEALTH IN ALL PLACES TOUR. TODAY, STATE SURGEON GENERAL AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH DOCTOR JOHN ARMSTRONG JOINED COMMUNITY LEADERS AS THEY SHARED WITH RESIDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITY. THE EVENT KICKED OFF WITH A DEMONSTRATION OF WATER QUALITY TESTING TO SHOW HOW THE DEPARTMENT KEEPS RESIDENTS HEALTHY AND SAFE THROUGH THEIR MONITORING EFFORTS. IT WRAPPED UP BY GIVING EVERYONE THE CHANCE TO TRY THEIR HAND AT KAYAKING AND PADDLE BOARDING IN THE NEARBY LAKE. THIS IS ONE STOP IN A COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL TOUR TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE MANY ACTIVITIES FLORIDA HAS TO OFFER THAT ALLOW RESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET AND STAY HEALTHY.

NAME: Dr. John Armstrong/State Surgeon General/Florida Department of Health

LENGTH: 24

OC: "will be safe"

"When people go to the beach they want to know that they are going to be safe and that means they aren't going to get sick when they go into our beautiful Gulf waters. So the department conducts regular testing of all ocean water and our 30 coastal counties and 255 beaches to reassure the people of Florida and our visitors that their time at the beach will be safe."

NAME: Commissioner Bill Chapman/Walton County

LENGTH: 19

OC: "harmful to their health"

"We have a lot of activities that go on down here at our beaches and also some of our springs that we have within the county and water testing is important. We don't want anyone visiting any of those locations to have any difficulties or contract something that could be harmful to their health."

TAG: THE TOUR CONTINUES TOMORROW IN BAY AND GULF COUNTIES WHERE HEALTH OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS WILL HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES GETTING ACTIVE.

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