

Drinking water notice sparks concerns from citizens

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On Monday, The City of Providence Municipal Utilities' Facebook page posted that the City of Providence's water had "levels of manganese above the secondary maximum containment level and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lifetime Health Advi-

sory." The notice explained that the Water Treatment plant was working to mitigate the issue as quickly as possible. The notice cited a chemical pump failure as the reason why there was an issue with the maximum containment level (MCL). It explained that the secondary standard affected both color and taste delivered to customers.

"As our customers, you have the right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation," the notice explained. As part of routine monitoring, the Providence Water Treatment plant had samples that showed manganese levels above the secondary MCL of 0.05 milligrams per liter, and

also above the EPA's lifetime health advisory level of 0.3 milligrams per liter. The notice explained that most customers did not need to find an alternative water supply. However, it warned that infants, especially younger than six months, could experience neurological effects from continuous exposure to manganese. Therefore, an

alternate water resource was needed in preparing food and drinks for them. The notice gave a clear message: "This is not an emergency." The notice also specified that some people had health issues from drinking excessive manganese in their water over many years. It also

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Jason Jones | For The JE

The Webster County Trojans Marching Band took the field Saturday at the Maroon Classic at Madisonville-North Hopkins. The band won the Class AA competition. They will take part in their second competition of the 2026 season at Murray State University this Saturday.

Webster County band wins first competition

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This past weekend, the Webster County High School Trojan Marching Band competed for the first time this season. The band came home with first Place in Class AA, Best Color Guard, and Best Percussion. "It was an exciting way to begin

the season and a great reward for the many hours our students and staff have already put into this production," said Director Cristian Velez. The band's 2026 production is titled "Outlaw." The show takes the audience into a Western-inspired world centered around the character and attitude of an outlaw. Velez explained that in the band's production, "the students

are not only being challenged musically and visually, but are also learning how to portray characters and tell a story on the field." The show is a work in progress, as they are continually adding details throughout the season. "The show will continue to grow and evolve each week," said Velez, who is in his second year as the

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Provided

Heath Martin poses with his police truck and his card from Cash Express late last week. Martin is retiring from the Providence Police Department this week. His last working day is Friday.

Martin retiring from PPD

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At the end of the week, Assistant Police Chief Heath Martin is retiring from the Providence Police Department. Martin, who has been serving with the PPD for almost four years, began his law enforcement career in neighboring Marion before coming to Webster County. His total tenure in the field spans nearly 13 years. Working at Providence Elementary was a highlight for Martin in his time with the department. "We do the school traffic every morning and afternoon," Martin explained. He referred to seeing the students as "a highlight of his day." "A rough day gets a lot better with high fives and hugs."

Martin described himself as not one for a lot of words, but he spoke highly of his time in Providence. "Providence has been good to me," he stated. He added that he had grown to love the people and the small-town atmosphere of Providence. "I will miss the people." Friday is Martin's last working day. While he doesn't have any big trips or bucket list items planned for retirement, he does plan on staying busy. Martin is the pastor of Cave Springs General Baptist Church in Marion, and he will continue serving in that role. He also wants to help his father in his

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BOE approves tax rates in special meeting

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The Webster County Board of Education met in a second special called session on Sept. 10 — a little more than a week after another special called meeting on Sept. 1 — to approve the proposed tax rates. This special session was convened at 1 p.m., the same time as the previous special called meeting. Board Chairman Tim McCormick called the meeting to order at 1 p.m., and the session was adjourned at 1:02. Minutes for the meeting reported that there was a motion called for to approve the 2026-27 tax rates on

real estate and tangible property at 56.6 cents per \$100 of valuation. Board member Venita Murphy made the motion and David Asher seconded the measure. It was approved by unanimous vote of all five board members. According to the district, "The proposed General Fund tax rate of 56.6 cents on real property and 56.6 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$4,736,751.38. Of this amount, \$911,935.95 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 54.5 cents on real property and 54.5 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$4,561,006.19."

Additionally, the ditrift explains that "the proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$237,895 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$8,326; Instruction, \$229,569." The second action item was to approve the motor vehicle tax rate at 48.0 cents. This rate went unchanged from last year as well as the year before. Asher made the motion and it was seconded by Amanda Coomes. This rate was also approved by all five board members.

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