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SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Oxford Elementary opening pushed back

By Peter Wilson
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The opening of Oxford Elementary, originally planned for August 2026, will be pushed back to August 2027, according to a statement from Scott County Schools.

“Significant rainy weather in the fall, compounded by extreme, unprecedented cold temperatures and multiple weeks of snow and ice, contributed to this delay,” the

district said in the statement. “Unexpected site conditions that required mitigation early in the construction process prevented all parts of the facility from being under roof prior to winter weather.”

Students scheduled to be redistricted to Oxford will remain at their current school for the 2026-27 school year.

“Any student from Creekside Elementary School, Eastern Elementary, Northern Elementary School, or Scott County

‘Significant rainy weather in the fall, compounded by extreme, unprecedented cold temperatures and multiple weeks of snow and ice, contributed to this delay.’

Scott County Schools
Statement release

Middle School that would have been redistricted effective in August 2026 will remain at their current

school for the 2026-2027 school year,” the statement reads. The district will reach

out to families and students at Eastern Elementary regarding enrollment options due to possible overcrowding at the school.

“Due to continued growth in this part of our community, we know there will be a lot of students next year at Eastern,” the statement reads. “In preparation, there are also some additional enrollment options for Eastern families to consider. This information will be sent in a separate communication. With a dedicated staff, we know

they will continue to do great things at Eastern.”

Projected enrollment for Oxford in the 2026-27 school year was 361, according to Superintendent Billy Parker at a redistricting forum in December 2025. The school would primarily be filled with students formerly districted to Eastern.

As of October 2025, Eastern Elementary had 579 students enrolled, well above their designed capacity of 450 students, Parker said.



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

Scott County Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Hennigan in an existing storm shelter off Reno Drive. In a few months, a second, identical shelter will join it, more than doubling the capacity of the shelters in the Sawyer Pointe Community mobile home park.

Second Sawyer Pointe storm shelter will ‘easily’ double capacity

By Jack Thomas
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A second storm shelter will be added adjacent to an existing, identical structure along Reno Drive near Sawyer Pointe Community. The new \$165,000 facility will more than double the number of people who can access shelter in the area, from 93 to over 200.

The need for shelters around Sawyer Pointe, a mobile home community, was realized years ago, said Michael Hennigan,

Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director. He vividly remembers the call he received

after a tornado swept through Scott County.

“There’s a trailer on top of my trailer,” Hennigan said, quoting the call.

In 2024, two shelters were installed: one in Sawyer Pointe and another at Parkers Mobile Home Park in Stamping Ground.

The current shelter on Reno Drive is often over capacity during severe weather, according to Hennigan.

“The last two times we’ve activated (the shelter), we put 101 people in that room,” he said. “We were up close and personal.”

Tornado shelters in Scott County remain closed and unoccupied until the National Weather Service releases a tornado warning for the

area, Hennigan said. Two EMA staff or volunteers will oversee the shelters and lock the doors once severe weather closes in.

These structures are built to withstand an EF-5 tornado and can handle wind speeds up to 250 mph, he added.

In six to eight weeks, the foundation will be laid for the new shelter, where as quickly as one week the pre-built structure will go into place, Hennigan said. Once construction is complete, the

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In the know

Storm shelters are built to withstand **EF-5** tornadoes and handle up to **250 mph** winds speeds.

SCOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Court, P & Z seek proactive approach to data centers

By Jack Thomas
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Scott County Fiscal Court discussed the possibility of a siting ordinance that would act as the “first step” in a proactive approach to potential future data center development at its workshop meeting Friday, March 6. Magistrates will consider a data center moratorium at a future meeting, Judge-Executive Joe Pat Covington said.

While no developers have brought data center concepts to Georgetown-Scott County Planning Commission (GSCPC), Scott County should be prepared for the possibility, Covington said.

“Looking at some of our neighbors in other counties like Oldham County, Mercer County, and Mason County, where data center projects and developments have formally been proposed, ... there’s a lot of issues that go along with that land use,” he said. “I think it would be very wise of us to try to be proactive at looking at what we have on the books,

and then what would be wise to put into an ordinance that would really put parameters on where a data center could go or could not go.”

Covington expressed “real concerns” with data centers and similar developments being placed on “prime farmland” and soils of “statewide importance.”

“Those resources are finite; once they’re gone, they’re gone,” he said. “I don’t disagree that data centers hold a real function in today’s society. Today’s society is not what it was 20 years ago.”

GSCPC is currently “regulating it in the negative” when it comes to

data centers, GSCPC Director Holden Fleming said. As a result, data centers are “not really an option” in Scott County at this time.

“In our zones, we do not currently have any uses that would align with a data center, or could be in some way construed to mean that we would allow for data centers,” Fleming said. “In the absence of any



Covington



Fleming

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Coming up:
AARP Tax Aide
Thursday @ SCPL



Area deaths
David Lee Darby, 75
Isaac Abraham Frederick, 86

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