

FIVE DAY forecast
3/5/26

THURSDAY
70/58  AM 36%

FRIDAY
73/59  57%

SATURDAY
72/56  56%

SUNDAY
68/57  59%

MONDAY
74/58  59%

EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

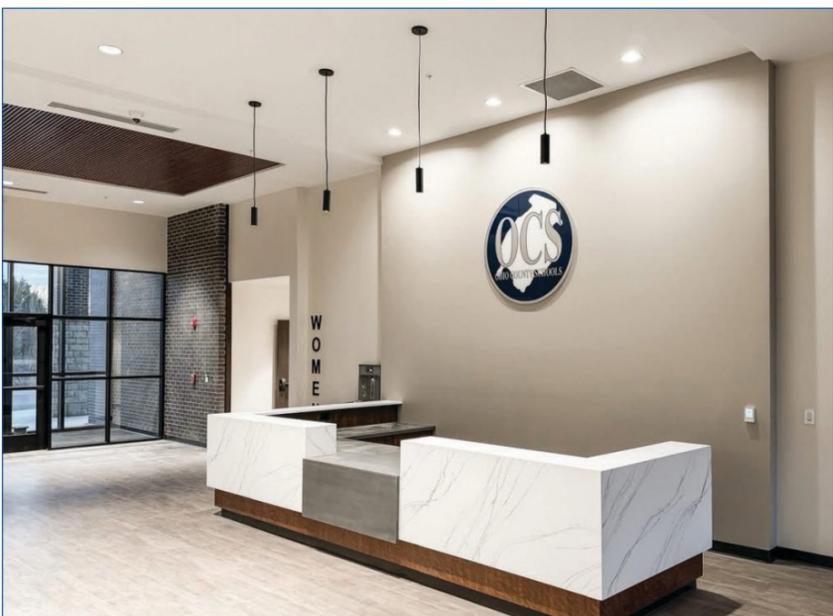


PHOTO | SUBMITTED
The main lobby entrance for the board office.

to serve as more than traditional office space. The goal was to establish a strong civic presence while incorporating modern materials and detailing. The result is a building that reflects both stability and forward-looking growth for the district.

The move also resolves challenges tied to the district's former bus garage, which was more than 100 years old and had structural

concerns. Those issues led to employees being displaced to various locations throughout the district.

In addition to the new Board of Education Office, a new bus garage and maintenance facility will allow employees to be centrally located, improving communication, efficiency and responsiveness. The updated space includes centralized training

areas, expanded garage capacity, and improved maintenance and storage facilities. Officials expect the bus garage and maintenance building to be fully operational in the coming days.

"We are very excited about the new District Offices and look forward to utilizing this facility for many years to come," said Seth Southard, superintendent of Ohio County Schools.



PRIMARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

while optimizing overall health. The clinic offers a broad range of services, including check-ups and physicals — including DOT physicals — as well as women's, men's, pediatric and senior care.

Additional services include behavioral health care, hormone replacement therapy for men and women, medical weight loss programs, IV hydration and same-

day sick visits for established patients. The practice accepts all major insurance plans.

During her remarks, Coffman emphasized the importance of accessible, community-based healthcare and the role small businesses and healthcare providers play in strengthening local communities. Chamber members had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the services

available to residents in Ohio County and surrounding areas.

Chamber Coordinator Lauren Gunter thanked The Cecilian Bank for sponsoring this month's meeting lunch and for having Subway cater the meal.

The Ohio County Chamber of Commerce regularly hosts meetings to spotlight local businesses, organizations and community initiatives.

SUBPOENAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

needed to draft a fully informed budget proposal.

According to Osborne, legislators have spent months requesting information tied to state spending obligations, particularly involving the Kentucky Employee Health Plan. He said the lack of detailed actuarial data and long-term projections has made it difficult to responsibly finalize appropriations for state agencies and programs.

The subpoenas were issued by the co-chairs of the

Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee. They are directed to the state budget director, as well as the secretary and deputy secretary of the Personnel Cabinet.

Lawmakers are seeking actuarial reports, internal studies, recommendations, and related communications concerning the Kentucky Employee Health Plan for plan years 2023 through 2028.

The request also includes documentation regarding benefits,

enrollment policies, premium rates, claims trends, enrollment projections, and consultant communications connected to the 2026-2028 plan years.

Legislative leaders maintain the information is necessary to ensure long-term financial stability and transparency as they continue working through the biennial budget process.

The administration has not yet publicly responded to the subpoenas.

Court Discusses Wildfire Risks, Draft Protection Plan

BY **SETH DUKES**
OCTN GOVERNMENT

HARTFORD — Ohio County officials were told last week that the county faces a heightened wildfire risk and could benefit from adopting a formal Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

During the Feb. 24 meeting of Ohio County Fiscal Court, representatives with the Kentucky Division of Forestry outlined concerns stemming from extensive timber and wind damage caused by the 2021 tornadoes.

Kessley Baker, a wildfire mitigation specialist with the division, said storm debris left behind has increased fuel loads in wooded areas.

"We feel like this county would benefit from a community wildfire protection plan," Baker told magistrates.

She explained that the plan would be similar to FEMA mitigation plans and would include a comprehensive risk assessment along with recommendations aimed at reducing wildfire threats.

Adopting the plan would offer several advantages, including improved competitiveness when applying for grants, Baker said.

Nolan Webb, a member of the division's Tornado Strike Team, said the federally funded program was created to help landowners recover from the 2021 storms.

"The Tornado Strike Team was specifically created to allow landowners, in some way, shape or another, to return their properties to what they were before the storms," Webb said.

He noted that the team can assist with removing large amounts of woody debris, establishing fuel breaks and



PHOTO | SCREENSHOT
Ohio County Judge-Executive David Johnston listens to a presentation about the benefits of having a community wildfire protection plan in place at the Ohio County Fiscal Court meeting February 24.



PHOTO | SCREENSHOT
Magistrates Dale Beavin and Larry Morpew listen to Nolan Webb, a member of the Tornado Strike Team, explain the benefits of the team's services.

implementing other mitigation measures depending on the needs of each property. prepared a draft wildfire protection plan but needs additional input from county

Webb said he has **PLAN** CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

LEGAL NOTICE
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Marestalk (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese knotweed, (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

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Kindergarten Registration

Ohio County Schools will be conducting kindergarten registration beginning March 10, 2026. See scheduled dates listed below. Registration will take place at each school location from 9:00am – 6:00pm.

Each child will participate in academic screenings during the kindergarten registration event. Parents are asked to bring the items listed below. If you are unable to take your child for registration at the school that your child will attend, please take your child to another school to enroll and the records will be sent to your child's home school. **To enroll in kindergarten in the state of Kentucky, a child must be 5 years of age on or before August 1, 2026.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING EARLY ENROLLMENT, CALL THE OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, 270- 298-3249.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION SCHEDULE:
Tuesday, March 10: Horse Branch Elementary - 9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday, March 12: Beaver Dam Elementary - 9:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday, March 17: Wayland Elementary - 9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday, March 19: Southern Elementary – 9:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday, March 24: Fordsville Elementary – 9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday, March 26: Western Elementary – 9:00am-6:00pm

PARENTS NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS/INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD:

- Full Size Certified Birth Certificate
- KY Physical Examination Form by January 1, 2027
- KY Immunization Certificate
- Eye Examination (by an optometrist or ophthalmologist – must be done
- Social Security Card
- Dental Screening/Examination – completed by January 1, 2027)