

Ohio County jail, Hope for Life to partner

The Ohio County Detention Center will partner with Hartford-based nonprofit Hope For Life Women's Resource Center to offer parenting classes for inmates.

The first class is scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. Sunday at the detention center, with classes expected to last for a duration of approximately 12 weeks.

"I'm super excited. I think it will be a great resource for our inmates," said Ohio County Jailer Landon Spurlock. "... After I took office, programs and resources for our inmates have always been kind of at the forefront ... of what we wanted to do — trying to help them out as much as we can to be successful once they get out.

"Classes and programs like this have always been something that we're trying to improve on and do all



LONDON SPURLOCK

the time," Spurlock added. Stacy Boyd, founder and board president of Hope for Life and an educator with Ohio County Schools, echoed Spurlock's excitement and looks forward to providing guidance and knowledge.

"... I have worked with jail ministry before, so (this) comes natural for me," Boyd said. "This is my 25th year as a teacher. I love teaching in different settings.

"... This is just a great collaboration for me," Boyd added.

Founded in 2013, Hope for Life has aimed to serve women and families in Ohio County and the surrounding region by assisting women through pregnancy, postpartum, adoption and more by providing life skills education, parenting resources and additional support to "help build stronger families and brighter futures," accord-

ing to the organization's website.

Spurlock, who started his tenure as jailer at the start of 2023, said Boyd worked with some inmates before he came into office and began conversations with Boyd about a potential partnership at the suggestion of Chief Deputy Ronnie Schroader.

"(Stacy) had already kind of dealt with some of our inmates. She took some of the females out and helped them," he said. "So when we decided that we wanted to offer this class, Stacy was the first person I reached out to.

"I think with Stacy's teaching experience and her passion for this work, I think (the inmates will) get some really good materials (and) some good lessons out of this," Spurlock said.

The classes will utilize a research-based, real-time curriculum called Bright-Course derived from Arizona-based nonprofit Heritage House '76, which is used for Hope for Life's on-

site programming.

"... We're going to ... work on setting goals and focusing on ... when they transition back into the home with their children (and) what that looks like," Boyd said.

Boyd said there will also be a focused curriculum offered to the male inmates, where she will be assisted by her husband and local pastor Greg Boyd.

"... It's such a great opportunity for dads to realize that, even if they're a part-time dad, how to still father their child," she said. "... While our center says 'Hope for Life Women's Resource Center,' we've never just been a women's center.

"We do focus on pregnancy and families in need that way, but our mission is building stronger families in our community — that's what we're centered on," Boyd continued. "... Our passion is families that are struggling whether they're separated through jail or

separated through the court system; we look at the 'why' and then we look at the 'how' — why are we separated (and) how can we get back together? ... And when they get back together, what's going to change? Because what was happening before didn't work."

Both Spurlock and Boyd find the collaboration can help inmates change their respective narratives.

"... Most of our inmates have children (and) stepchildren. ... Most of them have several children. So when they are incarcerated, they're not parenting their kids. ... Sometimes, you don't know who has these children, or what they're exposed to, or what they're seeing or what they're being taught," Spurlock said. "I think the importance of this program is to help these parents get these lessons on how to deal with certain situations with their children and how to be a better parent so that when they do get out there,

maybe their children won't fall ... down the same path ..."

"... It's constantly shaking off that stigma and rebuilding their identity as parents, and looking at that vision for their children," Boyd said. "All of that encompasses building those stronger families because we need that in our community."

Additionally, Boyd hopes the inmates feel confident when they leave the jail that "their time there is not going to keep them from being great parents" and will continue to use Hope for Life upon being released.

"When they walk out, they can take the tools that we are going to work together on and that we are still going to be a resource for them," Boyd said. "They can become that strong parent — that identity of being in jail can be shaken off and they can rebuild ..."

OFD recruiting for large class of new firefighters

The Owensboro Fire Department is in the midst of a hiring process for its next recruit class as the department looks to replace retiring members.

The department is recruiting for the new training class, which will begin in the summer. It is looking to hire 10 to 12 firefighters by the end of the hiring process, Fire Chief James Howard said Wednesday.

"By the end of this month, we will have nine vacancies" due to retirements, Howard said.

Several retirements were anticipated, but some staff members retired earlier than expected, Howard said.

"Some folks opted to retire some months early," Howard said. "I expected we were going to be down several people by summertime, but the timetable was

earlier than I expected."

City firefighters start at \$56,202 annually, a figure that includes \$4,562 in state incentive pay. All city employees receive cost-of-living and step increases in pay. Owensboro city commissioners adopted new salary schedules that included the step increases in 2023.

The city fire department is competitive in salaries with other regional departments, Howard said.

"We are at this point. It's never in stasis," Howard said. Departments raise their pay to beat the salaries of the others, which is an ongoing cycle, Howard said.

"If you get ahead of the competition, you don't stay ahead of the competition" without salary increases, he said.

The department's hiring phase began last week and will end March 14, a week

after the department holds an open house for potential applicants and the public at the Walter Freeman Fire Training Center on Daviess Street.

The process involves multiple steps, including a preliminary written test followed by a physical fitness test. Candidates who pass those tests will go on to oral examinations, background checks and a formal interview.

The steps are designed to narrow the candidate pool until those considered the most qualified remain.

"It has to be planned just right, but the end result is we have a list of people geared to do this," Howard said. By the end of the hiring process, "we know they want to be here," he said.

To apply, a person must be at least 18 years old, legally able to work in the U.S. and have no criminal record. The department also has several standards for new hires.

"We want them to be learners and problem solvers," Howard said. Candidates must also be good communicators and have a desire to serve the community with compassion, Howard said.

The department is seeking both new recruits and people interested in transferring from other fire departments.

"We are really looking for someone who shares our values," Howard said.

Training is conducted at the department's fire training center. While the new training center was being built, OFD sent recruits to the state fire academy in Muhlenberg County.

With the new fire training center, recruits "can go home and go to bed at night" in Owensboro, rather than stay in dorms at the state academy, Howard said. Being able to provide training in the city "makes a difference in your pool of candidates," he said.

The March 7 open house at the fire training center will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Howard said the event gives potential recruits a chance to see the department's equipment and facilities. The open house is also an opportunity for city residents interested in the department to ask questions.

"It's another opportunity to show the training center to the public," Howard said.

Applicants can apply on the city's website, owens-

boro.org, or the OFD website, owensboro.org/departments/fire.



JAMES HOWARD

COUGARS

FROM PAGE B1

14-of-48 (29.2%) from the field. Half of those attempts came from three-point range, where the Cougars finished 5-of-24 (20.8%). McLean managed just five free-throw attempts on the night, converting three.

Despite the final margin, the Cougars continued to compete on the boards, finishing with 27 rebounds.

Camden Baird led McLean with 11 points, shooting 4-of-9 from the field and knocking down three of his seven attempts from beyond the arc. Layden Bozarth added 10 points on 4-of-11 shooting, including two three-pointers, while also grabbing five rebounds. Braxton Floyd contributed nine points, finishing 3-of-5 from the field and 3-of-4 at the free-throw line, and added two rebounds.

Gavin Mauzy scored two points on 1-of-2 shooting and collected a rebound, while Will Gatton added two points on 1-of-2 from the field and pulled down two rebounds. Brooks Lynam chipped in two points and secured three rebounds. Reid Gatton contributed five rebounds, and Jackson Abney added four boards as the Cougars finished with 27 rebounds as a team despite the shooting struggles.

McLean's difficulty finishing at the rim and drawing fouls limited scoring opportunities, and South Warren capitalized to build



Photo by Tom Carr Photography

Layden Bozarth draws heavy contact on his way to the basket during McLean County's final regular season game against South Warren on Thursday.



Photo by Tom Carr Photography

Reid Gatton goes strong to the rim during Thursday night's home loss to South Warren High School.

separation over the course of the game.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AHEAD

The Cougars shifted their focus to postseason play as the 10th District Tournament began Feb. 24 at McLean County High School. The tournament featured McLean County, Ohio County and Muhlenberg County, with the host site rotating annually

among the three schools. This season, the event returned to Calhoun.

With a 17-11 record and a second-place finish in the regular season district standings, McLean County entered the tournament with experience and consistency. The seven consecutive winning seasons represented one of the most stable stretches in program history.

McLean County drew Muhlenberg County in the

opening round. The two teams split their regular season meetings, with each defending its home court. The matchup also mirrored last season's district championship setting, when the tournament was played at Muhlenberg County High School. That game came down to the final possession, with McLean's potential game-winning shot at the buzzer circling the rim before falling away.

LEGAL NOTICE

The McLean County Fiscal Court is requesting proposals from interested and qualified contractors for the McLean County Courthouse Annex HVAC Modernization Project. All qualified firms interested in providing the specified contracting services should contact the Judge Executive's office to obtain the required information by March 6, 2026. All responses are due by 4 PM Central Time on March 27, 2026.

For information contact: Mr. Curtis Dame, Judge Executive, 210 Main Street, Calhoun, KY 42327. Phone: (270) 273-3213. Email: curtis.dame@mcleancountyky.gov

By Order of the McLean County Fiscal Court

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
McLean County Fiscal Court INVITATION FOR BID

The McLean County Fiscal Court has experienced damages due to a flooding event occurring in April 2025 (DR-4864-KY). The Court is seeking bids for title work, closing services, and title insurance for a federal property buyout grant program. Companies desiring to provide services can access the request through the DFS Procurement Services Portal ("Portal") at dfs.bonfirehub.com. Bids must be submitted through the Portal. All bids are due no later than 9:00 a.m. CT on March 6th, 2026, through the online Portal. Bids will be opened on March 6th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CT at the McLean County Judge Executive's Office. Bids will be awarded at the Fiscal Court meeting scheduled for March 12th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. CT at 210 Main Street, Calhoun, KY 42327. All companies, including women, minority, and veteran owned businesses are encouraged to submit a bid.

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Brynn Arnao
 ER Assist Buyout Team
 606-268-4228
buyout@erassist.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Advertisement for Request for Proposal

The McLean County Fiscal Court will be receiving responses to the following Request for Proposal ("RFP") for:

The McLean County Courthouse Annex Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning ("HVAC") Modernization Project.

Firms wishing to respond must attend a mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting to be held **March 9, 2026 at 210 Main Street, Calhoun, KY 42327 at 10:00 AM Central Time.**

Firms planning to attend the Pre-Proposal Meeting and site visits must notify the contact below and request the RFP packet at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Contact: Mr. Curtis Dame
 Judge Executive
 210 Main Street
 Calhoun, KY 42327
 Phone: (270) 273-3213
 Email: curtis.dame@mcleancountyky.gov

The Pre-Proposal Meeting is **mandatory**. Only responses from those attending the conference will be considered.

Responses to this RFP will be due on or before March 27, 2026 by close of business. Responses may be hand-delivered, mailed or shipped to following:

Attn: Curtis Dame
 Judge Executive
 McLean County Courthouse
 210 Main Street
 Calhoun, KY 42327

All RFP responses must be marked received, post-marked, dated or time-stamped as of the due date above.

All questions concerning this RFP will be answered at the Pre-Proposal Meeting. After the Pre-Proposal Meeting, questions may also be submitted in writing, preferably via email to the above contact prior to **March 26, 2026.**