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Mustang News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 • MUSTANGNEWS.INFO • 50 CENTS

**Read by
Ray
Hudson**

Around Town

Snacks needed for Cardinal Point's Grub Hub

Cardinal Point, Canadian County's Family Justice Center, is seeking snacks for its Grub Hub.

Items needed are: cases of water; fruit squeeze pouches for children; peanut butter and cheese crackers; popcorn; fruit snacks; individual bags of chips, cookies and goldfish; mac and cheese, fruit, pudding and Jell-O cups and any other individually packaged items friendly to children or easy snacking.

Save the date for annual Chamber banquet

Mustang Chamber of Commerce members can save April 28 as the date of the annual awards banquet and silent auction fundraiser.

Sponsorships available for MHS Beast Week

Businesses can purchase sponsorships for Mustang High School's Beast Week, which raises funds for a community member(s), who is often a Mustang Public Schools student or employee with a life-threatening illness and/or expensive medical bills.

There are five sponsorship levels to choose from and different benefits. For more information, email mustanghighstuco@gmail.com.

To 'protect the next innocent victim'

Family, friends seek justice for MHS alumna in fatal DUI case

By **HALEY HUMPHREY**
newseditor@mustangnews.info

Irreplaceable, faithful, joyful. Those were some of the words family members and friends used to describe Marissa Murrow, a Mustang High School alumna, who died in a head-on collision Oct. 3, 2020.

Malcolm Penney, 41, of Oklahoma City, who has been charged with second-degree murder and leaving the scene

of a fatality accident, Judge Paul Hesse and a courtroom of more than 50 people listened to five of Murrow's loved ones give victim impact statements Jan. 18 in Canadian County District Court. The date was supposed to be Penney's sentencing.

However, Penney's attorney Daniel Hensch filed a motion for continuance the morning of Jan. 18 because the presentence investigation that was ordered

by Hesse in November 2021 had not been completed. Hesse and the attorneys agreed to have the statements read and reschedule the sentencing until the Department of Corrections presentencing report is complete.

The report has been completed, and the sentencing will be at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 1.

"That was a long process only to have the sentencing continued," Marissa's father Jeff



MARISSA MURROW

ed for Sept. 13, 2021; however, he changed his pleas Nov. 23, 2021 to guilty to second-degree murder and nolo contendere to leaving

Murrow said.

Penney first pleaded not guilty to both charges in May 2021. His jury trial was slated for Sept. 13, 2021; however, he changed his pleas Nov. 23, 2021 to guilty to second-degree murder and nolo

contendere to leaving the scene of a fatality accident.

Penney had a blood alcohol content of 0.169 the night of the collision, which is more than double the state's legal limit. His criminal history also indicates multiple driving under the influence convictions in several states dating from 2012 to 2020.

MHS wrestling head coach Brian Picklo was

See **DUI**, Page 6A



Longtime Mustang resident Glen Muse is described as anything but ordinary by those who were close to him. In this picture, circa 2017, Muse was the oldest person to mount Howdy the Texas Longhorn, owned by Straka Longhorns in Harrah. Muse died Jan. 8. Photo / Provided

'An open-minded gift'

Community members reflect on service leader who died Jan. 8

By **HALEY HUMPHREY**
newseditor@mustangnews.info

Although they weren't super close friends, Mustang Historical Society President Carole Hanna wasn't blind to the gift of a man in front of her.

The historical society's founder Glen Muse died Jan. 8.

"Glen was the type of person who was very involved in giving back to the community that was his

home," Hanna said.

Muse founded the historical society after serving 38 years with the Federal Aviation Administration as a safety inspector. He and his family moved to Mustang in 1966, where he would later play a significant role in building the Mustang Christian Church.

The Walls native became a Mustang

See **GIFT**, Page 6A

Commissioners honor longtime county bailiff

By **HALEY HUMPHREY**
newseditor@mustangnews.info

Canadian County Commissioners approved a resolution Monday making Courthouse Conference Room B the Tammy Perando Conference Room.

Perando has served the county for 27 years as a bailiff for three judges. Judge Jack McCurdy said Perando has an exemplary work ethic and has been loyal to Canadian County since Jan. 3, 1995.

"I'm deeply honored," Perando said. "I never expected anything like this."

There will be a retirement party at 2 p.m. Friday inside the courthouse to celebrate her retirement.

Inside the courthouse there are four conference rooms, two of which have yet to be named.

The first one was named after another bailiff, who served more than 30 years with the county.

In more commission news, the members approved the annual agreement of the Central Oklahoma Workforce Development Area Consortium among Canadian, Cleveland, Hughes, Lincoln, Logan, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

Commissioner Jack Stewart will continue to serve on the consortium and Commissioner Dave Anderson will fulfill the alternate duties on the workforce's board.

In District 1 news, commissioners approved engineering services for \$2,183 from Myers Engineering for the Waterloo Road bridge project.

The project seems to be never-ending, Commissioner Marc Hader said, however Oklahoma Department of Transportation officials say it should be wrapping up soon.

More than 15 county vehicles and equipment were approved for surplus, as the district has purchased newer items.

In District 3 news, the commission indefinitely tabled approving a lease purchase agreement with GW Van Keppel Co. and/or

See **BAILIFF**, Page 6A



TAMMY PERANDO

Four vie for MPS' board seat

Jessie Morris

What makes you the most qualified person for the position?

I have an accounting degree and oversee taxpayer dollars on a daily basis as an auditor for the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector's Office. I understand that transparency and communication are paramount to parents and students.

I will listen to the community and will always take into

See **MORRIS**, Page 5A



Robert Rader

What makes you the most qualified person for the position?

I have had a lot of exposure to the public education system, which has given insight as to many challenges our educators face. My father was a teacher, coach and school superintendent. Both of my brothers are public educators, and we are all married to teachers. I started my career as a teaching faculty at St. Anthony

See **RADER**, Page 5A



Kevin Simons

What makes you the most qualified person for the position?

I believe I'm the best candidate, because I've been involved with the school district/community in some form for the last 31 years. I really care about this school district and community.

Although I did not go to school here, my wife went to school here all but a couple years and graduated from

See **SIMONS**, Page 5A



Audra Tucker

What makes you the most qualified person for the position?

I feel that we are all qualified in our own ways. However, I feel that I can bring a new perspective to the board, due to my background in the mental health field.

I have spent the past 18 years working with people from so many types of backgrounds. I have seen what a difference a good education

See **TUCKER**, Page 5A



Mustang, Oklahoma



USPS No. 595-120
1 Section

Bailiff From page 1A

RCB Bank for a 2022 3,500-gallon oil distributor truck and a 2023 Kenworth T370 truck for \$260,000. Commissioners tabled the agenda item to obtain more necessary documentation.

The truck is on order with Van Keppel. Stewart said the truck would allow the district to get more done and not be so dependent on a contractor's timing.

In assessor news, the commission approved authorization of making Beth Lane, Dutton Circle, Kayce Street and Rip Way as private roads for 911 addressing purposes.

The commission approved a pricing schedule between AT&T and the board for internet services at the Children's Justice Center.

In health department news, the commission acknowledged the designation of Canadian County Health Department requisitioning and receiving officers, which was tabled at the Jan. 18 meeting. Jennifer Boyle and Tory Butler will be requisitioning officers and Kimberly Killman and Tamara Storrs will be receiving officers.

In sheriff office news, commissioners approved its commissary fund financial statement for Dec. 31, 2021.

In jail news, Undersheriff Kevin Ward reported there were 245 total inmates, 213 of those are in the county, 32 are out-of-county and 10 are awaiting Department of Corrections transport.

Gift From page 1A

Kiwanis Club member in 1980, where he would also serve as president.

"Glen Muse was a leader," current Mustang Kiwanis President Luke Ellis said.

He was the first person to introduce Ellis to the club, which provides nonperishable items to community members residing in the Mustang Public Schools district. Ellis said Muse was a strong advocate for community service and enjoyed talking to the people he served food to.

Muse was also a team player and a great friend, he added. He was Kiwanian of the Year several times.

Muse enveloped what the Kiwanis Club stands for and more, Ellis said.

"He will be missed," Ellis said.

Although Muse was not born in Mustang, he built strong connections with the city and felt the urge to preserve its history.

The historical society was born in the spring of 1999 after Muse wanted to save a schoolhouse from being demolished.

Hanna first met Muse in 2005 at a historical society meeting.

Her first impression of the handsome man was that he was a down-to-earth person.

"When he said something, it made sense," Hanna said.

Muse remained heavily involved with the historical society — attending all the monthly meetings and participating in activities throughout the community. He was always in charge of setting up the historical society's tent at Western Days.

However, Muse's health continued to take some hits, as he suffered from congestive heart failure, throughout 2021, making it the first year Hanna and other historical society members scrambled to get everything just right, as Muse had done for events.

Muse's vision for the historical society was for it to be a beacon of research education, Hanna said.

"We're a repository for Mustang's history and basically eastern Canadian County," she said.

Muse enjoyed having antiques at the museum that showcased what people used to make a living in the city decades ago.

"Glen was a gift to the community and to his church," Hanna said.

Muse's ideals for Bronco Territory did not go unnoticed, as he was inducted in the Mustang Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame in 2012.

DUI From page 1A

the first person to read a statement. For Picklo to be at the hearing, Mustang Public Schools athletics had to reschedule two different sporting events.

Picklo knew Murrow, who was 19 when she died, since she was a seventh grader.

Upon first sight, Picklo said he and his wife knew they had to introduce her to their eldest son Cameron.

The two soon became classmates and later would begin a relationship of six years until her death Oct. 3, 2020. While Picklo grew to know Murrow as his son's middle school sweetheart, he also developed a relationship with her as his wrestling team's manager.

Murrow kept the team organized, he added. She acted as a team mom to the wrestlers.

"More than anything else I can say about her, she was irreplaceable," Picklo said.

Murrow was like a sister to Picklo's youngest son Tate, cheering him on in all he accomplished on the mat.

The Picklos learned of Murrow's death the day of Tate's biggest match — he was competing to be the No. 1 wrestler in the country.

"She should be here," Picklo said. "We don't have enough people like her in this world."

The Broncos dedicated their season to Murrow, making their Dual State T-shirts her favorite color with "Marissa's Babies" in lettering on the back. MHS wrestling won the championship in 2020.

The last time Mustang won a state title was in 1983.

Ashlynn Stewart, Murrow's best friend, former

roommate and University of Central Oklahoma Sigma Kappa sorority sister, said the Mustang native made her feel whole. The two often called each other a "twin flame," as Murrow knew Stewart's heart completely.

Stewart was with Murrow Oct. 2, 2020 before she died. The girls reminisced on their future together, she said, planning their next adventures.

They were going to decorate their own home, study abroad, become teachers at the same school, stand next to each other on their wedding days, be there for each other's future children and more, Stewart described.

Murrow would later leave to drive to her parents' house. Stewart received a call from Murrow's mother with the news.

After struggling with depression and being diagnosed with PTSD, Stewart said she had to relearn how to do life again.

"It was a hard reality to realize life will continue going on, no matter if you're ready for it or not," she said.

Stewart said she and Murrow's loved ones must live longer than the law legally allows an offender's sentence to be. She looked to Penney sitting in the courtroom and offered him forgiveness.

Stewart said she hopes he finds salvation with God.

"If there's one way you can honor Marissa, let it be that, please," she said. "If you get to live and she doesn't, don't you dare waste your life."

The moment Cameron Picklo met Murrow, he knew she was going to be a

significant part of his life.

"Marissa's faith is something that amazes me to this day," he said. "She treated people with so much grace."

Picklo said Murrow was his future. He noted Penney's prior convictions, saying it was unacceptable.

"An Uber ride costs around \$15 on average," Picklo said. "Was that \$15 really worth taking this amazing girl away from her friends and family and cutting her life and plans short? This situation was so preventable in so many ways. Malcolm should have never been on the road for countless reasons."

Murrow was very close with her family, her father Jeff said. She was also very driven in many aspects of her life, including her work ethic, he added.

Murrow was a valedictorian at MHS and on the honor roll at UCO.

"Being Marissa's father was an incredible privilege," Jeff said. "She was full of joy and hope for the future."

After seeing nearly 400 people last year at a balloon release at UCO in remembrance of Murrow, Jeff wondered how many more lives his daughter would have impacted. Murrow lived by 1 Corinthians 16:14, which reads "let everything you do be done in love," he said.

The first time someone was sentenced in this case was when the Murrow family received news that if Marissa were to miraculously survive from having extensive areas of her brain damaged, she would never be the same, Jeff said.

As Murrow was an organ donor, the LifeShare

Foundation began finding matches and an honor ceremony was conducted. The Murrow family rallied together to complete the following tasks of planning Marissa's funeral and more.

When her parents picked up her vehicle, Jeff said it looked like a bomb went off. Murrow was trapped inside for 20 minutes, he said.

Before the collision, Murrow was aware of the danger for up to three seconds, according to an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper. She hit the brakes and swerved.

Jeff said he and his wife Kristy have lived the first 16 months of their life sentence without their daughter.

"We're living every parent's worst nightmare," he said.

Jeff questioned how and why Penney still had a driver's license with prior DUI convictions.

"I know there's a delicate balance every court must strike when it comes to sentencing," Jeff said. "I know expense and overcrowding are a main concern. I know too often there is just a slap on the wrist for DUI convictions. Let me tell you first-hand there is a high price to pay when justice is not enforced. Marissa paid with her life and her friends and family will pay with their sorrow."

He also asked the judge to consider Penney left the scene, rather than calling 911.

"I'm asking the court to recognize Malcolm is an absolute danger to society and make sure he never has the opportunity to drive again," Jeff said. "Please do

use the voter identification card you were mailed when you registered.

If you forget your voter ID or your name is not found in the Precinct Registry, you may still cast a provisional ballot by signing an affidavit. A provisional ballot is sealed in a special envelope and counted after Election Day once the voter's information has been verified by the County Election Board.

Election results cannot be certified until all provisional ballots have been researched, verified and counted.

Arnold says election officials are there to assist voters and ensure all procedures are followed on Election Day.

If you believe a law has been violated, contact precinct or county election officials immediately. Do not wait until you leave the

Teacher development grant deadline extended

The Fund for Teachers is extending its deadline for teachers to apply for self-designed professional development grants until 5 p.m. Feb. 24. Teachers can apply online at www.fundforteachers.org.

The program awards fellowships of up to \$5,000 for individual teachers and up to \$10,000 for teams of teachers for self-designed professional development experiences to take place anywhere in the world during the summer months.

Fund for Teachers' mission is to strengthen instruction by investing in outstanding teachers' self-determined professional growth and development to support student success, enrich

their own practice and strengthen their schools and communities.

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and the Tulsa Community Foundation are longtime administrative partners in the program.

Fellowships are open to Oklahoma prekindergarten-through 12th grade teachers in public, private, parochial and charter schools.

Applicants must have at least three years of teaching experience, be full-time employees and spend 50% or more of their time in a classroom setting.

In addition, applicants must have the intention of returning to their school and/or district

following their summer professional development. School administrators are not eligible for the grants.

"While teachers are facing phenomenal challenges in the classroom right now, it is important that we give them opportunities to pursue positive experiences that can both strengthen and enrich their teaching practice," Elizabeth Inbody, executive director of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, said.

For more information about Fund for Teachers or to apply for a grant, visit www.fundforteachers.org or contact Sara Wilson at swilson@ofe.org; 405-236-0006, extension 12.

Reminders, tips for Feb. 8 elections

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 8 for the City of Yukon Ward 1 Election, Piedmont School Election, Mustang School Election, City of Oklahoma City Mayor, Deer Creek School Election, Cashion School Election and Caddo-Kiowa Tech Center Election.

Canadian County Election Board secretary Wanda Arnold offers these important tips to voters — especially those who will be casting a ballot for the first time.

Voting tips:

- Mark your ballot using the example posted at your polling place and inside your ballot booth. If you make a mistake, do not try to correct it.

- Instead, take your ballot to the precinct officials. They will destroy the ballot and issue a new one.

- You do not need to make a selection for

each issue on the ballot in order for your ballot to be counted. The voting device will cast votes only for those issues, which you have marked.

- Ballots can be read by the voting device regardless of how you insert the ballot into the system. If the system detects too many markings for a single office or question, an error code will appear. The voter can choose to submit the ballot as it is or request a new ballot.

- If you need assistance or would like to use the audio-assisted ballot system, let a precinct official know. You do not have to show proof of a disability to use the audio-assisted ballot system.

- Be sure to bring an approved form of identification. Federal and state issued photo IDs, passports, and tribal-issued, photo IDs are accepted. You may also

use the voter identification card you were mailed when you registered.

If you forget your voter ID or your name is not found in the Precinct Registry, you may still cast a provisional ballot by signing an affidavit. A provisional ballot is sealed in a special envelope and counted after Election Day once the voter's information has been verified by the County Election Board.

Election results cannot be certified until all provisional ballots have been researched, verified and counted.

Arnold says election officials are there to assist voters and ensure all procedures are followed on Election Day.

If you believe a law has been violated, contact precinct or county election officials immediately. Do not wait until you leave the

polling location.

Voting activity is generally slowest during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon, but the Election Board says lines and wait times can vary from precinct to precinct. All voters who want to cast a ballot should be in line no later than 7 p.m.

"Anyone who is in line by 7 p.m. Tuesday and eligible to vote, will be allowed to vote," Arnold said.

You can locate your polling location using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.

The Canadian County Election Board is located at 200 S Bickford Ave. in El Reno and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, contact the Election Board at 405-422-2422 or CanadianCounty@elections.ok.gov.

Bill proposes placing moratorium on commercial medical marijuana licenses

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rep. Rusty Cornwell, R-Vinita, has filed legislation to temporarily pause the issuance of commercial medical marijuana licenses until existing facilities are fully in compliance with state law.

House Bill 3208 would sunset the moratorium after two years but allow the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to implement a moratorium on licenses as they deem necessary.

As of Jan. 6, OMMMA reported 12,197 active commercial licenses, a 22% increase from 9,987

in Jan. 2021.

"Since 2018, Oklahoma has seen a huge number of commercial medical marijuana grows and facilities flooding into our communities," Cornwell said. "In the initial rush to roll out a system for granting commercial licenses, we've failed to enforce their compliance with state law. House Bill 3208 would temporarily pause the issuance of commercial licenses so that we can confirm current operations are complying with the law."

Cornwell said many land purchases for these facilities are

completed with cash, leading to constituents' worries about potentially laundering illegal drug money for illegal facilities.

"We need to put a stop to these illegal behaviors in our communities now and ensure that licensed facilities are legal and safe," Cornwell said.

The bill also prohibits the transfer of licenses or selling of facilities if that license or facility has a current violation.

HB3208 is available for consideration in the upcoming legislative session, which begins Feb. 7 at noon.

not let him create more victims."

He asked for Penney to be given a life sentence.

Murrow and her mother Kristy were twins, as many called them. Kristy said many times her clothes would go missing and she knew to look in Murrow's closet.

"The truth is: we made each other better," she said.

The night Murrow died, Kristy said two relationships were stolen from her — her daughter and her dearest friend.

"There will always be two sides to every good thing that may come our way for the rest of our lives," Kristy said.

The end of Kristy's statement was directed toward Penney, telling the defendant she does not hate him. She requested his future be denied, as her daughter's was.

"I realize it will never be equal," Kristy said. "He will have his life. He will still have his children. They will grow and have life events that Marissa will never get to experience."

She asked the court to sentence Penney to the fullest extent of the law to hold him accountable for his actions. The mother said she could not live with another family potentially going through the trauma they have.

"Please do not let history repeat itself," Kristy said to the judge. "I'm asking you for justice for my daughter and for the protection of the next innocent victim, which is a protection Marissa did not receive."