

Judge denies motions to dismiss civil suit after MHS alum dies in collision

By **HALEY HUMPHREY**
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Canadian County District Judge Jack McCurdy denied two motions Aug. 5 to dismiss a wrongful death suit that came after a Mustang High School alum died in a head-on collision.

The parents of Marissa Murrow filed the lawsuit Nov. 20, 2020 after their daughter died Oct. 3, 2020 from a collision.

Jeff and Kristine Murrow initially filed against Malcolm Penney, 40, of Oklahoma City, his wife Amanda Penney and The Springs Events LLC

in Edmond. Recently, several more parties, Weathercoat Security and Boulevard Steakhouse, Inc., have been added to the lawsuit.

The Springs and Weathercoat filed motions to dismiss the plaintiffs' case.

Malcolm Penney was operating a vehicle Oct. 2, 2020 that entered the John Kilpatrick Turnpike, driving northbound, which was the wrong way, and collided with Marissa Murrow's vehicle, which was correctly driving in the southbound lanes, according to accident reports.

Penney is alleged to have been intoxicated after

leaving a wedding and reception ceremony at The Springs. The case's petition stated Penney had been consuming alcohol for nearly 10 hours at the event.

Penney is also alleged to have been charged with four driving under the influence offenses in different courts. He has pled guilty of public intoxication in Carter County January 2013, as well.

Penney's jury trial is set for Sept. 13 on second-degree murder and leaving the scene of a fatality accident charges.

Penney is presumed innocent at this time.

The defendants must now

enter into discovery with the plaintiffs, where the meat of the investigation takes place, the Murrows' attorney Kevin Cunningham said.

He believes there is significant evidence to come from The Springs.

"We still don't know exactly what happened and what led to this," Cunningham said.

Throughout the course of several months, both sides will argue their depositions and more.

"I believe each one of these defendants played some role in causing this horrible tragedy," Cunningham said.



MARISSA MURROW

Morning at the market



A resident takes a whiff of a veggie at Wildhorse's Farmers Market Aug. 7. Wildhorse Gardens and Market sells fresh vegetables, homemade goods and more from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The organization accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. Market days are ongoing until September. Photos / Haley Humphrey



Try Thomas, a Wildhorse Gardens and Market vendor, holds her blueberry cobbler. Thomas began selling her family-favorite recipes several months ago at the local market. "I enjoy doing it," she said. Her top three best-selling baked goods are her banana nut bread, pecan pie and peach cobbler.

'Youth thrive in stable homes' Hill 'thankful' for new law that helps youth aging out of foster care

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Gov. Kevin Stitt signed the Successful Adulthood Act last week during a ceremony at the state Capitol.

The act, also known as House Bill 1709, was authored by Rep. Brian Hill and Sen. Paul Rosino.

"We believe this law will reduce incarceration rates, help foster youth get on the right path for life, and also save millions of Oklahomans' tax dollars per year," Hill said. "Together, we are building a stronger future for Oklahoma's kids and families."

He also said the legislation would not have been possible without the partnerships of multiple people who aged out of the foster care system, the Department of Human Services and several community organizations.

1 in 4 youth, who age out of foster care, go to jail. This will cost Oklahomans an additional \$3.2 million per year compounded, the representative said.

Approximately 81% of young men, who age out of foster care, will go to jail before turning 26. About 30% of homeless adults and 25% of prison inmates are former foster youth.

"As a former foster family, this issue is of great importance to (my wife Melissa and I) and we are grateful to be a small part of finding solutions for kids in foster care," Hill said.

No one injured after Tuesday MPS bus crash

STAFF REPORTS

No one was reportedly injured after a crash involving a Mustang Public Schools bus and another vehicle occurred Tuesday morning.

Oklahoma City police and fire departments responded to the crash at about 7:32 a.m. at SW 15th Street and Czech Hall Road. There were no students on the bus.

Fire officials said neither drivers wanted to be transported to area hospitals.

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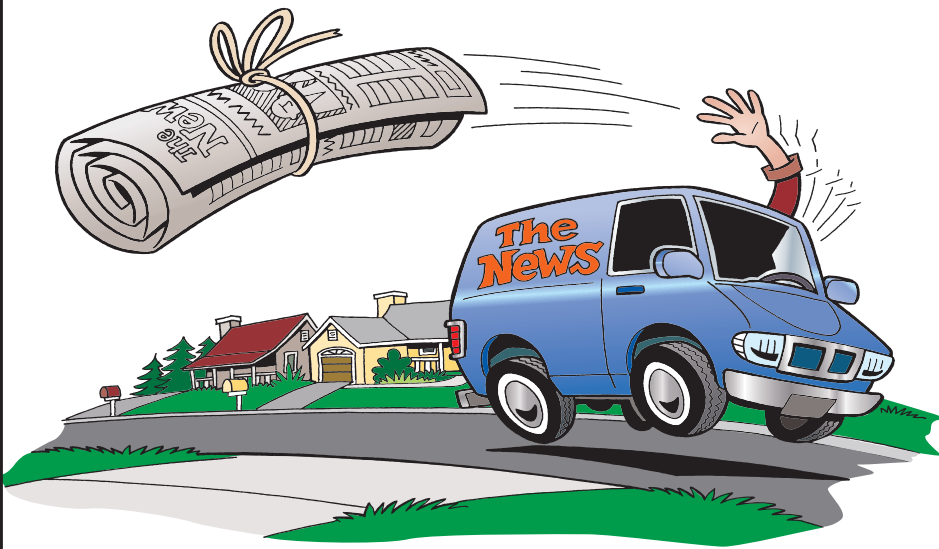
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