

Inside the Times

24 Pages

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Local
Honoring Hope



Cardinal Point CEO Kristie Chandler speaks at a fundraiser. -See Page 5A

Sports
Mustang downs North



Mustang trounced Edmond North last Thursday night. -See Page 1B



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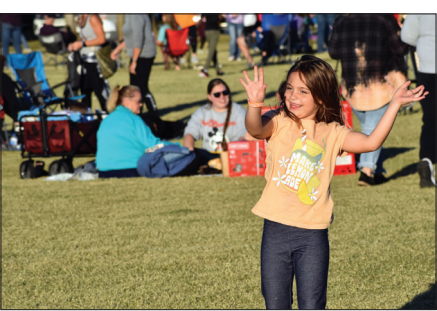
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Celebration



Mustang Fire Department celebrated the city's 52nd birthday during its rescheduled firefighters celebration Saturday, offering food, fun and lots of fireworks. Officials were forced to suspend its annual June event, a major fundraiser for the department, until October due to rain. PHOTOS BY TRACI CHAPMAN

Mustang
City council approves utility rate increase

City forgoes automatic rate increase, approves lower rate hike
By Traci Chapman
Staff Writer

As the federal consumer price index increases, so too do municipal utility costs, as water, sewer and sanitation rates took effect in October. This year, however, Mustang city officials were posed with a strange situation – a significant, before unseen jump in the CPI, from 2% in 2020 to 5.9% this year. Mustang City Council in 2014 approved a resolution allowing an annual water, sewer and refuse price increase effective Oct. 1; as stipulated in that resolution price hikes may be equal to the Consumer Price Index or 2%, whichever is higher. The measure was put into place to help the city keep up with rising utility costs it incurred, while also giving residents a set date they could anticipate their costs would go up. Historically, the city has seen varied CPIs with the highest hovering just above 2%, Rooney said. While Mustang could implement the 5.9% rate increase, the city manager recommended – and council approved – a 3.26% increase. This would help alleviate a sharp hike for residents, particularly in light of financial issues experienced by many in connection with the novel coronavirus pandemic, while allowing the city to remain in a healthy financial position. The rate went into effect Oct. 1 and continues through Sept. 30, 2022. City of Mustang's utility department is located in City Hall, 1501 N. Mustang Road and can be reached by phone by calling 405-376-4521 or via email at utility-billing@cityofmustang.org. More information, including forms, a payment link and more, is available through the department's webpage, located at <https://www.cityofmustang.org/utilities>.

County

Former sheriff Lewis Hawkins laid to rest

By Traci Chapman
Staff Writer

Members of law enforcement and Canadian County residents alike were surprised and saddened over the weekend at the news that former Sheriff Lewis Hawkins has died. The 74-year-old died Friday after a short illness, associates confirmed Saturday. Born in Okemah, Hawkins lived in



Former Canadian County Sheriff Lewis Hawkins passed away Friday. PHOTO PROVIDED

Indiana before moving with his family to Mustang – where he graduated as part of Mustang High School's Class of 1965. Later that year, he married Glenda Kay Merrill. The couple was married more than 56 years. Hawkins first became involved in law enforcement when served as a reserve officer for both Yukon and Piedmont police departments while

working at Tinker Air Force Base. He joined Canadian County Sheriff's office as a deputy in 1982. In 1988, the Yukon resident became sheriff, serving in that elected position until 2008. As he prepared to leave that position, Hawkins talked about his department's evolution in the 20 years he led it – he said among what he considered highlights were improvements

that included deputies beginning 24-hour response to calls, faster and more efficient crime solving, significantly upgraded equipment and improved service – all as Canadian County's population grew much faster than many people ever anticipated. "Really, it is a different department today than it was back then – almost like that was

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Crime

Trial set in case of man accused of death of Mustang graduate

By Traci Chapman
Staff Writer

A jury trial is set for early December in the case of an Oklahoma City man accused of driving drunk, traveling the wrong way on Kilpatrick Turnpike and killing a 19-year-old Mustang woman. The criminal felony second-degree murder case against Malcolm Douglas Penney, now 40, was as of press time set

to go before a Canadian County District Court jury Dec. 6; Penney is further charged with leaving the scene of a fatality accident. Penney stands accused of killing Marissa Murrow, a 2019 Mustang High School graduate attending University of Central Oklahoma in her pursuit of a special education degree. According to the probable cause affidavit

filed with the court by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Shayne Ballard, Murrow was killed at about 12:13 a.m. Oct. 3, near SW 15th Street on the John Kilpatrick Turnpike. Ballard stated in his affidavit Penney drove a 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander northbound in the southbound lanes of the turnpike, striking the Ford Focus driven by Murrow head-on. A

witness observed Penney in the driver's seat of the Mitsubishi immediately after the crash, Ballard alleged. Investigators said the Oklahoma City man attempted to flee the scene on foot but was located nearby and brought back; troopers believed Penney was under the influence of alcohol and asked him to take a blood alcohol test at that time, which he allegedly refused.

After obtaining a warrant for a blood test, troopers obtained that sample, Ballard stated in his affidavit. Prosecutors Oct. 21 filed charges of second degree murder and leaving the scene of a fatality accident against Penney; according to Ballard's affidavit, Canadian County District Judge Paul Hesse initially set \$350,000 total bond in

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Financial Focus

Start thinking about your retirement income plan

If you're getting close to retirement, you're probably thinking about the ways your life will soon be changing. And one key transition involves your income – instead of being able to count on a regular paycheck, as you've done for decades, you'll now need to put together an income stream on your own. How can you get started?

It's helpful that you begin thinking about retirement income well before you actually retire. Many people don't – in fact, 61% of retirees wish they had done better at planning for the financial aspects of their retirement, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study titled Retirement in the Time of Coronavirus: What a Difference a Year Makes.

Fortunately, there's much you can do to create and manage your retirement income. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Consider ways to boost income.** As you approach retirement, you'll want to explore ways of potentially boosting your income. Can you afford to delay taking Social Security so your monthly checks will be bigger? Can you increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, including taking advantage of catch-up contributions if you're age 50 or older? Should you consider adding products that can provide you with an income stream that can potentially last your lifetime?

- **Calculate your expenses.** How much money will you need each year during your retirement? The answer depends somewhat on your goals. For example, if you plan to travel extensively, you may need more income than someone who stays close to home. And no matter how you plan to spend your days in retirement, you'll need to

budget for health care expenses. Many people underestimate what they'll need, but these costs can easily add up to several thousand dollars a year, even with Medicare.

- **Review your investment mix.** It's always a good idea to review your investment mix at least once a year to ensure it's still appropriate for your needs. But it's especially important to analyze your investments in the years immediately preceding your retirement. At this point, you may need to adjust the mix to lower the risk level. However, you probably won't want to sell all your growth-oriented investments and replace them with more conservative ones – even during retirement, you'll likely need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

- **Create a sustainable withdrawal rate.** Once you're retired, you will likely need to start taking money from your IRA and 401(k) or similar plan. But it's important not to take too much out in your early years as a retiree, since you don't want to risk outliving your income. A financial professional can help you create a sustainable withdrawal rate based on your age, level of assets, family situation and other factors.

By planning ahead, and making the right moves, you can boost your confidence in your ability to maintain enough income to last throughout your retirement. And with a sense of financial security, you'll be freer to enjoy an active lifestyle during your years as a retiree.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Josh Roche
Financial Advisor

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Yukon



Yukon's annual Chisholm Trail Festival drew thousands to Mollie Spencer Farm, where craftsmen showed off their trades, gunfighters exhibited their skills, and the old west came alive for the day. PHOTOS BY TRACI CHAPMAN



Trial:

From Page 4A

the case.

Assistant District Attorney Eric Epplin cited several factors in requesting Penney be denied bond in a Nov. 3 request – the seriousness of the charges and subsequent potential punishment for those crimes if convicted, his alleged blood alcohol limit at the time of the crash and the Oklahoma City man's criminal history.

Special Judge Khristan Strubhar granted the prosecution's motion that Penney be held without bond pending trial after a hearing that included attorneys and witnesses for both sides, court documents showed.

According to Epplin, Penney's blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit; after allegedly driving his car the wrong way on Kilpatrick Turnpike and striking the vehicle driven by Murrow, the Oklahoma City man then "fled the scene on foot and was apprehended by Oklahoma City police."

According to court records found on Oklahoma State Courts Network and out-of-state records referenced by prosecutors and researched by the Times, Penney has numerous

criminal convictions, including several related to alcohol:

- A fourth offense driving while intoxicated conviction in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, entered in October 2018;

- An October 2013 DUI second offense conviction in McPherson, Kansas;

- A January 2013 public intoxication misdemeanor conviction in Carter County District Court;

- An August 2011 Denton County, Texas, driving while intoxicated conviction; and

- A 2011 Oklahoma County District Court case, in which Penney was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol in 2012.

Penney also has another criminal conviction dating back to 2017 in McPherson, Kansas, which included criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct and criminal trespass charges, Epplin stated.

In addition to the severity of the charges, Penney's alleged attempt to flee the scene and

previous criminal convictions, Epplin cited the Oklahoma City man's apparent lack of ties to Canadian County in requesting he be remanded pending trial.

"The state does not have information as to the defendant's employment status, employment history or financial condition... the defendant's criminal record indicates he has ties to many communities outside of the Canadian County area," Epplin stated in his motion requesting the court deny bond. "Given his ties to many other states and a potential life sentence in this case, the defendant has the ability and motive to flee from this jurisdiction in order to attempt to avoid prosecution."

If convicted, Penney faces at least 10 years and up to life in prison for second degree murder and up to 10 years in prison and a maximum \$10,000 fine for the charge of leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death.

Penney, his wife and others also face a civil action filed by Murrow's parents in November 2020, in which they seek punitive and other damages. That action remained pending as of press time.

Hawkins:

From Page 1A

the dark ages," Hawkins said at that time. "I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished."

One thing he wished he had overseen was a new jail, he said in late 2008. As county

populations grew, so too did county jail prisoner counts, leading to headaches for Hawkins and his staff.

During much of 2007, officials worked toward a resolution of the issue, which culminated in Canadian County

Commissioners in May 2008 floating a sales tax increase designed to fund construction of a new jail. That proposal was rejected by voters.

Hawkins said he believed the jail was a defining issue as he left office, but as he prepared for retirement he was philosophical about the matter – and the fact he had served two decades as Canadian County Sheriff, a record at that time and unsurpassed to this day.

"I can walk away with my head held high – I worked to keep this county safe, to bring it forward and know I did that," he said that that time. "There is a great staff in place, Canadian County is a wonderful place and what an experience it has been."

"Lewis Hawkins was a moral man, a wonderful person, someone who gave of himself and made the community better for having been a part of it," longtime Canadian County Court Clerk Marie Ramsey said. "I am so lucky to have been able to know him and be inspired by him."

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