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# Mustang News

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 • MUSTANGNEWS.INFO • 50 CENTS

**Home  
of  
Dave  
Havran**

**Around  
Town**

**'Rise up, give'**  
People can give blood from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday inside the banquet room at the Mustang Town Center. To schedule an appointment, call 877-340-8777 or visit obi.org.

All donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies to identify potential convalescent plasma donors. A photo ID is required. The blood drive is sponsored by the American Legion Post 353.

**Small business resources available**

Small businesses, nonprofits and U.S. agricultural businesses with 500 or fewer employees may be eligible to receive a disaster loan.

These businesses can apply to receive a Small Business Administration disaster loan if they have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the pandemic. For more information, visit sba.gov.

More information about other assistance may be found at oksbdc.org.

## Bond issue falls short

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

Mustang Public Schools' \$10.9 million bond issue failed to meet the 60% requirement to pass Tuesday.

The bond aimed to make the district 1-1, which would provide a tablet to each student. Other areas that would have been

addressed with the bond included renovating HVAC systems throughout the district, roofing and paving, new textbooks and more.

Unofficial results from the election board indicate 1,502 votes in favor of the proposition, while there were 1,259 against it. MPS

See **BOND**, Page 5A



Mustang resident Lacey Hall inserts her ballot into a voting machine at the Mustang Town Center Tuesday night. About 15 people came in to vote on the hour at the center. Photo / Haley Humphrey

## Excellence recognized by council



Paul Ray, chairman of Mustang American Legion Post 353, presents the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award to Lt. Mark Bailey. For more photos, see Page 8A. Photo / Haley Humphrey

## April is 'World Autism Month' in Mustang

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

Awards of city employee excellence were presented at the Tuesday night Mustang City Council meeting.

Mustang American Legion Post 353 sponsors three employee awards. The first award of 2021 Firefighter of the Year was presented to Cpl. Josh Moore.

Fire Chief Craig Carruth said Moore started working with the department in 2008.

"Cpl. Moore continues to look for opportunities to improve himself and advance those around him," said Carruth.

The 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award was presented to Lt. Mark Bailey, who has served with the department since 1997.

"Mark is not only an exceptional officer but his care for this

See **COUNCIL**, Page 8A

## Defendant 'remorseful' in death of Mustang native

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

Five witnesses gave their testimonies April 2 during a preliminary hearing regarding the death of Marissa Murrow, 19, of Mustang.

Malcolm Penney, 40, of Oklahoma City was charged Oct. 21, 2020 with second-degree murder and leaving the scene of a fatality accident.

Local teacher Rachel Thomas was the first to testify.

Around midnight Oct. 3, 2020, she and her husband were driving southbound on the John Kilpatrick Turnpike when they

observed two vehicles facing the opposite direction of traffic in the southbound lanes. The two arrived at the scene shortly after Penney's Mitsubishi Outlander collided head on with Murrow's Ford Focus. After pulling over, her husband called 911. Thomas said Penney approached Murrow's vehicle, asking if she was OK.

When he tried to open her door, Thomas' husband told him to go sit down. After sitting for a moment, Penney began walking away, she said.

Thomas later lost

See **DEATH**, Page 8A



Malcolm Penney, 40, of Mustang awaits his preliminary hearing April 2 in Canadian County District Court. He has been charged with second-degree murder and leaving the scene of a fatality accident. Photo / Haley Humphrey

## Local church holds in-person Easter service

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

Last Easter, only church staff and musicians were inside Mustang United Methodist to film a virtual service in lieu of COVID-19.

This Easter, attendees were able to fellowship and worship at their comfortability in-person.

"(Easter) and every Sunday probably over the past six or seven weeks, has been the first time somebody has attended church in-person in over a year," said MUMC Aaron Tiger. "For me, seeing those people and knowing they've been worshipping faithfully from their couch, but now there's something different because they can feel the energy in a room. They can look over and lock eyes with their friend who they

See **EASTER**, Page 7A

Mustang, Oklahoma



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# Death From page 1A

sight of him. However, she saw him again when police brought him back to the scene of the crash.

Thomas identified Penney in the courtroom. Penney's defense attorney asked Thomas if she saw any construction or detour signs around the turnpike's on-ramp, near SW 15th Street. She said she did not.

Thomas told Eric Epplin, Canadian County Assistant District Attorney, that she is familiar with the area, as the school she teaches at is nearby.

The second witness was Oklahoma City police officer Chase McMillen, who transported Penney back to the crash site to release him into Oklahoma Highway Patrol custody after locating him. McMillen said he found

Penney about half a mile from the collision.

Penney was unsteady on his feet and had an alcoholic odor on his breath and person, as well as bloodshot eyes, he said. McMillen identified Penney in the courtroom.

During the cross-examination, McMillen told the attorney he did not remember any construction site signs near the turnpike.

The third witness was OHP trooper Lisa Jorgensen, who is a drug recognition expert.

She said she noticed an open container of beer inside Penney's vehicle while on scene.

Jorgensen also noted Penney had trouble staying awake. Based on Penney's condition and him denying a

blood sample, she said she did not conduct a DRE test, as results would not have been realistic.

While at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital, Jorgensen said Penney continued to ask about Murrow.

Once a search warrant was received, Jorgensen remained at the hospital for a nurse to draw Penney's blood.

Because OHP does not have an evidence locker that is open 24/7, Jorgensen said she stored the blood kit at her home. She also noted she did not recall any construction signs near the collision.

Jorgensen identified Penney in the courtroom.

The fourth witness was OHP trooper Wayne Linzy, who took photos of the crash. His investigation found that

Penney was traveling the wrong way.

Linzy also said there were alcoholic containers inside Penney's vehicle.

The final witness was OHP trooper Mathew Conway, who spoke with Penney at the jail Oct. 6, 2020. Conway said the purpose of the interview was to get Penney's take on what happened the day of the crash.

Penney told Conway that he blacked out on his way home from a wedding. He also told Conway that he began drinking around 1:30 p.m. at the wedding in Edmond.

He consumed a six pack, other alcohol during the wedding, as well as vodka after, Conway said of the interview. Regarding the collision, Penney told him he

believed he was walking outside of his body.

He also said he had to have been drunk and was unsure as to why he did not give his keys up. Penney had a blood alcohol content of 0.169.

His record also shows he was convicted of driving under the influence in 2012.

When Epplin asked if the defendant showed signs of remorse in the interview, Conway said Penney told him that "he had taken their baby from their family," and that it was his fault.

Conway identified Penney in the courtroom.

The court found probable cause that Penney committed the crimes presented. He is bound for trial.

District court arraignment will be at 9 a.m. May 18.

# Council From page 1A

community is a tremendous example to everyone," said Police Chief Robert Groseclose.

Court clerk Gayla Early was the recipient of the 2021 City of Mustang Employee of the Year award. She began employment with the city in 1984.

"Her skills and knowledge have been the best and has gained the utmost respect from others," said finance Director Janet Watts.

Mayor Jess Schweinberg presented last year's Mayor Awards to three city employees. The city typically recognizes employees at the end of the year banquet, however, last year's was canceled, due to the pandemic.



**Paul Ray, chairman of Mustang American Legion Post 353 presents the City of Mustang Employee of the Year award to court clerk Gayla Early. Finance Director Janet Watts stands between the two. Photos / Haley Humphrey**



**Ray presents the Firefighter of the Year award to Cpl. Josh Moore at the Tuesday night city council meeting.**

The first award was presented to Heather Huff, Parks and Recreation program coordinator.

"In appreciation of your many hours of behind-the-scenes efforts in safely opening and operating the Mustang Aquatic Center during a global pandemic, resulting in zero cases being traced back to staff, citizens or customers," said Schweinberg. "A grateful organization and community thanks you for your service."



**Mayor Jess Schweinberg presents the second Mayor Award to Mustang firefighters Cpl. Levi Setliff and Capt. Jonathan Sprague.**



**Mayor Jess Schweinberg presents the first Mayor Award to Heather Huff, Parks and Recreation program coordinator. The Mayor Awards were originally supposed to be presented last year, however, COVID-19 delayed the recognition.**

Firefighters Capt. Jonathan Sprague and Cpl. Levi Setliff received the second award. The two were instrumental in providing COVID-related information to citizens, Schweinberg said.

"Both have families and responsibilities at home and never complained, all the while keeping us safe," he said.

In proclamation news, the city approved making April "World Autism Month" and April 2 as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Mustang.

In medical marijuana news, council members approved changing the location restrictions of dispensaries. All current location requirements will be removed, except the 1,000 feet away from schools restriction, as that is a part of state law.

In police news, change order 10 was approved for the new Animal Welfare Center. The order will install stainless flashing to protect a seam in the center, as well as adding stainless-steel covers for the drain system.

The change order is for

\$1,880. Groseclose said the project remains under budget, with about \$16,000 left in contingency.

The police department was also approved for a three-year agreement with RCB Bank for its eight new vehicles. Seven of the vehicles are assigned to patrol divisions, while the other will go to detectives.

In June 2004, the city created the ambulance assessment fee for \$1.50 to help with the cost of servicing Mustang residents, Watts said. A resolution raised that cost to \$2.50.

In 2019, 240 living units accounted for 124 of ambulance calls. Watts recommended the council assess the fee based on living units.

The council approved amending the fee effective July 1.

In traffic news, the council requested the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to fund a signal at east Plantation Terrace and Morrell Way in 2016. ODOT denied the request.

However, the city has been in the process of repealing the ruling.

City Manager Tim Rooney said the city is working on a new request and hopes to enlist the help from state Sen. Paul Rosino and Rep. Brian Hill.

The council approved the new resolution for the request.

In business news, the members approved an economic incentive agreement with Atwoods upon coming out of executive session.

In consent agenda news, the council approved all items, except one regarding

the acceptance of two sanitary sewer easements and two storm sewer easements for Wild Horse Canyon. City attorney John Miller advised the council to not accept the two storm sewer easements, as the city does not need them.

The council accepted the two sanitary easements.

In public comment news, Matthew Whittington spoke to the council about utility worker issues in Canadian Estates. He said he has reached out to the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and the issues have yet to be addressed.

"There's been pretty blatant disregard for property

and respect of the residents," said Whittington.

He said workers left gates open, allowing animals to get out. There have also been waterline issues and AT&T lines that have been cut.

Schweinberg advised him to call Rooney.

"You don't have to go into this battle yourself," Schweinberg said.

Ward 6 councilman Nathan Sholund said local realtor Paulette Statler addressed the issues with him and community development director Melissa Helsel is working on it.

In member news, Ward 5 councilman Travis McKenzie was absent.

# Legals

## NOTICE OF FILING PERIOD FOR ELECTION OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

Notice is hereby given that any person who is a registered voter and a resident of the East Canadian County Conservation District and has entered into or will enter into a Cooperator Agreement with the Directors of said District, may have their name placed on the official ballot of the District Director Election of said District for Position Number 3 by filing a Notification and Declaration of Candidacy with said District located at 1625 E US Highway 66, El Reno, OK between the dates of May 1-14, 2021. Notification and Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained at the above location and must be returned to the same location before close of business on the last day of the

filing period. The Election will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Patrick J. Brueggen  
Board of Directors  
Representative /s/  
Heather Ludwig  
ATTEST: District  
Representative /s/

Published in Mustang News  
April 8, 2021  
LPLXP

Mustang Public Schools  
Independent School District  
1069  
Canadian County  
909 S. Mustang Rd.,  
Mustang, OK 73064

Mustang Public Schools,  
Mustang, Oklahoma, is  
accepting annual produce  
bids for the 7/1/21 through

6/30/22 period. Sealed bids must be received by 10:00 a.m. on May 10, 2021, at the Child Nutrition Office of the Mustang Educational Resource Center, 909 S. Mustang Rd., Mustang, Oklahoma 73064, or mailed to receive in my office by 10:00 a.m. on May 10, 2021, to Mustang Public Schools, 12400 S.W. 15th St., Yukon, OK 73099, Attention: Tammy Bales, Child Nutrition Director. Bids received after the stated time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Envelopes must be marked in the lower left corner "Sealed Proposal, Produce Bid". Mustang School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Copies of all bids are available at the Mustang Educational Resource Center. Posted March 15, 2021, in the front window of the M.E.R.C.

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April 8, 2021

## LPLXP

Mustang Public Schools  
Independent School District  
1069  
Canadian County  
909 S. Mustang Rd.,  
Mustang, OK 73064

Mustang Public Schools,  
Mustang, Oklahoma, is  
accepting annual bread bids  
for the 7/1/21 through 6/30/22  
period. Sealed bids must be  
received by 10:00 a.m. on May  
11, 2021 at the Mustang  
Educational Resource Center,  
909 S. Mustang Rd., Mustang,  
Oklahoma 73064, or mailed and  
received in my office by that  
date and time, to Mustang  
Public Schools, 12400 S.W. 15th  
St., Yukon, OK 73099,  
Attention: Tammy Bales, Child  
Nutrition Director. Bids  
received after the stated time  
will not be considered and will  
be returned unopened.

Envelopes must be marked in the lower left corner "Sealed Proposal, Bread Bid". Mustang School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Copies of all bids are available at the Mustang Educational Resource Center. Posted March 16, 2021, in the front window of the M.E.R.C.

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Mustang Public Schools  
Independent School District  
1069  
Canadian County  
909 S. Mustang Rd.  
Mustang, OK 73064

Mustang Public Schools,  
Mustang, Oklahoma, is  
accepting annual milk bids  
for the 7/1/21 through 6/30/22  
period. Sealed bids must be

received by 10:00 a.m. on May 12, 2021, at the Mustang Educational Resource Center, 909 S. Mustang Rd., Mustang, Oklahoma 73064, or mailed and received in my office by that date and time, to Mustang Public Schools, 12400 S.W. 15th St., Yukon, OK 73099, Attention: Tammy Bales, Child Nutrition Director. Bids received after the stated time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Envelopes must be marked in the lower left corner "Sealed Proposal, Milk Bid". Mustang School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Copies of all bids are available at the Mustang Educational Resource Center. Posted March 17, 2021 in the front window of the M.E.R.C.

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