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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday, February 14, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

Former City Park Principal Jailed



A former principal at City Park Elementary School in Athens has been caught in a child sex sting. Mark Avery Pickel, 51, of Cleveland, is charged with transportation of child pornography in interstate commerce, interstate travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a minor, and coercion and enticement of a minor. Prosecutor James Brooks says on Feb. 3rd an undercover online officer with the Chattanooga Police Department was alerted that Pickel was operating on a social network platform in a group called "Loving Kids."

The FBI was notified. The Chattanooga agent began corresponding with Pickel while leading him to believe the agent was a mother with an infant daughter. The prosecutor says Pickel sent a photo of himself to the undercover agent, and it was arranged that they would meet this past Tuesday at a lodging facility in northern Georgia. Pickel arrived at 11:30 a.m. and was arrested by waiting agents. Pickel was principal at City Park from 2009-2011. He had also been assistant principal at Polk County High School and principal of Vonore Elementary.

Today in History

Today is Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day or the Feast of St. Valentine. Legend says Valentine was an early Christian martyr who was imprisoned by the Romans. In prison, his only comfort was his friendship with a blind girl who brought him food and delivered messages for him. On the eve of his execution, he wrote a farewell message to the girl and signed it, "From your Valentine." He died in AD 269. The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honor of the Christian martyr, Saint Valentine of Rome.



1859 - George Ferris was born in Illinois. He invented the Ferris Wheel, which was first presented at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892.

1931 - Singer Phyllis McGuire was born. She was one of the popular "McGuire Sisters" who had many hit records in the 1950's and early 60's.

1939 - The famous German battleship, "The Bismarck," was launched. The Bismarck sank the British battleship "Hood" and was later sunk by the British Royal Navy after a massive chase.

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Assessor of Property



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Friday, February 14, 2020 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **R. E. Gennoe**, age 78, of Decatur, died Tuesday at his home. He was a lineman for 33 years. A celebration of life service will be held at a later time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.
- ♦ **Celia Verniece Hill Black**, age 93, of Athens, died Thursday at Life Care Center of Athens. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Smith Funeral Home of Athens with visitation from 11 to 1:30 p.m. prior to the service.

THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks closed higher. The energy and technology sectors led the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 275 points or 0.9% to 29,551. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 22 points or 0.6% to 3,379, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 87 points or 0.9% to 9,726.

- ◆ **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:**
- ✓ Monday, February 17th, is Presidents' Day. Public schools in the area will be closed, along with several banks, the post office, and state and federal government offices.
- ✓ Nominations are being taken for the Polk County High School Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. Each nominee must be a PCHS graduate who has distinguished himself/herself in such a way to reflect favorably on the school. Nominations will be accepted in writing through April 1st. They can be emailed to LaMone Lowery Rose at roselamone@att.net.

Church News & Events

- Chris Smith will singing this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for Friends & Family Day at Pope Avenue Baptist Church in Athens.
- The annual Burke's Gospel Jubilee fund-raising concert will be held this Sunday at 3 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.
- Celebrate Recovery meets each Sunday at the Englewood Church of God at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Star Pickett at 506-4851.
- The New Speer Family will sing at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun on February 23rd at 10:30 a.m.
- Tennessee Wesleyan University welcomes a new Chaplain for the 2020 Spring term. Rev. Skip White has joined the Bulldog family to lead campus spiritual life. Rev. White was appointed as Senior Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, directly adjacent to the TWU campus, last July. He was born and raised on a farm on the plains of North Dakota. He graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in 2002 and continued his education at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Rev. White is married to Victoria and they have a son, Charlie. Victoria is employed by DENSO where she utilizes her fluency in Japanese to support the expatriates there.



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Friday-Sunday, February 14-16

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\$18.99

Salmon
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