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Today's News... This Morning

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(SCROLL TO PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION)

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Monday, November 06, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Pelley Has License Revoked

Athens City Council member and Licensed Professional Counselor Adolphus H. "Dick" Pelley had his license to be a Professional Counselor revoked on October 6th of this year by an Administrative Law Judge. According to the judge's order, he violated the American Counseling Association 2014 Code of Ethics when he made inappropriate comments that were sexual in nature and imposed his religious values on a client of the Heal and Hope Counseling Services of Cleveland, TN, where Pelley was employed. The incidents occurred on August 13 and 17 of 2021 and he was terminated from his job on August 20, 2021. A link to the entire order can be found [HERE](#). In an interview with the Morning Fax, Pelley said "these were a bunch of lies made against him" and that he offered to take a "lie detector test" however that was denied. Pelley was directed to pay a \$1,000 fine for each instance for a total of \$2,000. He also will be required to pay the court costs which can be up to \$10,000 maximum. He also has 60 days to file an appeal of the decision. Pelley said that "he couldn't afford to file an appeal" and his wife "did not want him to do so."

Community News You Can Use

✓The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, November 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence. There will be a Board Workshop prior to the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, November 7th at 5:30 p.m.

✓The time for the Athens City Schools open forum for today has been changed to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday's forum is still planned for 3:00 p.m. The school board will be asking questions to candidates applying for the new director of schools job.

LISTENING REMINDER: This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Amy Sullins & Denise Cunningham, Representatives of Jewel Circle at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

FOOTBALL SCORES: **Class 5A Playoffs:** McMinn County High School lost to Clinton 10-34. Walker Valley defeated Campbell County 74-33. **Class 3A Playoffs:** Meigs County defeated Grundy County 50-8. McMinn Central defeated Watertown 35-32. **Class 2A Playoffs:** Polk County lost to Hampton 19-36. **Class 6A Playoffs:** Bradley Central defeated West Ridge 42-0. Cleveland lost to Jefferson County 36-44.

Tennessee defeated UCONN 59-3.

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- Monday-Athens-Harbor Freight-11:00 - 1:30
- Tuesday-Madisonville-WilSav-10:30 - 1:30
- Wednesday-Etowah Depot-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Loudon - Viskase - 10:30 - 1:00
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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Monday November 06, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦**Walker Winston Kwiram Stewart**, age 36, native of South Carolina and longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, October 28th. Services were held this weekend. Ziegler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

♦**Billie Ruth Dilbeck**, age 81 of Niota, passed away Monday, Oct. 30th at her residence surrounded by family and friends. She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County. Funeral services were held over the weekend. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

♦**Stanley Ross Barner**, age 88, of Etowah, passed away on October 13th. He was born in Overton, TX and graduated from Overton High School and then served four years in the United States Air Force. He later attended and graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a degree in accounting. He worked at Bowaters for nearly 30 years before retiring. He was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. A celebration of life will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 13th at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. A gathering of friends will follow immediately after the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Thomas "Willard" Plank**, age 79, passed away on Thursday, November 2nd. He lived in the Cedar Valley Community of Meigs County. He graduated from Tennessee Tech with a degree in agronomy in 1972. He was employed as a teacher in Eastview Elementary, Cedar Valley, Fairview and Meigs High School then joined the workforce of Shaw Industries for 32 years. He retired as Shaw's Human Resource Director. Visitation will be Wednesday, November 8th at Decatur Funeral Home from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 9th from 12:00 to 2:00, at First Baptist Church in Decatur. The funeral service will follow the visitation. Following the service, Willard's body will be interred in the peaceful cemetery at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Obituaries Continued

♦**Wilma Thomas**, 82, of Benton, passed away Wednesday, October 25th. She was an active member of Hiwassee Union Baptist Church and helped her husband in the ministry for 54 years. She spent 20 plus years as an assistant teacher at Benton Elementary School. In her spare time, she loved being outdoors in her garden. Funeral service will be at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9th at Bordwine Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9th prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble Friday, November 10th at Benton Memorial Garden for the 10:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of the arrangements.

♦**Mary Theania Beavers Rinehart**, age 81, of Decatur, passed away on Saturday, November 4th at Blount Memorial Hospital. Mary was a native of McMinn County and a 1960 graduate of McMinn County High School and she was retired from Shaw Industries with 20 years of service. She was a member of the Clear Springs Baptist Church. She loved arts and crafts and working in her flowers. A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8th at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Concord United Methodist Church. Visitation will be from 12 till 1 on Wednesday at the funeral home prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

School Safety Lockdowns

Sheriff Joe Guy says that School Safety Lockdowns were conducted at both McMinn Co High School and Central High School last week. Officers and K9s conducted random checks of vehicles in parking lots, school rooms, and locker spaces. Approximately 60 classrooms were searched at both schools. During the lockdowns, students are removed from the classrooms and placed in the hallways as officers enter the classrooms. Students are kept safe distances away from the searches and the K9s. The operation was coordinated by McMinn County Lt. Jared Price and School Safety Supervisor Justin Wallace, with K9 officers from several area sheriffs offices including McMinn County, Bradley, Monroe and Rhea Counties, along with the District Attorney Generals Office and school administrators. The Sheriff said that more safety checks are scheduled for the future.

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MVA Co Rd 480 Englewood

Saturday night at 11:30 on Co Rd 480, Englewood the driver of this 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer said an oncoming vehicle ran him off the road when he overcorrected he flipped the SUV. No injuries reported. AMR, Englewood Rural Fire, and Etowah Rural Fire all responded. McMinn County Sheriff's Sgt Jason Lee investigated the accident. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



Fire in Madisonville

Tri Community Fire Department in Monroe County called for mutual aid response from Englewood Rural Fire Department on Povo Road, Madisonville about a fire of an out building that had been converted into a house. The structure was totally destroyed by the fire. Assisting also was Madisonville City Fire Department, Notchy Creek Fire Department, and Christiansburg Fire Department. Monroe County EMS stood by at the scene along with Fort Loudon Electric CoOp. Tri Community Firefighter Daniel Ray was in command of the scene. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



Cigarette Fire

Saturday afternoon around 4:30 on Co Rd 350, Sweetwater this fire was possibly started on the side of the road by a cigarette being thrown out when it spread up an embankment into a yard burning approximately a quarter acre. Niota Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire and Englewood Rural Fire all responded. Niota Rural Fire Chief Lee Mason was in command of the scene. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department,



Woods Fire

Saturday afternoon close to 2:30 on Co Rd 849, Etowah, the owner of this property was burning in a barrel when the embers got out setting a wood pile on fire then spread to some woods. Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire and Englewood Rural Fire all responded. Etowah Rural Firefighter Austin Hancock was command of the scene. Assisting at the scene was McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

