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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Inmates Earn HVAC Certification Through New Jail Program

Six inmates at the McMinn County Justice Center have earned HVAC certification through a new training program offered in partnership with Cleveland State Community College.

Funded by a \$1 million state grant, the jail now has an onsite lab for HVAC and welding. The recent bootcamp marked the first training session, with participants earning EPA Section 608 certification. Welding training will follow later this month. The program targets inmates already working outside jobs and aims to improve employment opportunities after release while reducing repeat offenses.



Students and representatives from Cleveland State and the justice center celebrate the HVAC bootcamp graduation. Pictured back row left to right: Kayla Crowder, MCJC Grants & Programs Coordinator; Tyler McDonald; MCJC Sergeant Dusty Breeden; MCJC Lieutenant Jason Bautsch; Jason Walk; Dr. John Squires, CSCC Vice President of Economic & Institutional Development. Front row left to right: Chelsea Falana, CSCC Workforce Development Coordinator; Joseph Murphy; Dorian Simpson; Brandon Raper; Ben Croft; Jason Taylor, CSCC HVAC Instructor.

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following traffic notice:

The intersection affected is **MATLOCK AVENUE AND CRESTWAY DRIVE**. Currently there are STOP signs located on Crestway Drive. *Effective the morning of Monday, June 30*, there will be STOP signs in place on Matlock Avenue. This will make the intersection a 4-WAY STOP.

Motorists are advised to watch for new signage in this area and to use caution at this intersection. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

- The Athens Utilities Board Budget and Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, June 19 at 11:30 am.

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BREAKING NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE THIS WEEK



The Friends of the Library Annual Booksale provided many wonderful additions to the E.G. Fisher Public Library this year! The additions included our new outside bookdrop, new community room flooring, a Nintendo Switch with games for the teen space, a new refrigerator that helps provide a place for meals year-round for kids 18 and under, new genealogy material and new computers. The ongoing book sale is a hit and you can shop there daily and find wonderful gifts, cozy books, and movies to take home.

While you are in the library, sign up for their summer reading program "Color our World". There are many ways to participate and fun and activities to be had by all. Visit their website at fisherlibrary.org or their Facebook page. Download the Readsquared app or sign up in the library. While you are at the sale or the next time you are in the library, please consider joining the Friends of the Library (FOL).

Enjoy free ice cream courtesy of Mayfield Dairy Farms!
Make sure to bring your cash and don't forget to enjoy the sale!

Lots of giveaways to register for!

(No purchase necessary)

**LIVE BROADCAST
FRIDAY 11AM - 3PM**

Listen to LIVE coverage from the Book Sale
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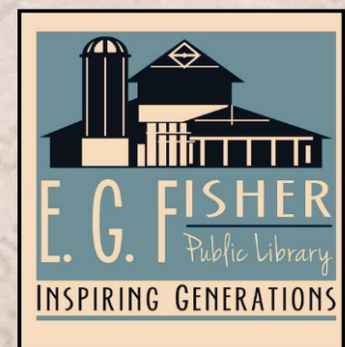
SAT 9AM - 5PM

SUN 12PM - 3PM



This **Cash-Only** Fundraiser will be held at the **McMinn County High School Cafeteria**

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Two Cardiologists Join Starr Regional to Expand Heart Care Services

Starr Regional Medical Center has welcomed two experienced cardiologists, Dr. Maurice Alston and Dr. Selcuk Tombul, to its growing medical staff. Both physicians are now seeing patients at Starr Cardiology Associates in Athens, bringing advanced cardiovascular care closer to home for residents of McMinn County and surrounding areas.



Dr. Alston, an interventional cardiologist, offers minimally invasive procedures for treating coronary artery blockages, peripheral vascular disease, and venous thromboembolism. He also focuses on managing congestive heart failure and other conditions associated with cardiovascular disease. His training includes a cardiovascular fellowship at Ohio Health Medical System and an interventional cardiology fellowship at The Ohio State University. Dr. Alston is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and serves on one of its national committees.



Dr. Tombul brings expertise in a broad range of cardiovascular conditions, including coronary artery disease, heart failure, hypertension, and circulatory disorders. He also performs diagnostic procedures such as echocardiograms, vascular ultrasounds, cardiac catheterizations, and pacemaker implants. He completed his cardiology fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University and continued training at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

Starr Regional CEO John McLain said the addition of both doctors supports the hospital's commitment to expanding specialty care in the region. He described Alston and Tombul as "skilled clinicians" with a deep dedication to their patients and to improving heart health in the community. Starr Cardiology Associates is located at 711 Cook Drive in Athens. *Source: Brandi Armstrong, Starr Regional Medical Center*

4th Annual Golf Tournament

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Athens, Tennessee

Basuini Steps Down as Head Coach of TWU Cross Country and Track Programs



Tennessee Wesleyan University's head cross country and track and field coach, Michael Basuini, is stepping down after eight years with the program to pursue opportunities outside of college athletics.

Basuini joined TWU in 2017 as an assistant coach and took over as interim head coach in 2021 before being officially named head coach in 2022. Under his leadership, the programs saw significant success, including 41 NAIA National Championship qualifiers and a national title in the women's triple jump in 2023. That same year, the women's outdoor track and field team finished second at the Appalachian Athletic Conference Championships. The cross country teams also sent five runners to nationals during his tenure.

Before becoming head coach, Basuini helped guide two men and five women to the NAIA Cross Country Championships, coached a national champion 4x100m relay team, and mentored 35 All-Americans in track.

Basuini will assist with the transition as TWU begins the search for a new coach.

Vanderbilt QB Diego Pavia Declares Commodores Will "Run Tennessee" in 2025



Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia is turning heads — and raising eyebrows in Knoxville — after confidently declaring the Commodores will take over college football in the state of Tennessee by the end of the 2025 season.

During a recent appearance on the *Bussin' With The Boys* Podcast, Pavia boldly claimed Vanderbilt will be the state's premier program: "Vanderbilt is gonna run Tennessee after this year," he said, adding that Nashville's appeal and Vanderbilt's strength in NIL deals will make the school a top destination for recruits. The 24-year-old quarterback is entering his sixth season of college football after a Tennessee judge granted him a preliminary injunction allowing an extra year of eligibility. His journey includes two seasons at New Mexico Military Institute, two at New Mexico State, and a transfer to Vanderbilt last year with head coach Jerry Kill. In 2024, Pavia threw for 2,293 yards and 20 touchdowns with only four interceptions, while rushing for 801 yards and eight more scores.

Despite his strong season, the Commodores fell to the Volunteers 36-23 last year in Nashville after leading early. To back up his bold prediction, Pavia and Vanderbilt will need to beat Tennessee head-to-head — a challenge set for November 29 in Knoxville. With his comments now making waves, expect plenty of buzz around that matchup. **Source:** [On3.com](https://on3.com)

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Pamela Ware, 75 of Riceville, passed away on Friday, June 13. She was a member of Double Springs Baptist Church. She had a deep love for all kinds of animals. Originally from Wisconsin, with her creativity, she was a small business owner, running the This & That knickknack store in downtown Milwaukee. She later sold her homemade crafts online through her Old Hippie website. Graveside services will be held Friday, June 20 at 2:00 p.m. in Double Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, 116 County Road 776, Athens. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Pamela Marie Tolleson, 60 of Niota, passed away on Thursday, June 12. Pamela enjoyed her free time reading books, listening to music, playing on her computer, and spending time with her grandchildren. There will be a celebration of life hosted by the family at a later date. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Joseph Settle Peck, 76 of Delano, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, June 9. He served 30 years in the United States Navy, enlisting as an E1 and retiring as a Lieutenant Commander. After his military retirement, Joe continued to support the FBM (Fleet Ballistic Missile) program for another 10 years as a senior manager with Lockheed Martin in Silverdale, WA. Joe's life was defined by loyalty, laughter, and love, a legacy that will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1780 Stuart Road NE, Cleveland, TN. Family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in The Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com

