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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

### Suspected Arsonist Indicted

An investigation by special agents and fire investigators with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, along with the Etowah Police and Fire departments, has resulted in the indictment of an Athens man, charged with aggravated arson. Around 3 p.m. on December 29, 2021, police and fire investigators responded to a report of a structure fire at an apartment complex on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Etowah. During the course of the investigation, agents determined that the fire had been intentionally set, and developed information that identified Aaron Harris as the individual responsible for starting the fire. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the McMinn County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Aaron Dayne Harris age 36, with one count of Aggravated Arson. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, he was served with that charge while in the McMinn County Jail on an unrelated charge. His bond was set at \$200,000. (TBI Submitted Pix)



### Three Die At SANDALS Resort

✓ Three American citizens, 2 from Maryville, Tennessee, died last Friday of an unknown cause at the SANDALS Resort in the Bahamas. Michael Phillips, 68, and his wife Robbie Phillips, 65, both of Maryville, were declared dead at the resort, as was Vincent Paul Chiarella, 64, of Florida, who was found unresponsive in a separate room. The Phillips' owned a travel agency in Maryville that specialized in booking vacations at SANDALS Resorts. Forensic scientists are collecting samples from the deceased, and a lab in Philadelphia is helping with toxicology examinations. The lab expects results will be ready within a few days. Scientists also collected samples from the victims' rooms to check for contaminants. Authorities are working on plans to return the bodies of the deceased to the U.S. Foul play is not suspected and the bodies of the victims did not show any signs of trauma. However, there was evidence that all 3 had experienced convulsions.

**TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** Equities were mixed. The S&P 500 and NASDAQ climbed modestly after a string of sell-offs. The U.S. 10-year yield fell back below 3%. Oil has dropped to below \$100/barrel. Housing inventory has been declining since the start of the pandemic. At the closing bell, The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 84.96 to 32,160.74. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 9.81 to 4,001.05, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 114.42 to 11,737.67.

#### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



Sausage & Egg Biscuits 2 / \$5

• 32 oz Tea \$1

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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: [wysi@bellsouth.net](mailto:wysi@bellsouth.net)

# PAGE TWO

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## MONEYWISE

With Rob West  
WYXI - 94.5 FM & 1390 AM  
11:30 a.m.  
Daily • Mon-Fri  
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Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Harrison Frank Niemann**, age 88, of Athens, passed away Tuesday, May 10th, at NHC of Athens. He was a native of Liberty, NY and a former resident of Daytona Beach, FL before moving to Athens four years ago. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and was formerly employed with Agway Petroleum as a plant manager. Funeral services will be private. Ziegler Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

♦ **William Travis Sanders**, passed away Saturday, May 7th, in Etowah. He attended Austin Peay University where he was a scholarship student-athlete and starter for the Governors football team. The family will receive friends on Saturday, May 14th, at 1 p.m. at M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Athens with a service following at 2 p.m. in the chapel. Interment will follow the service in the Green Hill Cemetery.

✓The Guests on the Women at the Well radio show, "Hope From the Well," this week will be students, Brooke and Margaret with Addiction Letters. "Hope From the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

## State and Area News

♦ The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has announced a \$500,000 parks and recreation grant for Athens for renovations at Heritage Park. Renovations at Heritage Park will include Architectural & Engineering work, construction of a hard surface American with Disabilities Act (ADA) walking trail that is approximately 1,100 feet long, demolition of an existing non-ADA youth baseball/softball field and construction of a youth-size 200-foot to 225-foot ADA field. It also includes construction of ADA access and parking spaces to serve the entire park.

♦ Melissa Blair, the woman who was arrested in February and is facing charges for sexually assaulting students at McMinn Central High School was in court Monday morning. Presiding Judge Mark Freiberg reset her new court date to August 8<sup>th</sup>. Blair faces 18 counts of aggravated statutory rape and 4 counts of human trafficking -- among other charges. Investigators say Blair's encounters with students continued for a year and half, ending late last year. Her previous bond stipulations were no contact with the McMinn County School System and students within the school system. She is allowed though, to drop off and pick up her own children at school, but she is not allowed to leave her vehicle during those times.



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