

A R R E S T S



Adams



Adkins



Annan



Avila



Barajas Solorzano



Bearden



Caldwell



Caller



Clay



Crawford



Crowe



Daniel



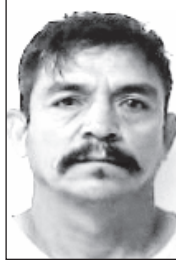
Davis Jr



Fulton



Jimenez-Hernandez



Marcias



Mosley



Phillips



Pittard



Ponce Castillo

Leslie Nicole Adams, 31, Dawsonville, theft by receiving stolen property (felony).

Amira Sinai Adkins, 20, Statham, driving under the influence of alcohol under the age of 21.

George Kofi Annan, 32, Athens, reckless driving.

Daniel Avila, 23, Greensboro, driving under the influence of alcohol.

Ignacio Barajas Solorzano, 34, Snellville, driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor).

Todd Bearden, 46, Bogart, aggravated assault, battery family violence (misdemeanor).

Mary Alisha Caldwell, 40, Athens, theft by shoplifting (misdemeanor).

Stephan Caller, 34, Statham, loitering and prowling, unlawful eavesdropping or surveillance, possession and use of drug-related objects, theft by taking (felony), theft by receiving stolen property



Porterfield



Ray



Santos



Smallwood



Smith



Spiker



Sutton



Thrasher

(felony).

Dwayne Marshall Clay, 54, Athens, failure to appear for fingerprintable charge (misdemeanor).

Shambrika Crawford, 37, Athens, unlawful for any person to purchase, possess or have under control any controlled substance; purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana.

Jack Christian Crowe, 33, Bogart, driving under the influence of alcohol.

Rory Lane Daniel, 60, Athens, giving false name, address or birth-

date to law enforcement officer, possession of methamphetamine.

Tony Davis Jr., 32, Covington, illegal stop/stand/park where prohibited, driving under the influence of drugs, driving on wrong side of roadway.

Lynn Fulton, 49, Statham, hindering apprehension or punishment of criminal.

Marcelo Jimenez-Hernandez, 21, Atlanta, disorderly conduct.

Luis Juarez Marcias, 48, Madison, driving without a valid license (misdemeanor).

Debra Kay Mosley, 68, Monroe, possession of methamphetamine, possession and use of drug-related objects, driving under the influence of drugs.

Joy Phillips, 45, Athens, giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement officer, forgery second degree, driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor), no insurance, open container.

Jamarcus Terrill Pittard, 28, Athens, failure to appear for fingerprintable charge (misdemeanor).

Juan Carlos Ponce Castillo, 22, Woodhaven, New York, robbery.

Robin Leona Porterfield, 56, Athens, failure to appear for fingerprintable charge (felony).

Alicia Ray, 32, Athens, failure to appear for fingerprintable charge (misdemeanor).

Vinicius Santos, 28, Bogart, driving without a valid license (misdemeanor), reckless driving, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer for a felony offense.

Cammie Smallwood, 44, Winder, failure to appear for finger-

printable charge (misdemeanor).

Shuntavia Tanisna Smith, 34, Athens, marijuana possession less than one ounce; unlawful for any person to purchase, possess or have under his control any controlled substance.

Daniela Spiker, 47, Winder, theft by shoplifting (misdemeanor).

Antywn Claude Kashawn Sutton, 29, Morrow, willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanor).

Raven Leighann Thrasher, 35, Athens, hit and run.

Arrest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

“She assured...that there was no tolerance for that [and that] he would be taken out of the classroom and would not be allowed in High Shoals or any other school in the district,” a parent said.

Hiring paperwork confirms that Hill worked for the school system starting in August 2019. The Oconee Enterprise filed an Open Records Act request for other personnel records, including termination and disciplinary records, but there were no records responsive to that request.

According to his résumé, Hill worked at Alps Road Elementary School in the Clarke

County School District as a student teacher prior to coming to OCS. At the time of his arrest, Hill was still a resident of Athens-Clarke County.

Brad Miller, the parent of one of the children Hill touched in Gwinnett, said that it’s disheartening to hear that Hill had the opportunity to perform this behavior in multiple counties.

“And I find it’s the same thing happening in all of those counties,” Miller said. “God knows how long this guy would have been doing this to girls...”

Miller’s attorney, Mitch Skandalakis, told WSB-TV that the Gwinnett school allowed Hill to resign, instead of firing him. That decision allowed him to keep his teach-

ing credentials with the State Board of Education, Skandalakis said. According to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Hill’s certification is active as of publishing.

This is not the first time that an OCS educator has preyed upon a child or children in Oconee County Schools, found a job outside the district and was arrested for victimizing a child of another school system.

In July 2018, then-Morgan County Assistant Principal Ryan Rickard was charged with multiple sex crimes against minors.

It was later discovered that he committed multiple counts of sexual assault against students in Morgan, Walton and

Oconee counties. Prior to working for the Morgan County School District, Rickard was a teacher at North Oconee High School.

The crimes he committed in Oconee County were discovered only after his arrest in Morgan County.

Rickard pleaded guilty in 2023 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 10 years on probation.

In recent history, there have been other cases in which an OCS employee was arrested and later found guilty of sex crimes. In 2021, former Malcom Bridge Middle School teacher Ira New III, of Watkinsville, pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

New had resigned from MBMS in 2018 after claiming to have “accidentally” displayed a photo of a partially unclothed woman in his classroom.

In 2018, former Oconee County High School custodian Timothy Burnette was sentenced to 51 months in federal prison for secretly filming underage girls in the locker room.

In 2013, for example, an Oconee County Superior Court jury found Jeremy Wetzel, a former special needs paraprofessional, guilty of transmitting obscene images to a minor via electronic transmission. Wetzel was acquitted of child molestation charges.

Also, in 2009, a former teacher and coach surrendered

his teaching and coaching certificate when a relationship with a 16-year-old student became public once said student was enrolled in college.

The perpetrator was never charged with a crime, but he did resign.

The Cottage, a sexual assault center and children’s advocacy center, has a 24/7-crisis line at (706) 353-1912. SANE, which provides victim forensic medical examinations, evidence collection, court testimony and advocacy related to the sexual and physical assault, can be reached at (706) 613-3808. Parent Brad Miller has given the following email to connect with other families who have been affected: justicefortripkindergarten@gmail.com.

BOC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The second project is for approximately 1,930 linear feet of 8-inch force main line and approximately 4,700 linear feet of 12-inch gravity line along Hog Mountain Road and U.S. 441.

County Administrator Justin



Water Resources Director Adam Layfield speaks to the Board of Commissioners. [Photo from frame of video taken by Lee Becker]

Kirouac referred to the project as “the sewer infrastructure companion piece” to the roundabout at Hog Mountain and Wellbrook roads approved at the May 6 BOC meeting.

“This is the in-the-ground stuff to be able to handle the anticipated growth corridor,” he said.

The Board put on its consent agenda for approval at its June 3 meeting spending \$105,300 for the upgrade in the Epps Bridge area and \$189,135 for the upgrade of the infrastructure along U.S. 441.

This spending is only for design and related services.

Layfield said in his email of May 22 that his “very approximate” estimate of costs for the Epps Bridge project is \$1.6 million and for the U.S. 441 project \$1.9 million.

In other county news, a temporary road closure and detour is currently in place for the construction of the roundabout at the junction of Snows Mill and Lane Creek roads. The detour may be in effect for 50 days.

input on the superintendent hiring process.

“The Board strongly encourages all stakeholders to participate, as the feedback gathered will play a key role in guiding its decision,” according to a press release.

The survey can be found at surveymonkey.com/t/OconeeCountyCommunitySurvey.

Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A public hearing for the millage rate will be held June 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Large changes to the budget over last year include benefits for city employees and maintenance of city property.

The budget includes a flat \$2,500 cost-of-living adjustment for 21 employees.

The total of this adjustment is \$52,500.

The budget also estimates that the cost of medical, vision and dental insurance will increase \$18,140.

In addition to the salary adjustment, the budget includes an option to change the city’s retirement system from a 3%

IRA match to a defined retirement plan.

This plan is through the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System for an estimated cost of \$3,600 per employee or \$75,600 total.

This is a \$40,292 increase over the IRA match.

City Manager Sharyn Dickerson received a one-time merit supplement of \$2,000.

“It is not a bonus,” explained Brodrick. “It is how she does merit pay for all of our employees.

She just does it as a one-time payment, rather than having it as a salary increase. We are just matching that approach with her compensation.”

Merit pay is based on performance, and Dickerson’s was “exceptional,” said Brodrick.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Watkinsville, Georgia has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 4.63 percent over the roll-back rate, but no actual millage rate increase over 2024. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at City Hall (191 VFW Drive, Watkinsville, Georgia 30677) on June 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM. This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 2.756 mills, an increase of 0.122 mills over the roll-back rate of 2.634 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 2.634 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$300,000 is approximately \$14.40 and the proposed tax increase for nonhomestead property with a fair market value of \$500,000 is approximately \$24.40. Since the 2025 millage rate is recommended to remain at the 2024 millage rate of 2.756 mills, property owners should not see an increase in city property taxes, unless they made improvements to their properties as of January 1, 2025 and were reassessed by the Tax Assessor. The increase in tax revenues reflects the increase in new development and/or improvements to existing properties within the city limits. While overall tax revenues are increasing, there will be no actual millage rate increase over 2024.

CLARIFICATION

In the May 21 issue within the story about the BOC Town Hall, the president of Oconee Little League was incorrectly identified as Todd Mueller. The president is Wesley

Scott. We apologize for the error.

It is the policy of The Oconee Enterprise to correct errors in fact. Corrections will run on page A2 each week as necessary.