

**GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN**  
STATE ATTORNEY



OFFICE OF  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

January 29, 2024

**PRESS RELEASE**

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(Walton County, Florida) On January 26, 2024, a Walton County Grand Jury indicted 50-year-old, Shawn Richard Bennett for the charges of First Degree Murder and Robbery with a Firearm.

The indictment stems from a missing persons report that was investigated by the Walton County Sheriff's Office on August 11, 2021. Walton County Sheriff's Office was able to track the victims' vehicle to various locations in both Walton and Okaloosa Counties. While investigating these locations, the Walton County Sheriff's Office located the victim in a small freshly dug grave. In the days after, the Walton County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested Mr. Bennett for unrelated charges and located property belonging to the deceased victim.

The investigation is being handled by the Walton County Sheriff's Office and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney Josh Mitchell is prosecuting the case on behalf of Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit.