

Ledger-Enquirer

SPECIAL EDITION

Police probe ongoing in death of CSU professor

BY KELBY HUTCHISON
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The Columbus Police Department still is investigating the death of a Columbus State University professor who was shot in a residence near Lakebottom earlier this week, CPD said Thursday.

Muscogee County Coroner Buddy Bryan said the shooting of 31-year-old Erica Anderson in the 1600 block of 17th Avenue was accidental. Bryan said Anderson was shot by her room-

mate, who mistook her for an intruder.

But with the case still under investigation, CPD Public Information Officer Brittany Santiago told the Ledger-Enquirer in an email Thursday the department can't comment yet on whether there will be charges. Santiago also did not comment further on how the shooter knew Anderson, and did not respond to questions about the accidental classification prior to publication.

"Additional information, including any potential charges

or relationships involved, will be released at a later time once it is appropriate to do so," Santiago said.

Bryan said Anderson's body will be sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for an autopsy.

CSU officials have expressed sorrow after Anderson's death, with CSU President Stuart Rayfield telling the Ledger-Enquirer Monday that the university was "deeply saddened" by the incident.

Anderson was new to the faculty this semester, Rayfield



Erica Bascom Anderson was a professor at Columbus State University when she was fatally shot at a residence in the Lakebottom neighborhood of Columbus. An online fundraising account at GoFundMe.com has been established to help her husband Andy, and their three children, Jade, Noah and Sky, in Indianapolis.

said. She joined the CSU Department of Theatre and Dance as a lecturer in costume and was the costume shop supervisor,

she said.

"While we mourn her passing,

SEE PROFESSOR, 3A



John Bolton, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, returns home with private security after the FBI served a warrant Aug. 22 in Bethesda, Md.

John Bolton indicted over handling of classified information

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
AND GLENN THRUSH
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

John R. Bolton, the national security hawk and former adviser to President Donald Trump who became one of his

most outspoken critics, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Maryland on Thursday on charges of mishandling classified information.

An 18-count indictment accused Bolton of using an email account to send "diary" notes about his day-to-day activities

as Trump's national security adviser in 2018 and 2019. Many of those notes included "national defense information," including details classified as top secret, the indictment charged.

Those emails were later hacked by someone associated

with the government of Iran, the indictment said.

While Bolton is part of a string of perceived enemies of the president to become prosecutorial targets, the federal investigation into him gained

SEE BOLTON, 3A

School gives players chance to revive football season

BY MARK RICE
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The Columbus middle school that canceled the rest of its football schedule has given its players a chance to revive their season.

Double Churches Middle School canceled its remaining football games this year "due to the team's disciplinary matters that have resulted in an insufficient number of eligible players," Muscogee County School District communications director Kimberly Wright told the Ledger-Enquirer in an email Tuesday.

Wednesday, in another email to the L-E, Wright confirmed DCMS principal Michael Seckinger sent a message to the players' parents explaining how the players could atone.

"The principal is working closely with district administration and athletic leadership to explore restorative actions that could allow the season to resume," Wright said. "It's too early to determine any outcomes at this moment."

Second Chance WORKS, a Columbus-based nonprofit organization that uses social-emotional learning and restorative justice to teach children how to be accountable for their behavior, has agreed to help the team, according to Seckinger's

SEE FOOTBALL, 3A

Synovus names regional leaders in next phase of merger

BY JORDYN PAUL-SLATER
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Synovus Financial Corporation and Pinnacle Financial Partners announced Thursday

a list of new regional leaders for their Georgia markets in the next phase of their merger.

Each leader appointed will oversee local teams across the state, according to their news release.

"When leaders understand the people and businesses they serve, they can deepen relationships and build trust and long-term success for clients," Charlie Clark, Synovus president of community banking and Georgia geography leader, said in the news release. "Our Georgia team will demonstrate that excellence in driving growth for clients and strengthening our performance and purpose."

Heath Schondelmayer has been named as the regional president for Columbus, La-Grange, Warner Robbins, Phenix City, and Macon. Schondelmayer has been the CEO of the West Central Georgia and East Alabama since 2022. He joined

Synovus in 1997 and has over 25 years of banking experience, according to the release.

Will Thompson was named as the regional leader for the Phenix City division. Thompson, a native of Columbus, has been with Synovus since 1999, according to his company profile.

The full list of appointments includes:

SEE LEADERS, 4A



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