

Teacher’s death still a mystery

Teacher

■Sad

anniversary:

As Goffstown students return to school today, staff still in mourning.

By **MELISSA PROULX**

Union Leader Correspondent

DUNBARTON — It’s been a year since Goffstown kindergarten teacher Wendy Tefft died from a single gunshot wound, and authorities said they are releasing no new information about the death.

“It’s still an open investigation,” said Jeffery Strelzin, senior assistant attorney general and chief of the homicide unit.

Officials still have not said if the 38-year-old’s death was a homicide, suicide or accident, though it was described as a suspicious death at the time.

“We can’t say whether or not criminal conduct was involved yet,” Strelzin said last week.

Authorities said the morning of Sept. 1, 2016, Christian Tefft took the couple’s son, Holden, to school, but on the way he drove into a ditch. A passer-by drove Holden to school.

A teacher saw the boy had bruising and sent Holden to the school nurse after he said he had been in a car accident. School officials called police when Wendy Tefft did not show up that day for an open house to welcome

her new kindergarten students.

Dunbarton police went to her Barnard Hill Road home and found her body.

Last year, a family member said the day his wife’s body was found, Christian Tefft was taken to the emergency room at Concord Hospital and transferred to New Hampshire Hospital in Concord, where he remained for about three months before being released.

Dunbarton police reports revealed that they twice had interactions with Christian Tefft in the year before his wife’s death, and on one occasion had removed guns from their home. In January 2016, Wendy Tefft told police her husband had said the FBI had cameras

>See **Teacher,**



WENDY TEFFT

... Death remains a mystery

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in the house.

week, Balke said he remembered Tefft with a moment of silence with the staff.

“Wendy was a great teacher and wonderful human being,” Balke said.

As students prepared to return to school today, SAU 19 Superintendent Brian Balke said the school district has offered continued support to staff members over the last year.

“The faculty remains devastated,” he said. “... (They were) very deeply touched by this tragic loss.”

Tefft taught kindergarten at Glen Lake School for three years and was a paraeducator for several years prior to that. Balke said she was well-loved by the faculty and the community of 190 students.

“We’re a very tight-knit, family-like environment,” he said.

During the first day back for teachers last

On his blog “I in Awesome Wonder,” Goffstown resident Steve Beal wrote Monday that his children, Jacqueline and Theodore, had Tefft as a teacher in 2015.

“We all should be seeing her tomorrow, standing out front, smiling, and greeting all,” he wrote. “Imagine how long the list of accolades and kind words would be if Mrs. Tefft hadn’t been taken so soon. We were some of the fortunate ones that got to feel her impact. We all will miss her here in this community.”