

## Driver involved in Horne wreck to be charged as a juvenile

Special to the Sun-Courier

A 16-year-old driver involved in a wreck that killed Dale County High School head football coach Todd Horne July 29 will not be tried as an adult.

The Dale County Grand Jury has returned a recommendation that the teen be charged as a juvenile offender with criminally negligent homicide, a class A misdemeanor, Dale County Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore said.

He said that because he is charged in juvenile court and those proceedings are sealed and confidential, the boy's name will not be released.

The Grand Jury heard 10 witnesses and was given a wide range of potential charges from manslaughter to no charge at all, Filmore said.

According to law enforcement authorities, the juvenile was driving a 1974 C10 pickup truck on Camilla Avenue when he failed to yield the right-of-way and entered U.S. Highway 231 South into the path of a 2005 GMC truck driven by Horne.

Horne, 38, and four other coaches - Chad McKnight, Matt Phillips, Drew Danner and Wesley Locke - were reportedly returning from Ozark to Dale County High School in Midland City when the wreck happened.

Horne died a short while later at a Dothan Hospital. McKnight was hospitalized for several days with serious injuries. Danner, Phillips and Locke reportedly suffered minor injuries.