

Teen knew of guns ' dangers - Mom of dead youth forgives 16-year-old, who turns himself in.

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DETROIT -- Jerry Croone was trying to do the right thing by rushing to get home to his mother by her deadline: the stroke **of** midnight New Year's Eve.

Croone was leaving a New Year's bash at a home in the area **of** Courville and Dutchess streets when a new friend, carrying a shotgun, asked for a lift home. Knowing the **dangers of guns**, he asked the 16-year-old friend to unload the weapon before entering the car.

Instead, the 17-year-old homecoming king was killed when the shotgun discharged, striking Croone in the left side **of** his chest and piercing his heart, Croone's mother, Carolyn Croone, said Wednesday.

That youthful caution followed a warning Sunday by Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, who pleaded with revelers to halt a dangerous tradition **of** shooting off **guns** to ring in the new year.

On Wednesday, the **teen** turned himself in to Detroit Police. By late Wednesday afternoon, police had not decided if charges will be brought in the case, they said.

Croone, a star football player at Denby Tech High School, was last year's homecoming king at Denby. He wanted to attend Michigan State University or Olivet College, his mother said.

On Tuesday, the 16-year-old friend came forward and told Carolyn Croone what happened to her son, she said Wednesday.

"He was just crying. He kept saying, 'I'm sorry. I'm sorry.' He was hysterical," said Carolyn Croone. "It could have happened to anybody's child. I'm hurt. It's done."

She said she has forgiven the **teen** over the death, saying "it was just his time" to die.

But she wants to know how the teenager who shot her son got his hands on a shotgun.

"I don't understand," she asked. "How did he get this **gun**? I told the (Wayne County) prosecutor I want you to push (the investigation) about the **gun**. They're trying to trace it."

On Tuesday, more than 200 people gathered near the home where Croone was shot. Jerry Croone would have turned 18 on Jan. 20.

"He was a very loving child," said Carolyn Croone. "Everyone loved him. He was loved by everyone. There wasn't a soul that didn't like Jerry."

Croone also is survived by his father, Jerry Newson, and two younger brothers, 9-year-old Javonte and 2-year-old Antwon.

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