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Friends Talk About Teen Accused Of Capital Murder

News of 17-year-old Joshua Loften's alleged involvement as the gunman in the murder of 40-year-old Dean Worden quickly through the Argenta District of North Little Rock. His friends say they're shocked. News of 17-year-old Joshua Loften's alleged involvement as the gunman in the murder of 40-year-old Dean Worden quickly through the Argenta District of North Little Rock.

"That's my homeboy and everything. I can't believe he did this," said Lamar Tenner.

"I never thought he'd commit a crime like that or anything," said Lashara Bryant.

But police believe Loften was capable of pulling the trigger outside the Wal-Mart on East McCain, killing Worden.

They arrested the teenager Monday around 3 a.m. which is something his neighbor, who wishes to be known, couldn't believe.

"I was in shock, like I am now," she said. "He was a nice, respectable, caring young man."

But "Pamela" says that kind, caring side of Loften wasn't always so easy to see.

"He was heading down the wrong path," she said. "He went to boot camp for a couple of months."

She says he'd been back home for about two months, showing a considerably different attitude.

"He was more mature, more grown, more stable and not rowdy."

She says that change in behavior makes news of his alleged involvement as both purse snatcher and fatal gunman.

"I don't know. Something clicked," she said. "He's not that type of person, out to hurt anyone."

But North Little Rock police think he did. Now two families are left heartbroken, wondering how something so simple could go so wrong.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, Tamara Worden thanked the North Little Rock police for their efforts as the witnesses who came forward and the public for its sympathy and prayers.

THV also spoke to Loften's mother. She extends her deepest sympathies to the Worden family, saying she is heartbroken over the death that led to Dean Worden's death.

Joshua Loften will make his first appearance in court Tuesday morning.