

Two Suicides at Ware Youth Center

FEBRUARY 13, 2019



Last Thursday a 17 year old juvenile held at the Ware Youth Center just north of Coushatta committed Suicide. On Saturday, a 13 year old boy also held at Ware took his life. Two suicides in less than 72 hours.

Ware Executive Director Joey Cox confirmed the deaths in a brief release to the news media. Cox said, “Our thoughts and prayers are with both of these young men and their families and friends during this difficult time.”

The deaths are under investigation by the Sheriff’s Office. Spokesman Troy Murray issued this statement to The Journal:

“At this point I can confirm that the Red River Parish Sheriff’s Office is investigating two apparent suicides that occurred last week at Ware Youth Center. The first incident involved a seventeen year old male and the second a thirteen year old male. Both incidents took place within an approximate forty-eight hour time period.”

Spokesman Bill Davis of the Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office confirmed that the two boys had both been sent to Ware from Bossier Parish. Davis gave this statement to The

SEARCH

RECENT COMMENTS

RECENT POSTS

- COVID-19 Vaccinations Thursday at Rivertown March 3, 2021
- Making Up Lost Time March 3, 2021
- Boil Advisory Update March 3, 2021
- Riverdale Rebels State Runner-Ups, Lady Rebels Take 4th Place March 3, 2021
- Acquatic Weed Kill March 3, 2021

ARCHIVES

- March 2021
- February 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- November 2020
- October 2020
- September 2020
- August 2020
- July 2020

Journal:

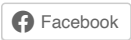
“In late December, Bossier Sheriff’s Office deputies were called to a residence in Bossier Parish where a 17-year-old was acting erratic and intoxicated in the yard of the residence. Deputies arrived on scene, and the 17-year-old was arrested and charged with resisting by false information (kept giving wrong last name to deputies), simple escape (after leaving patrol vehicle while cuffed), theft and disturbing the peace. He was transported to W.A.R.E. Detention Center on Dec. 26.

“On Feb. 1, 2019, deputies were called to Haughton Middle School where they determined a 13-year-old had set toilet paper on fire in a school restroom. He was charged with aggravated arson (school was in session with some 1,200 students in attendance, causing some \$4,700 in damage) and transported to W.A.R.E. Detention Center.”

The investigation by the Red River Parish Sheriff’s Office is ongoing. Identities of the two youths has not been made public.

Ware Suicides pdf Download

Share this:



← A Controlled Burn

Red River Basketball – LIVE →

Leave a Reply

You must be **logged in** to post a comment.

June 2020

May 2020

April 2020

March 2020

February 2020

January 2020

December 2019

November 2019

October 2019

September 2019

August 2019

July 2019

June 2019

May 2019

April 2019

March 2019

February 2019

January 2019

December 2018

November 2018

October 2018

September 2018

August 2018

July 2018

June 2018

May 2018

April 2018

March 2018

February 2018

January 2018

December 2017

November 2017

October 2017

September 2017

August 2017

July 2017

June 2017

May 2017

April 2017

March 2017

February 2017

HOURS & INFO

P. O. Box 711
Coushatta, Louisiana 71019
1-318-564-3609
9am - 4pm
Monday - Friday

POWERED BY WORDPRESS.COM.

https://www.ktbs.com/news/3investigates/3-investigates-changes-at-ware-youth-center-following-two-suicides/article_bdbc0ef2-444a-11ea-a9ee-2fc7052dac43.html

3 Investigates changes at Ware Youth Center following two suicides

Jamie Ostroff
Feb 6, 2020

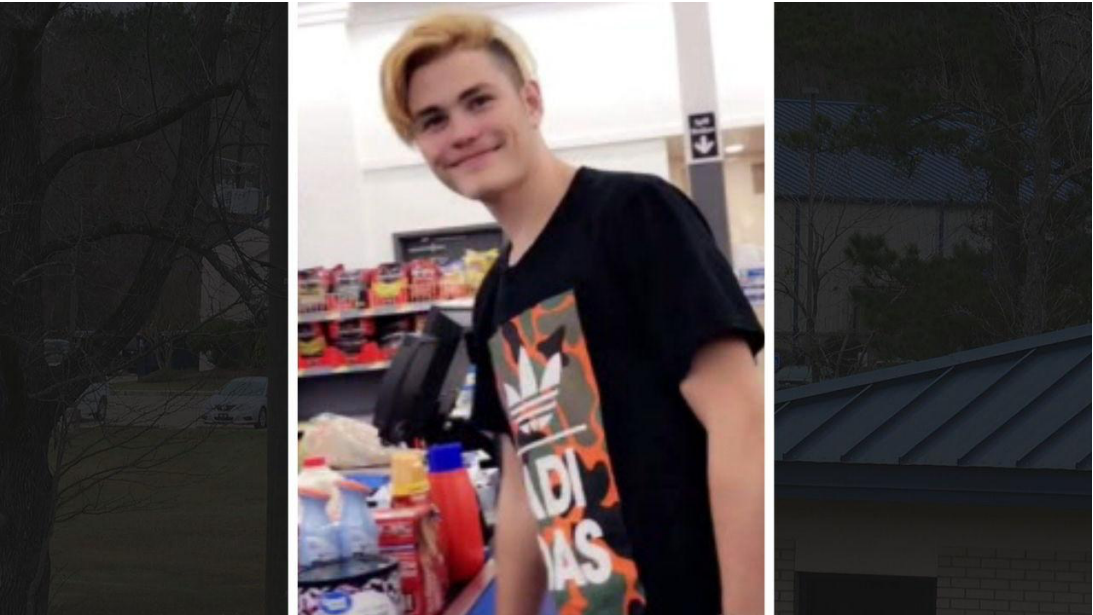


Ware Youth Center

COUSHATTA, La. -- Friday marks one year since 17-year-old Jordan Bachman took his own life in solitary confinement.

Sunday marks one year since Solan Peterson did the same thing. He was only 13.

Both suicides took place at the Ware Youth Center in Coushatta.



Jordan Bachman



Solan Peterson

A year after Solan's death, his older sister, Savanah Hall is only beginning to process the tragedy.

"We went from funeral, to talking to people, to trying to make something happen, to having the bill passed," Hall said. "And then once that happened, I guess that's sort of when we went to grieving."

Thanks to Hall and her family's advocacy, a law was passed in Solan's name. Solan's Law provides a uniform screening tool for juvenile judges to use when deciding whether to send a child to a detention center or somewhere else to get help.

After Solan and Jordan died, inspectors with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services found multiple violations at Ware, revealing that both suicides could have been prevented.

Since its initial inspection, records show DCFS followed up with Ware as it worked to correct those violations.

According to the records, things that could serve as tie-off points for a makeshift noose have been removed from cells. For example, bars were moved from the inside of windows to the outside.

Ware staff are also being held accountable for checking on detainees every 15 minutes, as required by law. The initial inspection from DCFS revealed that guards had not been performing the required checks the nights Jordan and Solan died.

Ware has since installed RFID readers by each cell. Guards have to scan a tag at each reader to prove they’ve done each check. DCFS provided records from Ware showing that the staff had been trained on the new RFID system.

According to the records, the holding cells where the teens died have not been used since March. Some structural issues with those cells still need to be addressed.

A board member at Ware told 3 Investigates that the facility has contracted with a psychiatrist to evaluate every child upon intake.

Initial inspections at Ware found that many detainees were not given the required mental health assessment upon intake. Solan was among those detainees and had a history of mental illness stemming from early childhood trauma.

"Those are all big steps and important steps, but as I said before, even with just Solan’s law being passed before, they’re just baby steps. But they have to be taken, but it’s good to know that those things have been done," Hall said. "There’s so much more to be done, and the only way to do it is to fight for it."

3 Investigates also obtained a petition from Ware’s executive director, Joey Cox, asking the state to waive the requirement that all juvenile detainees receive a sheet and a pillow, since Jordan had used bed sheets to fashion a noose and hang himself. Cox asked the state if he could instead provide detainees with sleeping bags with built-in pillows. The state denied the request.

Solan and Jordan’s families settled out of court with Ware’s insurance company. According to an attorney for the families, the terms of that settlement are confidential.

The Red River Parish Sheriff's Office is still investigating what happened at Ware last year leading up to the teens’ deaths.

Cox declined to comment for this report.

Louisiana lawmakers passed a resolution commissioning a study on the effects of solitary confinement on children during the 2019 legislative session, as a direct response to Jordan and Solan's deaths. The legislation was spearheaded by Sen. Ryan Gatti of Bossier, who was then put in charge of overseeing the study.

The study was supposed to be complete by the commencement of the 2020 legislative session. According to DCFS, the agencies tasked with completing the study are currently "gathering information and working towards creation of the report."

Gatti lost his senate seat in November. Gatti said Sen. Regina Barrow of East Baton Rouge Parish has agreed to continue advocating for juvenile detention reform during the 2020 session.

