A 24-year-old man gave authorities a life-or-death warning, but the mental health system failed him.

By Al Stakker

The past tense hangs in the air. An awkward silence surrounds the room where Elizabeth Waller tears up as she shares memories of her son, Stetson Hoskins, at her resale shop in Flint.

Elizabeth Worth started her shop in East Texas, the “S” has never left the wall — no matter how many owners her shop in East Texas, the “S” is in great condition and stands at least a foot tall.

The giant tin “S” that sits on some piece of furniture.

As a story of how a 24-year-old man gave authorities a life-or-death warning. In December 2019, she recorded one medication for his illnesses. In

Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

and police officers a life-or-death warning, but the mental health system failed him.

Elizabeth Worth tears up as she shares memories of her son, Stetson Hoskins, at her resale shop in Flint.

From her son, Stetson Hoskins, to take a story. A story of a descent into mental illness.

And she begins to tell a story. A story of how a 24-year-old man gave authorities a life-or-death warning. In December 2019, she recorded one medication for his illnesses.

Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

In a crisis state,” said Ana Yáñez Correa of the Harris County Justice Management Department.

As a story of a descent into mental illness.

The number of criminal cases pending before Harris County courts stands at more than 94,000.

That includes 64,000 misdemeanors and 51,000 felonies, numbers so high that if prosecutors stopped filing criminal charges tomorrow, it would take misdemeanor judges a year to clear their dockets; busy judges would need 19 months, based on their average pace for closing cases.

Party-six percent of these cases are considered backlogged — defined as misdemeanors pending more than six months and felonies older than one year — beyond which the likelihood of conviction plummets as investigators retire, victims’ families fade, and witnesses’ memories fade.

“The county recovers from natural disasters and navigating a public health crisis, it has put our justice system on a crisis state,” said Ann Vallejo Correa of the Harris County Justice Management Administration Department.

“All county partners are diligently working to address this backlog which is a course to what procedural justice should look like.

The backlog is so high that the Justice Management Department continues on A6.

County’s attempts to cut case backlog see limited success.

By Zach Despeart and Samanthi Sathreva Staff writer

The number of criminal cases pending before Harris County courts stands at more than 94,000.

That includes 64,000 misdemeanors and 51,000 felonies, numbers so high that if prosecutors stopped filing criminal charges tomorrow, it would take misdemeanor judges a year to clear their dockets; busy judges would need 19 months, based on their average pace for closing cases.

Party-six percent of these cases are considered backlogged — defined as misdemeanors pending more than six months and felonies older than one year — beyond which the likelihood of conviction plummets as investigators retire, victims’ families fade, and witnesses’ memories fade.

“The county recovers from natural disasters and navigating a public health crisis, it has put our justice system on a crisis state,” said Ann Vallejo Correa of the Harris County Justice Management Administration Department.

“All county partners are diligently working to address this backlog which is a course to what procedural justice should look like.

The backlog is so high that the Justice Management Department continues on A6.

Consecutive long have plagued Harris County, courts, which have more than 30,000 cases pending.

By Jim Tankersley

WASHINGTON — No presi- dent has ever traded as much with the rich and foreign, into a single piece of legislation, as President Joe Biden has with the $2 trillion spending plan that Democrats are trying to wrangle through Congress over the next six weeks.

The bill contains major initiatives on the economy, education, social welfare, climate change and foreign policy, funded in large part by an extensive rewrite of the tax code, which aims to bring in trillions from corpo-
The highlights of the worst three
beside her.

she realizes she has to start at
of hundreds of psychiatric beds
emergency rooms and, often,
to lighten the load, there still
seek out crisis care through
funded — to help everyone in
to get into a state-run hospital as
the criminal justice system.

bedroom at the apartment she

like my brain is being zapped.”

hunched over in pain. “It feels
when he walked in clutching his
Stetson said, his 6-foot-tall body

letter to his adult self:

If I give up I will be giving 0% and

if I read this later on I want

wasted time.

It was the same look Stetson

hurtful words.” The 19-year-old had always

of dread filled his chest.

But the thought of Stetson sitting

The 19-year-old had always

idolized his brother, five years

then, he struggled to
dowd a job for more than a
week or two, constantly getting into fights with other employ-

their new friends, their new

But his thumb suddenly slammed down when Stetson did.

of hundreds of psychiatric beds

in a thunderstorm —

he said he was fine — that

Stetson Hoskins loved playing baseball as a kid and dreamed of playing professionally. This is Elizabeth Waller's favorite picture of her middle son.

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

in random. Doctors finally diagnosed it as

emergency room discharge pa-

Elizabeth was resting in her

“Mom. My head. It hurts,”

She had given him before she locked

they were inseparable. Stetson

The brother Colton loved

Their nights shook in her

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

But the brother Colton loved
duro was so quick she was

As the years progressed, Stet-

denied inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

FEB. 23, 2019

was quick to anger.

So Elizabeth believed him

ty to bed horribly depressed. He’d

He’d pull his cap farther down

He'd pull his cap farther
down on his brow and stare at the

ground.

Gray Ford Edge that day was ter-

he was fine.

at the kitchen table at her house in

The 19-year-old had always

of dread filled his chest.

But he clicked on his phone’s
cursor, scrolling farther down

the crowd. When Colton

to catch a fly ball.

She had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

But the brother Colton loved

duro was so quick she was

As the years progressed, Stet-

denied inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to

had given him before she locked

mented inpatient care, but they
determining he was too agitated and aggressive to be admitted to a psychiatric setting.

So they placed him under an
emergency detention order: Security escorted him to Prov-

dence Healthcare Network’s

Bipolar disorder is like wak-

Some nights, Stetson would

taught Colton how to talk to
Eight months earlier, he had shouted down the doorway of the dad of a childhood friend, des- perate to get in his stand-and-deliver mode.

She let her jaw fall the range of a small pistol that won her heart, screaming at her for it. He'd been in jail once before but not for this. His dad of a childhood friend, desperate to get in his stand-and-deliver mode.

“I’m glad you stepped in when I needed you. You’re truly a hard work- ing mom that nobody can f---

except when he started talk- ing about how he was a god; how

LOUISIANA

Stetson woun up at the Crisis Treatment Center in Waco on Jan. 2, 2020, after finally deciding that he needed help.

As he packed up her things, Elizabeth begged Stetson to come home from his job. 

“My son is bipolar and schizo- phrenic. I don’t get out and off the

Elizabeth glanced at the clock, approaching the room for causing a ruckus. He'd never told her he was

He machines.

MEDICAL RETARDATION

Elizabeth told him she was

He just got out of jail af-

They transported him to Med- ical City Green Oaks Hospital, a 24-bed psychiatric facility in Dallas.

“2+2= eat s---.”

EIGHTH GRADE, she’d had to move every three

Elizabeth was relieved when

In December 2019, Elizabeth looked around her apartment near Waco feeling defeated. She was being evicted again because of Stetson’s constant screaming.

She raised her voice every hour or two months since he was di- agnosed. Neighbors were always complaining about the smell of steam that would waft through their walls every day of Stetson’s reign of terror.

Her friend’s plan to burn her life on Facebook.

Elizabeth sat down at her desk and

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on cinder

She knew he was at the end of his rope.

EXCEPT WHEN

The security officer had tried to calm Stetson down. Stetson showed him. As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

In the end, he’d shouted to her he was hearing voices or that there were people living inside his head.

He’d been in jail once before but not for this. His dad of a childhood friend, desperate to get in his stand-and-deliver mode.

For the past 31 years, Stetson had talked about

Elizabeth was terrified. She

As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

Elizabeth’s father was a little-laid and all but dropped into the McCon- nell’s next door.

They also have ice cream. I’m
trying to keep the panic at bay. I

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on cinder

The security officer had tried to calm Stetson down. Stetson showed him. As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

In the end, he’d shouted to her he was hearing voices or that there were people living inside his head.

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on cinder

The security officer had tried to calm Stetson down. Stetson showed him. As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

In the end, he’d shouted to her he was hearing voices or that there were people living inside his head.

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on cinder

The security officer had tried to calm Stetson down. Stetson showed him. As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

In the end, he’d shouted to her he was hearing voices or that there were people living inside his head.

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on cinder

The security officer had tried to calm Stetson down. Stetson showed him. As security officers restrained him, the crisis center called Waco Police.

In the end, he’d shouted to her he was hearing voices or that there were people living inside his head.

She’d managed to find a spare

When officers arrived, Stet- son was reportedly told the victim was out of control — that he wanted to kill himself and harm others.

If she’d tried starting him with

The bed was on