

“November 10~16 is Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week”

Free legal aid available across the state for Dallas/Fort Worth area veterans

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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 9

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

November 13 - 19, 2025

U.S. House OKs funding deal to reopen government with support from Texas Republicans

The spending package includes a provision that will criminalize the sale of almost all consumable hemp products nationwide, restoring a similar ban to the one vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott.

By Marijke Friedman and Gabby Birenbaum



The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on April 15, 2022. Photo Credit: **Shuran Huang** for The Texas Tribune

The U.S. House on Wednesday passed the Senate's funding deal to end the country's longest-ever government shutdown, sending the legislation to President Donald Trump's desk and paving the way for federal agencies to reopen after a six-week freeze.

By a vote of 222-209, the House voted in favor of

legislation to fund the government through Jan. 31 — with some agencies and programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, paid for through the end of the fiscal year in September.

Twenty-four of the 25 House Republicans from Texas voted in favor of the bill; Rep. Michael McCaul,

R-Austin, was one of two members in the chamber who did not vote. All but one of Texas' 12 Democratic members were opposed, with Rep. Henry Cuellar of Laredo among the six House Democrats who joined with Republicans in support.

Once signed by Trump, the government shutdown

will come to a close. Federal employees will receive back pay for the weeks they worked without pay since the shutdown began Oct. 1. Those who were laid off during the shutdown will also return to their jobs, with the Trump administration agreeing to the rehires

Continue **Reopen** Page 2



Dallas Cowboys defensive end Marshawn Kneeland (94) celebrates with Malik Davis (43) after he recovered a blocked punt for a touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals first half of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 3, 2025, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/**Richard Rodriguez**)

Cowboys back at work outside view of media after death of Marshawn Kneeland

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys were back at work Monday coming off their open week, absent the usual media presence as the club starts the process of returning to the field following the death of defensive end Marshawn Kneeland.

Executive vice president Stephen Jones said the Cowboys were still working with Kneeland's family on how to honor the former Western Michigan standout who was in his second season.

Police said Kneeland was found dead early Thursday of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound after

leading officers on a chase when he didn't pull over for a traffic stop. Authorities lost sight of Kneeland's vehicle, and the 24-year-old was found dead about three hours after fleeing the scene of an accident on foot, police said.

"Certainly, it puts everything into perspective," Jones said on his radio show on 105.3 The Fan in Dallas. "You're playing a game that means a lot to a lot of people, but there are things a lot more important than that. Certainly, that's what we're going through this week. So that'll be first and

Continue **Cowboys** Page 5

The Life and Legacy of Barbara Ann Record

In the vibrant tapestry of life, the threads woven by Barbara Ann Record radiate, illuminating the hearts of those she touched. Born on March 31, 1942, in Dallas, Texas, Barbara was a beacon of compassion and strength, known to many as a loving mother, a devoted friend, and the spirited owner of Record's BBQ. Her journey came to a close on November 09, 2025, in the same city that cradled her dreams and aspirations.

Barbara's life was an embodiment of service and dedication, particularly to

single mothers and underserved children, a testament to her natural compassion and unwavering commitment to uplifting others. With her caring spirit and excellent leadership, she became a mentor in the community, fostering education and personal growth among those who were fortunate enough to cross her path. Barbara was not just a mother to her own children; she embraced many as her "bonus children," extending her loving embrace to all.

Continue **Record** Page 8

Viewing for BARBARA ANN RECORD
Sunday, November 16, 2025
12:00 - 2:00 pm (Central time)
Golden Gate Funeral Home-Dallas
4155 S R. L. Thornton Fwy, Dallas, TX 75224

Wake for BARBARA ANN RECORD
Sunday, November 16, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 pm (Central time)
Friendship West Baptist Church
2020 W Wheatland Rd, Dallas, TX 75232

Celebration of Life for BARBARA ANN RECORD
Monday, November 17, 2025
Starts at 11:00 am (Central time)
Friendship West Baptist Church
2020 W Wheatland Rd, Dallas, TX 75232



Barbara Ann Record

March 31, 1942 - November 10, 2025



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Texas Democrats Menefee and Edwards advance to runoff for vacant US House seat

By **JOHN HANNA** and **LEKAN OYEKANMI** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Democrats Christian Menefee and Amanda Edwards advanced to a runoff Tuesday night in a special election for a U.S. House seat that has been vacant since March and will narrow the GOP's slim majority once a winner is sworn in.

Menefee, who currently serves as Harris County attorney, and Edwards, a former Houston City Council member, were the top vote-getters in a crowded field of 16 candidates. Neither received more than 50% of the vote, sending the race to a runoff that is expected early next year.

The winner is to serve out the remaining term of Democratic Rep. Sylvester Turner, who died two months after taking office representing the deep-blue 18th Congressional District.

Following Turner's death, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott defended not holding a special election until November by arguing that Houston election officials needed time to prepare. Democrats criticized the long wait and accused Abbott of trying to give his party's House majority more cushion.

Menefee said his message for President Donald Trump and his allies is, "We've got one more election left, and then you're going to have to see me."

"For months, as this seat sat vacant, I heard from voters who were ready for someone willing to take on Donald Trump and the far right — not just talk about change, but deliver real results," Menefee said.

Confusion has lingered over the election in the 18th Congressional District, where many residents will vote in a different district next year under a redrawn map demanded by President Donald Trump in an effort to increase the number of GOP seats.

Republicans currently hold a six-seat majority in the House, 219-213, with three vacancies, including the Houston seat. Arizona Democrat Adelita Grijalva won a special election in September in a heavily Democratic district along the Mexico border, but she has not been sworn in yet. A narrower majority gives Republican leaders less room to maneuver.

"It's not enough to me just for us to fight back against the attacks waged by our president," Edwards said, speaking to supporters after polls closed. "We must do that and forge a path for our future."

Menefee ousted an incumbent in 2020 to become Harris County's first Black county attorney, representing it in civil cases, and he has joined legal challenges of Trump's executive orders on immigration. He was endorsed by several prominent Texas Democrats including former congressman Beto O'Rourke and Rep. Jasmine Crockett.

Edwards served four years on the council starting in 2016. She ran for U.S. Senate in 2020 but finished fifth in a 12-person primary. She unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee in the 2024 primary, and

Continue **Runoff** Page 4

Continued **Reopen** Page 1

as part of a deal reached with a handful of Senate Democrats, whose support gave the bill enough support to pass the upper chamber on Monday.

As part of the agreement, Senate Democrats will also get a vote on an extension of the Affordable Care Act subsidies that have been at the center of the shutdown dispute. The future of the

tax credits remains in doubt, however: Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, has not promised to bring the issue to the House floor, and many House Republicans — including some from Texas — have publicly called for major reforms or an outright end to the subsidies.

Democratic lawmakers from Texas and across the country have slammed the defecting Senate Democrats

for agreeing to a deal that did not include a renewal of the health care tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of the year. An end to the subsidies would produce a sharp rise in premiums that could result in hundreds of thousands, if not over a million, Texans dropping ACA coverage.

“This deal keeps the government open but leaves working people behind,” Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-

Houston, said in a statement. “In my district, the most uninsured district in the nation, every delay and every cut means more families lose coverage, more seniors skip medicine, and more children go without care. This should not happen anywhere in America.”

Rep. Morgan Luttrell, R-Magnolia, blasted Democrats for previously opposing stopgap spending

bills on the grounds that they did not extend the ACA credits, only to eventually support a funding deal that also did not address the health care subsidies.

“For over a month, Democrats chose partisan politics over paying our military and serving our veterans,” Luttrell said in a statement. “They forced this shutdown, prolonged the unnecessary suffering for

our veteran communities and military families, and have nothing to show for it except the chaos they created.”

Cuellar said in a statement that he voted for the funding deal because the shutdown created unnecessary hardship for his constituents. Despite voting with Republicans, Cuellar called on Congress to

Continue **Reopen** Page 3

November 10-16 is Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week

Free legal aid available across the state for Dallas/Fort Worth area veterans

Texas veterans are invited to participate in *Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week (TVLAW)*, a statewide effort in honor of Veterans Day coordinated by the *Texas Access to Justice Foundation* and legal aid programs across the state.

During the week of Nov. 10-16, legal aid programs, local bar associations, law schools and pro bono private lawyers will provide civil legal services for qualified Texas veterans, including multiple events in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation provided grant funding this year to 13 nonprofit organizations that provide civil legal services to veterans. Last year, legal aid organizations provided legal services to more than 6,900 Texas veterans.

A list of in-person and virtual clinics and events throughout the state can be found at: <https://texaslawhelp.org/tvlaw>. Assistance and referrals are also provided through a statewide hotline for veterans at Texas Legal Services Center, 1-800-622-2520, option 2 or online at <https://texaslawhelp.org/> through the chat feature.

Outside of Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week, veterans can receive legal aid assistance year-round at

legal aid clinics, both in-person and virtual, across the state.

EVENTS:

In-person events:

Dallas/Fort Worth:

Allen County Legal Clinic
Thursday, Nov. 13, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
601 S. Greenville Ave.
Allen, TX 75002>
Contact for more information: 469-405-2809

Veteran’s Appreciation & Legal Information
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fort Worth VA Clinic
2201 S.E. Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76119>
Contact for more information: 817-339-5318

EJVP Civil Legal Clinic
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Booker T. Washington Recreation Center
100 Mansfield Rd.
Cleburne, TX 76031>
Contact for more information: 817-339-5318

2025 Free Legal Aid Clinic
Thursday, Nov. 20, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Texas Workforce Commission
5800 I-35, Suite 100
Denton, TX 76207>
Contact for more information: 469-678-7821

Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program Virtual Legal Clinic
Thursday, Nov. 13, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Contact for more information: <https://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/volunteer/clinics/>

Virtual:

Veteran Legal Series
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact for more information: 956-718-4618

Vet Week Online
Daily, Nov. 10-14, 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
www.facebook.com/LoneStarLegalAid/

Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans Virtual Legal Clinic
Friday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Contact for more information: 432-242-3509

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Expected Lifestyle of Believers

I Peter 2:11-17



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this marvelous epistle, Peter writes his first epistle to Jewish believers who were scattered throughout Asia Minor. Although these Jewish believers had been taken captive to a foreign land, Peter reminds them of their true identity. Where you are, should not define who you are! Peter reminds these Jewish believers that they were “strangers and pilgrims” in a foreign land (I Peter 2:11). Although they were believers who were “elected according to the foreknowledge of God” (I Peter 1:2), they were not exempted from suffering and trials. Yes, even the grand Apostle Paul wrote regarding the fact that we are not exempted from suffering when he said: “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12).

Throughout this marvelous epistle, Peter constantly reminded these believers that they belong to God. Peter reminded them that they were a “chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people” (I Peter 2:9). As believers, we belong to God in a special sense. But why has God given us these titles of being a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people? Did He give us these titles as a reason to boast? No, but the titles were given to us so that God’s “praises” (excellencies) might be known (I Peter 2:9). As believers, we must understand that our position in Jesus Christ is lofty! What we are in our position in Christ is what we must be in our practice!

Behavior must match belief.

I Peter 2:11-17 may be outlined as follows: I. The Lifestyle of Believers as Witnesses – I Peter 2:11-12; II. The Lifestyle of Believers as Citizens – I Peter 2:13-17.

I. The Lifestyle of Believers as Witnesses – I Peter 2:11-12

Based on their solid position as sons of God, Peter called them “dearly beloved.” He encouraged and exhorted them, not as permanent residents in the world, but as citizens of heaven. Yes indeed, they were in the world; however, their true citizenship was in heaven (Philippians 3:20). As strangers and pilgrims, they were admonished to “abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (v. 11).

The old nature with which we were born is still with us! We must constantly submit to God and His word in an effort to live a victorious life. If we are to live appropriate lives in view of our heavenly citizenship, we must submit to the Holy Spirit daily to combat the spiritual warfare waged against our soul! (Galatians 5:16).

In verse 12, Peter exhorts the saved Jews to live honestly among the Gentiles. The “conversation” of believers means more than talk. It really refers to our manner of life (lifestyle). We are to let our lights so shine among unbelievers so that they might see our good works and glorify God (Matthew 5:16). There are those who might speak evil of us; yet our good works

should cause them to “glorify God in the day of visitation” (v. 12).

Having observed “The Lifestyle of Believers as Witnesses” – I Peter 2:11-12, now let us observe “The Lifestyle of Believers as Citizens” – I Peter 2:13-17.

II. The Lifestyle of Believers as Citizens – I Peter 2:13-17

God has ordained human governments. The words “ordinance of man” refers to human institutions whose main design is to produce an orderly society. Our heavenly citizenship does not exempt us from submission to earthly governments. God’s people are to submit to authority “For the Lord’s sake” (v. 13). Brothers and sisters, we cannot be a vibrant witness to the unsaved if we are disobedient in this area of Scripture! Peter cited kings and governors as specific examples of those to whom God’s people are to be subject (I Peter 2:13-14). God has established human government to keep law and order! Evil is to be punished and good rewarded by those in responsible positions of authority.

In verses 15-16, the lifestyle of believers is that of a servant. Not only is it the will of God that the people of God be subject to authority (vv. 13-14), but it is also the will of God that we live as servants (vv. 15-16). It is the will of God that we “with well doing put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (slander) (v.12).

As believers, we do have freedom (liberty), but we must not use our Christian liberty as a cloak of maliciousness. We cannot use our Christian liberty as a cover-up for doing something wrong!

Finally, Peter concludes this section by a four-point summary of our Christian citizenship. We are exhorted to respect everyone (Romans 12:10; 13:17). We should be cognizant of the fact that every human has value and is created in God’s image. Second, we are to love the brotherhood of believers. As God’s children, we are to love one another for Jesus said: “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you” (St. John 15:12). Third, we are to fear God! We should fear God not in terror, but reverence that would promote obedience. Fourth, we are to honor the king. We should respect or honor those whom God has placed in authority (I Peter 2:13; Romans 13:1).

Yes, as believers, we should live exemplary lives for Him in this tainted world of sin, knowing assuredly that the “One” who planned our salvation, produced our salvation, and will preserve our salvation, is coming to us! He will consummate the great work of salvation began, for Philipians 1:6 says: “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

May God Bless!

Continued **Reopen** Page 2

extend the ACA tax credits to keep health care costs down.

“Today, I voted to reopen the government so we can get critical programs back on track,” he said. “I am ready to work in a bipartisan manner to protect affordable health care and deliver meaningful relief to the American people.”

The funding package headed to Trump’s desk with a provision intact that criminalizes the sale of almost all consumable hemp products nationwide, restoring a similar ban to the state-level one vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this year.

Rep. Pete Sessions, a Waco Republican who was a vocal proponent of the hemp ban, praised the

bill for closing a loophole “that allowed intoxicating and dangerous high-potency THC products like Delta-8 to flood our communities.”

Unless Congress reverses course, the ban is set to start a year after the legislation goes into effect. Opponents of the provision warn it will effectively shut down Texas’ \$8 billion hemp industry and the

thousands of jobs associated with the sale of consumable THC products.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2025/11/12/house-funding-deal-government-shutdown-texas-delegation-congress/" />

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.>

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~ THANKSGIVING ~

(Solution will appear in November 20 edition)

ACROSS

1. Fresh Prince: " ____ ya later!"

6. Say "no"

9. "Nana" author Émile ____

13. Capital of Vietnam

14. The home of the brave, acr.

15. Increase rpms (2 words)

16. Like yesteryear

17. Rejuvenating spot

18. Like a solder at attention

19. *Pumpkin pie or pecan pie, e.g.

21. *Plymouth ____

23. Seek damages

24. Light on one's feet

25. Like The Beatles

28. Certain blast's origins

30. *What tom said

35. Iranian money

37. Precedes GPT

39. Water nymph

40. Wisconsin's western neighbor

41. One tenth

43. Mountain, in Germany

44. The Statue of Liberty island

46. Cat sound

47. Instinctive motive

48. 1970s dance clubs

50. Do like buffaloes

52. Distress acronym

53. Opposite of genuine

55. Bow or bolo

57. *Moisturizing kitchen tool

60. *Turkey prepared certain way

64. Bottom line

65. Pub offering

67. Alley cat, e.g.

68. Extreme suffering

69. International help, e.g.

70. Bullwinkle J. ____

71. Fitness facilities

72. July-August sign of Zodiac

73. More so than #12 Down

DOWN

1. Not barefoot

2. Gender checkbox

3. Peters out

4. Loamy deposit

5. Form a queue (2 words)

6. Head and shoulders sculpture

7. Venomous snake

8. Civil rights organization, acr.

9. Whole number between -1 and 1

10. *Biscuit baker

11. *She took away the football from Charlie Brown

12. Mentally quick, e.g.

15. Put trust in (2 words)

20. Respond

22. Website address ending

24. Eminence

25. *Deep-____, turkey prepared certain way

26. White condiment

27. Sheds tears

29. *Mayflower

31. Hindi courtesy title

32. Coffin holders

33. One of Florida Keys

34. Ruler sides, e.g.

36. Not of the cloth

38. Through, to a poet

42. Muse of love poetry

45. "Killing Me ____ with His Song"

49. Fraternity letters

51. Unwholesome atmosphere

54. Cattle enclosure in African village

56. Bar, legally

57. Unidentified aircraft

58. Niels Bohr's study object

59. Without, à Paris

60. Overhaul

61. *Turkey ____, 5K run

62. "At ____!" military command

63. Indigo user

64. "You're it" game

66. Rest in state

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: THANKSGIVING

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 13 | | | | | | 14 | | | | 15 | | | | |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | | 28 | | 29 | | | 30 | | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| 35 | | | 36 | | | 37 | | | 38 | | 39 | | | |
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| 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | | | | 47 | | | |
| 48 | | | | | 49 | | 50 | | | 51 | | 52 | | |
| | | | | 53 | | 54 | | | 55 | | 56 | | | |
| | 57 | 58 | 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | 62 | 63 |
| 64 | | | | | | 65 | 66 | | | 67 | | | | |
| 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | | 70 | | | | |
| 71 | | | | | | 72 | | | | 73 | | | | |

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE


7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Nov. 13




H - 77°
L - 64°

Friday, Nov. 14




H 81°
L - 63°

Saturday, Nov. 15




H - 82°
L - 64°

Sunday, Nov. 16




H - 83°
L - 65°

Monday, Nov. 17



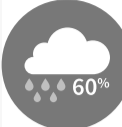
H - 83°
L - 64°*

Tuesday, Nov. 18



H - 78°
L - 55°

Wednesday, Nov. 19



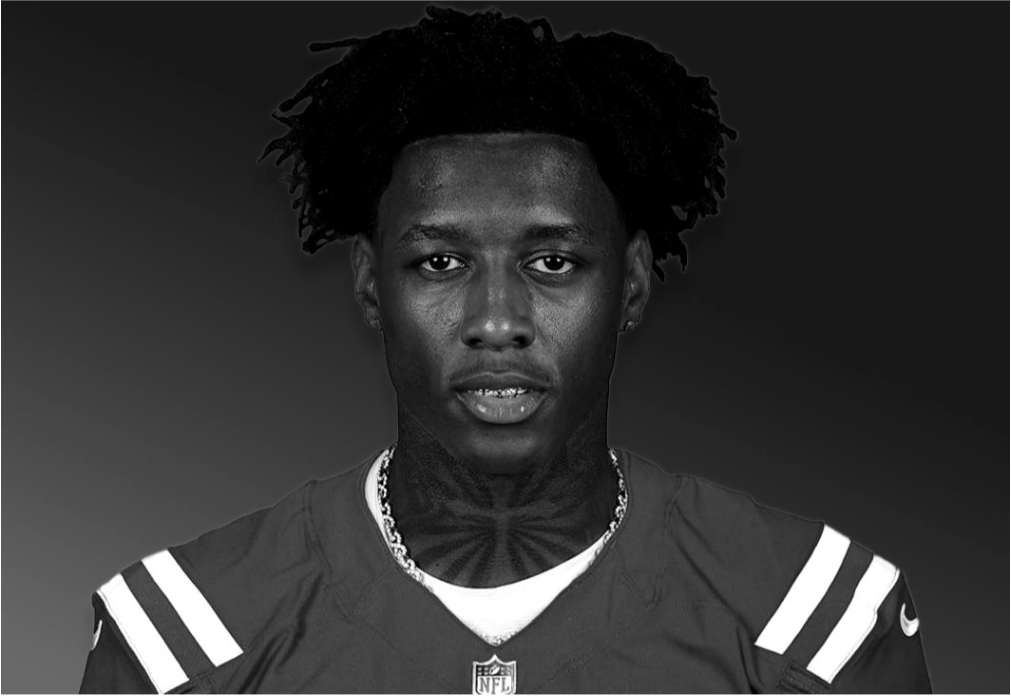
H - 73°
L - 59°
60%

2025 NFL Trade Deadline:

Jets trade away All-Pros

Gardner and Williams

BlackPressUSA



Sauce Gardner Roster Photo/ Itoro N. Umontuen/BlackPressUSA

In a stunning NFL development, the New York Jets have agreed to trade cornerback Ahmad “Sauce” Gardner to the Indianapolis Colts. In return, New York will receive two first-round draft picks along with wide receiver AD Mitchell, according to multiple reports.

The Jets now hold an extra first-round selection in both the 2026 and 2027 NFL Drafts, giving them additional flexibility as they look to rebuild their roster.

For the Colts, the move secures Gardner’s services for the next five and a half years under a deal valued at \$131.5 million, minus what the Jets have already paid. Gardner will earn \$625,000 for the remainder of 2025 and average \$26.1 million annually over the following five seasons.

At just 25 years old, Gardner has already established himself as one of the league’s premier defensive players. Selected in the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft, he earned All-Pro honors and was named Defensive Rookie of the Year.

assets for a future franchise quarterback. The two first-round picks from the Colts were deemed more valuable to New York’s long-term outlook than retaining their top defensive star.

Meanwhile, AD Mitchell, who joins the Jets as part of the deal, has struggled to find his footing in Indianapolis. The rookie receiver has tallied 312 yards with no touchdowns and participated in only 24% of the Colts’ offensive snaps. His lone standout performance came against the Rams, when he notched 96 yards but also lost a fumble.

This trade follows another major roster shake-up for the Jets, who earlier sent defensive tackle Quinnen Williams to the Dallas Cowboys in exchange for a 2026 second-round pick and a 2027 first-round selection.

If the season ended today, the Jets would hold the 3rd overall pick, the 14th overall pick, and the first-round selection acquired from the Cowboys via Green Bay in the Micah Parsons trade — positioning them with significant draft capital for a franchise reset.

Continued Page 1

Cowboys back at work

outside view of

media after death of

Marshawn Kneeland

foremost. But then we do know, like anything, you've got to get back to work. We just want to continue to honor Marshawn and do everything the very best way we can."

At the direction of the NFL, each home team held a moment of silence for Kneeland over the weekend, along with an announcement about mental health awareness. Some of the moments of silence ended up including former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue after news of his death broke shortly before kickoff of the early games Sunday.

The Cowboys return next Monday night at Las Vegas. Their next home game is Nov. 23 against NFC East rival Philadelphia. Kneeland had the only sack of his career in the NFL opener against the Eagles this season. His death came within days of him recovering a blocked punt in the end zone for a touchdown in a 27-17 loss to Arizona.

"The biggest thing was his energy and the way he played the game," Jones said of the 2024 second-round pick. "He played with a high motor. He loved to get after it. Certainly, that jumped off the tape when you watched Marshawn when we were scouting him. I mean he just jumped off the tape, how he hustled, how he played the game, his passion for the game."

As authorities were looking for Kneeland, a dispatcher told officers that people who knew him had received a group text from Kneeland "saying goodbye. They're concerned for his welfare," according to recordings from Broadcastify, which archives public safety radio feeds.

"We're talking to the girlfriend. She's trying to call his agent. But we're trying to get her to call him first. But she's saying he is armed and has a history of mental illness. And her quote was, 'He will end it all,'" another dispatcher told officers.

In the recordings from Broadcastify, officers said they had tried to get in contact with Kneeland by calling and texting him and had used a drone to try and locate him after the crash. Police didn't say where Kneeland's body was found.

Jones said he got a call shortly after Kneeland was found dead.

"Anytime you get news like that your heart just, obviously it's like a hole going through it and you're just heartbroken," Jones said. "Found out in the middle of the night, so woke up after finally got a little bit of sleep and woke up and was hoping it was a dream, but unfortunately it wasn't.

"You certainly get other calls that aren't good and are alarming, but certainly when there's a loss of life, it's just heartbreaking and tragic and the worst thing you can imagine," Jones said.

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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: November 6 - NORTH & SOUTH POLES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | D | H | O | C | | L | O | P | | P | O | C | O |
| L | O | O | F | A | | E | V | E | | R | A | D | O |
| P | L | A | T | S | | T | A | R | | E | L | O | P |
| | E | R | E | B | U | S | | D | E | S | E | R | T |
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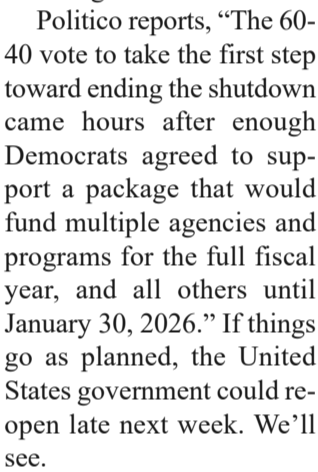
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Boeing won't face criminal charge over 737 Max crashes that killed hundreds of people

By RIO YAMAT and JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Boeing will not face a criminal conspiracy charge over two 737 Max jetliner crashes that killed 346 people, after a federal judge in Texas on Thursday granted the government's request to dismiss the case.

As part of a deal to drop the charge, the American aerospace company agreed to pay or invest an additional \$1.1 billion in fines, compensation for the crash victims' families, and internal safety and quality measures. The agreement lets Boeing choose its own compliance consultant instead of getting an independent monitor.

Prosecutors said Boeing deceived government regulators about a flight-control system that was later implicated in the fatal flights. The ruling comes after an emotional hearing in September in Fort Worth where relatives of some of the victims urged U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor to reject the deal and instead appoint a special prosecutor.

O'Connor wrote Thursday that the deal "fails to secure the necessary accountability to ensure the safety of the flying public."

Still, he said, the court can't block the dismissal simply because it disagrees with the government's view

that the deal serves the public interest. The Justice Department has said a jury trial risks sparing Boeing from further punishment.

The judge also said the government hadn't acted in bad faith, had explained their decision and had met their obligations under the Crime Victims' Rights Act.

All passengers and crew died when two 737 Max jetliners went down less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019 — a Lion Air flight that plunged into the sea off the coast of Indonesia and an Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed into a field after taking off from Addis Ababa.

Some of the victims' families plan to appeal O'Connor's decision.

"When a company's failures cost so many lives, ending a criminal case behind closed doors erodes trust and weakens deterrence for every passenger who steps onto a plane," Paul Njoroge, a Canadian man who lost his wife and three small children in the Ethiopia crash, said in a statement released by the families' attorneys.

The long-running case has taken many twists and turns since the Justice Department first charged

Continue **Boeing** Page 8

Greg Abbott, Dan Patrick call for DPS to investigate Texas Southern University over financial mismanagement findings

State Auditor Lisa Collier said university staff vacancies for “critical” financial responsibilities have contributed to delays in financial reporting, as well as poor asset oversight and weak contracting processes.by Sneha Dey

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate Texas Southern University on Monday after a new state audit found evidence of poor bookkeeping and financial mismanagement.

Patrick said he will discuss with Abbott and House Speaker Dustin Burrows a freeze on TSU's state funding. It's unclear if and when the freeze would go into effect and what impact it would have on TSU, one of the largest historically Black universities in the country.

In a letter to Patrick's office and other members of the state Legislature's Audit Committee, State Auditor Lisa Collier said university staff vacancies for “critical” financial responsibilities have contributed to delays in financial reporting, as well as poor asset oversight and weak contracting processes.

According to a preliminary report from Collier, more than 700 invoices totaling more than \$280 million were tied to vendors whose contracts expired in the contract database. And more than 800 invoices worth nearly \$160 million were dated before the purchase were officially requested or approved.

Collier also said the university submitted its finan-

Students walk along the Tiger Walk through campus on the first day of class at Texas Southern University on Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.
Photo Credit:Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune

cial reports to the comptroller's office 10 months late for the 2023 fiscal year and four months late for the 2024 fiscal years.

In a statement to The Texas Tribune, Texas Southern University said it was cooperating with the state auditor and that it had “enacted corrective measures” prior to the release of the report, including a new purchasing system. The university declined to answer questions about the vacant positions in their financial office, and the potential freeze on state funding.

The Houston university, which has an enrollment of about 8,000 students, has faced scrutiny for how its

finances have been handled before. In 2020, allegations of bribery and kickbacks in the law school admissions process led to the ousting of the sitting president at the time, Austin Lane.

Students with low academic credentials were admitted and given more than \$430,000 in scholarship money, and cashier's check and money orders were found stashed under one admission official's desk calendar, an internal investigation found.

“The legislature has continued year-after-year to try to help the school,” Patrick said in a statement on X. “It appears the legislature has been misled over this time period on promised im-

provements in accounting practices and contracting.”

Within hours of Patrick's order, Abbott issued a separate statement saying he had also requested DPS to investigate the university. He slammed the “potential misappropriation of hundreds of millions of dollars” and said “waste, fraud, and abuse will not be tolerated.”

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2025/11/10/texas-state-university-financial-mismanagement-audit-dan-patrick/" />

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

When the Music Stopped: Michael Jackson's Former Inner Circle Faces the Estate

By **Stacy M. Brown**
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent



Neverland Ranch's gates. (Wikimedia Commons
/Photo by **Shazari**)/ NNPA

There was a time when Neverland was a dream. A place where innocence and fame danced together, and the world believed in magic again. But dreams can rot in daylight, and in the years since Michael Jackson's death, Neverland's gates have opened once more — this time, into a courtroom.

Three siblings, once close enough to be called family, are accusing the late superstar's billion-dollar Estate of manipulation and betrayal. Frank Cascio, Aldo Cascio, and Marie-Nicole Porte have filed sworn declarations claiming the Michael Jackson Estate forced them into a secret 2019 settlement meant to silence them forever. The Estate calls it false, labeling their claims a \$213 million shakedown. The Cascio family's bond with Jackson stretched back to childhood. He was a guest in their New Jersey home, a mentor, a friend, and for years, a source of pride. Frank traveled the world with him, managed his affairs, and called him a brother. Aldo and Marie spent their youth inside the singer's circle of light.

In those days, the Cascios believed they were part of something beautiful. Frank wrote a 2011 book titled *My Friend Michael*, calling Jackson gentle and misunderstood. He told Oprah Winfrey and Wendy Williams that Michael was innocent and that every man who accused him of abuse was motivated by

greed. "He was being attacked by liars who wanted his money," Frank said then. But time has a way of turning faith into fracture.

According to court filings, the Cascio siblings now say the Estate preyed on their pain. In December 2019, they allege, a representative came to their father's Italian restaurant in New Jersey and gathered nine relatives in a private upstairs room. There was one document on the table. It was read once. They were told to sign immediately. No lawyers. No copies. No questions. Aldo said the moment felt suffocating. "We were subjected to intense time pressure," he wrote. "The pressure was compounded by the Estate's exploitation of our family's relationship with Michael's children. We were told not to inform them about the agreement or the underlying abuse."

He said he signed while in therapy, struggling to understand his trauma. "I felt stripped of dignity and forced into silence about the most painful truth of my life." Frank, who noted that he has dyslexia, said he signed alone in Los Angeles at the office of longtime Jackson attorney Howard Weitzman. "They told me it was only a technicality," he said. "They told me not to bring a lawyer. I trusted them." The Michael Jackson Estate denies all of it. Co-executor John Branca said the 2019 deal was mutual and necessary to protect Jackson's

children and legacy after HBO's *Leaving Neverland* documentary. He called the new claims "blackmail dressed up as trauma."

"They went on national television for years saying Michael was innocent," Branca said. "Now they want to profit off his name." Before his death, Michael Jackson was acquitted of all 13 criminal charges in 2005. He, his family, and the Estate have always vehemently denied all allegations of abuse. Yet



Neverland Ranch's gates.
(Wikimedia Commons
/Photo by **Shazari**)/NNPA

this latest battle is not just about innocence or guilt. It is about power — who wields it, who loses it, and what it costs to stand against it. It is about the price of silence, and how loyalty, once broken, can turn love into something that no settlement can contain.

As the case moves through the courts, one thing is certain. The music may have stopped, but the echoes of Neverland still refuse to fade.

Continued **Boeing** Page 7

Boeing in 2021 with defrauding the government but agreed not to prosecute if the company paid a settlement and took steps to comply with anti-fraud laws. However, federal prosecutors said last year that Boeing had violated the agreement, and Boeing agreed to plead guilty to the charge. O'Connor rejected that plea deal.

In a statement after Thursday's ruling, Boeing said it would honor the agreement and continue "the significant efforts we have made as a company to strengthen our safety, quality, and compliance programs."

The Justice Department said in a statement that they are "confident that this resolution is the most just outcome." The department has said the families of 110 crash victims either support resolving the case before it reaches trial or

did not oppose the deal.

Meanwhile, nearly 100 families have opposed the agreement. More than a dozen relatives spoke at the Sept. 3 hearing in Texas, with some coming from Europe and Africa.

"Do not allow Boeing to buy its freedom," said Catherine Berthet, who traveled from France. Her daughter, Camille Geoffroy, died in the Ethiopia crash.

The first civil trial over that crash opened Wednesday in federal court in Chicago. The jury must decide how much Boeing has to pay the family of one victim, Shikha Garg, a United Nations consultant who was among several passengers traveling to a U.N. environmental assembly in Kenya.

The criminal case centered around a software system that Boeing developed for the 737 Max, which airlines began flying in 2017. The plane was

Boeing's answer to a new, more fuel-efficient model from European rival Airbus, and Boeing billed it as an updated 737 that wouldn't require much additional pilot training.

But the Max did include significant changes, some of which Boeing downplayed — most notably, the addition of an automated flight-control system designed to help account for the plane's larger engines. Boeing didn't mention the system in airplane manuals, and most pilots didn't know about it.

In both of the deadly crashes, that software pitched the nose of the plane down repeatedly based on faulty readings from a single sensor, and pilots flying for Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines were unable to regain control. After the Ethiopia crash, the planes were grounded worldwide for 20 months.

Continued Page 1

The Life and Legacy of Barbara Ann Record

Her legacy is carried on by her beloved daughters: Felecia Whitten, Loquita Record, Edith Record Frazier (Victor), Rotunda Record-Lewis, and Kebrana Record, along with her seven grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, all fortunate to bask in the warmth of her love. Though her husband, Albert Record, Sr., and son, Albert, Jr., have departed from this world, their memories remain alive within the hearts of her family, echoing the lessons and love they shared.

Barbara's heart was as

expansive as the skies she loved to gaze upon. A culinary artist at heart, her passion for cooking and baking transformed her into the matriarch of countless gatherings, where every meal was a feast and every recipe told a story. A vibrant traveler and a member of the Golden Divas, her adventures brought her joy, and her keen sense of fashion mirrored her spirited personality. She was not just a friend; she was a dedicated confidant and a loyal companion, demonstrating time and time again that true

friendship knows no bounds.

The community grieves the loss of a remarkable woman, whose spirit of giving and problem-solving capabilities made her a pillar of strength. As we gather to honor her legacy, we will hold onto the fond memories of her laughter, her kindness, and her indomitable spirit.

A public viewing will be held at Golden Gate Funeral Home in Dallas on Sunday, November 16, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, followed by a Wake Service from 4:00



PM to 6:00 PM at Friendship West Baptist Church. In this way, we will come together, sharing stories and memories, continuing the legacy of love and support that Barbara Ann Record so beautifully embodied until her final breath. The following day, Monday, November 17, 2025, a Final Viewing will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, followed by the Celebration of Life that will begin at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Albert and Barbara Record Scholarship

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