

Dept Of Justice Is Sharing State Voter Roll Lists With Homeland Security

By Jonathan Shorman

Stalene

The U.S. Department of Justice is sharing state voter roll information with the Department of Homeland Security in a search for noncitizens, the Trump administration confirmed.

The data sharing comes after Justice Department attorneys this summer demanded that election officials in nearly two dozen states turn over their voter lists, alarming some Democratic state secretaries of state and election experts. They have voiced fears about how the

Trump administration planned to use the data. Even some Republican secretaries of state have declined to provide their full voter lists.

Homeland Security in an unsigned statement to Stalene called information sharing essential to "scrub aliens from voter rolls" and said the federal government was "finally doing what it should have all along — sharing information to solve problems."

"This collaboration with the DOJ will lawfully and critically enable DHS to prevent illegal aliens from corrupting our republic's democratic process and further ensure the in-

tegrity of our elections nationwide. Elections exist for the American people to choose their leaders, not illegal aliens," the statement reads.

The Justice Department said in its own statement that state voter roll data provided in response to requests from the department's Civil Rights Division is "being screened for ineligible voter entries."

Noncitizen voting is extremely rare. One study of the 2016 election placed the prevalence of noncitizen voting at 0.0001% of votes cast.

The data sharing marks a next step in President Donald Trump's efforts to exert more federal influence over

state-administered elections. Trump signed an executive order earlier this year that sought to require individuals to provide proof-of-citizenship documents to register to vote, a rule quickly blocked in federal court. He has also threatened to sign another executive order attempting to restrict mail ballots.

At least 10 states have either provided publicly available data or given the department directions on how to request public data. On Friday, Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales, a Republican, confirmed to reporters that he had provided the Justice Department with all voter information requested, including driver's license and partial Social Security numbers — making Indiana the first known state to have supplied personally sensitive data.

While the administration didn't describe how Homeland Security will use the voter rolls to search for noncitizens, the agency operates a powerful program, Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, or SAVE, that can identify the immigration or citizenship status of an individual.

SAVE was originally intended to help state and local officials verify the immigration status of individual noncitizens seeking government benefits. But U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which is part of Homeland Security, this spring refashioned it into a platform that can scan states' voter rolls if officials

(See **VOTER ROLL** P. 2)



There are moments in life that make you pause and give thought to your existence. The death of Tim Prince is one of those moments. If you knew him you would understand that statement without explanation. For those who weren't lucky enough to cross his path here on earth, you missed an opportunity to walk with an angel. The way Tim lived his life was an example of God acting through man. His love and compassion for everyone around him was what we should all strive to be. Rest in Peace Tim knowing that your work on earth was done and done well!



LEANDRO REVISITED AS STATE BUDGET WORK LINGERS

NCNewline—With North Carolina lawmakers still negotiating the state budget, a public forum on Thursday highlighted the state's long-running Leandro case, a nearly three-decade legal battle over equitable education funding.

Speaking at the forum organized by the advocacy group Public Schools First NC, state Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls discussed the history of the case, which began in 1994 when parents and school districts in low-wealth counties sued the state. They argued their students were being denied the state constitution's guarantee of a "sound basic education."

The state Supreme Court affirmed that right in 1997 and found that North Carolina had failed to meet its obligation, particularly for at-risk students. Since then, the case has moved through years of court rulings, compliance hearings, and disputes over funding plans.

Earls, who was elected to the state's highest court in 2018, told the audience she could only discuss the case's public record, not ongoing proceedings. She read directly from her dissent in a 2022 decision, where she criticized the court's majority for stepping back from ordering the state to fund a comprehensive remedial plan.

"Not only is it true that justice delayed is justice denied, but denying adequate educational opportunities entails enormous losses, both in dollars and in human potential to the state and its citizens," Earls read from her dissent. "If our court cannot or will not enforce state constitutional rights, those rights do not exist. The constitution is not worth the paper it is written on, and our oath as judicial officers to uphold the Constitution is a meaningless charade."

The General Assembly adjourned in late July with no comprehensive deal on the two-year spending plan, passing a resolution to meet only one day a month until the 2026 short session begins in April. Lawmakers have been deadlocked since early summer over tax cuts and spending priorities. That means months could pass before school districts have clarity on the state's spending priorities for education.

Democratic leaders in the legislature and education groups have called on lawmakers to return to Raleigh to pass a full budget. They argue the state needs more than incremental fixes to address increasing enrollment, aging school facilities, and teacher workforce challenges.

The audience on Thursday also heard from education advocates who connected the case to current classroom struggles. Public Schools First NC have highlighted how Leandro funding could expand pre-K programs, hire more teachers and reduce class sizes.

The Leandro case remains pending before the state Supreme Court, which last heard arguments in February 2024.

STEIN ORDERS COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

NCNewline—Gov. Josh Stein signed an order Friday afternoon allowing eligible North Carolinians to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine without obtaining a prescription.

This includes senior citizens as well as adults over 18 who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention list of high risk conditions, including asthma, COPD, diabetes, ADHD, heart disease and cancer.

"Right now, North Carolina is one of only a handful of states where people must get a prescription before they can get a shot at the pharmacy," Stein said. "This is unnecessary red tape. It is time for North Carolina to get in line with other states across the country."

Pharmacies may ask the patient certain questions or ask them to attest to the conditions that would make them eligible, but medical documentation is not necessary.

The Medicaid program is currently paying for COVID vaccines for individuals who are beneficiaries, said Larry Greenblatt, state health director and chief medical officer at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

"Vaccines are one of the most effective means available to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death," NC Health and Human Services Secretary Dev Sangvai said. "They help protect the health of children and adults, their families, and the entire community from the spread of infectious disease."

Following state law, immunizing pharmacists in North Carolina can administer those vaccines recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), but ACIP has yet to give its recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines this season, NC Newline previously reported.

ACIP is expected to release recommendations later in September, according to Stein's office.

The governor's office shared a list of retail pharmacies that have announced they have the updated COVID-19 vaccine available, to date: Brisson Drugs, Carlie C's, Central Pharmacy of Durham, Costco, CVS Pharmacy, Food Lion, Hope Mills Pharmacy, Fairmont Drug Company, Ingles Markets, Med Smart Pharmacy, Med Source Pharmacy, Publix Pharmacies, Sam's Club, Walgreens and Walmart.

U.S. Senate Votes Down A Measure To Force The Release Of Epstein Files

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Republicans on Wednesday stopped a Democratic amendment to the annual defense authorization bill that would have compelled the release of the government's investigative files on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

In a procedural vote, senators voted 51-49 to table the amendment filed by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, effectively stopping the chamber from considering the measure. Republicans Josh Hawley of Missouri and Rand Paul of Kentucky voted with all Democrats to advance the amendment.

The move by Schumer was the latest attempt in Congress to force Republicans on the record about the Trump administration's announcement in July that it would not release any further materials from the federal sex trafficking case against Epstein.

"If Republicans vote no, they'll be saying to the American people, you should not see the Epstein files," Schumer said on the Senate floor ahead of the vote. "I asked my Republican colleagues, after all those years you spent calling for account-



ability, for transparency, for getting to the bottom of these awful crimes, 'Why won't you vote yes?'"

The financier, who for years surrounded himself with powerful and influential figures, died awaiting trial in a Manhattan jail cell in 2019. He and President Donald Trump had a well-documented social relationship that Trump says turned sour before

allegations against Epstein surfaced.

A bipartisan effort in the U.S. House aimed at forcing the Department of Justice to release all investigative materials has not gained enough Republican support to bypass House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, for a floor vote.

The discharge petition filed by

Reps. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, and California Democrat Ro Khanna has the signatures of all Democrats and four Republicans, including Reps. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Nancy Mace of South Carolina. The petition, which needs a majority of House members to sign to force legislation to the floor, is short two signatures.

Massie, Khanna and Greene stood outside the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 3 alongside women who shared stories of abuse inflicted by Epstein.

The GOP-led House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting its own probe into the Epstein case. On Tuesday, committee Democrats released an image of a lewd birthday greeting allegedly created by Trump for Epstein's 50th birthday.

Many lawmakers and members of the public, including some in Trump's voter base, have zoned in on the release of what they refer to as the Epstein files since the FBI declared in a July memo that no more information would be made public.

Trump campaigned on releasing the files.

Man Shot At While Waiting To Go To Work Says South Carolina Needs A Hate Crime Law

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — When Jarvis McKenzie locked eyes with the man in the car, he couldn't understand the hate he saw. When the man picked up a rifle, fired over his head and yelled "you better get running, boy!" as he scrambled behind a brick wall, McKenzie knew it was because he is Black.

McKenzie told his story a month after the shooting because South Carolina is one of two states along with Wyoming that don't have their own hate crime laws.

About two dozen local governments in South Carolina have passed their own hate crime ordinances as the latest attempt to put pressure on the South Carolina Senate to take a vote on a bill proposing stiffer penalties for crimes driven by hatred of the victims because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or ethnicity.

A decade of pressure from businesses, the survivors of a racist Charleston church massacre that left nine dead, and a few of their own Republicans hasn't been enough to sway senators.

Richland County, where McKenzie lives, has a hate crime ordinance and



the white man seen on security camera footage grabbing the rifle and firing through his open car window before driving into his neighborhood on July 24 is the first to face the charge.

But local laws are restricted to misdemeanors with sentences capped at a month in jail. The state hate crimes proposal backed by business leaders could add years on to convictions for assault and other violent crimes.

McKenzie sat in the same spot at

the edge of his neighborhood for a year at 5:30 a.m. waiting for his supervisor to pick him up for work. For him and his family, every trip outside now is met with uneasiness if not fear.

"It's heartbreaking to know that I get up every morning, I stand there not knowing if he had seen me before," McKenzie said.

The lack of a statewide hate crime law rapidly became a sore spot in

South Carolina after the 2015 shooting deaths of nine Black worshippers at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. After a summer of racial strife in 2020, business leaders made it a priority and the South Carolina House passed its version in 2021.

But in 2021 and again in the next session in 2023, the proposal stalled in the South Carolina Senate without a vote. Supporters say Republican Senate leadership knows it will pass as more moderate members of their own party support it but they keep it buried on the calendar with procedural moves.

The opposition is done mostly in silence and the bill gets only mentioned in passing as the Senate takes up other items, like in May 2023 when a debate on guidelines for history curriculum on subjects like slavery and segregation briefly had a longtime Democratic lawmaker ask Republican Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey why hate crimes couldn't get a vote.

"The problem right now is there is a number of people who think that not only is it feel good legislation, but

(See **HATE CRIME LAW** P. 2)

Joseph Mcneil, Member Of The Greensboro 4, Dies At 83

By Jeff Tiberi

WUNC

There was a time when Joseph McNeil was heading toward a life of segregation. Separate bathrooms, beaches, theaters, schools, elevators, cemeteries. Separate was what he knew.

"I had experienced that, my parents had experienced that, their parents had experienced that," McNeil said in 2014. "And in all likelihood, my off-spring, my children, would

have faced the same issues."

McNeil, and his three fellow students at North Carolina A&T, played an enormous role in heading off that "life of segregation" when they led a sit-in at the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter in 1960.

According to his family, McNeil passed away Wednesday. He was 83 years old.

Jibreel Khazan (formerly Ezell Blair Jr.) is now the only surviving member of the Greensboro Four. David Richmond passed away in 1990

and Franklin McCain in 2014.

Joseph Alfred McNeil was born March 25, 1942, in Wilmington. He spent his childhood in the port city and graduated from Williston Senior High School. He came from a comfortable middle-class family and did well enough to earn a full scholarship to A&T. There, he quickly earned the adoration of Khazan.

"One reason I liked being his roommate was I liked listening to him. He was the type of person — he quoted Aristotle, Plato," said Khazan.

Khazan also said his friend had a great sense of fashion.

"He was a sharp dresser who wore Italian clothes. Italian shoes and everything. I said, 'Can I borrow a sweater for the weekend?' I knew if I wore his sweater that maybe the magic will come off on me," said Khazan.

After his first semester at A&T, McNeil spent the holidays with family in New York City. He returned to Greensboro on a Greyhound bus following winter break. As he traveled farther south, he noticed the attitude toward him changed. In Richmond, McNeil was denied service at a lunch counter.

"Keep going through day-to-day life and getting these prompts — the denial of service at the bus station and somebody making an offhanded racial remark and it just never ended," McNeil recalled.

When McNeil returned to the A&T campus, he found friends in his dorm who were equally frustrated. There were four defiant, brave, fed-up teenagers who hoped to break a cycle of separation. They devised a plan on January 31, 1960. It was fraught with uncertainty.

"Anxious would be apropos for me," he said. "I wanted to get going, get it over with."



The four men walked into the Woolworths in downtown Greensboro on February 1, sat down and asked to be served. They were not.

Franklin McCain was next to McNeil. The other two men — Khazan and Richmond — were a few feet away.

As the men sat, a police officer walked back and forth with a nightstick in his hand. Many white patrons glared, but it never turned violent. And when the store closed a few hours later, the four young men returned to campus, hungry and without any idea of what they had just started.

"It was transformative," says Duke University emeritus history professor William Chafe, a renowned expert on the Civil Rights. "It began the entire thing."

Up until the Woolworth sit in, Chafe says the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott amounted to the biggest

moment in the Civil Rights Era.

"But it was one thing not to get on a bus," Chafe says. "It's another thing to sit down at a restaurant or in a theater and demand equal treatment. That is an action that is very dynamic and assertive, as opposed to being a passive boycott. I'm not discrediting all those people in Montgomery, but it's very different to put your life at risk by sitting down at a lunch counter than it is to just simply not get on the bus."

The sit-in movement spread quickly. The four men were joined by 20 others the next day, and 300 turned out by the end of the week. Sit-ins began in Winston-Salem, Durham, Asheville and Wilmington, then like a spiderweb, encompassing the southeast, with sit-ins taking place from Richmond to St. Louis and Florida to Nashville.

It was there, in the capital of Tennessee, where the largest demonstra-

tions took place. Hundreds of people participated, and Nashville lunch counters were the first in the south to be desegregated.

The Greensboro Woolworths desegregated, six months after the first sit in.

"It is the most important social movement in all of American history," says Chafe. "And it transforms the country."

The four freshmen from Greensboro were the spark for it all. McNeil went on to graduate from A&T in 1963, with a degree in engineering and physics. He then went on to a career in the Air Force, flying combat missions over Vietnam.

He spent more than 20 years in the service, six as an officer, the rest in Air Force Reserves, before retiring as a major general.

McNeil settled in New York and had five children with his wife.

"I think that in retrospect, they don't have the kind of appreciation of who they were as individual personalities that we might have, for example of John Lewis," says Chafe.

McNeil and the other members of the Greensboro Four had their seminal moment before turning 20 and have been celebrated ever since. Their legacies are enshrined with a statue outside of A&T's Scott Hall, where they discussed the Woolworths plan as freshmen. And in 2010, 50 years to the day after the sudden movement began, a museum opened in downtown Greensboro, where the lunch counter once stood.

"It made me very proud as an individual have fought for the cause and to continue to do so," remembered McNeil in 2014. "It made me a better person. It taught me that sometimes difficult things may take a little longer, but if they're worthwhile doing, you want to hang in there and see it through."

VOTER ROLL

Continued from page 1

upload the data.

In the past, SAVE could only search one name at a time. Now it can conduct bulk searches, allowing officials to potentially feed into it information on millions of registered voters. SAVE checks that information against a series of federal databases and reports back whether it can verify someone's immigration status.

Since May, it also can draw upon Social Security data, transforming the program into a tool that can confirm U.S. citizenship because Social Security records for many, but not all, Americans include the information.

As the Justice Department has sought state voter rolls this summer, letters from the department's attorneys to state officials in many instances have demanded full lists of registered voters that include sensitive personal information such as driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers. At least 22 states were asked for some data, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, which is tracking the requests.

Some states have turned over publicly available voter files or offered directions on how to request them. Others have flat-out refused the requests.

"The Department of Justice hasn't shown any good reason for its fishing expedition for sensitive voter information on every American," Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, a Democrat, said in a news release Monday announcing that her office had rejected the Justice Department's second request for her state's voter data.

Justin Levitt, who served as senior policy adviser for democracy and voting rights in the Biden White House and is now a law professor at Loyola Marymount University, said that he has no confidence that Homeland Security would act carefully with any data received.

Levitt, speaking with Stateline on Wednesday before the data sharing was confirmed, voiced concern that the Justice Department was "serving as a stalking horse" for other entities within the government.

"The fact that they're having to sneak through the back door rather than knocking on the front door tells you that there's improper procedures going on," Levitt said.

HATE CRIME LAW

Continued from page 1

it is bad legislation. It is bad policy not because people support hate but because it furthers division," Massey responded on the Senate floor.

Opponents of a state hate crimes law point out there is a federal hate crimes law and the Charleston church shooter is on federal death row because of it.

But federal officials can't prosecute cases involving juveniles, they have limited time and resources compared to the state and those decisions get made in Washington, D.C., instead of locally, said Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott who pushed for the hate crime ordinance in his county.

"It's common sense. We're making something very simple complicated, and it's not complicated. If you commit a crime against somebody just because of the hate for them, because of who they are, the religion, etcetera, we know what that is," Lott said.

Democrats in the Senate were especially frustrated in this year's session because while senators debated harsher sentences for attacking health care workers or police dogs, hate crimes again got nowhere.

Supporters of a state hate-crime law say South Carolina's resistance to enact one emboldens white supremacists.

"The subliminal message that says if you're racist and you want to commit a crime and target somebody for their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or whatever it is you can do it here," said McKenzie's attorney, Tyler Bailey.

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster understands why local governments are passing their own hate crime laws, but he said South Carolina's laws against assaults and other violent crimes have harsh enough sentences that judges can give maximum punishments if they think the main motivation of a crime is hate.

"There's no such thing as a love crime. There is always an element of hatred or disrespect or something like that," said the former prosecutor who added he fears the danger that happens when investigators try to enter someone's mind or police their speech.

But some crimes scream to give people more support in our society, Lott said.

Day in Labor History: September 12, 1934

By Erik Loomis

University of Rhode Island

On September 12, 1934, the Rhode Island National Guard opened fire on a group of people loosely associated with striking textile workers in nearby mills who were throwing rocks and bricks at them in the Moshassuck Cemetery in Saylesville, Rhode Island. Two workers died and dozens were wounded in this confused action. It became perhaps the most notorious moment in Rhode Island labor history. A deeper dive into this event however suggests a far more complex and messy history than the kind of romantic story of sacrifice that labor folks often like to tell.

The 1934 textile strike was a mess from the get-go. The United Textile Workers were desperately trying to hold on to its last remaining mills in New England. Meanwhile, the apparel industry had fled big time to the South in the previous twenty years, escaping the immigrants and socialists that were pretty open to labor organizing. As early as the 1890s, northern firms had looked to move south, so long as southern states such as Alabama repealed their child labor laws. By the 1920s, in the aftermath of the Triangle Fire reforms and major strikes in places such as Lawrence and Paterson, this became a flood. The UTW was a pretty conservative union, hardly the IWW. But operators didn't want unions of any kind. Meanwhile, southern workers were tremendously difficult to organize—like in southern auto today, apparel companies chose very specific parts of the South to place their factories—largely impoverished Piedmont towns with few outsiders, strong evangelical traditions, and strong feelings about white supremacy, allowing companies, the media, and politicians to



paint unions as Black loving outsiders Jews, which was sometimes true as many unionists did support civil rights and many organizers were Jewish.

But that reality did not stop organizing from taking place in the South. In 1929, a major strike in North Carolina led to massive violence and repression. In 1933, the Roosevelt administration created the National Industrial Recovery Act. Section 7(a) of the NIRA had words about the rights of unions. In truth, this was not that well-thought out and the administration didn't expect this to lead to so much organizing, but between the Great Depression and the hopes the New Deal engendered in the working class, the NIRA led to a major wave of organizing.

That included the four gigantic strikes of 1934 that laid the groundwork for more comprehensive pro-labor legislation the next year in the National Labor Relations Act. All

four of these strikes were marked by mass organizing and state violence. In three of them, workers more or less managed to win something that built toward further organizing—the west coast longshoremen, the Toledo auto workers, and the Minneapolis Trotskyite Teamsters. But with the textile strike, overwhelming state violence absolutely squashed it, as it had in 1929. In the southern states, it was a similar scenario to that year, where the entirety of the forces of order used all its power to kill as many workers as was necessary to end the uprising. And in fact, southern textile would never unionize in mass numbers.

In Rhode Island, like the rest of the industry, workers were really angry over the speeding up of machines. The speed up had been a problem for a long time and it just got worse and worse as operators found ways to make their employees ever more efficient and their lives

ever worse. At one point, a worker would be responsible for four looms. Now, in the most modern looms, it was up to 50. The stress and the speed and the workload was unbelievable, and all for poverty wages on top of it. By May 1934, the UTW was threatening a national strike.

Now, you'd like to think that the struggle for workers rights in 1934 in Rhode Island could be told as the story of brave workers standing up against oppression and being mowed down by the evil forces of order. And for a long time, that's how this was spun. But it's not really true. The reality is that the whole thing was a huge mess. First, the UTW was totally overwhelmed by the wave of grassroots organizing seeking a home. It did not have the organizing capacity or vision to organize the southern strikers effectively. It didn't even really have the capacity to organize the Rhode Island side of the strike well. So it actually called off its threat of a national strike. But at the local level, workers were so ready to go that they did, starting in Alabama. This forced UTW leaders back to actual leadership and they created new demands and said the strike would start on September 1. The Roosevelt administration didn't get involved, the textile employers refused to move, and so the strike did happen.

The strike was peaceful for several days in Rhode Island. But by September 7, things began to fall apart. On that day, about 75 workers were standing outside of the Saylesville Bleachery, trying to get workers inside to join the strike. And basically, bored kids getting out of school joined them and started throwing stuff. The cops came and were rough, the kids started throwing stuff at the cops, and a huge brawl started. This bleachery became the center point of

(See **DAY IN LABOR** P. 3)

Elon Musk Using Eugenics Startup to Inspect DNA of Potential Babies for Intelligence

By Noor Al-Sibai

Futurism

An Austin eugenics startup apparently counts billionaire Elon Musk and his girlfriend, Neuralink director Shvion Zilis, among its clients.

That company, Orchid Health, provides clients the opportunity to screen their embryos for genetic illnesses starting at around \$22,500. While there are a handful of similar genetic prediction firms, Orchid stands out by claiming that it can sequence embryos' entire genome using as few as five cells and predict far more than its competitors.

According to two sources close to the company who spoke to the *Washington Post*, its services have been used for at least one of Zilis and Musk's four children.

While it's not at all news that Musk, the father of at least 14 children by multiple women, is obsessed with reproduction, this claim — which expands on reporting from *The Information* last year — casts the billionaire's pronatalism in a new and even more unsettling light.

One of *Washington Post's* Orchid insiders, who was not named to



protect their privacy, told the newspaper that the 30-year-old company founder Noor Siddiqi had provided Musk and Zilis with special screenings, which supposedly use bespoke algorithms to determine the embryo's potential for being intelligent. (While the company insists it's not involved in "eugenics," a word meaning "good genes," it is very literally helping parents select good genes, and the alleged intelligence selection does sound a lot like the dictionary definition of the practice.)

That claim appears to fall in line with a telling tidbit Zilis divulged to Musk biographer Walter Isaacson: that the billionaire "really wants smart people to have kids," and that she chose to procreate with him after he encouraged her to have her own.

When the *Washington Post* reached out to Orchid to ask about Musk and Zilis, as well as those intelligence screening allegations, the company declined to comment and claimed that although it does screen for intellectual disabilities, it does

not offer any predictions about a future child's intelligence. Be that as it may, services like Orchid's are mired in both ethical and practical issues. Along with the perception that such services are tantamount to playing God, genetics experts who spoke with the *Washington Post* were very skeptical about Orchid's claim that it can sequence an embryo's entire genome from just five cells.

According to Svetlana Yatsenko, a Stanford research genetics specialist, the company's use of a process called amplification, which copies DNA strands from small samples for analysis, is problematic because it's essentially using photocopies that could introduce inaccuracies to either rule out or declare genetic disorders.

"You're making many, many mistakes in the amplification," Yatsenko told *Washington Post*. "It's basically Russian roulette."

Beyond the broad strokes, Orchid's own accountability problems appear much darker when considering how often Musk has cast bigoted aspersions on other races for their purported intellectual inferiority.

The Carolinian

(ISSN 00455873)

1504 New Bern Ave, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25308

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Periodical Postage Paid at Raleigh North Carolina 27611

Warrenton Address: P.O. Box 536

Warrenton, NC 27589

Rocky Mount Address: 120 N Franklin St

Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Postmaster

Send all address changes to:

The Carolinian

1504 New Bern Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27610

PUBLISHED SIX TIMES MONTHLY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$45.00

Payable in advance. Address all communications and make all checks and

money orders payable to *The Carolinian*.

Founded by P.R. Jervay, Sr. in 1940

The Carolinian Newspaper, Inc. of Raleigh

Publisher.....Adria Jervay

Sales Consultant.....Paul R. Jervay, Jr.

Circulation Manager.....Andrew Alston

Jervay Agency, National Advertising Representative

www.TheJervayAgency.com

Member:

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Newspaper Publishers Association

HUB Certified MWBE

The Publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or

advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy.

Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of the newspaper.

Phone: 919-834-5558

e-mail: info@caro.news

www.caro.news

Facebook: TheCaroNews

Twitter: @TheCaroNews

To SUBSCRIBE To The Carolinian

call us at

919-834-5558

or visit us online at

www.CARO.news



Business & Finance

Opendoor Board Chair Thinks They Should Cut 85% of Workforce

By Lucas Ropek

Gizmodo

If you work for Opendoor, the online real estate platform, you might consider polishing up your resume. The chair of the company's board recently let it slip that he thinks the firm could stand to lose almost all of its employees.

During a recent appearance on CNBC's "Squawk on the Street," Keith Rabois, a former member of the PayPal Mafia, told a reporter that he felt that the majority of the people at his company were expendable. "There's 1,400 employees at Opendoor. I don't know what most of them do. We don't need more

than 200 of them," Rabois remarked. He added that "the advent of AI and other technologies" made the workforce reduction a "simple problem" to solve.

Rabois' apparent disinterest in maintaining a majority of Opendoor's workforce is somewhat humorous given how well the company's been doing lately. Indeed, the company's stock is up 500 percent this year. That said, the stock performance appears to largely be the result of a wave of retail investors becoming interested in the firm due to online advice spread by a hedge fund manager. As a result, the company has been dubbed a "meme stock," which Rabois disputes.

It's unclear whether Rabois's ruthless comment was just an effort to inspire confidence in the profitability of the company. After all, if you fire almost everybody at a firm, there's a much bigger chance you'll turn a profit.

The stock soared this week, but other developments also helped buoy investor confidence—namely,

the appointment of former Shopify executive Kaz Nejatian as its new CEO. CNBC notes that "investor" pressure had spurred the exit of former Opendoor CEO Carrie Wheeler. On Thursday, the company's stock rose a whopping 78 percent, before dipping down 13 percent on Friday, the outlet notes.

Rabois had more to say about

his efforts to transform the online real estate platform: "The culture was broken," he said, of the firm's previous management. "These people were working remotely. That doesn't work. This company was founded on the principle of innovation and working together in person. We're going to return to our roots."

Rabois also took the opportunity to dunk on the company's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, noting that, under its previous leadership, the firm had gone "down this DEI path," and that Rabois intended to "fix all that." Gizmodo reached out to Opendoor for more information about its apparent plan to upend its workforce.

DAY IN LABOR

Continued from page 2

the strike from here. This was a Friday. On Monday the 10th, the strikers returned in larger numbers and it was a tense atmosphere. A series of thunderstorms got people off the streets that night and into the next morning. But then the crowds returned and the cops were much more the target for the many kids involved than the workers. There was a truckload of bricks nearby and they started throwing them at the cops. It was ugly.

Meanwhile, the Rhode Island Democratic Party was not reflexively anti-labor like in North Carolina or Georgia, but they handled the strike as it developed in Rhode Island quite poorly. Governor T.F. Green would solidify Rhode Island as a New Deal state. But he overreacted here and sent in the National Guard on September 12 to guard the bleachery. It became total chaos. The strike was hardly the point by this time. The crowds through stuff at the cops, including a famous picture of a cop taken to the ground by a flowerpot to the head. The National Guard started chasing people and opened fire. People ran into the nearby cemetery. The National Guard continued firing and two people were killed, Charles Gorcynski and William Blackwood.

The next day Saylesville Bleachery closed the factory to stop the violence outside of it. It was a super anti-union factory so that was a moderate win, but the strike itself was a failure especially in the South. However, despite the violence, it built ties between the labor movement and the Democratic Party that remain pretty strong in the state today.

Every year on Labor Day, the Rhode Island Labor History Society has an event and a speaker at the site of the killings. I was the speaker a few years ago.

In the end, the simple story of the massacre of brave innocent workers is often not the reality. This is a case when workers' demands to strike actually did lead to disaster, especially on the national scale, and union leadership knew it. It was a case when irresponsible violence can beget more irresponsible violence. Things are complicated, much more so than fits into nice pat narratives about good and bad. The National Guard and Green really screwed up here, but so did the UTW, the bleachery owners, the rank and file workers, and the kids.

The Fed Faces Economic Uncertainty As It Decides Whether To Cut Rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a sign of how unusual this week's Federal Reserve meeting is, the decision it will make on interest rates — usually the main event — is just one of the key unknowns to be resolved when officials gather Tuesday and Wednesday.

For now, it's not even clear who will be there. The meeting will likely include Lisa Cook, an embattled governor, unless an appeals court or the Supreme Court rules in favor of an effort by President Donald Trump to remove her from office. And it will probably include Stephen Miran, a top White House economic aide whom Trump has nominated to fill an empty seat on the Fed's board. But those questions may not be resolved until late Monday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy is mired in uncertainty. Hiring has slowed sharply, while inflation remains stubbornly high.

So a key question for the Fed is: Do they worry more about people who are out of work and struggling to find jobs, or do they focus more on the struggles many Americans face in keeping up with rising costs for groceries and other items? The Fed's mandate from Congress requires it to seek both stable prices and full employment.

For now, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed policymakers have signaled the Fed is more concerned about weaker hiring, a key reason investors expect the central bank will reduce its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point on Wednesday to about 4.1%.

Still, stubbornly high inflation may force them to proceed slowly and limit how many reductions they make. The central bank will also release its quarterly economic projections Wednesday, and economists project they will show that policymakers expect one or two additional cuts this year, plus several more next year.

Ellen Meade, an economics professor at Duke University and former senior economist at the Fed, said it's a stark contrast to the early pandemic, when it was clear the Fed had to rapidly reduce rates to boost the economy. And when inflation surged in 2021 and 2022, it was also a straightforward call for the Fed, which moved quickly to raise borrowing costs to combat higher prices.

But now, "it's a tough time," Meade said. "It would be a tough time, even if the politics and the whole thing weren't going on the way they are, it would be a tough time. Some people would want to cut, some people would not want to cut."

Amid all the economic uncertainty, Trump is applying unprecedented political pressure on the Fed, demanding sharply lower rates, seeking to fire Cook, and insulting Powell, whom he has called a "numbskull," "fool," and "moron."

Loretta Mester, a former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and finance professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, said that Fed officials won't let the criticisms sway their decisions on policy. Still, the attacks are unfortunate, she said, because they threaten to undermine the Fed's credibility with the public.

"Added to their list of the difficulty of making policy because of how the economy is performing, they also have to contend with the fact that there may be some of the public that's skeptical about how they've gone about making their decisions," she said.

David Andolfatto, an economics professor at the University of Miami and former top economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said that presidents have pressured Fed chairs before, but never as personally or publicly.

"What's unusual about this is the level of open disrespect and just childishness," Andolfatto said. "I mean, this is just beyond the pale."

Classifieds

Place your BID ads easily
with The Carolinian!
email us at
ads@caro.news

www.CARO.news



BUYING CASSETTE TAPES

Paying cash and buying old Rap music cassette tapes and used blank cassette tapes. Call Marvin 919-268-7476.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Columbia
P.O. Box 361
Columbia, NC 27925

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2025 ARPA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT NO. 39 - WELL 4 RAW WATER LINE will be received by the ENGINEER at Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925 until 2:00 PM, October 15, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Columbia Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049

Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)

ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc., located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776 upon a non-refundable payment of \$500.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on October 1, 2025 in Columbia Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

September 14, 2025

Sandra S. Owens
Mayor

Town of Columbia

ELDERS PEAK APARTMENTS

Located at 2917 Creech Rd. Raleigh, NC 27610

Currently accepting applications for seniors 55 years of age or older for 1 and 2 bed units. Rents are \$590 for 1 bd and \$620 for 2 bd. Housing Choice Vouchers accepted.

Income Restrictions Apply

Call (919) 834-7325 for more information

Equal Housing Opportunity

Professionally Managed by First Rate Property Management



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Columbia
P.O. Box 361
Columbia, NC 27925

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2025 ARPA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT NO. 38 - RAW WATER WELL 4 will be received by the ENGINEER at Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925 until 2:00 PM, October 15, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Columbia Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049

Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)

ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc., located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776 upon a non-refundable payment of \$500.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on October 1, 2025 in Columbia Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Columbia, NC 27925. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

September 14, 2025

Sandra S. Owens
Mayor

Town of Columbia



SALTWATER
SEAFOOD & FRY SHACK

4 FENTON STREET RALEIGH, NC 27604

919.834.1813

www.saltwaterseafoodnc.com

RESTAURANT OPEN

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 10:30 - 6:30 SATURDAY 10:30-5:30

BONE-IN FISH SPECIAL

\$8.50

MARKET OPEN

MARKET HOURS: T-F 9:00-7:00/SAT 8:30-6:00
SUNDAY 9:00-4:00