

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, AUGUST 14, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Federal appeals court rules male-only draft constitutional](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 13 August 2020]

*Thursday's ruling [overturns a 2019 decision](#) from a lower court that the male-only draft is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court ruled in 1981 that women could be excluded from registering since combat jobs were closed to them. Combat jobs have since been opened to women, but the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans said Thursday it cannot reverse the Supreme Court's precedent. Earlier this year, a congressionally chartered commission recommended expanding the draft registration to include women, saying doing so is a "necessary and fair step." Lawmakers, though, did not include the commission's recommendations in this year's defense policy bill.*

[DOJ: Yale Discriminates Against Asian American and White Applicants In Admissions](#) [Rachel Treisman and Elissa Nadworny, *NPR*, 13 August 2020]

*The Department of Justice accused Yale University of violating federal civil rights law by illegally discriminating against Asian American and White applicants in its undergraduate admissions process. Those are the findings of a two-year investigation conducted in response to a complaint by a coalition of Asian American groups. The Justice Department notified university officials in a letter on Thursday. "The Department of Justice found Yale discriminates based on race and national origin in its undergraduate admissions process, and that race is the determinative factor in hundreds of admissions decisions each year," the department said in a release. Yale is not planning to modify its policies, according to its statement Thursday. "We are proud of Yale's admissions practices, and we will not change them on the basis of such a meritless, hasty accusation," the university said.*

[Online events will recognize Navajo Code Talker Day this year](#) [Noel Lyn Smith, *Farmington Daily Times*, (Farmington N.M.), 12 August 2020]

*Navajo Code Talker Day is Aug. 14 and, with public health orders prohibiting large gatherings due to the coronavirus, there will be opportunities on social media to honor the elite group of men. An annual event has taken place in Window Rock, Arizona, since 2005, but the pandemic has forced organizers and officials to cancel the gathering that honors the men who used the Navajo language to transmit messages during the Pacific campaign of World War II. Instead, the [Navajo Nation Council](#) will hold a virtual recognition event that will consist of videos and messages from dignitaries and officials that will show on the council's [Facebook](#), Vimeo and YouTube pages.*

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## CULTURE

[Charleston Tourism Is Built on Southern Charm. Locals Say It's Time to Change.](#) [Tariro Mzezewa and Kim Severson, *The New York Times*, 13 August 2020]

*In recent years, the mostly White leadership of the city and the tourism industry have worked to highlight the region's African-American heritage. The visitors' bureau added a deeply reported*

*section on Charleston's African-American history to its website. And after more than two decades of planning and fund-raising, the city in 2022 will open the International African-American Museum on Gadsden's Wharf, which had been the first stop for as many as 100,000 Africans — an estimated 40 percent of the people captured and brought to America to be sold into slavery. "There has been a deliberate effort by very powerful industries and organizations to sanitize and whitewash Charleston and show a 'safe' and White and palatable Charleston," said Mika Gadsden, founder of the Charleston Activist Network, a media platform that focuses on Black and Gullah experiences.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[A former slave market will be removed from the center of Georgia's first capital](#) [Lauren M. Johnson, CNN, 13 August 2020]

*A small town in Georgia has voted to move a former slave market out of the center of town. Louisville, located about 45 miles southwest of Augusta, was the first capital of the state and has been home of the Old Market House since 1795. The structure was a former slave market and sits in the middle of downtown. The city established a 14-member advisory committee for the Market House in July to help decide the future of the structure in July. Advisory committee member Lillian Easterlin, executive administrative director of Jefferson County, told CNN that at the time, there were two main options on the table: to relocate or to leave it. "The committee's recommendation was to relocate the Market House within Louisville," Easterlin said.*

[Lesbian baker in Detroit got homophobic cake order: Why she made it anyway](#) [Susan Selasky, *The Detroit Free Press*, 13 August 2020]

*As a Black, openly gay woman, April Anderson said she is no stranger to discrimination. But Anderson, a pastry chef with a national reputation, was taken aback by a recent cake order that came into her Good Cakes and Bakes bakery on Livernois in Detroit's Avenue of Fashion commercial corridor. And, at least at first, she was unsure how to handle it, worried she could wind up facing a lawsuit. Then Anderson read the message the customer wanted written on the cake and was stunned. "I am ordering this cake to celebrate and have PRIDE in true Christian marriage," the customer said in the order. "I'd like you to write on the cake, in icing, 'Homosexual acts are gravely evil. (Catholic Catechism 2357)'"*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Mickey Guyton is speaking her truth after years of doubt](#) [Kristin M. Hall, *The Associated Press*, 13 August 2020]

*Mickey Guyton is turning a mirror on country music by speaking her truth and reclaiming both her career and identity. Delivering a one-two punch of important songs this year leading up to her first new EP in five years, Guyton is not holding back her powerful voice any longer. Guyton has re-introduced herself after years of internal doubt and feeling unable to be herself as a Black woman in a genre dominated by White men. Although she stands on the shoulders of other Black female country artists like Linda Martell, The Pointer Sisters and Rissi Palmer, Guyton has had to chart her own path in country music. These days, Guyton doesn't hold back when calling out racism and inequality when she sees it, whether she is pointing out the hateful messages she gets from online trolls or responding back to other country artists on Twitter. She said the shut-up-and-sing mentality is hurting the genre.*

[A New Children's Album Celebrates Kids Who Are Transgender And Nonbinary](#) [Noel King and Barry Gordemer, *NPR*, 13 August 2020]

*A lot of summer camps had to close this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Camp Aranu'tiq in New Hampshire, a camp for transgender and nonbinary children. Julie Be is a music therapist who has helped run the camp since it was founded in 2009 and also one half of the children's musical duo Ants on a Log, alongside Anya Rose. The album hopes to connect with kids across a spectrum of ages: from elementary school up through early high school. Be says that older kids will hear the music in a more nuanced way, but that we need to give kids in the lower age range more credit, too. "I think people underestimate the ability for younger kids to know about gender," they say. "There's a lot of [research](#) that shows that kids know what their gender is, even around age 2."*

[The U.S. Military Is Using Esports As A Recruitment Tool \[AUDIO\]](#) [Jay Price, *NPR*, 13 August 2020]

*The military has jumped into the booming world of competitive electronic gaming called "esports." But the new approach to reaching potential new recruits comes with new challenges.*

[Asheville may remove slave-owner names from some streets](#) [*The Associated Press*, 12 August 2020]

*The North Carolina city of Asheville is considering removing the names of slave owners and other people associated with discrimination from some streets and a park. Asheville's city manager had asked the Asheville and Buncombe County African American Heritage Commission to recommend names for removal as well as replacements. The Citizen-Times reported Sunday that the recommendations for name changes follow this year's protests against police brutality and racism. Those demonstrations were sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.*

[Is the term Latinx catching on? A new report takes a look](#) [Raul A. Reyes, *NBC News*, 11 August 2020]

*Is the term "Latinx" — instead of the more traditional "Hispanic" or "Latino" — catching on? A new report found most Latinos have not heard of the word — and among those who have, only a small minority use it to describe themselves. Yet it's part of a growing movement toward gender-inclusive language, especially among young people. In a [bilingual survey](#) of over 3,000 U.S. Hispanic adults released Tuesday, the Pew Research Center found that about a quarter — 23 percent — have heard of Latinx. Within this group of people who know the term, just three percent said they use it to describe themselves. Latinx is a gender-neutral term for people of Latin American heritage. By dropping the traditional -o or -a ending at the end of the root word 'Latin,' Latinx includes those who identify outside the gender binary, such as transgender people and those who are gender fluid.*

[Hockey, Rocked by Racist Acts, Embraces Black Lives Matter Campaigns](#) [Morgan Campbell, *The New York Times*, 10 August 2020]

*More than two months after the killing of George Floyd and the protest movement it has engendered, the N.H.L. has begun a [high-profile effort](#) to make anti-racism part of its identity and, according to the N.H.L. executive Kim Davis, part of a strategy to appeal to a younger, more racially diverse*

audience. The hockey world has been roiled by acts of bigotry. In April, a group Zoom chat organized by the Rangers to introduce fans to the prospect K'Andre Miller was derailed by hackers hurling racist slurs at him. Three months earlier, the American Hockey League suspended Brandon Manning of the Bakersfield Condors for using racist insults against Bokondji Imama of the Ontario Reign. The N.H.L. remains the only major North American sports league not to volunteer for an audit by the [Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport](#), which publishes widely read reports on race, gender and hiring in sports and the sports media industry.

[American culture sees Blackness as the damage it did to us, not the joy we take in ourselves](#)

[[OPINION](#)] [Donald Earl Collins, *NBC News*, 9 August 2020]

*When I was 10, my family went to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York, for an impromptu weekend evening concert. It was 1980, and rap trailblazers The Sugarhill Gang headlined the event. Their hit song “Rapper’s Delight” had made Billboard’s Hot 100 at the beginning of the year (it was also the first rap single ever to be a Top 40 hit). But it wasn’t the music and the dancing that made that night all Kool and the Gang for me. For me, what made it so memorable was being in a crowd of hundreds of Black folk, celebrating life in a nation seemingly dedicated to Black suffering and death. At least, that was the feeling I had about the U.S. after rewatching the miniseries “Roots” that spring — something I could know but in no way articulate back then. It was one of my first times experiencing Blackness as joy.*

[Native mascots still a sticking point in high school sports](#) [Sophia Eppolito and Felicia Fonseca, *The Associated Press*, 9 August 2020]

*At Bountiful High School near Salt Lake City, there’s nostalgia for the Braves name that’s been used for nearly 70 years and comes with an informal mascot — a student dressed up in feathers. Fans point to tradition when rhythmically extending their forearms for the tomahawk chop, wearing face paint and chanting at football games. It’s an honor, they say, but not to many Native Americans who see the portrayals throughout high school, collegiate and professional sports. The depictions can affect the psyches of younger Native Americans and create the image of a monolith that doesn’t exist, advocates say. “There is no tribe that can make a claim to it,” said James Singer, co-founder of the Utah League of Native American Voters. “Nevertheless, many tribal governments, using their tribal sovereignty, have issued statements saying they don’t want these kinds of mascots for school.*

[[SEE ALSO](#)]

[“Brilliant and politically savvy:” The roles of African American women in the fight to vote 100 years ago](#) [Jessica Bliss and Jasmine Vaughn-Hall, *USA Today*, 8 August 2020]

*More than 100 years ago, as a groundswell of momentum pushed toward giving women the right to vote, Black women nationwide stood up to join the cause. Even when racism tore through the movement – undercutting their efforts and severing the strength of a united female front – they were undeterred. What Black suffragists achieved greatly shaped the fight for women’s rights. In the wake of the centennial celebration of the 19th Amendment, a history once silenced is slowly resurfacing. Stories of the relentless efforts of women of color have found a new platform, providing a chance to elevate what has been untold.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Black women with natural hairstyles are less likely to get job interviews](#) [Jack Guy, *CNN Business*, 12 August 2020]

*Black women with natural hairstyles including curly afros, twists or braids are less likely to get job interviews than White women or Black women with straightened hair, new research shows. Participants in the studies, carried out by researchers from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, perceived natural Black hairstyles as less professional, and the effect was particularly pronounced in industries where a more conservative appearance is common. The research, which will be published in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science* next week, shows how societal biases perpetuate racial discrimination in the workplace, according to a press release.*

[Transgender Teenagers File Lawsuit Over Arizona's Ban on Surgeries](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 12 August 2020]

*Two transgender teenagers last week filed a lawsuit to challenge Arizona's categorical ban on transgender surgeries for Medicaid recipients, saying the state's refusal to cover surgeries recommended by doctors as medically necessary amounts to a violation of their civil rights. Both plaintiffs in the suit say they started receiving treatment for gender dysphoria around the time they began going through puberty, as often happens for transgender people. The suit is a class-action on behalf of Arizona Medicaid recipients under age 21 who seek medically necessary chest reconstructive surgery for treatment of gender dysphoria, a group that the suit estimates contains at least a hundred people.*

[For Doctors of Color, Microaggressions Are All Too Familiar](#) [Emma Goldberg, *The New York Times*, 11 August 2020]

*When Dr. Onyeka Otugo was doing her training in emergency medicine, in Cleveland and Chicago, she was often mistaken for a janitor or food services worker even after introducing herself as a doctor. She realized early on that her White male counterparts were not experiencing similar mix-ups. After years of training in predominantly White emergency departments, Dr. Otugo has experienced many such microaggressions. The term, [coined in the 1970s by Dr. Chester Pierce](#), a psychiatrist, refers to "subtle, stunning, often automatic, and nonverbal exchanges which are 'put downs'" of Black people and members of other minority groups; "micro" refers to their routine frequency, not the scale of their impact. Dr. Otugo said the encounters sometimes made her wonder whether she was a qualified and competent medical practitioner, because others did not see her that way.*

[Judge: Anti-transgender birth certificate law violates order](#) [Rebecca Boone, *The Associated Press*, 10 August 2020]

*Idaho officials' latest attempt to ban transgender people from changing the gender on their birth certificates violates a court order issued two years ago, a federal judge said. Lambda Legal represented two transgender women who filed the original lawsuit that led to Dale's first ruling. The advocacy group successfully argued the state's ban on birth certificate changes for transgender people violated their constitutionally protected right to privacy, liberty and freedom from compelled speech. "It is astonishing that the Idaho Legislature and Gov. Little plowed forward with resuscitating this dangerous and archaic ban in direct defiance of multiple court orders that repeatedly ordered the government to stop discriminating against transgender people," said Nora*

Huppert, an attorney with Lambda Legal. “What was discriminatory in 2018 remains discriminatory today.”

[Federal court rules that transgender students must be allowed to use bathrooms that match their gender](#) [Li Cohen, CBS News, 8 August 2020]

*A federal court in Florida has ruled that it is unconstitutional for schools to ban transgender students from using the restroom that matches their gender identity. Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit announced on Friday that they are affirming a lower court's ruling on the matter because "a public school may not punish its students for gender nonconformity." The case was centered around Drew Adams, a 19-year-old former student of Allen D. Nease High School in Ponte Vedra, Florida. Adams, who is transgender, used the boys' restroom at Nease High School, and did so without any issues until an anonymous report was made, according to [Lambda Legal](#). After the report, he was told by school officials that he would only be allowed to use gender-neutral restrooms.*

[Study finds racial bias in the government's formula for distributing Covid-19 aid to hospitals](#) [Casey Ross, STAT News, 7 August 2020]

*The federal government has systematically shortchanged communities with large Black populations in the distribution of billions of dollars in Covid-19 relief aid meant to help hospitals struggling to manage the effects of the pandemic, according to a [study](#) published Friday. The study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the funding inequities resulted from a [formula](#) that allocated large chunks of a \$175 billion relief package based on hospital revenue, instead of numbers of Covid-19 cases or other health data. The effect was to distribute more money through the federal CARES Act to large hospitals that already had the most resources, leaving smaller hospitals with large numbers of Black patients with disproportionately low funding to manage higher numbers of Covid-19 cases. “We are finding large-scale racial bias in the way the federal government is distributing” the funds to hospitals, said Ziad Obermeyer, a physician and a co-author of the study from the University of California, Berkeley.*

[The Federal Government Gives Native Students an Inadequate Education, and Gets Away With It](#) [Alden Woods, The Arizona Republic, 6 August 2020]

*About 90% of all Native American students attend traditional public schools. But in many rural communities on reservations, schools managed by the [Bureau of Indian Education](#) (BIE) are the only option. A review of hundreds of documents and dozens of interviews with parents, school employees and tribal officials by The Arizona Republic and ProPublica detail how the agency has either disregarded, ignored or delayed efforts meant to end its pattern of failing Native American children. For the past three years, the bureau failed to comply with key components of the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#), the nation's primary education law, which mandates that states and the BIE adopt uniform standards for student learning and accountability and sets requirements for transparency.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

**DIVERSITY**

[Soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord Are Testing Out Better-Fitting Body Armor](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 13 August 2020]

*For the first time in her career, Army Maj. Melissa Elledge can stand up and feel her legs after sitting for an hour while wearing body armor. At 5 feet, 3 inches tall and 120 pounds, Elledge's body armor has never fit correctly. The plates rested on her legs while sitting, cutting off her circulation. Now, the assistant product manager with Program Executive Office Soldier is at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, where 38 men and women are testing plates, vests, ballistic shirts, helmets and other systems cut specifically for smaller-stature troops. The Army has been working to update its soldier protection system for women and men who are smaller in size. As the military closes on the five-year point since women have been able to serve in combat positions, Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iowa Republican and retired National Guard officer, said the effort is long overdue.*

[Elite public schools in Virginia, elsewhere seek diversity](#) [Matthew Barakat, *The Associated Press*, 11 August 2020]

*Virginia's Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology regularly finds itself at the very top of national rankings, an elite public school in the suburbs of the nation's capital for which families start preparing their children as early as kindergarten. For decades, though, Black and Hispanic students have made up just a tiny fraction of the school's student body. The lack of diversity in gifted education is a nationwide problem, one that officials in many states are now seeking to change at a time of heightened awareness of racial inequality after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the Black Lives Matter protests. But not everyone is in favor. Some parents and alumni of magnet schools say they are worried the changes will entail relaxing admissions standards and lowering the schools' quality.*

[Female Soldiers Told the Army They Wanted Pants, Not a Skirt, for Greens Uniform](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 11 August 2020]

*When developing the Army's much-vaunted new service dress uniform, officials took an unprecedented step: They assembled an all-female panel to assess the uniform's fit and feel and provide feedback. As a result, the Army's new Greens uniform will have pants as the default option for women, rather than a skirt, as with previous dress ensembles. While women will still be able to purchase a uniform skirt as an option, the board's indication of preference was significant, said Col. Stephen Thomas, project manager for soldier survivability at PEO Soldier.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[House Lawmakers Demand Info on Viewpoint Survey Delay](#) [Erich Wagner, *GovExec*, 13 August 2020]

*In a [letter](#) to Acting OPM Director Michael Rigas on Wednesday, Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee's subcommittee on government operations, said his subcommittee was concerned about the "apparent mishandling" of the annual survey used to gauge federal workers' engagement and morale. "It is concerning that OPM would, without reasonable warning or justification, delay the FEVS a second time," Connolly wrote. "Views of federal employees should never be ignored, especially during a time of crisis, a sentiment OPM agreed with at their May 6 briefing with subcommittee staff." OPM is legally required to facilitate a*

government-wide survey of federal employee views each year. The committee demanded by August 26 “all documents, emails and other information” related to the decision to postpone the survey, as well as a briefing on the postponement and what steps OPM is taking to administer the FEVS in September.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Feds Will Reopen Schools on Native American Reservations](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 11 August 2020]

*The Bureau of Indian Education, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, last week sent out a memo to bureau-operated schools saying that virtual-only learning environments would only be allowed if an outbreak occurred at the school that required a schoolwide shutdown. Though families can opt for distance learning if they want, teachers will be required to teach from the classroom, according to the memo, which was first obtained by [NBC News](#). “I am very concerned, and so are the majority of employees I’m hearing from,” said Sue Parton, president of the Federation of Indian Service Employees. “Many Native Americans depend on [the Indian Health Service] for healthcare. That has historically been underfunded and this pandemic is highlighting that.”*

[DOD to Assess Female Troops’ Reproductive Health for First Time in Decades](#) [Bing Xiao, *Military.com*, 8 August 2020]

*The Pentagon is conducting its first survey in more than 30 years specifically focused on the reproductive health of female service members, according to an Aug. 4 release from the Military Health System Communications Office. It begins this month. The Department of Defense Active Duty [Women’s Reproductive Health Survey](#) will assess the behaviors and experiences of active-duty female service members, which can affect military readiness, and help clinicians learn about women’s gynecologic and obstetrical care needs. Collecting current data on women’s health issues will help shape policy and access to care, the release adds. The inclusion of women from the total force will assist in creating a picture of what issues affect members of each service, Diana Jeffery, Ph.D., project director for the survey from the DHA Clinical Support Division, said in the release.*

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Defense seeks leniency for “Satanist” soldier in bomb plot](#) [Roxana Hegeman. *The Associated Press*, 13 August 2020]

*A former Army infantry soldier described by prosecutors as a Satanist who hoped to overthrow the U.S. government endured a lifetime of victimization, isolation and trauma that led him to become involved with online extremist groups, his defense attorney argued Thursday in a motion seeking lenient punishment. Smith found online communities surrounding new forms of faith that he began to explore, his attorney wrote. His years of rejection by his peers and yearning for inclusion made him “the perfect target for online extremists groups searching for new recruits.” Smith joined the military in 2016, but his desire for acceptance and inclusion “did not come to fruition while in the Army, and especially not at Fort Riley, Kansas,” the motion says.*

## **RACISM**

[Even TikTok has a White supremacy problem](#) [Brian Fung, *CNN Business*, 14 August 2020]

*Nazis and White supremacists have been using TikTok to spread hate speech and recruit followers, the Anti-Defamation League said in a [report](#) Thursday. Extremists have used hashtags, captions and in some cases even manipulated video to spread their message, the ADL said. It found “dozens” of accounts on TikTok that “use combinations of White supremacist symbols, terms and slogans as screen names or handles.” While TikTok has been called “the last sunny corner of the Internet,” the ADL’s findings are a reminder that the short-form video app, like its rivals, is also grappling with hateful content. Groups promoting White supremacy on TikTok have sought to appropriate the #blacklivesmatter hashtag, the ADL said. They also have used hashtags including #alllivesmatter and #whitelivesmatter.*

[States are calling racism a public health crisis. Here’s what that means](#) [Harmeet Kaur and Skylar Mitchell, CNN, 14 August 2020]

*Michigan and Nevada became the latest states to declare racism a public health crisis earlier this month, joining Wisconsin and local governments in California, Ohio and other states following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Treating racism as a public health issue isn’t a new idea. A handful of local governments declared it a crisis last year, and health professionals have identified racism as a public health issue for well over a decade. These latest declarations and resolutions, though, come as the country remains in the midst of a national reckoning on race. Both the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent killings of Black people at the hands of police have brought renewed attention to the ways that systems and institutions disadvantage people of color, especially Black Americans. Now as communities call on their leaders to address systemic racism, more governments are considering similar declarations.*

[Judge faces ethics charges over racist, demeaning comments](#) [Mark Scoloro, The Associated Press, 12 August 2020]

*The Judicial Conduct Board complaint alleges that Allegheny County Judge Mark Tranquilli, a White former prosecutor who has been on the bench since 2014, made demeaning comments to and about litigants and defendants in violation of state constitutional standards and state rules that govern judges’ behavior. After the verdict in a January 2020 drug case, the complaint states, Tranquilli referred to a Black juror who wore her hair in a kerchief as “Aunt Jemima” during in-chambers discussions with lawyers. He is also charged with speculating that the juror’s “baby daddy” was a heroin dealer. The board also describes Tranquilli as telling another defendant that if he did not show up to start serving a sentence in a month, “I’m going to cast you down amongst the Sodomites, all right, in state prison.” He’s accused of not living up to state rules requiring judges to act in ways that promote public confidence in the judiciary and to do their job in a patient, dignified and courteous way, and without bias or prejudice.*

[Ruby Bridges was 6 when she walked into a segregated school. Now she teaches children to get past racial differences.](#) [Nicole Carroll, USA Today, 12 August 2020]

*When 6-year-old Ruby Bridges walked up the steps of William Frantz Elementary School on Nov. 14, 1960, she entered history, but she didn’t make it to class. Inside the building, four federal marshals walked Bridges and her mother up the stairs to the principal’s office. They sat inside. The marshals sat outside. They could see the scene below from the window. Screaming protesters. Signs that said, “We don’t want to integrate.” High school boys singing a new chorus to “Battle Hymn of the Republic”: “Glory, glory, segregation, the South will rise again.” Bridges, now 65 and a civil*

rights speaker, author and advocate, wasn't the first Black child to integrate a school. She was born in 1954, the same year the Supreme Court ended "separate but equal" education of African American children in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Southern states ignored or blocked the order. In 1957, nine Black high school students, "The Little Rock Nine," enrolled in a White high school in Arkansas. The year Ruby went to first grade, three other little Black girls were going to first grade in another New Orleans White school. But Bridges was alone.

[Facebook bans blackface and certain anti-Semitic conspiracy theories](#) [Shirin Ghaffary, Vox, 11 August 2020]

Facebook will start banning posts that contain blackface or that promote anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that Jewish people are running the world. The social media giant announced the [expansion of its hate speech policies](#) in a press call on Tuesday morning. Under the new policy, Facebook will no longer allow visual or written posts that depict "caricatures of Black people in the form of blackface" or "Jewish people running the world or controlling major institutions such as media networks, the economy or the government." While unlikely to eliminate long-standing concerns about the prevalence of hate speech on Facebook's platform, the move is a notable expansion of the company's policies restricting it. It is also the kind of restriction that not only covers overt racial slurs but also thinly veiled or disguised racism, which some civil rights groups have long called for Facebook to ban.

[Man charged with burning cross and displaying swastika to intimidate neighbour](#) [James Crump, *The Independent*, 11 August 2020]

An Indiana man has been charged with a hate crime after he burnt a cross and displayed a swastika in his garden, in an attempt to intimidate his African American neighbour. Shepherd Hoehn was charged with a hate crime for intimidating his Black neighbour, alongside two counts of unlawful weapons possession, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced on Tuesday. The 50-year-old allegedly became angry on 18 June when his unnamed neighbour hired a crew to remove a tree from his property in Lawrence, Indiana. Mr. Hoehn has also been accused of hanging a machete near the sign, throwing eggs at his neighbour's house and repeatedly playing the song *Dixie* at a high volume.

[Military veterans say racism in the ranks often isn't camouflaged: "It hurt me dearly"](#) [CBS News, 10 August 2020]

Captain Mary Tobin, a 10-year Army veteran, said racism in the ranks often isn't camouflaged. "As a Black woman, I had to wonder, 'Okay, is this happening because I have ovaries, or because I have melanin?'" she said. As a student leader at West Point, Capt. Tobin had to inspect cadets' rooms. "You come in with a white glove, and of course, you check for dirt," she said. And she quickly found a red flag: "Two White men who were roommates, I walked in, and there was a very large Confederate flag," she said. "I saw the flag. I looked at them. They looked at me, and I could tell they were trying to get a reaction out of me. That happened two more times. And finally, I had a discussion with them and told them about how that felt for me, as a Black woman from the South, coming into that room, every inspection, and seeing that flag. It hurt me dearly." In a 2019 [survey](#) by the *Military Times* and Syracuse University, more than half of people of color serving in uniform said they had personally witnessed White nationalism or racism in the military.

[Report: Agency in Alabama city segregated public housing](#) [The Associated Press, 10 August 2020]  
*A federal review found that a public housing authority in Alabama let White people live in riverfront towers with scenic views and other amenities while segregating Black people in another apartment development without the frills, a newspaper reported. A Housing and Urban Development study determined that 94% of the Decatur Housing Authority's units in two towers with views of the Tennessee River are occupied by White people, while all the units in a housing project farther from the river are occupied by Black people, The Decatur Daily reported. Authority workers repeatedly explained the lack of Black residents in the waterfront buildings by saying elderly Black tenants don't like high-rise buildings and prefer living in "garden-style units so they can sit on their porch and come and go as they please," according to a letter from HUD.*

[Most VA workers see racism against colleagues and veterans, union survey finds](#) [Alex Horton, The Washington Post, 7 August 2020]  
*Nearly 80 percent of Veterans Affairs employees surveyed by their workers union in July said endemic racism within the federal government's second-largest organization is a moderate or serious problem, with more than half reporting they have witnessed discrimination against the veterans whom the agency serves. The independent nationwide survey of approximately 1,500 VA staff members was conducted by the American Federation of Government Employees. Its [findings](#) were disclosed to The Washington Post in advance of a planned public release Friday. Christina Noel, a VA spokeswoman, criticized the workers union in response, calling its survey a "desperate attempt" to distract from a lawsuit alleging sexual assault and harassment by its former president J. David Cox Sr., who resigned in February. He has denied the allegations.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Health Care Workers of Color Nearly Twice as Likely as Whites to Get COVID-19](#) [Christina Jewett, Kaiser Health News, 6 August 2020]  
*Health care workers of color were more likely to care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, more likely to report using inadequate or reused protective gear, and nearly twice as likely as White colleagues to test positive for the coronavirus, a new study from Harvard Medical School researchers found. The study also showed that health care workers are at least three times more likely than the general public to report a positive COVID test, with risks rising for workers treating COVID patients. Dr. Andrew Chan, a senior author and an epidemiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, said the study further highlights the problem of structural racism, this time reflected in the front-line roles and personal protective equipment provided to people of color. The [study](#), done with researchers from King's College London, was published in the journal *The Lancet Public Health*.*

## **SEXISM**

["George Eliot" among 25 female writers being republished using their real names](#) [Jessie Yeung, CNN, 13 August 2020]  
*Victorian-era writer Mary Ann Evans is often heralded as the literary force behind one of Britain's greatest ever novels, "Middlemarch." But for much of her life, and even today, she is better known by her male pseudonym, George Eliot, which she adopted to conceal her gender at a time when women were excluded from intellectual circles. Now, a new campaign wants that to change. Evans'*

famous novel is one of 25 books, originally published under male aliases that will be republished under the female authors' real names. These include the pseudonymous authors George Sand and George Egerton, among others. The project, called "[Reclaim Her Name](#)," was announced on Wednesday by the [Women's Prize for Fiction](#) in celebration of the award's 25th anniversary.

[Social media trolling affects almost a third of elite British sportswomen, BBC Sport survey finds](#) [Becky Gray, *BBC News*, 10 August 2020]

Elite British sportswomen have spoken out about "horrific abuse" on social media, telling a [BBC Sport survey](#) about constant comments on their appearance and sexist remarks questioning their right to play sport. Almost a third of respondents to the biggest women's sport study ever carried out by BBC Sport had been trolled - a figure that has doubled since the last survey in 2015. In their frank answers, sportswomen spoke honestly about a wide range of issues they have to combat daily. These include sexism, racism and ignorance around concerns not faced by male coaches, such as periods and the contraceptive pill. Tammy Parlour, chief executive of the Women's Sport Trust, told *BBC Sport*: "We have seen a lot of positive momentum in women's sport over the last five years, but this is a stark reminder that there is still so much more to be done."

[Thousands of women fought against the right to vote; their reasons still resonate today.](#) [Samantha Schmidt, *The Washington Post*, 9 August 2020]

Susan B. Anthony stood on a stage in Upstate New York, asking a crowd to support the suffragist cause, when someone in the audience asked a question: Do women actually want the right to vote? Her answer was hardly unequivocal. "They do not oppose it," Anthony replied vaguely. But as the suffragists would soon learn, women would play a crucial role in attempting to prevent women from gaining the right to vote. As the suffragist movement gained momentum, women mobilized committees, circulated petitions, and created associations to oppose women's suffrage in New York and Massachusetts. Thousands of women would eventually join their fight. "They said, 'We've got to do something,'" Goodier said, "or else we're going to be stuck with the vote."

[U.S., International Lawmakers Push Facebook to Stop Online Hate Targeting Women](#) [Brandi Vincent, *Nextgov*, 7 August 2020]

Nearly 100 current and former women political leaders from the U.S. and abroad signed and sent a [letter to Facebook executives](#) Thursday, urging the social media giant to make more deliberate moves to protect women—especially women politicians and candidates—from online hate speech and harassment. "Gendered disinformation can be understood as the spread of deceptive or inaccurate information and images against women, particularly women in politics, following story lines that often draw on misogyny and distrust of women's leadership, frequently referring to their sexuality," Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., a co-chair of the caucus who helped spearhead the efforts, told *Nextgov* Friday.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[She was raped 20 years ago. After a recent tweet about it, Air Force investigators showed up at her door.](#) [Steve Beynon, *Stars and Stripes*, 12 August 2020]

A former airman and veterans advocate says two military investigators showed up at her Indiana home unannounced Monday after she recently tweeted about her rape, which happened more than

two decades ago. “Just cold-calling a rape survivor, it’s totally fallible,” Lisa Wilken said. “... It almost felt like an intimidation tactic.” Wilken, 49, served in the Air Force between 1994 and 1996. “I don’t believe they will use this as a teaching moment within their Office of Special Investigation to do their due diligence before contacting a victim, and to always notify the sexual assault response team prior to making that first contact,” she said. “I do know speaking out about this may stop them from behaving ... in this manner again.” Wilken said victims of sexual crimes can feel liberated talking about their attacks on social media. If survivors believe the military is looming over their social media, and could come to their homes with no warning, it could be intimidating.

[VA leader says sexual harassment is not “pervasive” at VA. These veterans disagree.](#) [Abbie Bennett, *Connecting Vets*, 7 August 2020]

They call it “the Gauntlet.” Department of Veterans Affairs patients described versions of it at medical facilities across the country -- a group of men seemingly omnipresent and unavoidable at the entrance of hospitals and clinics that patients and staff must pass through to reach their appointments. The men, usually VA patients and veterans themselves, volley sexually harassing comments of varying degrees of degradation and leering stares at passersby. Sometimes they invade personal space or follow patients and staff further into the hospital or parking lot. Sometimes, it goes beyond harassment and becomes sexual assault. “It’s intimidating,” one veteran said. “I hate to say that out loud. I don’t want to be afraid. I don’t want to admit to the fear.” “You don’t just feel unwelcome,” another said. “You feel like they’re trying to keep you out ... because you don’t belong.”

## SUICIDE

[WeCare app part of Fort Benning commander’s plan to prevent suicides](#) [Harm Venhuizen, *Army Times*, 12 August 2020]

In the three weeks since Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe took command of Fort Benning, Georgia, the base has seen one soldier die by suicide and three more make “desperate attempts,” he [tweeted](#) Monday. It’s an issue present throughout the military, the result of a variety of factors including a high-stress environment, PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries. And it’s an issue leaders are wholeheartedly trying to solve. One suicide prevention resource he urges every soldier to download is TRADOC’s WeCare app. “We’ve got to be spring-loaded, and that’s the purpose of that app,” he said. “You can just open that app up, hit a button, and be talking to a suicide prevention specialist.” The major general made it clear that preventing suicide is a top priority, even if it means an end to a soldier’s service. “If the way to prevent them from trying to kill themselves is to get them on a pathway out of the Army, then we’ve got to do that,” he said. “We’ve got to change the culture.”

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 29: Tony Kurta — Policy Approach to Suicide Prevention](#) [*Military Times*, 8 August 2020]

Tony Kurta is a former top Pentagon personnel official who performed the duties of deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Kurta assumed the duties of deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy on Sept. 8, 2014. A member of the Senior Executive Service, he was responsible for recruiting, retention, compensation, travel, and the related human resource management for the 1.3 million active duty military members of the U.S. armed services.

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

## VETERANS

[Program allows some Alaska Native Vietnam vets to get land](#) [Mark Thiessen, *The Associated Press*, 8 August 2020]

*Alaska Natives were allowed to apply for 160 acres (65 hectares) of land under the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act. Before a new law went into effect in 1971, there was a big advertising push to urge Alaska Natives to claim title if they hadn't already done so. That coincided with the Vietnam War, when many Alaska Natives fighting the war probably didn't hear the plea. In 1998, another act allowed the veterans to apply for their land, but both Alaska Natives and Congress felt the window was too short to apply and an occupancy requirement wasn't fair. Last year, Congress passed the [Dingell Act](#), expanding the window to apply for land and removing the occupancy provision. "It's something that's really near and dear to our hearts to make sure this program's a success because we know that folks didn't have that opportunity," said Chad Padgett, the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska director.*

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