

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 9 JULY 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Biden nominates first out lesbian to ambassador-level post](#) [Dan Avery, *NBC News*, 9 July 2021]
President Joe Biden has nominated the first out lesbian to an ambassador-level position in U.S. history. Chantale Wong has been appointed U.S. director of the Asian Development Bank, which works to foster economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region. If approved by the Senate, she will be the first LGBTQ person of color as well as the first gay woman with the rank of ambassador. Annise Parker, president of the LGBTQ Victory Institute, which works to advance LGBTQ elected and appointed government officials, praised Wong for raising the bar for representation, but said her nomination “is about more than making history.” Chantale will represent the most powerful nation in the Asian Development Bank at a time when many of its member states criminalize LGBTQ people and deny them the right to marry,” Parker said in a [statement](#). She is just the latest in a long list of out LGBTQ nominees the White House has put forward: The Victory Institute [reported](#) that, as of late April, Biden has appointed at least 200 LGBTQ officials, “exponentially more than any other president at this point in their administration.”

[Military commanders aren’t getting necessary legal training, government review finds](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 July 2021]
Legal training provided to commanders may be inadequate, a [government watchdog agency found in a report](#) released as Congress determines [whether to remove commanders](#) from prosecutorial decision-making in cases involving suspected sexual assault. The Government Accountability Office, after analyzing legal training and holding discussions with commanders and legal support staff, found that “perspectives varied on the general preparedness of commanders to address legal issues. “In addition, GAO found that the timing, amount, and mix of legal training provided to commanders may not be meeting their needs,” said the report released Thursday. Commanders may be responsible for many legal duties, including making criminal justice decisions, conforming with international law and complying with the rules of engagement in combat. Legal training is generally reserved for mid-level commanders, but “commanders from all four services indicated that they would have benefited from dedicated legal training earlier in their careers,” the report said.

[Nearly 80% of Feds, D.C. Employees Believe Productivity Increased With Telework](#) [Frank Konkel, *NextGov*, 1 July 2021]
Almost four in five federal employees and Washington, D.C. government workers say they’ve been more productive while teleworking during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a survey released this week by the American Federation of Government Employees. The [survey, conducted by AFGGE](#), a federal employee union representing 700,000 federal and Washington, D.C. employees, found that 62% of respondents said their productivity increased “a lot” during the pandemic, while 17% said productivity increased “a little.” Another 17% said their productivity didn’t change, while only 4% said productivity declined. The survey comes as agency heads decide how to operate in the waning months of a pandemic that shuttered many federal offices for

more than a year, displacing hundreds of thousands of federal employees and contractors. The survey suggests federal employees would prefer a more flexible future work environment. Nearly 8 in 10 respondents—77%—said they would like to continue teleworking at their current level, while 19% said they wanted to increase the number of days they work from home. Of those who favored increased telework, 40% preferred to telework full-time, while 30% said they'd prefer to telework three days per week.

CULTURE

[Army investigates culture and climate at School of Advanced Military Studies](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 6 July 2021]

The Army has launched an investigation into the culture and climate at its School of Advanced Military Studies, Army Times has learned. SAMS is one of four advanced schools that make up the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The investigation came following an internal survey and an Army University survey that “savaged” the school’s director, Col. Brian Payne, according to a SAMS employee. Payne has faced criticism from students and faculty regarding his leadership style and a rapid, rocky rollout of a new SAMS curriculum during the pandemic, said the employee, who requested anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak with media. New courses lacked quality control, said the employee, and students were frustrated by constant last-minute changes to what they felt were incomplete courses. When reached by Army Times, officials insisted that the investigation is not into Payne, and his name doesn’t appear in the investigator’s questions, which were reviewed by Army Times. But the Army has specific surveys for routine evaluations of climate and culture, and Army Regulation 15-6 investigations result when these routine measures have identified potential issues.

[Black women athletes are still being scrutinized ahead of the Olympics despite their successes](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 6 July 2021]

As the world’s top athletes head into the Tokyo Olympics, a wave of penalizations and criticism are shedding light onto how Black women in sports are treated. In recent weeks, the governing body for aquatic sports refused to approve the use of a swimming cap designed to accommodate natural Black hair during international competitions. A U.S. Olympic hammer thrower was also criticized for protesting during the playing of the national anthem and two Namibian sprinters were ruled ineligible to compete in a race due to naturally high testosterone levels. Those incidents, experts say, show how sports policies don’t necessarily take into account athletes of color and the dehumanization that Black women and girls experience. Policies and procedures associated with sporting events, including the Olympics are often seen as “race neutral,” said Lori L. Martin, a sociology professor at Louisiana State University who studies race and education through a sports lens.

[A Disparaging Video Prompts Explosive Fallout Within ESPN](#) [Kevin Draper, *The New York Times*, 5 July 2021]

As the NBA playoffs started in May, the stars of ESPN’s marquee basketball show, “NBA Countdown,” discussed whether they would refuse to appear on it. They were objecting to a production edict from executives that they believed was issued to benefit a sideline reporter and fellow star, Rachel Nichols, despite comments she had made suggesting that the host of “NBA Countdown,” Maria Taylor, had gotten that job because she is Black. Nichols is White. Some of those involved saw the initial maneuvering as a sign of the network favoring Nichols despite a backdrop of criticism from employees who complained that the sports network has long mishandled problems with racism. It had declined to discipline Nichols despite fury throughout the company over her remark, which she made during a phone conversation nearly a year ago after learning that she would not host coverage during the 2020 NBA finals, as she had been expecting. “If you need to give her more things to do because you are feeling pressure about your crappy longtime record on diversity—which, by the way, I know personally from the female side of it—like, go for it. Just find it somewhere else. You are not going to find it from me or taking my thing away.” Nichols said in July 2020.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Frederick Douglass’ Descendants Deliver His “Fourth Of July” Speech](#) [NPR, 29 June 2021]

[VIDEO]

In the summer of 2020, the U.S. commemorated Independence Day amid nationwide protests for racial justice and systemic reforms in the wake of George Floyd’s death. That June, we asked five young descendants of Frederick Douglass to read and respond to excerpts of his famous speech, [“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”](#). It’s a powerful, historical text that reminds us of the ongoing work of liberation.

[Lynching memorial organizers plan slavery museum expansion](#) [Kim Chandler, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2021]

The organization that created the nation’s first memorial to lynching victims has announced a major expansion of a museum designed to trace the impact of slavery and racism through the centuries. The Equal Justice Initiative announced Tuesday that it is moving and expanding its [Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration](#), which explores the consequences of enslavement, mob violence, and Jim Crow laws. EJI’s Executive Director Bryan Stevenson said an understanding and appreciation of that history is needed “if we are going to evaluate contemporary issues in a thoughtful way.” “A bold aspiration of the museum is to help create a world where our children’s children are not burdened by the legacy of slavery, where racial bias and discrimination are not factors how people can live and grow, to get to a place that feels more like equality and justice and freedom,” Stevenson said. The existing museum had become crowded at times, sometime limiting visitors’ ability to interact with exhibits including a slave pen exhibit. There viewers see haunting holographic projections of enslaved people describing their lives.

[Soul Cap: Afro swimming cap Olympic rejection could be reconsidered after backlash](#) [BBC News, 5 July 2021]

A decision not to allow swimming caps designed for afro hair at international competitions—such as Tokyo 2020—could be reconsidered, after backlash. Soul Cap said FINA, the water sports

world governing body, had told them the hats aren't suitable because they don't follow "the natural form of the head". The comments sparked criticism from many swimmers with some saying it would discourage Black people from the sport. FINA now says it's "reviewing the situation" regarding the products. In a statement, it said it understood "the importance of inclusivity and representation". "FINA is committed to ensuring that all aquatics athletes have access to appropriate swimwear for competition where this swimwear does not confer a competitive advantage," it added. Soul Cap makes caps to fit over and protect dreadlocks, afros, weaves, braids, and thick and curly hair. Kejai Terrelonge, 17, said hair-care is one of many barriers she's faced as a Black swimmer. "Using the smaller swimming caps that everyone else would use—it would fit on my head but because I put [protective] oil in my hair, when I was swimming it would just keep sliding off and my hair would get wet," said Kejai, who lives in Birmingham [UK].

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Thousands of pages documenting slavery found in attic of Eastern Shore house](#) [Anagha Srikanth, *The Hill*, 2 July 2021]

Thousands of papers, some documenting the auction and sale of enslaved Black Americans, were headed for the auction block themselves before Black historians and community members stepped in to reclaim ownership over their past. "It was important to the community because this will connect the dots for people and the younger generation, to let them know how things were. To move forward, you have to see what the past was like," said Carolyn Brooks, a community historian with the [Chesapeake Heartland Project](#). About 2,000 pages dating from the late 1600s to early 1800s were found in a plastic trash bag in the attic of a 200-year-old house near Chestertown, Md., as the owner, Nancy Bordely Lane, was cleaning it out this spring. The foundation of the house, built in 1803 on property that had remained in the family since 1667, was reportedly damaged and the structure was going to be demolished. The documents were headed for the garbage, but were rescued and delivered to Dixon's Crumpton Auction in waxed seafood boxes, John Chaski, an antique-manuscript expert, told the *Washington Post*.

[Union will defend teachers in "critical race theory" fights](#) [Collin Binkley, *The Associated Press*, 6 July 2021]

One of the nation's largest teachers unions on Tuesday vowed to defend members who are punished for teaching an "honest history" of the United States, a measure that's intended to counter the wave of states seeking to limit classroom discussion on race and discrimination. In a virtual address to members of the American Federation of Teachers, president Randi Weingarten said the union is preparing litigation and has a legal defense fund "ready to go." She promised to fight "culture warriors" who attempt to limit lessons on racism and discrimination by labeling it as critical race theory. At least six states have passed new laws limiting how race can be taught in the classroom, and similar proposals are being considered in more than a dozen others. Many of the bills are intended to bar the teaching of critical race theory — an academic framework that examines history through the lens of racism. It centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of White people in society.

[Vanessa Williams and PBS slammed for “Black national anthem” performance](#) [Lisa Respers France, CNN, 5 July 2021]

There was backlash over Vanessa Williams performing for Independence Day before it even happened. Williams hosted PBS’ “A Capitol Fourth” on Sunday, and it had been announced that she would sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” which has become known as the “Black national anthem.” In the promotion leading up to the show, Williams talked about including the song. “It’s in celebration of the wonderful opportunity that we now have to celebrate Juneteenth,” USA Today reported the former Miss America saying. “So we are reflective of the times.” Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of African American slaves and was declared a federal holiday in the U.S. this year. Conservative Twitter jumped on the “national anthem” part and declared it “divisive,” “segregation” and “racist” to have any anthem other than “The Star Spangled Banner,” which was scheduled to be performed by Grammy-award winner Renée Fleming. In launching into the song, Williams, who also performed “God Bless America” earlier in the program, said she was “filled with the spirit of freedom and the perseverance that is required to achieve that most precious right.”

[What “Blackfishing” means and why people do it](#) [Faith Karimi, CNN, 8 July 2021]

First there was blackface. Now there’s “Blackfishing.” The term has been increasingly in the news to describe behavior by White entertainers who appear to be imitating the appearance of Black people. It’s not a compliment. The term came to prominence in a Twitter thread two years ago when journalist Wanna Thompson said she noticed White celebrities and influencers cosplaying as Black women on social media. “Blackfishing is when White public figures, influencers and the like do everything in their power to appear Black,” Thompson told CNN this week. “Whether that means to tan their skin excessively in an attempt to achieve ambiguity, and wear hairstyles and clothing trends that have been pioneered by Black women.” Critics have described it as a form of blackface, saying it creates a dangerous paradox by celebrating Black beauty and aesthetics—but only when highlighted by White people.

DISCRIMINATION

[Ex-professor alleges retaliation in lawsuit against Univ of RI](#) [The Associated Press, 8 July 2021]

A former University of Rhode Island professor has sued the school, alleging he was fired as retaliation for challenging the lack of diversity in the school’s leadership and encouraging students to speak out against systemic racism. The federal suit filed by former political science professor Louis Kwame Fosu names the school, the board of trustees, outgoing President David Dooley and several other administrators as defendants, The Providence Journal reported Thursday. The university violated Fosu’s free-speech rights by retaliating against him for advocating for “diversity, justice and inclusion at URI,” according to the suit. Fosu, who is Black, also alleges the university violated his due process rights by placing him on administrative leave and ultimately firing him and depriving him of equal protection under the law by disciplining him differently and more harshly than his White colleagues. He is asking for his job back.

[Judge asked to dismiss lawsuit over WVa transgender ban](#) [The Associated Press, 7 July 2021]

Education officials are asking a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit challenging West Virginia's new law that bans transgender athletes from competing in female sports in middle schools, high schools and colleges. Education and athletic officials said in court documents filed last week that they can't be held liable for the law, which they didn't request and largely won't be responsible for enforcing, the Charleston Gazette-Mail reported. The American Civil Liberties Union and its West Virginia chapter filed the lawsuit in May on behalf of an 11-year-old transgender girl who had hoped to compete in cross country in middle school in Harrison County. The girl is seeking an injunction to prevent the law from being enforced. The ban is set to take effect Thursday and will require the state Board of Education to establish rules to determine the means by which local athletic officials can enforce the law.

DIVERSITY

[Air Force offering better fitting armor for female defenders](#) [Zarrin Ahmed, *United Press International*, 8 July 2021]

Female defenders at the 55th Forces Squadron received the first batch of new body armor for female defenders, the Air Force announced on Thursday. The new armor will replace tactical vests that suit different chest sizes but are flat and not designed for female bodies. "The standard vest was very loose and when you get into a situation where you need to run, it isn't form-fitting, so things move and get jostled around easily," 1st Lt. Madison Wilke said in a press release on Thursday. Each vest costs approximately \$1,200, is more snug, can be adjusted with a snap buckle and has curved chest plates to better accommodate the female shape, the branch said. "Wearing proper fitting safety gear is important for the health, comfort level and safety for day-to-day operations, such as driving around in patrol cars, standing guard at the Offutt gates or aircraft, or handling a military working dog," officials said in the [press release](#).

[DOD Aims to Advance Citizenship Education](#) [David Vergun, *DOD News*, 8 July 2021]

On Feb. 2, President Joe Biden signed [Executive Order 14012](#), "Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans." "Our nation is enriched socially and economically by the presence of immigrants, and we celebrate with them as they take the important step of becoming United States citizens. The federal government should develop welcoming strategies that promote integration, inclusion and citizenship, and it should embrace the full participation of the newest Americans in our democracy," Biden stated in the executive order. As a result of EO 14012, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services developed the "Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization." A large part of that strategy was the establishment of a Naturalization Working Group; the Defense Department, along with the other federal departments, is a member.

[Female Vets in Congress Decry Proposal to Disband Pentagon's Advisory Panel on Women](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 6 July 2021]

A 70-year-old Defense Department panel focused on women's personnel issues that has advocated for expanded opportunities for female service members must be preserved, say the six female veterans currently serving in Congress. The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) has been suspended temporarily and its membership dissolved as part

of a cost and efficiency review of the Defense Department's 42 advisory committees that began in January. But six members of Congress, led by Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Virginia, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, say the committee's work is too important for the panel to be dissolved or rolled into the newly formed Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. Cari Thomas, a retired rear admiral who served nearly four years on the committee, told Military.com last week that she understood DOD's efforts to eliminate duplication or waste but said the "timing did not feel right to me."

[Here is the Navy's new maternity flight suit prototype](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 8 July 2021]

The Navy now has a maternity flight suit prototype available for expecting aircrew. That means pregnant aircrew won't be subjected to maternity khaki uniforms, or larger flight suits that could jeopardize their safety given the longer sleeves and hemlines if not properly altered. "Upon examination, it was discovered that prototype expandable panels could be sewn into existing flight suits and would be easily customized to fit using the existing tab on the side of a regular flight suit," Amie Blade, a spokesperson for Naval Air Systems Command, told Navy Times. "The maternity flight suit not only makes our pregnant workforce more comfortable, but it alleviates the potential safety hazard of extended hems and seams," Blade said. "Also, flight suits are uniforms that are earned, and the women who have earned them should be able to wear them." The first maternity flight suit was issued in the spring to Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Nordan, Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve's mobilization program manager, according to the Navy. "The addition of this uniform item makes an immediate impact on women in the Navy," Nordan said in a Navy news release. "It shows that leadership is listening and is supportive in response to the issues that female aviators are raising."

[Louisiana teen becomes the first African American contestant to win National Spelling Bee](#) [Kevin Dotson and Sabrina Maxouris, *CNN*, 9 July 2021]

Zaila Avant-garde, a 14-year-old from New Orleans, Louisiana, won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday, becoming the first African American contestant to win in 93 editions of the competition. The only Black winner before was Jody-Anne Maxwell, representing Jamaica in 1998. Zaila triumphed after correctly spelling murraya—a type of tree—to clinch the championship. To get there, the teen had to navigate her way through words like "querimonious," "solidungulate," and "Nepeta," a word the teen had to reset on, and let out a joyous jump after her correct spelling. According to a video posted on the official Guinness World Records Twitter page, Zaila started dribbling a basketball when she was just 5 years old and hopes to one day become a professional basketball player and join the WNBA. "I think the more that the achievements and triumphs of women are promoted and publicized, the more likely it is that other girls all around the world will see that they can do any and everything that they put their minds to," she said in the video.

[OPM Asks Watchdog to Review Assessment Process for Prestigious Fellowship Amid Diversity Concerns](#) [Courtney Publé, *Government Executive*, 7 July 2021]

The Office of Personnel Management asked its inspector general to conduct an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the development and implementation of an online

assessment for Presidential Management Fellow program candidates in 2017, according to a source familiar with the matter. The program, which is administered by OPM, is a two-year leadership and training program run by a career official. It is meant for advanced degree candidates, after which they may convert to permanent civil service positions. Separate from the requested IG probe, Peter Bonner, associate director for human resources solutions at OPM, and Mini Timmaraju, senior advisor to the OPM director, sent an email, obtained by Government Executive, on June 11 to the Presidential Management Fellows community saying, “it has become clear to OPM that the agency has been falling short of our standards in several ways.” They outlined steps they are taking to enhance recruitment efforts, reexamine the selection process, revise the leadership development program curriculum and bring more diverse voices into the program.

EXTREMISM

[Domestic terrorism today more complex than threat after 9/11, says DHS counterterrorism chief](#)

[Steve Liewer, *The Omaha World-Herald (Omaha, Neb.)*, 3 July 2021]

The United States has never faced a terrorism challenge as tough as the homegrown one it’s up against now—not even after 9/11, the nation’s top counterterrorism official told a virtual conference this week at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. “This is the most dynamic, complex and rapidly evolving threat I think we’ve faced,” said John Cohen, the Department of Homeland Security’s counterterrorism coordinator. Cohen made his comments during [Tuesday’s keynote address](#) for this week’s Envision21, a conference sponsored by UNO’s National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center—known as NCITE. The center, established last year, encompasses 50 researchers and about 3,000 students in multiple academic areas at 18 universities across the country, all of whom research violent extremism and how to stop it. “Our work is all too relevant right now,” said Gina Ligon, NCITE’s director. “We’re just six months removed from the worst attack on our Capitol since 1814.”

[Feds agree to pay \\$6.1M to create database for Capitol riot prosecutions](#) [Josh Gerstein and Lyle Cheney, *Politico*, 9 July 2021]

The Justice Department has agreed to pay \$6.1 million to a technology contractor to create a massive database of videos, photographs, documents and social media posts related to the Capitol riot as part of the process of turning relevant evidence over to defense attorneys for the more than 500 people facing criminal charges in the Jan. 6 events, according to a court filing and government records. To take on the daunting task, the federal government has turned to Deloitte Financial Advisory Services, a firm prosecutors called “a litigation support vendor with extensive experience providing complex litigation technology services.” Prosecutors are trying to organize thousands of hours of body-worn camera footage, closed-circuit surveillance camera footage, more than a million social media videos, data from phones and email accounts, and the responses to more than 6,000 grand jury subpoenas, according to a court filing Thursday.

[Proposal would push VA leaders to address issue of extremism in the veterans community](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 7 July 2021]

House lawmakers want Veterans Affairs officials to start talking to veterans about misinformation and extremism online. Included in the House Appropriations Committee’s proposal for more than \$270 billion in department funding next fiscal year is language focused on “the unique vulnerabilities that veterans face online,” to include targeting of veterans by extremist organizations and groups focused on sowing division in the military community. “Efforts to spread extremist views and conspiracy theories among the veteran community have had severely damaging effects, such as spreading conspiracies that may have motivated participation in the Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6,” a report on the budget proposal states. It also calls for the department to “establish a comprehensive, evidence-based program to educate veterans about malign influences, transition assistance to include specialized counseling services, as well as research into operations and methods to discern against disinformation.

[Viera High School teacher on administrative leave after charges in Capitol riot](#) [Kevin Connolly and Greg Pallone, *Spectrum News Florida*, 7 July 2021]

A physical education teacher at Viera High School faces an internal investigation by the Brevard County School District after he was charged Tuesday as one of the latest suspects in the deadly January attack on the U.S. Capitol. Kenneth J. Reda, 54, of Melbourne was arrested Tuesday on a criminal complaint from the District of Columbia alleging four federal crimes related to his suspected involvement in the Jan. 6 riot. Reda on Tuesday appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Embry J. Kidd in an Orlando courtroom and was released on several conditions, including posting a \$25,000 bond. His case will be prosecuted in Washington D.C. Reda, who has been at Viera since 2014, is on administrative leave while an investigation is being conducted, district officials said. The arrest of Reda follows the June 26 arrest in Tampa of Mitchell Todd Gardner, whose charges include destruction of government property and obstructing, influencing or impeding any proceeding or attempt to do so. They join more than 500 suspects nationwide charged in the ongoing federal investigation. Those include at least 31 in Central Florida and Tampa Bay and at least 50 in Florida.

[Virginia “Bible study” group was cover for violent militia plans, prosecutors say](#) [Rachel Weiner and Spencer S. Hsu, *The Washington Post*, 6 July 2021]

After storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, a Northern Virginia man began forming his own militia-like group in the D.C. suburbs and building up a supply of explosives under the guise of a Bible study group, according to federal prosecutors. Fi Duong, 27, appeared in court Friday and was released to home confinement pending trial, over the objections of prosecutors who sought stricter terms. According to the court record, at the time of his arrest he had several guns, including an AK-47, and the material to make 50 molotov cocktails. Details of the case—one of the first if not the first in which the government publicly disclosed it had someone undercover to continue monitoring a Jan. 6 defendant—were made public Tuesday. Duong entered the Capitol on Jan. 6, according to prosecutors, telling an undercover federal agent he climbed the building wall, delivered a letter to lawmakers and filmed others opening a door with a crowbar. He and others held “Bible study” where they discussed firearms and other training, according to court documents; Duong also brought someone he described as a “three percenter” to one meeting. The right-wing Three Percenters movement, formed in 2008, is named after the false claim that only 3 percent of colonists fought in the American Revolution.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[What Led A Police Chief Turned Yoga Instructor To The Capitol Riot?](#) [Tom Dreisbach, *NPR*, 7 July 2021]

In 2019, Alan Hostetter posted a 20-minute “sunset gong meditation” on his YouTube channel. In the video, he stands on a Southern California cliffside in a white tunic, wearing a turquoise bandana over long hair and a full salt-and-pepper beard. He speaks of “peace and tranquility,” over an image of himself hitting a gong in front of a golden sun. Less than a year later, he was fantasizing aloud about the Founding Fathers hanging California Gov. Gavin Newsom and stating that traitors to the country “need to be executed as an example.” Now, Hostetter is facing a criminal indictment alleging that he conspired with anti-government, extremist militiamen to bring chaos to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and obstruct Congress from conducting the peaceful transfer of power. When COVID-19 broke out, Orange County saw a surge of protests against state and local lockdown policies meant to slow the pandemic. Hostetter was part of those protests from the beginning. “I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would actually be in a position to have to defend my fellow countrymen and women from domestic enemies,” Hostetter said at a May 2020 protest in Huntington Beach, Calif. “But, damn it, I am doing it now.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[3 Rules for Politeness During a Confusing Social Transition](#) [Lizzie Post, *The Atlantic*, 2 July 2021]

The abrupt abandonment of handshakes and hugs. An expansion of personal space in public to six feet. And detailed conversations preceding any social plans about who else was invited and what risky behaviors they might have recently engaged in. Before the pandemic, any of these actions would have been considered rude, but over the past year, they became polite. Although etiquette has always had an undertone of safety first, during the pandemic, safety became the main point of politeness. More than 15 months, multiple lockdowns, and hundreds of millions of vaccine shots later, politeness is once again shifting as pandemic restrictions begin to scale back in America. For many people, this might feel like etiquette whiplash. But politeness is always in flux—it doesn’t come and go so much as it morphs and adapts. For instance, when the well-known etiquette author, and my great-great-grandmother, Emily Post wrote her first book about politeness in 1922, a common practice at high-society dinner parties was to “turn a table”: The hostess would literally turn from speaking with the person on her right and begin to speak with the person on her left, and all the women at the table would follow suit. Today, we embrace free-flowing, omnidirectional conversation.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[By Now, Burnout Is a Given](#) [Lucy McBride, *The Atlantic*, 30 June 2021]

Congratulations if you aren’t burned out. Perhaps you learned to play the guitar, wrote a screenplay, or took up French during the pandemic. But if you’re like me and most of my patients, you’re running on fumes. [Burnout](#) is usually reserved to describe work-related phenomena: exhaustion, feelings of negativism, and reduced professional efficacy. In 2019, the World Health Organization officially recognized burnout in its [International Classification of Diseases](#) but

clearly stated that the term “should not be applied to describe experiences in other [nonoccupational] areas of life.” Burnout “is not classified as a medical condition,” the agency declared, using boldface for emphasis. Similarly, the [Mayo Clinic](#) calls burnout “a special type of work-related stress—a state of physical or emotional exhaustion that also involves a sense of reduced accomplishment and loss of personal identity,” and specifies that it “isn’t a medical diagnosis.” I beg to differ. The symptoms of burnout have become medical. The work of living through a pandemic has been making us sick. As a primary-care doctor, I’m witnessing the physical-health toll of collective trauma—high blood pressure, headaches, herniated discs. And this has been before many people have returned to the office or resumed their pre-pandemic schedules.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[It’s not just bad behavior—why social media design makes it hard to have constructive disagreements online](#) [Amanda Baughan, *The Conversation*, 7 July 2021]

Good-faith disagreements are a normal part of society and building strong relationships. Yet it’s difficult to engage in good-faith disagreements on the internet, and people reach less common ground online compared with face-to-face disagreements. There’s no shortage of research about the psychology of arguing online, from text versus voice to how anyone can become a troll and advice about how to argue well. But there’s another factor that’s often overlooked: the design of social media itself. [My colleagues and I investigated](#) how the design of social media affects online disagreements and how to design for constructive arguments. We surveyed and interviewed 257 people about their experiences with online arguments and how design could help. We asked which features of 10 different social media platforms made it easy or difficult to engage in online arguments, and why. (Full disclosure: I receive research funding from Facebook.)

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The Link Between Self-Reliance and Well-Being](#) [Arthur C. Brooks, *The Atlantic*, 9 July 2021]

Scholars have described individualism in [three dimensions](#): a belief in one’s responsibility for one’s actions; a belief in one’s uniqueness; and a tendency to set and strive for one’s personal goals. Just as some people are more individualistic than others (you can [test your own tendencies here](#) using a simpler paradigm), countries vary in the level of individualism in their cultures. In one multinational study using a [measure](#) commonly cited in academic research, the United States and the United Kingdom were found to have the most individualistic cultures, followed by Australia, the Netherlands, and Canada. The least individualistic countries assessed were Venezuela, Colombia, Pakistan, and Indonesia. As a general rule, [researchers find](#) that individualism in a country strongly predicts the average level of well-being, even when correcting for life expectancy, access to food and water, and other variables.

INTERNATIONAL

[France: 11 convicted of cyberbullying teen who slammed Islam](#) [Nicolas Vaux-Montagny, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2021]

A French court on Wednesday convicted 11 of 13 people charged with harassing and threatening a teenager who harshly criticized Islam in online posts and ended up changing schools and

receiving police protection to preserve her safety. The verdict was the first of its kind since France created a new Paris court in January to prosecute online crimes, including harassment and discrimination. The court sentenced the defendants to suspended prison terms of four to six months and fined them about \$1,770 each. The teen at the center of the landmark cyberbullying case, who has been identified publicly only by her first name, Mila, testified last month that she felt as if she had been “condemned to death.” Mila, who describes herself as atheist, was 16 when she started posting videos on Instagram and later TikTok harshly criticizing Islam and the Quran. Now 18, she testified that “I don’t like any religion, not just Islam.”

[Hungary activists vow to resist LGBT law, symbol of EU rift](#) [Justine Spike, *The Associated Press*, 8 July 2021]

Activists in Hungary erected a 10-meter-high (30-foot-high) rainbow-colored heart opposite the country’s neo-Gothic parliament on Thursday, vowing to wage a civil disobedience campaign against a new law that they say discriminates against LGBT people and that has raised questions about what values the European Union stands for. The law, which came into effect Thursday, prohibits the display of content depicting homosexuality or sex reassignment to minors—but critics say its goal is to marginalize and stigmatize the LGBT community as the country marches steadily to the right under Prime Minister Viktor Orban. The law has drawn intense opposition in Hungary and from the EU and has become a significant battleground in the fight over what the bloc represents. Orban and some other right-wing leaders of member states have been at the forefront of that fight, challenging the EU’s traditional “liberal consensus” by refusing to accept migrants, cracking down on media plurality and limiting the independence of their judiciaries.

[Mary Simon: Trudeau names indigenous leader in “historic” first](#) [BBC News, 6 July 2021]

Canadian Prime Minister has named Mary Simon as governor general, the first indigenous person to hold the post. The former diplomat and advocate for Inuit rights will represent Canada’s head of state, Queen Elizabeth II. The announcement comes nearly six months after the former governor general, Julie Payette, resigned amid accusations of bullying. While the role is largely ceremonial, the governor general presides over important state duties. Ms Simon’s appointment follows a national reckoning over Canada’s legacy of residential schools. These government-funded boarding schools were part of policy to attempt to assimilate indigenous children and roll back indigenous cultures and languages. On Tuesday, she said her “historic” nomination was “an important step forward on the long path towards reconciliation” and towards “building a more inclusive and just Canadian society”.

[The push to get Australian men and boys to open up](#) [Virginia Harrison, *BBC News*, 6 July 2021]

Ryder Jack says there are two emotions Australian men can show: happiness and anger. And there’s only a couple of reasons to cry. ‘You’re allowed to cry if you win or lose a grand final, or at a funeral,’ Mr Jack says. He runs workshops for men across the country about the state of masculinity in Australia. His organisation, [Tomorrow Man](#), is one of a growing number that seek to help men and boys better understand their emotions and wellbeing. They aim to improve mental health. Suicide is the leading cause of death for young people in Australia, and men are far more likely than women to take their own life. Many also hope these programmes will reduce concerning rates of domestic violence in the country. Against this backdrop a movement focused

on “healthy masculinities” has gained momentum. Some are run through schools, as well as sporting clubs and community groups. Those behind the push cite the [Man Box research](#): A study of Australian men aged 18 to 30 that found the majority agreed there are social pressures on them to behave or act a certain way because of their gender.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Spain says non-consensual sex is rape, toughens sexual violence laws](#) [Belén Carreño and Nathan Allen, Reuters, 6 July 2021]

The Spanish government approved a law on Tuesday to define all non-consensual sex as rape, part of a legislative overhaul that toughens penalties for sexual harassment and mandates more support systems for victims. It approved the bill five years after what became known as the “wolf-pack” case, in which five men gang-raped an 18-year old woman at Pamplona’s bull-running festival, causing public outrage and prompting calls to reform laws on sexual violence. The draft still requires parliamentary approval, which is expected by the end of the year. Based around a “yes means yes” model, which qualifies any non-consenting sex as rape, the law will bring Spain into line with 11 other European countries, including Sweden, Portugal and Britain, that use similar legal definitions.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Spanish police arrest three over suspected homophobic killing](#) [Al Goodman, CNN, 7 July 2021]

Spanish police have arrested three people over the killing of a male nursing assistant in a suspected homophobic attack that prompted protests across the country. The investigation into the death of Samuel Luiz, 24, is ongoing and no motive has been ruled out—including the possibility that it was a homophobic crime—according to Jose Minones, the government’s chief delegate to northwest Spain where Luiz was beaten to death on Saturday. A judge will decide if this was a hate crime, Minones told Spain’s SER radio in an interview on Wednesday. The killing of Luiz—who was beaten to death outside a nightclub in the northwest city of A Coruña—prompted protests in Madrid, Barcelona, A Coruña and numerous other Spanish cities this week, drawing thousands who denounced attacks on the LGBTQ community. The two men and one woman who are under arrest, ages 20 to 25, were suspected of direct participation in the attack, according to Minones.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Ukrainian army’s decision to make female soldiers march in high heels sparks backlash](#) [Jack Guy and Denis Lapin, CNN, 6 July 2021]

Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense has defended its decision to train female soldiers to march in high heels, following an outcry from local lawmakers. Women from the Ukrainian armed forces will march in a parade to mark the 30th anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, according to a statement from Army Inform, the defense ministry’s official news agency, published Thursday. Ivanna Medvid, a cadet at the Military Institute of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev, has been training for more than a month. “Today, for the first time, training takes place in high-heeled shoes,” she told Army Inform. “It’s a little harder than in boots, but we try.” Elena Kondratyuk, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, joined members of parliament from the “Equal Opportunities” cross-party group to

call on defense minister Andrei Taran to reevaluate the decision to make female soldiers wear heels while marching. Following the criticism, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense said on Saturday that it will issue "new, improved footwear" for female soldiers.

MISCELLANEOUS

[COVID-19 Vaccines Could Soon Be Mandatory for VA Employees](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 8 July 2021]

The Department of Veterans Affairs is weighing whether to make COVID-19 vaccinations compulsory for employees—especially those who work in health services who haven't yet received their shots. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said last week that the department has started offering half-day, paid leave as an incentive for employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19. But the department also is "looking at all these other options"—to include making immunizations mandatory—as part of ensuring the safety of all vets and staff. The move may be necessary as the VA plans to resume full operations at all facilities by the end of the summer, McDonough said during a press conference in Washington, D.C., on June 30. The legality of requiring vaccines as a condition of employment has been hotly debated since the first COVID-19 vaccines were rolled out late last year.

[Obituary: Henry Parham, last of a Black unit that fought on D-Day, dies at 99](#) [Janice Crompton, *The Pittsburg Post-Gazette*, 8 July 2021]

Before 2009, the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy, Henry Parham got little recognition for his role as an African-American soldier in a segregated Army during one of the most important—and bloodiest—battles of World War II. When writers and historians figured out that the Wilksburg man was likely the last surviving African American combat veteran of D-Day, as his wife, Ethel Parham, puts it, "All hell broke loose." "We were just plain, simple people; we weren't looking for awards and all that stuff. Then all of a sudden, people got interested when they heard his story," said Mrs. Parham, his very sprightly wife of 47 years. "Every Tom, Dick and Harry called here and wanted an interview. Before that, nobody really bothered. But after the 65th anniversary, people's eyes were really opened." A veteran of the 320th Anti-Aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion, the only all-Black unit to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, Mr. Parham died Sunday of bladder cancer. He was 99.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Pioneering woman Wally Funk was supposed to go to space in the '60s. At 82, she's getting her chance](#) [Rheana Murray, *TODAY*, 2 July 2021]

An 82-year-old pilot who's been trying to go to outer space for more than half a century will join Jeff Bezos on his Blue Origin spaceflight later this month. Wally Funk is a member of the so-called Mercury 13, a group of pioneering women who were testing to become astronauts in the 1960s before their training program was canceled. (Their story was the subject of a Netflix documentary in 2018.) "No one has waited longer," Bezos wrote in an Instagram post announcing that Funk will join him on July 20 as an "honored guest." In a video he shared, Funk said that she's been "flying forever," and has 19,600 flying hours. "I have taught over 3,000 people to fly—private, commercial, instrument, flight engineer, airline transport, gliding—

everything the FAA has, I've got the license for," she said. "And I can outrun you." She also talked about the famously canceled training program, which had been created by a NASA physician but wasn't officially run by NASA, that she participated in decades ago.

[A Plan to Offer In-State Tuition to Native Americans](#) [Kate Elizabeth Queram, *Route Fifty*, 7 July 2021]

College students who are members of American Indian tribes with "historical ties to Colorado" are eligible to receive in-state tuition at the state's public universities under legislation recently [signed into law](#) by Gov. Jared Polis. The bill, passed unanimously by the Senate in April and 49-11 by the House in May, requires public institutions of higher learning to "adopt policies to charge in-state tuition to any Native American student who is a registered member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe with historical ties to Colorado." [Language in the law](#), which takes effect in the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year, acknowledges that "often due to circumstances beyond their control," many members of indigenous tribes were "forced to relocate across state lines, far from their historical home places."

[Prepare for mandatory COVID vaccines in September, Army tells commands](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 2 July 2021]

The Army has directed commands to prepare to administer mandatory COVID-19 vaccines as early as Sept. 1, pending full Food and Drug Administration licensure, Army Times has learned. The directive came from an execute order sent to the force by Department of the Army Headquarters. Army Times obtained a portion of a recent update to HQDA EXORD 225-21, COVID-19 Steady State Operations. "Commanders will continue COVID-19 vaccination operations and prepare for a directive to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for service members [on or around] 01 September 2021, pending full FDA licensure," the order said. "Commands will be prepared to provide a backbrief on servicemember vaccination status and way ahead for completion once the vaccine is mandated." EXORDS are utilized when the president directs the defense secretary to execute a military operation. "As a matter of policy we do not comment on leaked documents. The vaccine continues to be voluntary," said Maj. Jackie Wren, an Army spokesperson. "If we are directed by DOD to change our posture, we are prepared to do so."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Report: Life Expectancy Gap Widening Between Black, Non-Black Chicagoans](#) [Marissa Nelson, *PBS*, 23 June 2021]

The life expectancy gap between Black and non-Black Chicagoans has widened, according to a [recent report from the Health Equity Index Committee at the Chicago Department of Public Health](#). Between 2012 and 2017, the gap grew from 8.3 years to 9.2 years, according to the report, which found that Black Chicagoans on average live 71.4 years, while non-Black Chicagoans live an average of 80.6 years. "We would think that the gap has potentially even widened after the effects of COVID-19," said Blair Aikens, an epidemiologist at the Chicago Department of Public Health and member of CDPH's Health Equity Index Committee. Aikens noted that Black Chicagoans have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 compared to non-Black residents, both in the number of infections and deaths. "That's for a variety of reasons, some of that being the chronic diseases that Blacks tend to have more of compared to other race

and ethnicity groups,” Aikens said. The report identified five factors driving the life expectancy gap: chronic diseases; homicide; infant mortality; HIV, flu and other infections; and opioid overdose.

[U.S. service members suffer chronic pain at rate much higher than civilian population, report says](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 6 July 2021]

Many service members are in constant pain and the military medical system needs to better identify effective treatments to help them cope, says a new study that found chronic pain as the main factor leading to disability for those on active duty. Between 31% and 44% of active-duty service members suffer from chronic pain, the nonpartisan [Rand Corp. said in a study](#) that examined how the military health system deals with the issue. While the Defense Department has invested heavily and made strides in treating chronic pain, expanding efforts to track how service members are doing after they receive care would be a step forward, Rand said. “Accurately measuring the quality of pain treatment is an essential step toward improving care,” it said. By better understanding treatment outcomes, the Pentagon could spend money more wisely. This would ultimately “enhance the military readiness of service members with chronic pain,” the report said. Back pain and joint disorders are the most common types of chronic pain experienced by troops.

[Volunteers uncovering hundreds of graves at historic South Jersey cemetery for Black vets, former enslaved people](#) [Melanie Burney, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6 July 2021]

The tiny reddish-orange flags that dot a corner of the historic Mount Peace Cemetery in Lawnside tell a story. They mark more than 200 newly uncovered graves in the sprawling cemetery established in 1900 as a private, nonsectarian resting place for Black Civil War veterans, former enslaved people, and those who could not be buried in White-only cemeteries. After years of neglect, the three-acre section in the back of the cemetery was covered with thick growth and not accessible for at least five decades, said Dolly L. Marshall, who serves on the board of the [Mount Peace Cemetery](#) Association. A band of volunteers spent the last several months clearing the area, using light equipment, rakes, and their bare hands to remove branches and vegetation to avoid damaging headstones and markers, Marshall said. Their goal was to live up to the cemetery’s motto: “Uncovering hidden history one stone at a time.” “So many stories. Their stories deserve to be told,” said Linda Shockley, president of the Lawnside Historical Society. “The cemetery is nationally important. It needs to be preserved and taken care of so that future generations can research it.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCONDUCT

[Marine Raider Convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter, Hazing in Green Beret’s Death](#) [Stephen Losey, *Military.com*, 2 July 2021]

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez was convicted Thursday night of involuntary manslaughter and other charges in the choking death of a Green Beret in Mali during an attempted hazing and sexual assault. In addition to involuntary manslaughter, Madera-Rodriguez was found guilty of conspiracy to commit assault and battery, conspiracy to obstruct justice,

hazing and making false official statements, the Navy said in a Friday news release. Madera-Rodriguez, a Marine Raider, was found not guilty of felony murder. He also was found not guilty of burglary but convicted of housebreaking, a lesser offense. Madera-Rodriguez's case was the last of four special operations troops to be decided in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar during a deployment in Bamako, Mali.

[Texas Soldier who Shot Protester Indicted on Murder Charge](#) [Acacia Coronado, *The Associated Press*, 2 July 2021]

An Army soldier who shot and killed an armed protester after driving into a crowd demonstrating against police violence in the Texas capital last summer has been indicted on a murder charge, authorities said Thursday. Sgt. Daniel Perry, who was stationed at Fort Hood, was booked and released on \$300,000 bail, said Kristen Dark, a spokeswoman for the Travis County Sheriff's Office. Perry's attorney, Clint Broden, has said the soldier was working for a ride-sharing company and acted in self-defense after Foster pointed a gun at him. Broden issued a statement Thursday expressing disappointment in the indictment and confidence that Perry would be acquitted. Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza said in a press conference Thursday that the grand jury returned indictments against Perry for the charges of murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and a deadly conduct misdemeanor charge in the July 25 death of Garrett Foster, 28. He said the grand jury reviewed evidence from investigations by the District Attorney's office and a three-week investigation by Austin officers, who reviewed over 150 exhibits and interviewed 22 witnesses.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

RACISM

[Are race relations a national security issue?](#) [Dr. David Shulkin and Louis Celli Jr., *Policy Vets Podcast*, 9 July 2021] [PODCAST]

Join Dr. Shulkin and Lou Celli as they speak to Reuben Keith Green and Gloria Dent. Keith is the author of "Black Officer, White Navy", and Gloria is a small business owner. Both had long careers in the military and have a perspective on race in the military that is especially important considering recent events.

[Black veterans group sues VA for racial disparity data](#) [Adam Morey, *The Associated Press*, 8 July 2021]

The Department of Veterans Affairs is being sued by two veterans groups for failing to provide data on racial disparities in disability compensation benefits and healthcare services, according to a joint statement from the plaintiffs. The two groups asked three VA units for the data and requested that it be broken down by race and gender. They also requested records relevant to any internal reviews of racial bias, according to the groups. While the plaintiffs did receive some data in 2018 showing that Black veterans receive disability compensation at a "significantly lower rate" than the overall rate of compensation, they said this data was not sufficient given the extent of the requests. Garry Monk, executive director of the NVCLR, said in a statement that Black service members have fought and died for the country since its founding. "Yet, Black veterans have long faced racial discrimination from the VA, the very agency that is tasked with serving them," he said.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[“Do I want to make it better? Yes,” says NJ man slurred at](#) [Mike Catalini and Thalia Beaty, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2021]

A Black man who endured racist slurs caught on video last week in New Jersey is serving in the U.S. Air Force and said Wednesday in an interview that the interaction has reinforced the need for more discussion about race in America. Etchu Tanyoh Brandon Tambe, of Mount Laurel, who is Black, was seen in a video Friday arguing with a White man who uses racist epithets at him and other neighbors. The White man, Edward C. Mathews, was later [arrested](#) and faces harassment and disorderly conduct charges, according to police documents. Tambe holds the rank of Senior Airman and works as an aerial porter, processing cargo and passengers, at McGuire Air Force Base, he said. He became a citizen in 2019. In the video, Mathews is seen telling Tambe, “It’s not Africa,” and telling him to learn the laws. “For me this is already home. This is home for me,” Tambe said. “It strengthens my resolve to be in this country. There is a discussion that needs to keep happening. Do I want to make it better? Yes.” Tambe called the interaction, captured during a nearly seven-minute video, “surreal” and said the impact of the slurs didn’t “click right away.”

[Ex-Liberty exec files lawsuit alleging racial discrimination](#) [The Associated Press, 7 July 2021]

A former NFL player hired last year to help lead diversity initiatives at Liberty University is suing the school, alleging racial discrimination in his demotion and subsequent firing. The federal lawsuit filed Friday by Kelvin Edwards says he faced discrimination based on race under the federal Civil Rights Act and the Virginia Human Rights Act as well as breach of contract. He is seeking more than \$8 million in damages and other compensation. In a statement, Liberty categorically denied the allegations and said they would be proven “false through the legal process.” Edwards’ hiring was announced last August, at a time when the Christian university in Lynchburg was facing tough questions about its commitment to diversity and inclusion. The lawsuit says Edwards moved his family from Texas for the job, executive vice president of management efficiencies and diversity, in part because he received assurances he would be employed at Liberty no less than 10 years or until retirement.

[“Horrific” graffiti on Martin Luther King Jr. statue in Southern California is being investigated as a hate crime, police say](#) [Brisa Colon, CNN, 7 July 2021]

A statue of Martin Luther King Jr. in Southern California was vandalized with a swastika and other “horrific” graffiti that police are investigating as a hate crime, officials said. Officers from the Long Beach Police Department were called to King Park on Friday around 3:20 p.m. following reports the statue was vandalized with “hate/bias-motivated graffiti,” police said. Police did not share a photo of the graffiti but an image posted on Twitter showed a black swastika spray-painted on the statue’s chest and SS bolts on a leg. The SS bolts are “a common White supremacist/neo-Nazi symbol derived from Schutzstaffel (SS) of Nazi Germany,” according to the Anti-Defamation League. Swastikas are hate symbols associated with Nazis. The graffiti has since been removed and a hate crime investigation is underway, Mejia said. No information about a suspect was available.

[Ohio police chief retires after racist incident caught on surveillance in police station](#) [Laura Jarrett, CNN, 6 July 2021]

An Ohio police chief has retired from his post after an apparent racist incident was caught on surveillance, CNN affiliates report. Sheffield Lake Police Chief Anthony Campo has now left the force after more than 30 years on the job following what appears to be a racist prank on a fellow Black officer in the police station, an incident captured on surveillance video. Video obtained by CNN from the City of Sheffield Lake shows Campo arranging a yellow raincoat on a desk with a hood clearly visible; then he places a white piece of paper on the jacket, with the words “Ku Klux Klan” covering the police label on the back of the jacket. A Black officer CNN is not naming enters the room soon after. The mayor says the chief has not been apologetic, saying it was a joke. The mayor, though, says he took the incident very seriously and asked for the police chief’s badge and office keys. The chief then asked to type up a letter of resignation and retire, the mayor said, according to CNN affiliates.

[Racial bias reports threaten Tulane med school accreditation](#) [Kevin McGill, *The Associated Press*, 8 July 2021]

Allegations of racial discrimination in the Tulane University School of Medicine’s Graduate Medical Education program have prompted an accrediting organization to put the school on probation. The move by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, which provides training for new doctors through hospital residencies, comes months after a Black faculty member filed a federal lawsuit alleging instances of bias in recruiting and promotion. She also alleges that retaliatory actions were taken against her for complaining about the discrimination, which the dean of the medical school has denied. ACGME did not release information on what specific allegations of discrimination led to the probation. The school remains accredited. But the probationary status means an institution “has failed to demonstrate substantial compliance” with ACGME requirements. Current residents and fellows at the school and applicants for positions have to be notified of the status in writing, according to the ACGME statement. Loss of accreditation would mean a loss of federal grants and an end to Medicaid funding for training.

[Suspect in stabbing of rabbi now facing hate crime charges](#) [*The Associated Press*, 8 July 2021]

A man already charged with stabbing a rabbi outside a Jewish school in Boston now faces additional hate crime offenses, prosecutors said Thursday. Khaled Awad, who is originally from Egypt, arrived in the U.S. with biased views against Jews, Christians and American culture, Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Margaret Hegarty said during a court hearing. Witnesses who knew or interacted with Awad told investigators he would become angry if his views were challenged, she said. “The witnesses also noticed that the suspect would stereotype various differences in racial groups and behavior, which included Whites, Blacks and that he was especially harsh on Jews,” the prosecutor said. Awad, 24, who has been living in Boston, was charged Thursday with a civil rights violation causing injury and intimidation with bodily injury, prosecutors said. He has already pleaded not guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and six other charges in connection with the July 1 stabbing of Rabbi Shlomo Noginski outside the Shaloh House in the city’s Brighton neighborhood.

[Tenure struggle ends with Hannah-Jones charting new course](#) [Tom Foreman, Jr. and Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 6 July 2021]

A Black investigative journalist who won a Pulitzer Prize for her groundbreaking work on the bitter legacy of slavery in the U.S. announced Tuesday that she will not join the faculty at the University of North Carolina following an extended tenure fight marked by allegations of racism and conservative backlash about her work. Nikole Hannah-Jones will instead accept a chaired professorship at Howard University, a historically Black school in Washington, D.C. The dispute over whether North Carolina's flagship public university would grant Hannah-Jones a lifetime faculty appointment had prompted weeks of outcry from within and beyond its Chapel Hill campus. Numerous professors and alumni voiced frustration, and Black students and faculty questioned during protests whether the predominantly White university values them. And while UNC belatedly offered her tenure last week, Hannah-Jones said in an interview with The Associated Press that the unfairness of how she was treated as a Black woman steered her toward turning the offer down.

[White man sentenced in attack on Black teen at Michigan park](#) [The Associated Press, 9 July 2021]

A White man has been sentenced to five years in prison for attacking a Black teenager with a bike lock because of his race at a southeastern Michigan park. A judge in U.S. District Court in Detroit on Thursday also ordered Lee Mouat, 43, of Newport, to serve three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty in March to a federal hate crime after he was accused of striking Devin Freelon Jr., 18, on June 6, 2020. Authorities have said Mouat confronted a group of Black teens at Sterling State Park beach in Monroe County's Frenchtown Township, about 39 miles (62 kilometers) southwest of Detroit. He repeatedly used racial slurs and said Black people had no right to use the beach before striking Freelon and attempting to hit another teen, authorities said. Freelon lost several teeth and suffered a fractured jaw as well as cuts to his face and mouth.

RELIGION

[Anti-mask pilot seeks return to flight after Air Force denies religious exemption](#) [Rachel Cohen, Air Force Times, 2 July 2021]

An unnamed airman, identified as Capt. John Doe by the nonprofit First Amendment litigation firm Liberty Counsel, argues his "Christian beliefs do not permit him to wear a mask," said the firm, which specializes in religious freedom cases. He was suspended from duty on May 17 and from flying on June 8, according to the Washington Examiner. Capt. Doe first asked his leadership to accommodate his beliefs on March 14, 2021—about three months before the Washington Post and BuzzFeed published Fauci's emails and articles based on the information in them. Higher officials later overturned the decision, sending it up to acting Air Force Secretary John Roth for a final say. Charles Haynes, founding director of the Freedom Forum's Religious Freedom Center, told Air Force Times the officer is unlikely to win out if the issue goes to court because military rules around religious liberty are stricter than for the general public. "The bar is much higher. Generally, courts have deferred to military officials to determine what is best for order and discipline," Haynes said. "See, for example, the 1986 Supreme Court decision in Goldman v. Weinberger in which the high court ruled that the military was not required by the First Amendment to allow an Air Force officer to wear a yarmulke when in uniform."

[Noah's Ark park seeks expansion with new religious exhibit](#) [The Associated Press, 7 July 2021]

A Bible-themed attraction in Kentucky that features a 510-foot-long (155-meter-long) wooden Noah's ark is planning to begin fundraising for an expansion. The Ark Encounter said Wednesday that it would take about three years to research, plan and build a "Tower of Babel" attraction on the park's grounds in northern Kentucky. A release from the Ark Encounter park said the new attraction will "tackle the racism issue" by helping visitors "understand how genetics research and the Bible confirm the origin of all people groups around the world." No other details were given on the Babel attraction or what it might look like. Answers in Genesis, the ministry behind the ark, raised private funds to construct and open the massive wooden attraction in 2016. The group preaches a strict interpretation of the Earth's creation in the Bible. The group also founded The Creation Museum, which asserts that dinosaurs walked the earth just a few thousand years ago, millions of years after scientists say they went extinct.

[Supreme Court rejects appeal from florist who wouldn't make arrangement for same-sex wedding](#)

[Ariane de Vogue and Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN, 2 July 2021]

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday declined to take up an appeal from a Washington state florist who refused to make an arrangement for a same-sex couple out of religious concerns regarding same-sex marriage. The Washington state Supreme Court in June had ruled against the florist, Barronelle Stutzman, who declined to make a floral arrangement in 2013 for long-time client Robert Ingersoll's same-sex wedding. The court said Stutzman's refusal violated a state anti-discrimination law that bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It said the law was "neutral" and served the states' interest in eradicating discrimination in public accommodations. In a statement Friday, Stutzman's lawyer Kristen Waggoner called the outcome of the case "tragic" and said "the critical work of protecting the First Amendment freedoms of all Americans must continue." Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union praised the Supreme Court on Friday for staying out of the dispute.

SEXISM

[A transgender weightlifter's Olympic dream has sparked an existential debate about what it means to be female](#) [Julia Hollingsworth, CNN, 4 July 2021]

When New Zealand's Olympic weightlifting team gathered last month for a celebratory photo shoot, one person was noticeably absent: Laurel Hubbard. The publicity-shy weightlifter is set to be the first openly transgender athlete ever to compete at the Olympics, and her inclusion has generated a fierce debate on gender, sexism and sport. To her supporters, the 43-year-old's selection is a decades-in-the-making milestone that exemplifies the Olympic spirit of inclusion and could inspire other transgender athletes who are underrepresented in sport at all levels. Hubbard's opponents—including conservative British shock jock Piers Morgan—argue that being a transgender woman, or a woman who was assigned male at birth, gives her an unfair physical advantage. One of Hubbard's competitors even called her inclusion "a bad joke," saying it was unfair to cisgender women, whose gender identity matched their sex assigned at birth.

[Women in the Biden White House earn 99 cents for every \\$1 earned by men](#) [Chabeli Carrazana, The 19th, 1 July 2021]

President Joe Biden’s White House has the narrowest gender pay gap of any administration since 1995, according to [new salary data released Thursday](#). The data, which the White House has been required to release publicly since 1995, shows that women in the Biden administration earn 99 cents for every \$1 earned by men. That is far narrower than the gender wage gap in the country as whole—in 2021, women are earning 82 cents on the White man’s \$1. On average, women earn \$93,752 in Biden’s White House, while men earn \$94,639. In the 2020 Trump White House, women earned 69 cents on men’s \$1. In Trump’s first year in office, 2016, women earned just 63 cents to men’s \$1. Biden’s gap is also narrower than other Democratic presidents. In the Obama White House, women earned between about 84 and 89 cents on the dollar, according to an analysis by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank. The difference in the current administration is the split between men and women in terms of staff. About 60 percent of the staff is women, the White House said in a statement. (It has not responded to questions about whether any of its staff are nonbinary.)

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[A professionalized military sexual assault and response program could be on the way](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 3 July 2021]

Experts have long said that the key to preventing sexual assault in the military lies with leaders, and leaders have echoed that claim, adamant that good order and discipline hinges on their ability to call the shots in their formations. But the results are in, via [300-page report](#): They largely don’t know what they’re doing. With that in mind, the Pentagon’s independent review commission, which authored the report, has a host of solutions. Most include embedding experienced, professional prevention and response experts into units, to not only develop local SAPR programs, but to take the lead on response. The commission met with leaders who resoundingly said that the key to stamping out sexual assault in the military is preventing it, commission chair Lynn Rosenthal told reporters on Friday. “But they don’t really know what prevention is or how it’s different from response.” Victim advocates and response coordinators are available at every unit, but they are often service members with limited training performing a collateral duty. Where possible, the report recommends, there should be professionals in those positions, with collateral duty limited to austere, deployed environments.

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[Sexual Assaults Will No Longer be Prosecuted by Commanders](#) [Todd C. Lopez, *DOD News*, 2 July 2021]

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III accepted all of the recommendations of an independent review commission that stood up in March and delivered its findings just last week. The commission recommended an array of changes in how the defense department and the services that fall under it will handle sexual assaults. “On my first full day as secretary of defense, I committed that we must do more as a department to counter the scourge of sexual assault and sexual harassment in our military,” wrote Austin in a [memorandum](#) published today. “As I stated then—this is a leadership issue and we will lead.” Austin reviewed recommendations made by the IRC and said he agrees with everything submitted. Chief among the recommendations Austin has

agreed with is who will be charged with prosecuting those suspected of committing sexual assault in the ranks. Until now, it's been the domain of commanders to decide how to move forward when made aware of a sexual assault. That is no longer the case. Based on recommendations from the IRC, Austin has directed that the department will work with the Congress to make changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice in such a way as to shift responsibility from military commanders for prosecuting sexual assaults and related crimes, as well as domestic violence offences, child abuse and retaliation.

[U.S. agrees to \\$7M settlement in Kansas VA hospital sex abuse case](#) [*The Associated Press*, 7 July 2021]

The U.S. government has agreed to pay nearly \$7 million to settle claims from eight veterans that they were sexually abused by a former physician assistant at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Kansas. The veterans, who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, alleged they were subjected to unnecessary genital exams and other procedures by Mark Wisner while he was a physician assistant at the Dwight Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth between 2008 and 2014. About 100 veterans have sued Wisner. More than 80 veterans settled their lawsuits against the government over Wisner's abuse for \$6.7 million in 2019, KCUR reported. Wisner was convicted of aggravated sexual battery and related charges in 2017 and sentenced to nearly 16 years in prison. He surrendered his license to the Kansas Board of Healing Arts in February 2015.

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