

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[The Census Has Revealed A More Multiracial U.S. One Reason? Cheaper DNA Tests](#) [Hnasi Lo Wang, *NPR*, 28 August 2021]

*For about 1 in 10 people counted for last year's U.S. census, a single check box was not enough to report their racial identities. Their multifaceted responses to the race question for the 2020 head count helped produce the data released this month for redrawing voting maps, enforcing civil rights laws and guiding federal funds to local communities. Now, demographers and other researchers are trying to figure out what caused the number of people who identified with more than one racial group to jump over the past decade by [an eye-popping 276%](#). As experts look at the changing numbers, three main factors have emerged as drivers of this boom. A growing share of children in the U.S. have been born to parents who identify with racial groups that are different from one another. For the 2020 count, the Census Bureau changed how it asked about race and how it categorized the answers. (If you wrote in a response that federal standards consider to be "Hispanic or Latino," for example, that answer was sorted into the "Some Other Race" category.) And [more people may be rethinking](#) what they tell the government about their identities. Some demographers are wondering how much a relatively new trend may have contributed to that growth—the rise of at-home DNA ancestry testing.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Hate crimes hit 12-year high: FBI](#) [Olafimihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 30 August 2021]

*Hate crimes in the U.S. in 2020 reached their highest level in the last 12 years, with Black and Asian victims seeing a surge in assaults, according to FBI data. There were 7,759 total hate crimes reported in 2020, a 6 percent increase from the previous year. Hate crimes against Black people rose from 1,972 to 2,755 last year, while the number of attacks toward Asians rose from 161 in 2019 to 274, [according to FBI data](#). Crimes against White Americans also rose, to 773 in 2020 from 643 the previous year. The data showed the sixth time in seven years that the number of such attacks increased, [according to The Washington Post](#). "These hate crimes and other bias-related incidents instill fear across entire communities and undermine the principles upon which our democracy stands." Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. "All people in this country should be able to live without fear of being attacked or harassed because of where they are from, what they look like, whom they love or how they worship."*

["We need everybody": Plans to make women register for potential military draft advance in policy bill](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 2 September 2021]

*Plans to require women to register with the Selective Service System for the possibility of a future military draft took another step forward after a key congressional panel backed the change as part of a must-pass military budget policy bill. The House Armed Services Committee approved the proposal by a 35-24 vote, with support from all Democrats and several Republicans on the panel. Supporters said the time to include women in cases of national emergency is long overdue. "The current male-only registration sends a message to women not only that they are not vital to*

*the defense of the country, but also that they are not expected to participate in defending it,” said Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., an Air Force veteran and author of the amendment. “It also sends a message to men that they, for some reason, are uniquely and perhaps unfairly depended upon. This needs to change.” Conservatives on the committee objected to the idea, saying that the move upends traditional gender roles and is not urgently needed, given military commanders’ past stated preference for the all-volunteer force.*

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## CULTURE

[“Candyman” director Nia DaCosta makes history](#) [Marianne Garvey, CNN, 31 August 2021]

*“Candyman” director Nia DaCosta has become the first Black female director to have a film debut in the top spot in the U.S. box office, Universal Pictures announced Tuesday. According to Box Office Mojo, the horror film, a sequel of the 1992 movie, made over \$22 million over the weekend. The movie is also now the second highest-grossing three-day opening for a Black female director, led by Ava DuVernay for “A Wrinkle in Time.” DaCosta co-wrote the movie with Jordan Peele and Win Rosenfeld. This version of “Candyman” has all Black leads and addresses racism, chronicling the story of a Black man who was killed for falling in love with a White woman.*

[Can the military boost recruitment by allowing more tattoos?](#) [Leo Shane III, Military Times, 1 September 2021]

*Congress wants to know if tattoos and piercings are keeping too many potential recruits out of the military. On Wednesday, during debate over the annual defense authorization bill draft, members of the House Armed Services Committee unanimously approved language which would mandate a new report on whether “tattoos and body modification for potential enlistees have become a deterrent to meeting recruitment goals.” The research, which would be due in March 2022, would include “the exact number of potential enlistees per year that are denied access to the military due to tattoos and body modifications” and comparison of military rules to private-sector policies. The measure passed without opposition. It still has to survive negotiations with the Senate later this year before it becomes law. But the move recognizes “changing cultural norms and emerging demographics” of the country, and the challenges that presents to recruiters, according to committee members. A 2015 Harris poll found that about half of millennials (born between 1980 and 1995) have at least one tattoo, and at least a third of all Americans have gotten one.*

[Gen. Lee statue can be removed, Virginia Supreme Court rules](#) [Denise Lavoie and Sarah Rankin, The Associated Press, 2 September 2021]

*The Supreme Court of Virginia ruled Thursday that the state can take down an enormous statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee that became widely seen as a symbol of racial injustice as it towered over Monument Avenue in the state’s capital for more than a century. The high court’s ruling came in two lawsuits filed by Virginia residents who attempted to block removal of the 21-foot (6-meter) bronze equestrian sculpture, which shows Lee in military attire atop a 40-foot (12-meter) pedestal. The court found that “restrictive covenants” in the 1887 and 1890 deeds that*

*transferred the statue to the state no longer apply. “Those restrictive covenants are unenforceable as contrary to public policy and for being unreasonable because their effect is to compel government speech, by forcing the Commonwealth to express, in perpetuity, a message with which it now disagrees,” the justices wrote. The Lee statue was the first of five Confederate monuments to be erected on Richmond’s Monument Avenue, at a time when the Civil War and Reconstruction were long over, but Jim Crow racial segregation laws were on the rise.*

[GovExec Daily: How One DC-Area Community is Reconsidering its History](#) [Adam Butler, Government Executive, 31 August 2021] [PODCAST]

*African-American history is colorful. It goes beyond the history of slavery, the civil rights movement or a few well-known historical figures. Its business owners, owners and everyday people that helped build this country. Many of them are from towns just like yours and many Americans currently live in communities that were once majority African-American. At Route Fifty, GovExec Editor-at-Large Tom Shoop wrote a moving story about two towns in Virginia and their efforts to gather and evaluate historical information. He joined the podcast to the story, his research, how it hits home for him and much more.*

[Meet La La Liu, who transforms into the Latin Asian LGBTQ superhero Lúz](#) [Cynthia Silva, CNN, 31 August 2021]

*She’s a Dominican Chinese college student who identifies as LGBTQ—and ends up transforming into a superhero to help her friend and fellow Latina superhero, La Borinqueña. Meet La La Liu, a Latin Asian character who harnesses her superpowers for good in the just-released third issue of the comic book series “La Borinqueña,” written and published by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez with art by Will Rosado and Christopher Sotomayor. The graphic novel continues the story of “La Borinqueña,” the environmentally conscious female superhero whose extraordinary powers—derived from the Indigenous Taíno gods of her Puerto Rican ancestors—include flying, superhuman strength and teleportation. La La, who transforms into superhero Lúz, has powers that light up her eyes and hands. Latinos of Asian heritage, the author and artist Miranda-Rodríguez tells NBC News, are “part of our people,” a message he wanted to convey when he created Lúz, saying he saw it as a chance to spotlight underrepresented Latino communities.*

[New haircuts, higher heels approved in Navy’s latest grooming standards](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, Stars and Stripes, 31 August 2021]

*Sailors can now sport several new hairstyles based on new grooming standards that the Navy announced Tuesday. The service has officially sanctioned flat-tops, faded and bald hairstyles in addition to the traditional “high and tight” look for male sailors, the Navy said in a statement. Sideburns are also authorized, but not for bald sailors. Women are now allowed to have “very short hair styles” that show the scalp, but “razor-cut bald styles are not authorized except when prescribed for treating medical conditions.” “This gives women more options for greater ease on hair care, especially while on deployment when longer styles can be tougher to maintain,” said Rob Carroll, who is in charge of Navy uniform matters. “Female sailors have been asking for this flexibility.” The uniform policy updates come after Navy leaders listened to “fleet feedback, uniform group discussions and command-sponsored requests,” Vice Adm. John Nowell, the chief of naval personnel, said Tuesday in a message to the force.*

[NFL returns social justice helmet decals, end zone stencils](#) [Rob Maadi, *The Associated Press*, 2 September 2021]

*NFL players can wear social justice messages on their helmets again this season and “It Takes All of Us” and “End Racism” will be stenciled in end zones for the second straight year as part of the league’s Inspire Change platform. The league will also bring back the “Say Their Stories” initiative and for the first time, each team will highlight its social justice work during a regular-season home game in Weeks 17 and 18. “We are committed to Inspire Change and the social justice work that inspires change for the long-term,” Anna Isaacson, NFL senior vice president of social responsibility, told The Associated Press. The six messages players can choose from as part of the helmet decal program are: “End Racism,” “Stop Hate,” “It Takes All of Us,” “Black Lives Matter,” “Inspire Change” and “Say Their Stories.” The end zone stencils will be placed on field for all clubs in all home games, except when another cause is being recognized. This year’s “Say Their Stories” features will again be voiced by NFL players but will evolve to include social justice heroes who have been personally identified by players for their impact in this area, particularly those from their local communities.*

[Pearl Milling Company’s new ads remind customers it used to be Aunt Jemima—without mentioning the racist brand](#) [Chauncey Alcorn, *CNN*, 31 August 2021]

*Pearl Milling Company unveiled a new ad campaign this week to remind pancake and syrup lovers that although the brand changed its name from Aunt Jemima earlier this year, it still tastes the same. Aunt Jemima isn’t mentioned in two of Pearl Milling Company’s new commercials, one of which aired Monday. But parent company PepsiCo said reminding customers that the brand’s products haven’t changed is one of the ad campaign’s goals. Boosting sales is another. The new ads feature smiling Black families enjoying Pearl Milling Company pancakes and syrup around the breakfast table as a narrator gives viewers the new brand’s back story. “Pearl Milling Company isn’t new to this,” the narrator says during one of the ads. “Our perfectly fluffy, syrupy goodness has been there for every special moment and we’ll always be here. Stack up the Mmmoments.” Uncle Ben’s, Mrs. Butterworth’s and Cream of Wheat are just three of the brands that confirmed they would either be reviewing their packaging or rebranding the products entirely.*

[Pin-Ups For Vets releases 2022 calendar to raise money for veterans](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 30 August 2021]

*Pin-Ups For Vets is releasing its annual calendar in an effort to raise money to support hospitalized veterans and deployed personnel. This year’s edition, which features 12 women—veterans representing all five branches of the military decked out in 1940s vogue—marks the 16th year the company has released a calendar designed to raise morale while shattering stereotypes about women in the armed services. The organization’s founder Gina Elise called this year’s initiative a great way to help “female veterans embrace their femininity again.” “Many of the ladies have said that being involved with our organization has given them a renewed sense of purpose after transitioning out of the military,” Elise said. “It has given them a community again, and a mission to give back.”*

[Smithsonian Acquires Rare Antique Portraits By First Black Photographers](#) [Sophia Alvarez Boyd, NPR, 29 August 2021]

*Larry West was looking for a hobby that would combine visual arts and American history. And he found it in 1975 at an antique store in Mamaroneck, N.Y. At that time, boxes of daguerreotypes—the first commercially successful photographic process, invented around 1839—would just be sitting there, West says. So he bought one “that happened to be [of] an African American,” he tells Weekend Edition. “And I was fascinated.” That purchase embarked a 45-year hobby and passion, with West collecting antique photographs from some of the early African American photographers, including James P. Ball, Glenalvin Goodridge and Augustus Washington. Now, his collection of 286 objects dating from the 1840s to about 1925, which includes daguerreotypes and other early types of photographic works, has been sold to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Stephanie Stebich, the museum’s director, calls it “a transformative collection for us.” The museum had to compete with other top institutions to acquire it.*

[“Soul of the Underground Railroad”: David Ruggles, the man who rescued Frederick Douglass](#) [Javonte Anderson, USA TODAY, 2 September 2021]

*In the 1800s before the Civil War, New York was a dangerously unpredictable place for Black Americans to navigate. Fugitive slaves had been escaping to the city for decades, blending in with a small population of free Black people to avoid capture. By 1804, most northern states had passed laws ending slavery. But free Black people remained second-class citizens. And their freedom was precarious: At any given moment, they could be arrested and either returned to their owners or sold into slavery. Against this backdrop, David Ruggles emerged as a brash, outspoken activist who fiercely stood up against White supremacy. Nearly two centuries after his death, his legacy remains obscure despite a range of accomplishments that few historical figures can match. Ruggles owned a grocery store and the first Black-owned bookstore, filled with antislavery literature. He founded his own magazine to advance the abolitionist cause. When Frederick Douglass arrived in New York as a frightened, penniless fugitive from Baltimore, it was Ruggles who gave him money and shelter, and who eventually became his mentor.*

[Twitch Users Are Boycotting Over Attacks Targeting Black, Queer And Disabled People](#) [Andrew Limbong, NPR, 1 September 2021]

*Editor’s note: This story includes obscene language and descriptions of racist attacks. Many users of the popular streaming platform Twitch are boycotting today. Those involved say the core of the issue is the company’s lack of response to so-called “hate raids” that have been occurring on the platform recently. That is, when a streamer is live, all of a sudden they’ll receive an influx of bots following them then spamming the same message in their chat box—usually something racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise toxic. Raven, who streams under the name RekItRaven, has been one of the main organizers of the boycott. Raven first started drawing attention to the issue of hate raiding when it happened to them in July. They were streaming, when a number of bots entered their chat and spammed them with the question, “Hey are Black Goths called Giggers?” Raven was taken aback by the attack’s specificity. “It was not the normal ‘you’re fat, you’re Black, you’re a woman’ remarks that I’m very used to getting,” they say in an interview. It got so bad that the attacks started including Raven’s address and personal*

*information about their children. Raven and others in the Twitch community say these attacks tend to target Black streamers, queer streamers, and streamers from other marginalized communities.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[California lawmakers vote to limit secret settlements](#) [Adam Beam, *The Associated Press*, 31 August 2021]

*The California Legislature on Monday voted to guarantee people can call out their bosses publicly in most harassment and discrimination cases. When companies settle complaints filed by their employees, the agreements often include a provision barring the employee from disparaging the company or talking publicly about what happened. These agreements came under fire during the #MeToo movement, criticized as shielding public figures and companies from responsibility in sexual harassment cases. California passed a law in 2018 that bans these nondisclosure agreements in cases involving sexual harassment, discrimination or assault. Monday, California's Democratic-dominated Legislature voted to expand that law to include other types of harassment and discrimination, including claims based on race, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation. The bill now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who must decide whether to sign it into law.*

[Ex-Iowa anchor hopes her age bias lawsuit changes TV news](#) [Ryan L. Foley, *The Associated Press*, 24 August 2021]

*As a prominent reporter and anchor at one of Iowa's biggest local television stations, Sonya Heitshusen was known for doggedly investigating injustices and holding the powerful accountable. A year after WHO-TV in Des Moines abruptly let her go, she is turning those skills on her former employer with a lawsuit challenging what she calls a widespread practice of removing older, female staffers from the air because of their looks. Heitshusen filed an age and gender discrimination lawsuit Tuesday against WHO-TV's parent company, Nexstar Media Group, Inc., which calls itself "America's largest local television and media company," with 199 stations. The lawsuit alleges Heitshusen, 54, was "thrown out to pasture" because she was no longer seen as camera-worthy, after years in which she saw her male colleagues receive better treatment from management. She said she was bringing the lawsuit to help spur a "cultural shift" in the industry that makes discrimination no longer acceptable.*

[GOP-led states challenge Biden administration on transgender rights](#) [Daniel Wiessner, *Reuters*, 30 August 2021]

*A coalition of 20 Republican-led states filed a lawsuit on Monday seeking to strike down Biden administration directives allowing transgender workers and students to use bathrooms and locker rooms and join sports teams that correspond with their gender identity. The states, led by the office of Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery, in a complaint in Tennessee federal court said June guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Education improperly expanded on a 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that extended anti-discrimination protections to transgender workers. The court in *Bostock v. Clayton County* said employers cannot terminate workers because of their gender identity or sexuality. The justices*

*expressly declined to decide if the ruling applied to sex-segregated bathrooms and locker rooms, the states said on Monday, but the EEOC and DOE improperly concluded that it did. Slatery said in a statement that the agencies had usurped Congress' power to change federal law.*

[School board to pay ACLU's legal costs over bathroom lawsuit](#) [Ben Finley, *The Associated Press*, 26 August 2021]

*A school board in Virginia has agreed to pay \$1.3 million in legal costs to the American Civil Liberties Union after the nonprofit spent six years representing a student who sued over the board's transgender bathroom ban. Gavin Grimm's suit against the Gloucester County School Board ended in June after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the board's appeal to reinstate its bathroom policy. Lower courts ruled that the board's policy was unconstitutional and discriminated against Grimm because he was required to use restrooms that corresponded with his biological sex—female—or private bathrooms. He was barred from the boy's facilities in high school. The board agreed to pay the ACLU's legal costs in a filing made in a U.S. District Court in Norfolk on Thursday. Grimm, who is now 22, said in a statement that he hopes "this outcome sends a strong message to other school systems that discrimination is an expensive, losing battle."*

[Va. Supreme Court sides with teacher who refused to use transgender students' pronouns](#) [Julia Sclafani, *Axios*, 31 August 2021]

*The Virginia Supreme Court this week upheld a lower court's ruling that reinstated a Loudoun County teacher who was suspended for refusing to use the preferred names and pronouns of transgender students. The judges were sympathetic Monday to physical education teacher Tanner Cross, who cited religious opposition to drafted school policy requiring staffers to use students' chosen names and pronouns. In May, Loudoun County Public Schools put Cross on paid leave after he voiced opposition to the policy at a school board meeting. Cross sued the district, arguing that it violated his rights to free speech and religious freedom. In June, a circuit judge found that the school district had taken "an unconstitutional action" and that Cross should be immediately reinstated while the legal case continued. Loudoun County appealed to the state's highest court. Cross' suit was brought by lawyers with the conservative advocacy group Alliance Defending Freedom, which pursues lawsuits that challenge the rights of transgender people.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[The first enlisted woman to fly in a B-2 explains how she keeps the stealth bomber in the air and ready to fight](#) [Katie Sanders, *Insider*, 31 August 2021]

*As a dedicated crew chief, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Lambert has spent thousands of hours working on the B-2. But it wasn't until April 28, 2021, that Lambert was able to board the stealth bomber and fly in it. She earned the flight as the winner of the Thomas N. Barnes Crew Chief of the Year Award, which rewards the best dedicated crew chief with an incentive flight. She beat about 200 other enlisted airmen who were also nominated. Her Spirit number, 760, marks her as the 760th person to fly in a B-2. While there are 10 active duty women B-2 pilots, Lambert is the first enlisted servicewoman to fly in one. Just four of the active-duty crew chiefs at Whiteman are women, and Lambert has worked 12-hour days for one and a half years straight,*

*regularly coming in on weekends and days off, to get her job done. “My name is on that aircraft,” she says, “and if I’m going to put my name to anything, it’s going to be as perfect as you can get it.”*

[Mission success for “unmanned” KC-10 flight](#) [Maj. Kinder Black, 380th Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs, 24 August 2021]

*Throughout the day and night, air refueling missions regularly come and go out of Al Dhafra Air Base, delivering fuel to various aircraft in order to extend their time airborne in support of regional missions. However, on August 1, 2021, the KC-10 Extender aircraft taking off from ADAB was unlike all the rest: its mission was supported entirely by women. In recognition of Women’s Equality Day, which is observed on August 26, the commander of the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Lindsey Bauer, conceived a plan to execute a completely “unmanned” KC-10 mission. “The last time I was deployed to Al Dhafra in August 2011, we flew an all-female flight,” she said. “I was the aircraft commander of that mission, and we saw morale instantly increase when getting four women together.” It’s not that Bauer prefers to fly with a specific gender, but she recognizes that in a predominantly male career field, “there’s just an honor and a huge appreciation for being able to form an all-female crew, especially in a combat environment.” The four female crewmembers onboard, two pilots, a flight engineer and a boom operator, had to be pulled from four completely different flight crews since women are still the minority in the flying community.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[50th U.S. Capitol rioter pleads guilty as Justice Department approaches 600th arrest in massive criminal investigation](#) [Marshall Cohen, Hannah Rabinowitz and Olanma Mang, CNN, 1 September 2021]

*The Justice Department on Wednesday secured its 50th guilty plea in the January 6 insurrection, a key milestone as it nears its 600th arrest in the massive investigation. In the eight months since the attack on the U.S. Capitol, the investigation has ballooned into a nationwide manhunt for the Trump supporters and right-wing extremists who stormed the building and grounds, assaulted dozens of police officers and temporarily halted the certification of President Joe Biden’s victory. Nearly 600 people from 44 states and Washington, DC, have been charged in federal court, according to CNN’s latest tally, with authorities announcing new arrests on a near-daily basis. Prosecutors are working to resolve many of the lower-level cases, and most of the 50 guilty pleas are for nonviolent rioters. Meanwhile, cases are progressing against defendants who allegedly attacked police or are members of right-wing extremist groups, like the Proud Boys.*

[“An extreme threat”: Uproar at Stanford over student’s racist and violent social media posts](#) [Maria Medina, CBS News, 31 August 2021]

*Thousands of Stanford students are calling for the expulsion of a classmate over a series of racist comments and violent posts on social media. On Monday, University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne called student Chaze Vinci’s posts “ugly” and “disturbing” in a message he sent campus-wide. But while the message said the president would “address what has occurred” and that there would be “actions to ensure the safety of our community,” it fell short of mentioning*



*disciplinary actions. Vinci is accused of posting on Twitter and Instagram pictures and videos, many of which are now deleted, of his belief that women should serve men. On Monday, he posted a picture of former Stanford student Brock Turner, who was convicted of sexually assaulting another student with the caption, “A woman always gets what’s coming to her.” Vinci also photoshopped a Black student’s face onto a picture to make it appear as if she had been beheaded. Another picture showed a professor with red marks drawn on him next to a guillotine. “He’s become an extreme threat,” said Stanford student Destiny Kelly.*

[AP sources: Intel shows extremists to attend Capitol rally](#) [Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Lisa Mascaro, *The Associated Press*, 1 September 2021]

*Far right extremist groups like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers are planning to attend a rally later this month at the U.S. Capitol that is designed to demand “justice” for the hundreds of people who have been charged in connection with January’s insurrection, according to three people familiar with intelligence gathered by federal officials. The officials have been discussing security plans that involve reconstructing the fence as well as another plan that does not involve a fence, the people said. They were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The planned Sept. 18 rally at the Capitol comes as a jittery Washington has seen a series of troubling one-off incidents—including, most recently, a man who parked a pickup truck near the Library of Congress and said he had a bomb and detonator. Among the most concerning events: A series of unexploded pipe bombs placed around the U.S. Capitol ahead of the Jan. 6 insurrection remain unexplained and no suspect has been charged.*

[Police investigating after swastika, racist words found on Winter Park school bathroom](#) [Asher Wildman, *Spectrum News 13*, 1 September 2021]

*It wasn’t a homework assignment that Rishona Terres’ daughter brought home that caught her off guard Tuesday. It was a photo her daughter captured while at Winter Park High School. A bathroom wall on the campus of Winter Park High had not only anti-Semitic images, but also words and phrases attacking the Black and LGBTQ+ communities as well. Winter Park Police were made aware of the incident and are investigating. A member of the WPHS administration confirmed the picture obtained by Spectrum News shows swastikas, the “N” word written nearly 10 times, and homophobic words as well. And if seeing the images from her daughter wasn’t disappointing enough, Terres said the school’s approach to the incident made things worse. “I thought for sure we would get a robocall, and I waited, and I told some friends if I don’t hear anything I will contact the school tomorrow,” said Terres, a mother of two Winter Park High School students. “We got a robocall and it was about COVID cases, that’s what we usually get. Nothing else, I was shocked.” Following the incident Winter Park High [principal Matthew Arnold posted a video to YouTube](#) that parents like Rishona saw.*

[Proud Boys’ Straight Pride Ends In Fights and Arrests](#) [Alex Cooper, *The Advocate*, 31 August 2021]

*A fight ended the third straight pride rally held in Modesto, Calif. on Saturday. The White nationalist, far-right group the Proud Boys organized the event—the Stanislaus County Straight Pride—in front of a Planned Parenthood building. Police eventually stopped the event after a fight led to a road closure. The rally saw a counter-protest several blocks away put together by*

several local groups including MoPride and the Stanislaus Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, reported *The Modesto Bee*. Around 100 people came out to the “Stand Against Hate.” “It’s the right answer for an anti-LGBT, racist group,” participant Francis Yangat told the outlet. “There’s no oppression on the heteronormative.” Another attendee of the counter-protest said that he wasn’t surprised by the Proud Boys in Modesto. Jupiter Dalby, an organizer with the Central California LGBTQ Collective, said that local community members, the mayor, and the city council should put up a stronger fight against discrimination.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[White nationalist pleads not guilty to 2nd hate crime charge](#) [*The Associated Press*, 30 August 2021]

A self-described White nationalist pleaded not guilty on Monday to a second charge of disorderly conduct as a hate crime. Max Misch of Bennington is accused in court documents of getting into an argument with a woman in June after her Black son said Misch used a racial slur against him and another teen, the *Bennington Banner* reported. The woman’s 15-year-old son told police that Misch said “White power” to them and that Black people didn’t belong here. Misch told the boys to come and fight him, the woman’s son told police, according to an affidavit. Officer Amanda Knox said the woman’s friend witnessed her arguing with Misch and heard Misch “saying all types of racist names,” the newspaper reported. Misch denied the allegations. He told police he was walking down a street when the teens told him to leave and threatened him. He said the same teens had also verbally threatened him outside his home earlier this year, the newspaper reported.

[White supremacist praise of the Taliban takeover concerns U.S. officials](#) [Geneva Sands, *CNN*, 1 September 2021]

As the United States-backed government in Afghanistan fell to the Taliban and U.S. troops raced to leave the country, White supremacist and anti-government extremists have expressed admiration for what the Taliban accomplished, a worrying development for U.S. officials who have been grappling with the threat of domestic violent extremism. That praise has also been coupled with a wave of anti-refugee sentiment from far-right groups, as the U.S. and others rushed to evacuate tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan by the Biden administration’s August 31 deadline. Several concerning trends have emerged in recent weeks on online platforms commonly used by anti-government, White supremacist and other domestic violent extremist groups, including “framing the activities of the Taliban as a success,” and a model for those who believe in the need for a civil war in the U.S., the head of the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis, John Cohen, said on a call Friday with local and state law enforcement, obtained by *CNN*.

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Why so many workers have lost interest in their jobs](#) [Kate Morgan, *BBC News*, 31 August 2021]

Throughout the past year and a half, many employees have similarly felt their relationships to their once-loved jobs deteriorate, as work has become remarkably different. Some found pre-existing disinterest amplified, while others discovered a new level of distaste for their positions or

*entire fields. And although not every worker has to love their position, keeping the relationship positive—or at least neutral—is key for many to get through the day. Millions of workers now at odds with their professions are in tough situations: it can be unnerving to be in a job you no longer feel connected to, especially if you don't have an alternative on the horizon; and difficult to know whether you're just going through a phase of disinterest, or if your spark is permanently out. So, what next? Is there a way to re-ignite your passion for a job you once felt good doing—and should you even try?*

## INTERNATIONAL

[After death threats from a far-right group, Russian restaurant pulls ad featuring Black man](#) [Mary Ilyushina, CBS News, 30 August 2021]

*A Russian sushi delivery chain issued an apology on its social media accounts after posting an ad featuring a Black man. The restaurant's owner said he was bombarded by death threats from a nationalist hate group and forced to take down the advertisement. Yobidoyobi, which has stores in 65 Russian cities, posted its first ad featuring a Black model—a man surrounded by three women with Slavic features—on August 14. It followed up on the campaign two weeks later posting another picture of the same man eating sushi, and the chain's social media accounts were quickly flooded with hateful comments. Yobidoyobi founder, Konstantin Zimen, attributed the attacks to a hate group called "Male State," and said the barrage of threats came after the movement's leader, Vladislav Pozdnyakov, shared the chain's ad on his accounts. Male State and Pozdnyakov, which describes itself as a movement promoting "traditional values" in Russia, have previously threatened Russian women with biracial children, LGBTQ and feminist activists, and others.*

[Bangladesh sentences six militants to death for killing gay activists](#) [Ruma Paul, Reuters, 31 August 2021]

*Six members of an Islamist militant group were sentenced to death on Tuesday by a court in Bangladesh for the brutal killing of two gay rights campaigners five years ago. Xulhaz Mannan, 35, the editor of Bangladesh's first magazine for gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people, and actor Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, 25, were hacked to death in Mannan's apartment in the capital Dhaka in April 2016 in an attack claimed by Ansar Al Islam, the regional arm of al Qaeda. The killings were part of a series of attacks on atheist bloggers, academics and other minorities that shocked the South Asian nation of 170 million and led many to go into hiding or flee abroad. Of the eight defendants in the case, six were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death, public prosecutor Golam Sarwar Khan said. The Special Anti-Terrorism Tribunal also convicted the six of belonging to a terrorist organisation, the al Qaeda-inspired domestic militant organisation Ansar Ullah Bangla Team, Khan said, a group that police believe is responsible for the murders of more than a dozen secular activists and bloggers.*

[Iceland PM saddened by football sex abuse scandal](#) [BBC News, 1 September 2021]

*Iceland's prime minister has urged the nation's football association to root out sexual abuse after it was accused of covering up assault allegations against national team players. Katrin Jakobsdottir said she was saddened by allegations that have plunged Iceland's football governing*

*body (KSI) into crisis. KSI apologised to the women involved before its entire board resigned. The scandal emerged last week after a woman made sexual abuse allegations. In an interview with public broadcaster RUV, Thorhildur Gyda Arnarsdottir, 25, accused a member of the national team of assaulting her in a Reykjavik nightclub in September 2017. She said she and another woman had filed police reports against a player for sexual assault that night. On Tuesday the prime minister addressed the scandal after a cabinet meeting, telling RUV it was sad that it took these allegations to generate discussion about sexual abuse within football.*

[In India, growing clamour to criminalise rape within marriage](#) [Geeta Pandey, BBC News, 30 August 2021]

*In India, a society rooted in patriarchal traditions, marriages are sacrosanct and it is not a crime for a man to rape his wife. But in recent weeks, courts have given conflicting rulings on marital rape, leading to renewed calls from campaigners to criminalise rape within marriage. On Thursday, Justice NK Chandravanshi of the Chhattisgarh high court ruled that “sexual intercourse or any sexual act by a husband with his wife cannot be rape even if it was by force or against her wish”. The law that Justice Chandravanshi invoked is Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. The British colonial-era law, which has been in existence in India since 1860, mentions several “exemptions”—situations in which sex is not rape—and one of them is “by a man with his own wife” who’s not a minor. The idea is rooted in the belief that consent for sex is “implied” in marriage and that a wife cannot retract it later. But it has increasingly been challenged across the world and over the years, more than 100 countries have outlawed marital rape. Britain too outlawed it in 1991, saying the “implied consent” could not be “seriously maintained” nowadays.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Marine Corporal Discharged over Refusal to Wear a Mask](#) [Steve Beynon, Military.com, 31 August 2021]

*Marine Cpl. Whitney McHaffie refused to comply with a mask mandate and doesn’t want to be vaccinated against COVID-19. A month after the Defense Department’s mask mandate for unvaccinated troops went into effect, she was booted from the military, possibly making her the first service member to be forced out of the service for violating COVID-related rules. McHaffie, who served at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, went viral on social media after appearing in a video with Josh Mandel, a former Ohio state treasurer who is currently in his second run for the Senate. The video, in which she tells her story of being swiftly booted from the Corps for disobeying the mask mandate, had more than 400,000 views as of Tuesday morning. Vaccines are now mandatory for troops, but were not at the time of McHaffie’s discharge. Despite that, the amateur MMA fighter and fifth-grade teacher in Ohio sought a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine that had not been resolved by the time of her discharge. An indoor mask mandate for unvaccinated troops was in effect at the time.*

## RACISM

[Emmett Till’s Enduring Legacy](#) [Adeel Hassan, The New York Times, 26 August 2021]

*In late August 1955, Emmett left his home to visit relatives in the Mississippi Delta. On the evening of Aug. 24, after picking cotton with his cousins, Emmett went to a store in Money, Miss. that was run by a White couple in their 20s, Roy and Carolyn Bryant. When Emmett went inside to buy bubble gum, Ms. Bryant was working alone. Emmett's cousin Simeon Wright, 13, and Ruthie Mae Crawford, another Black teenager, said Emmett passed the money for the bubble gum into Ms. Bryant's hand, instead of leaving it on the counter, as White Mississippians generally expected African Americans to do. Ms. Bryant stormed out to get a pistol from her car, she later testified. Simeon said that Emmett then whistled at Ms. Bryant, and that their group became afraid and left quickly. Four days later, Mr. Bryant and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, both Army veterans, abducted Emmett at gunpoint from the Wright family home. The men took him to a barn about a 45-minute drive away and tortured him.*

[Indian Boarding Schools' Traumatic Legacy, And The Fight To Get Native Ancestors Back](#) [Sam Yellowhorse Kesler, NPR, 28 August 2021]

*After the remains of more than 1,300 First Nations students were discovered at the former sites of Canada's residential schools earlier this year, the U.S. is now facing its own moment of reckoning with its history of Native American boarding schools. In response to these findings, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (a member of the Pueblo of Laguna) announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to review "the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies." In Carlisle, Pennsylvania, efforts have been underway since 2016 to return the remains of Native children to their proper resting places. Carlisle was home to the first off-reservation Indian boarding school in the U.S.—Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Today, it's an army barracks, home to the U.S. Army War college for senior officers. But from 1879 to 1918, it housed Native students from tribes across America, with the express purpose of assimilating them into American culture.*

[Northam pardons "Martinsville Seven" convicted and executed for rape of White woman in 1949](#) [Bill Atkinson, *The Progress-Index* (Petersburg, Va.), 31 August 2021]

*Gov. Ralph Northam granted posthumous pardons Tuesday for a group of Black men executed 70 years ago for allegedly raping a White woman in Martinsville. The pardons do not address the guilt of the group known as the "Martinsville Seven." Instead, Northam said he issued the pardons "as recognition from the Commonwealth that these men were tried without adequate due process and received a racially-biased death sentence not similarly applied to White defendants." "This is about righting wrongs," Northam said in a statement released by his office along with a [copy of the pardon](#). "We all deserve a criminal justice system that is fair, equal, and gets it right—no matter who you are or what you look like. I'm grateful to the advocates and families of the Martinsville Seven for their dedication and perseverance. While we can't change the past, I hope today's action brings them some small measure of peace."*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## RELIGION

[Lessons about 9/11 often provoke harassment of Muslim students](#) [Amaarah DeCuir, *The Conversation*, 31 August 2021]

*Near the start of each school year, many U.S. schools wrestle with how to teach about 9/11—the deadliest foreign attack ever on American soil. In interviews I conducted recently in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area—one of three places where hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001—I found that Muslim students are often subjected to ridicule and blame for the 9/11 attacks. “Even if they’re joking around, they’ll say ‘terrorist’ and stuff like that,” one student told me. “That used to trigger me a lot.” Another student told me: “9/11, every single year, is so awkward. The administrators would be like ‘On this fateful day, this happened’... then the Muslim jokes would come up, like ‘Don’t blow us up.’ When I was younger it bothered me, but now I’m just desensitized to it.” These students are among the 55 Muslim students, ages 12 to 21, whom I interviewed in the Greater Washington, D.C., area from 2019 through 2021 about their experiences in school during classroom lessons about 9/11. Their experience is part of a larger pattern of Muslim students being targeted and bullied in U.S. schools.*

[Understanding Islam—a brief introduction to its past and present in the United States](#) [Kalpana Jain, *The Conversation*, 30 August 2021]

*For much of my childhood in India, the sound of the adhan—the Muslim call to prayer broadcast from the minaret of a mosque—was what I heard upon waking each morning. In the shared religious life of my small hometown, we celebrated the festivals of Eid with our Muslim neighbors and they joined us at the time of Diwali, a holiday primarily celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. Religious education happened quite informally in these day-to-day interactions. In my new home in the United States, I learned not many Americans have the opportunity for such daily interactions. A [2017 Pew study](#) found that [less than half of the American population](#) personally knows someone who is a Muslim. This unfamiliarity can often lead to Islam being viewed as a foreign religion—and can even lead to [Islamophobia](#). As an editor of the religion and ethics desk at *The Conversation*, I have tried to improve the understanding Islam and its long history in the United States, with the help of articles from our scholars.*

[What is Wicca? An expert on modern witchcraft explains.](#) [Helen A. Berger, *The Conversation*, 30 August 2021]

*Wicca, an alternative minority religion whose adherents, regardless of gender, call themselves witches, began in the U.K. in the 1940s. Wicca and Witchcraft are part of the larger contemporary pagan movement, which includes druids and heathens among others. All these spiritual paths, as pagans refer to them, base their practices on pre-Christian religions and cultures. Ever since Wicca arrived in the United States in the 1960s, it has been growing – sometimes by leaps and bounds, and other times more slowly. It is estimated that there could be around 1.5 million witches in the U.S. As I am aware from [my own research](#) of more than 30 years, however, not all witches consider themselves Wiccans. Based on my most recent survey data, approximately 800,000 Americans are Wiccans. The increasing numbers that have been witnessed in surveys and the growth of groups, such as those on TikTok, suggest that the religion is continuing to grow.*

## **SEXISM**

[Billie Jean King on achieving true equality](#) [Billie Jean King, *CBS News*, 29 August 2021]

[COMMENTARY]

*When I was 12, I was sitting at the Los Angeles Tennis Club when I noticed that everyone who played tennis wore white clothes, white shoes—and everyone who played was White. I asked myself, “Where is everyone else?” Even by then, I had experienced sexism, and I’d seen racism at work. I just knew things had to change. So, from that moment on, I decided to commit my life to being a champion of equality for all. The best leaders lead for everyone. And yet, there are those who think women only lead for women. Why would we marginalize ourselves by focusing on half the world when we can have real impact by focusing on the entire population? Sometimes people say to me, “Thanks for what you did for women’s tennis.” I smile and I say, “Thank you.” But they would never say that to a male tennis player. They would say, “Thank you for what you did for tennis.” I have always tried to help ALL of tennis, not just women’s tennis.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Former JBLM hospital commander fired over sexual assault allegation, awaits personnel decision](#)

[Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 September 2021]

*An Army colonel who is a psychiatrist and commanded the hospital at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., has been accused of raping his family’s live-in nanny 14 years ago when he served at Fort Stewart, Ga., according to documents provided to Stars and Stripes. Since the accusation was levied against Col. Christopher Warner in September 2020, he was removed from command of Madigan Army Medical Center at Lewis-McChord and Army officials have conducted a sexual assault investigation. Warner, 47, received a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand, and now awaits a final review of the case on Sept. 27 to determine whether he will face further disciplinary action, according to documents. His former nanny, Amber, said she called the Army with the allegations last year after speaking with a therapist. She told special agents with Army Criminal Investigation Command, known as CID, that Warner raped her three times and attempted a fourth in his family home in Georgia in 2007. Stars and Stripes typically does not name the victims of sexual assault, but Amber chose to be identified by her first name.*

[A top Navy recruiter touched a colleague’s breast without her consent. He wasn’t charged.](#) [Geoff

Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 1 September 2021]

*After investigators determined that one of the Navy’s senior-most recruiters likely violated military sexual assault laws when he touched a female chief’s breast in 2019, leadership declined to charge Master Chief Navy Counselor Franklin Tiongco and instead disciplined him for sexual harassment and assault, according to a Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation obtained by Navy Times. While teaching a class for soon-to-be executive officers in April 2019, the chief paused instruction when she noticed a student staring at her chest. The chief’s top had bunched up, leaving a gap between her chest-level buttons. The married mother of three stepped out of the classroom at Navy Recruiting Command headquarters in Millington, Tennessee, and explained the situation to Tiongco, who was the service’s national chief recruiter at the time and part of recruiting command’s leadership. Then, in the middle of a Navy hallway, Tiongco slid two fingers into the blouse gap and touched the chief’s breast beneath her bra, according to the chief*

*and the NCIS investigation that followed. The master chief who witnessed the incident later described it as “stupidly inappropriate but benign” to NCIS agents. But the chief recalled it differently, and said that when Tiongco touched her, she froze.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Fort Riley Mandates Counseling for Every Soldier to Help Battle Suicide, Stigma of Seeking Help](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 31 August 2021]

*The way that Douglas Sims spoke to his wife was unusual. It was 2011 and the two were sitting at a table as their daughter practiced with her swim team. They had a rare year “off” from Army life for Sims, then a lieutenant colonel, to participate in a fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was six months removed from a deployment to Afghanistan where he commanded the 1st Squadron, of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. He had just two days between leaving command in Germany and arriving in a “completely different world” for his fellowship. “Are you OK?” his wife, Fay asked. The way that he spoke sounded off, she told him. “Of course, I’m OK. Why wouldn’t I be OK?” Sims said he shot back to her. Sims, now a major general, can draw a line from his wife’s question to the mental fitness policies that he enforced later during his brigade command, and through to the current policies that he enacted last year after taking command of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Kan. Shortly after arriving at Fort Riley in August 2020, Sims announced a division policy that every soldier must attend at least one counseling session a year—no matter their rank or position. It’s part of a program known on base as “Victory Wellness,” which also requires soldiers forgo physical training every other Tuesday to participate in mental fitness training.*

## **VETERANS**

[Library of Congress to archive New York soldier’s WWII photos](#) [Sarah Eames, *The Daily Star (Oneonta, N.Y.)*, 2 September 2021]

*Demart Carl Chamberlain, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division who jumped thrice into combat during World War II, carried with him a handheld Kodak in his deployments across Italy, France and northern Africa. Upon his father’s death in 1993, Michael Chamberlain inherited a trove of around 900 photographs depicting Chamberlain and his brothers-in-arms from their time at parachute jump school in Fort Benning, Ga., through their assignments in Alsace-Lorraine until the verge of their return stateside in 1945. At 21, Chamberlain enlisted in the Army in November 1942 and joined the paratroopers, an operation still in its infancy and relying solely on volunteers. Two months later, Chamberlain was among the first to jump into combat during the invasion of Sicily, the Allied Forces’ first assault on continental Europe, Michael said. The photos, of little apparent interest to the various associations formed from his father’s former units, had no place at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., either, Michael said, but a staffer there recommended he try the Library of Congress. From there, Michael said, he was immediately connected with the Veterans History Project, which aims to “collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of America’s wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand their selfless service.”*



[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[VA eyes more focused employment help with future education, benefits efforts](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 30 August 2021]

*Recent reforms to the Post-9/11 GI Bill have been focused largely on broadening eligibility for both what individuals and what types of education opportunities it covers. But the head of Veterans Affairs' Education Service said the future of the benefit may be focused on narrowing down some of those options, based on the success of a few recent department job training programs. "Right now, it's just basically a free for all," said Charmain Bogue, executive director of the agency, during a roundtable with reporters last week. "We give you all these resources [through the GI Bill] and you have to kind of figure out your own way in terms of what would be a viable career for you. "It would be nice to be able to say, 'These are the top five or top 10 occupations to look at, these are the types of degrees or certificates you need in this type of occupation.' We are trying to move towards giving better information from that standpoint, so [veterans] can make better informed decisions at the end of the day."*