

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 16 DECEMBER 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force to test enlisted airmen on good judgment in 2022](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 15 December 2021]

The Air Force doesn't just want to know how well you memorize information. It's becoming more interested in how you make decisions under pressure. The service said Wednesday it will add questions on an airman's situational judgment to the Weighted Airman Promotion System, the test used to vet enlisted airmen for promotion to staff sergeant (E-5) and technical sergeant (E-6), starting in 2022. The new section was developed with the help of behavioral scientists and Air Force senior enlisted leaders. "For each [situational judgment] question on the [Promotion Fitness Exam], examinees will read the description of a situation relevant to their potential rank and duties, examine four possible responses to the situation, and then select the most effective and the least effective response," the [Air Force said in a release](#). There's no study guide for good judgment, the Air Force said, but airmen can consider leadership qualities like communication and accountability when picking their answers.

[NYC Mayor-elect selects Keechant Sewell to become the NYPD's first female police commissioner](#) [Rob Frehse, Kristina Sgueglia and Eric Levenson, *CNN*, 15 December 2021]

New York City will get its first female police commissioner in the new year after Mayor-elect Eric Adams picked Nassau County Chief of Detectives Keechant Sewell to take over the nation's largest police department. Adams praised Sewell's career with over 25 years of experience in roles including undercover assignments, overseeing gun suppression cases, hostage negotiations and commanding detective squads. Sewell has been with Nassau police on neighboring Long Island for over 25 years and was promoted to Chief of Detectives in September 2020, becoming the first Black woman to hold that role, Adams said.

[What's your religion? In U.S., a common reply now is "None"](#) [Luis Andres Henao, Kwasi Gyamfi Asiedu and David Crary, *The Associated Press*, 14 December 2021]

Nathalie Charles, even in her mid-teens, felt unwelcome in her Baptist congregation, with its conservative views on immigration, gender and sexuality. So she left. "I just don't feel like that gelled with my view of what God is and what God can be," said Charles, an 18-year-old of Haitian descent who identifies as queer and is now a freshman at Princeton University. "It wasn't a very loving or nurturing environment for someone's faith." After leaving her New Jersey church three years ago, she identified as atheist, then agnostic, before embracing a spiritual but not religious life. In her dorm, she blends rituals at an altar, chanting Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu mantras and paying homage to her ancestors as she meditates and prays. The path taken by Charles places her among the religiously unaffiliated—the fastest-growing group in surveys asking Americans about their religious identity. They describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or "nothing in particular."

CULTURE

[Congress Gives Thumbs Up to Global War on Terrorism Memorial at Prime Spot on National Mall](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 16 December 2021]

Congress created exceptions to the law Tuesday to authorize a choice spot on the National Mall for a Global War on Terror Memorial to honor those who served in the nation’s longest conflict, which is symbolically bookended by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the disastrous fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, in August. The foundation also will have to come up with a design to memorialize a war that was launched to avenge the worst attacks on American soil, rout “evildoers” and remake nations, but left many in the general public and veterans to question whether the price in blood and treasure was worth the effort. The final design for the GWOT Memorial will come from an arts competition, but the foundation said the overriding theme is expected to avoid the why and how of the war to focus on what mattered in the service and sacrifice of troops and their families.

[Sport-Athletes, teams and leagues confront abuse and bullying](#) [Amy Tennery, *Reuters*, 14 December 2021]

Painful revelations of abuse and misconduct rocked the world of sport in 2021 as athletes from all levels of competition across the globe demanded greater accountability of trainers, coaches and the governing bodies that oversee them. The [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) is an independent non-profit organisation that provides sports with guidelines on how to provide safe environments for athletes and training for coaches and administrators. “Culture change is happening at all levels of sport,” U.S. Center for SafeSport CEO Ju’Riese Colon told Reuters. “SafeSport accountability, training and policies are making athlete well-being sport’s top priority but to see it fully realized those resisting change need to get on board, or get out—it’s happening with or without them.”

[This is America: Santas of color are the most magical part of my Christmas experience. We need more of them.](#) [Christine Fernando, *USA TODAY*, 16 December 2021] [COMMENTARY]

More than 75% of Santas are White, according to the 2021 version of an annual [“Red Suit Survey”](#) by National Santa and researchers from the University of Tennessee, Northern Illinois University and Oregon State University. Out of 376 Santas, four were Hispanic or Latino, four were Native American, two were Black and none were Asian. Almost 19% of Santas surveyed did not provide their race. While most Americans see White Santas in malls, White angels on their trees, and White nativity scenes propped up at church, others have been doing the work to give Santa a long overdue makeover and to help move toward a future where even our mythical characters can reflect the diversity of our communities.

[“A way we resist”: Quilts honor victims of racial violence](#) [Leah Willingham, *The Associated Press*, 13 December 2021]

The [Stitch Their Names Memorial Project](#) was started by Eugene, Oregon, high school math teacher Holli Johannes in July 2020 as so many around the U.S. reckoned with the country’s legacy of systematic racism in the wake of George Floyd’s murder at the hands of Minneapolis police. A group of 75 stitchers from across the U.S. and beyond worked together to construct the

two quilts and a website containing biographies of each victim. Ebony Lumumba, department chair and associate professor of English at Jackson State, said quilting has long been a powerful form of activism and of reclaiming history—especially for Black women in America, whose voices are often overlooked. “It’s a history that sometimes supersedes what can be written down,” said Lumumba, who is also the city of Jackson’s first lady. “That’s significant for our community because we have been denied the privilege of being documented for so many centuries and so this is one of the ways that we resist that.”

DISCRIMINATION

[Derek Chauvin pleads guilty in federal court to violating George Floyd’s civil rights](#) [Josh Campbell, Eric Levenson, Evan Perez and Adrienne Broaddus, CNN, 15 December 2021] *Months after he was convicted of murder, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to civil rights charges related to the death of George Floyd. Chauvin also pleaded guilty in a separate federal case in which he was accused of depriving the rights of a 14-year-old in Minneapolis in 2017. As part of the plea agreement, prosecutors requested that Chauvin be sentenced to 300 months in prison, or 25 years, to be served concurrently with his current 22 and a half year sentence on state murder charges. The two federal indictments, unsealed in May, cover two separate incidents in which Chauvin kneeled on a person who was handcuffed and lying prone on their stomach. At his murder trial, medical experts testified that this position limits a person’s ability to breath in what’s known as positional asphyxia. In the first federal indictment, Chauvin was accused of two counts connected to Floyd’s death, including depriving Floyd’s right to be free from “unreasonable seizure, which includes the right to be free from the use of unreasonable force by a police officer.”*

[I’m a transgender woman in America. I shouldn’t have to live in fear](#) [Jennifer Williams, CNN, 15 December 2021] [OPINION]

Five years ago, my wife, children and I planned an Easter week trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, to visit some of our relatives. Just a few weeks before our trip, North Carolina passed House Bill 2, which required everyone in the state to use public restrooms based on the sex assigned to them at birth. What that meant for me—an American transgender woman—was that I would have to break this law in order to use the women’s restroom at any of the stops we visited in the state. Thankfully, we found one for me to use in downtown Greensboro at a small independent bookstore. As safe as my family and I felt at that moment, the sting of state-sanctioned discrimination was sharp. Though North Carolina has since repealed this discriminatory restroom law, many LGBTQ Americans continue to face similarly agonizing decisions each day. According to the Human Rights Campaign, 2021 has been a [record-breaking year for anti-LGBTQ laws in state legislatures](#)—many of them targeting transgender youth seeking medical care or wanting to compete in sports.

DIVERSITY

[Mountaineer group aims to become first all-Black team to climb Everest](#) [Amna Nawaz, PBS News, 15 December 2021] [AUDIO WITH TRANSCRIPT]

Since Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary first climbed Everest in 1953, around 6,000 have followed in their footsteps. But only 10 of those have been Black. A group of mountaineers is aiming to make history and inspire others in a field not known for its diversity. Called “Full Circle Everest,” the team of ten experienced mountaineers and climbers from the United States and Kenya, is set to climb Everest next spring.

EXTREMISM

[D.C.’s attorney general is suing the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers over Capitol attack](#) [Ryan Lucas, NPR, 14 December 2021]

The District of Columbia is suing two far-right groups, the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, for allegedly conspiring to terrorize the city with the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. The civil lawsuit was filed by the district’s attorney general, Karl Racine, in federal court in Washington, D.C. It accuses the two groups, their leaders and more than two dozen suspected members of coordinating and plotting violence on Jan. 6 to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. “In the complaint, we specifically allege that these vigilantes, insurrectionists and masters of a lawless mob conspired against the District of Columbia, its law enforcement officers and residents by planning, promoting and participating in the violent attack on the United States Capitol,” Racine told reporters on Tuesday. The Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers already are facing civil lawsuits stemming from the events of Jan. 6—one filed by members of Congress, another by police officers. Like in those cases, the groups are accused in the district’s civil suit of violating the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act, a law that was passed after the Civil War to try to protect Black citizens from violence and intimidation.

[A leader of an Ohio Muslim organization was fired for spying for a hate group](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 15 December 2021]

The Ohio chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations says it fired one of its top leaders after discovering he was sharing information about the organization to “a known anti-Muslim hate group.” The group’s now-former Executive and Legal Director Romin Iqbal was terminated after national headquarters contacted the board of directors for CAIR-Ohio with information detailing his wrongdoing. A forensic investigation by a third-party expert found “conclusive evidence that Iqbal had spent years secretly recording CAIR network meetings and passing confidential information regarding CAIR’s national advocacy work to a known anti-Muslim hate group,” CAIR-Ohio says. When confronted with the investigation’s findings, Iqbal confessed, according to CAIR-Ohio. He was allegedly working with the Investigative Project on Terrorism, an organization founded by Steven Emerson. The group says it’s focused on “radical Islamic terrorism.”

[Man who threatened to shoot Pelosi sentenced to more than two years in prison](#) [Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN, 14 December 2021]

A Georgia man who drove cross-country with an assault rifle and threatened to kill House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was sentenced to 28 months behind bars in an emotional hearing on Tuesday. Cleveland Meredith Jr. pleaded guilty in September to sending threatening communications. Though he missed the January 6 rally because of car troubles, Meredith was

one of the first people charged in relation to the Capitol riot after his mother reported concerning texts to the FBI on January 7. Agents found Meredith in a hotel one mile from the Capitol with thousands of rounds of ammunition, a handgun and an assault rifle stashed in his trailer. Meredith is one of several Capitol riot defendants who hurled threats at lawmakers, but only the second to be sentenced to related charges. Many of these defendants—including Meredith—believed in the QAnon conspiracy theory and false claims of election fraud that are still a driving force behind violent rhetoric, even towards the judges who are overseeing the hundreds of January 6 cases as they make their way through the justice system.

INTERNATIONAL

[Alibaba fires woman who claimed sexual assault](#) [BBC News, 12 December 2021]

Chinese e-commerce firm Alibaba has fired a woman who said a colleague and a client had sexually assaulted her. The dismissal letter said she had spread falsehoods that had damaged the company's reputation. The employee went public with her allegations in August because she said Alibaba had failed to take action. She said the assaults took place during a business trip. The colleague was then sacked, but a criminal case against him was dropped. The client is still thought to be under police investigation. The well-publicised case has highlighted the harassment faced by women in the workplace in China. The employee told government-backed newspaper Dahe Daily that she was fired late last month. It published a copy of what she said was her termination letter. The letter said she had spread false information about the assault and about the company not handling the case. It added this "caused strong social concern and had a bad impact on the company".

[Canada bans conversion therapy, joining a handful of other nations](#) [Matt Laviertes, NBC News, 12 December 2021]

Canada this week banned conversion therapy, a debunked treatment that aims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. A bill making it a crime to subject Canadians of any age to the discredited practice became law Wednesday after Canada's Parliament passed the measure this month. "It's official: Our government's legislation banning the despicable and degrading practice of conversion therapy has received Royal Assent—meaning it is now law. LGBTQ2 Canadians, we'll always stand up for you and your rights," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote on Twitter. The Canadian law is the latest instance of a growing global effort to eradicate conversion therapy, a practice that ranges from religious counseling to electric shock therapy and has been associated with "severe psychological distress."

[China: The death of a man bullied for being "effeminate"](#) [Waiyee Yip, BBC News, 15 December 2021]

The death of a young Chinese man who said he was bullied for being "too effeminate" has sparked discussions in the country about gender norms. But experts fear little will change while the Chinese state continues to promote criticism of what it calls "sissy men". "Boys are supposed to be naughty, fight, and swear. Boys who are too quiet and polite are effeminate and called sissy." That is what 26-year-old Zhou Peng wrote in an apparent suicide note online, days before he was found dead in eastern Zhejiang Province. But what really resonated with people in China

was his description of how he had been bullied. “I might have just looked a bit like a girl when I was younger, but I dressed ‘normally’ and didn’t attempt to imitate girls,” wrote Zhou Peng, a photographer, who also went by the pseudonym Ludaosen. The data on bullying in China is scant, but [one paper by the Children and Youth Services Review from 2019](#), which sent out questionnaires to more than 3,000 youth, found that more than 35% of respondents identified as victims of traditional bullying, while more than 31% said they had been victims of cyberbullying.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Trailblazing feminist author, critic and activist bell hooks has died at 69](#) [Anastasia Tsioulcas, NPR, 15 December 2021]

*The prolific and trailblazing author, poet, feminist, cultural critic, and professor bell hooks died Wednesday at age 69. Her death was first announced by her niece, Ebony Motley, who said that she had died at home surrounded by family and friends. hooks, who preferred to spell her name with no capital letters as a way of de-emphasizing her individual identity, was born Gloria Jean Watkins as the fourth of seven children in Hopkinsville, Ky., on Sept. 25, 1952. Her pen name was a tribute to her maternal great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hooks. She attended segregated schools in her native Christian County, Ky., before earning her undergraduate degree at Stanford University in California, a master’s degree in English at the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate in literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The author of more than three dozen wide-ranging books, hooks published her first title, the poetry collection *And There We Wept*, in 1978. Her influential book *Ain’t I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism* followed in 1981. Frequently, hooks’ work addressed the deep intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality and geographic place.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Vicente Fernández, Mexico’s national treasure, has died](#) [Suzanne Gamboa and Sandra Lilley, NBC News, 13 December 2021]

Mexico’s musical legend Vicente Fernández has died. The king of ranchera music died in a hospital in Guadalajara in his native state of Jalisco. He was 81. Known as “Chente” to his fans, Fernández was famous for iconic songs about love, longing and the countryside that were familiar to U.S. Hispanics and people across the Spanish-speaking world, including “Volver, Volver,” “El Rey” and “Por Tu Maldito Amor.” In 1998, Fernández received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He won three Grammys and eight Latin Grammys, among other honors. He appeared in more than 30 movies and sold more than 50 million records. Fernández died the same day Mexico celebrates the feast of the Virgen de Guadalupe, or the Virgin of Guadalupe. For Mexicans and Mexican Americans, Dec. 12 holds special significance. It marks the date in 1531 when the Virgin Mary is purported to have appeared to Juan Diego, an Indigenous Mexican, in the last of several apparitions.

RACISM

[Claudette Colvin, arrested for not giving up her seat for a White woman in 1955, has record expunged](#) [David Begnaud and Sophie Reardon, CBS News, 16 December 2021]

Claudette Colvin was 15 in 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama—9 months before Rosa Parks’ act of defiance. Colvin was arrested and charged. Now 82, Colvin filed a petition to have the record of the incident wiped clean, and a judge in Montgomery has granted the request. “My record was expunged,” Colvin told “CBS Mornings” in an exclusive interview. “And my name was cleared. And I’m no longer a juvenile delinquent at 82.” Colvin said she was with three classmates and “sitting in the section that was allowed for colored people” when a White woman boarded and moved to the back of the bus, hoping to take a seat. At that time, as Colvin explained, a Black person and a White person could not sit in the same row. “In segregated law, a colored person couldn’t sit across the aisle from a White person,” she said. “They had to sit behind the White person to show that they were superior and the colored people was inferior.”

[A Louisiana judge is on unpaid leave and facing pressure to resign after a home video with racist language surfaced](#) [Ryan Young, Maria Cartaya, Alta Spells and Tina Burnside, CNN, 16 December 2021]

A judge in Lafayette, Louisiana, is taking a leave of absence and facing calls for her resignation after a video with racist language recorded at her home surfaced. A lawyer for City Court Judge Michelle M. Odinet told the Acadiana Advocate she feels “humiliated, embarrassed, and sorry for what she has done and the harm she has caused to the community,” and is taking unpaid leave. The video, appearing to show surveillance footage of an outdoor altercation with a burglary suspect being played on a television while people, who are not visible, view and comment on the footage using racist language, was shared with local media in Lafayette and is now being shared widely across social media. The condemnation was swift. The head of the local branch of the NAACP said Odinet should resign immediately.

[NYPD reports 361 percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes since last year](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 10 December 2021]

New crime statistics in New York City show a significant increase in anti-Asian hate crimes this past year. Incidents targeting Asians rose by 361 percent, from 28 last year to 129 as of Sunday, the New York Police Department said at a news conference this week. A [Pew Research Center](#) poll found the public has negative views toward China, with 55 percent of respondents saying they supported limiting Chinese students’ study in the U.S. A [separate study published in September by the Committee of 100](#), a nonprofit organization of prominent Chinese Americans, showed that people with Asian names were more likely to be accused of spying, but less likely to be found guilty. An overwhelming number of those defendants were of Chinese descent.

RELIGION

[Air Force captains bond over religion, even though they practice different ones](#) [Caitlin O’Kane, CBS News, 14 December 2021]

In 2018, Captain Maysaa Ouza, a lawyer who wanted to join the Air Force, was conflicted. As a Muslim American, she wears a hijab, a religious veil that covers her hair. And while religious accommodations are made once you officially join the Air Force, she didn’t know if she could keep her hijab on for training. Captain Joe Hochheiser knows about religious accommodations.

He wear a yarmulke, a cap traditionally worn by some Jewish men. Hochheiser, also a lawyer, had recently joined the Air Force when his boss brought up Ouza. “He’s like, ‘I just met a great candidate.’ And I said, ‘Okay. Well, tell me about her,’” Hochheiser told CBS News. “He’s like, ‘You can actually help her. She really wants to join, but she wears a hijab. You wear a yarmulke. Can you help her process her religious accommodation?’” Ouza wanted pre-approval to wear her hijab, and didn’t know what she’d do without it. “I would essentially be forced to choose between representing my faith or serving my country,” she told CBS News. “And I felt conflicted because I identify as a Muslim American and I wanted nothing more than to serve my country.”

[In Hinduism, women creating spaces for their own leadership](#) [Deepti Hajela, *The Associated Press*, 13 December 2021]

Hinduism encompasses a range of practices and philosophies, and has a pantheon of divine figures encompassing both male and female. People can call themselves Hindus and yet practice in different ways from each other. There is no central authority, like an equivalent to the role the pope plays in Catholicism. So leadership, in India as well as Indian immigrant communities, is decentralized and diverse, encompassing religious scholars, Hindu temple boards and more, said Vasudha Narayanan, a religion professor at the University of Florida who studies Hinduism in India and in the Indian diaspora. “I would also say that women sometimes create the spaces where they can be leaders in all these other ways,” she said. She’s convinced that in Hinduism, women can be leaders simply by virtue of their ability to communicate the faith to others, notably to children. “How many women have led ... going back to times immemorial, and what they have contributed, it should give you that exemplary feeling,” she said. “It’s not that women have to be priests to be leaders, women have to be able to spread the teachings.”

[Vatican official apologizes for taking down LGBTQ resource](#) [Nicole Winfield, *The Associated Press*, 13 December 2021]

A Vatican official apologized to a leading Catholic LGBTQ advocacy group for having yanked a reference to it on the Vatican website, drawing immediate praise Monday from the group as an “historic” move to repair the painful rift between the Catholic hierarchy and the gay community. The Synod had originally included a reference to a webinar video made by New Ways Ministry, a U.S.-based organization that advocates for greater acceptance of gays in the Catholic Church, in its “Resources” page directing people to sources of information about the Synod. The video urged LGBTQ Catholics to participate in the consultation process, which aims to make the Catholic Church more welcoming, responsive to the laity and less centralized. But the New Ways Ministry reference was taken down earlier this month without explanation. Suspicion fell on the U.S. bishops conference, which is headed by conservatives who have long kept New Ways Ministry at arms’ length. Catholic doctrine holds that gays must be treated with dignity and respect but that homosexual activity is “intrinsicly disordered.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Chicago Blackhawks settle lawsuit with Kyle Beach](#) [Jay Cohen, *The Associated Press*, 16 December 2021]

The Chicago Blackhawks and a former player who said he was sexually assaulted by an assistant coach have settled a lawsuit that eviscerated the franchise's once-sterling reputation and shook up the NHL, bringing questions about the sport's culture back to the forefront. The Blackhawks said as late as mid-May that Beach's allegations lacked merit. But an independent review, commissioned by the team and released in October, showed the organization badly mishandled Beach's allegations that he was assaulted by Aldrich during the team's 2010 Stanley Cup run. Aldrich told investigators the encounter was consensual. The confidential settlement was announced after the sides met Wednesday with a mediator for the first time. "The Blackhawks hope that this resolution will bring some measure of peace and closure for Mr. Beach," the team said in a statement attributed to Rocky and Danny Wirtz, and Susan Loggans, Beach's attorney.

[Elizabeth landlord accused of demanding sex from tenants to pay \\$4.5 million](#) [Mike Deak, MyCentralJersey.com, 16 December 2021]

A landlord with properties in and around the city of Elizabeth [N.J.] has agreed to pay \$4.5 million to resolve a federal Fair Housing Act lawsuit alleging he sexually harassed tenants and prospective tenants for more than 15 years. Joseph Centanni, 74, of Mountainside, is still facing criminal charges brought in March by the Union County Prosecutor's Office for allegedly coercing 20 tenants into sexual acts in exchange for financial relief. Centanni is charged with 13 counts of second-degree sexual assault, one count of second-degree attempted sexual assault and 21 counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual contact. The \$4.5 million is the largest monetary settlement the Department of Justice has obtained in a case alleging sexual harassment in housing. Centanni, who has owned hundreds of rental units scattered across 18 residential properties in Elizabeth, agreed to settle the lawsuit brought by the federal Department of Justice in August 2020.

[Former 2nd Infantry Division Artillery CSM convicted of abusive sexual contact](#) [Davis Winkie, Army Times, 13 December 2021]

The former top NCO for the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery will be reduced in rank and reprimanded after a jury of officers found him guilty of abusive sexual contact against a junior enlisted soldier and attempted fraternization, according to a command spokesperson. Sgt. Maj. Dustin Bice, who will also forfeit half of his pay for three months, was convicted Dec. 6 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, according to I Corps spokesperson Col. Joey Sullinger. A charge sheet obtained by Army Times in July stated that Bice groped a subordinate on the breast, buttocks and thigh without her consent. The abusive sexual contact took place in February. The conviction and reduction likely means that Bice, who has more than 26 years in service, will be separated from the Army—the service's "retention control points" mandate that sergeants first class be discharged at 24 years. It's not yet clear whether he will be able to retire or not, nor is it clear at what rank his retirement would be if permitted.

[Military justice needs sexual assault reform, survivor says](#) [Erin Scanlon, Military Times, 13 December 2021] [COMMENTARY]

It is difficult to adequately relay how it feels when one human being violates you through rape. Particularly so, when you find out that the rapist is another service member, your brother in arms. Even more challenging than writing about being raped, is describing the way it feels when,

after you finally summon the courage to come forward, the entire U.S. military decides to wholly abandon you in your time of need. It is impossible to sufficiently explain the despair and hopelessness when you learn that military leadership has decided that your service was inconsequential compared to his. Likewise, when leadership acknowledges that your trauma happened, but completely disregards it to avoid ruining his reputation.

[Sexual assault, harassment, bullying: Trans students say they're targeted at school](#) [Jo Yurcaba, NBC News, 14 December 2021]

Willow Andring, a 14-year-old transgender high school freshman, said she faces regular harassment at her school, Armstrong Junior-Senior High School in Kittanning, about 45 minutes northeast of Pittsburgh. Willow is one of many transgender students who have faced repeated harassment and violence at school this year. At least a dozen news articles—from California to Florida—specifically mentioned trans students being harassed or attacked, some of them in bathrooms. A [national survey](#) of LGBTQ students published in 2020 by GLSEN found that 69 percent of respondents reported experiencing verbal harassment at school based on their sexual orientation, 57 percent based on their gender expression or outward appearance, and 54 percent based on their gender identity.

[SpaceX engineer alleges sexual harassment at work](#) [Corrine Reichert, CNET, 14 December 2021]

Elon Musk's SpaceX is "so rife with sexism, the only remedy is for women to leave," a former engineer has alleged in an essay published Tuesday. Ashley Kosak, former mission integration engineer at SpaceX, says nothing was ever done by the company after she made multiple complaints about sexual harassment in the workplace. Kosak recounted being touched without consent, stared at, asked out, messaged on her personal Instagram account and called at 4 a.m. One co-worker even showed up at her house, Kosak said, but nothing was ever done, even after she'd reported the various incidents of sexual harassment to colleagues, superiors, supervisors, HR and the company's ethics and compliance tip line while working at the Cape Canaveral, Florida, SpaceX location. "I was told that matters of this nature were too private to openly discuss with the perpetrators," wrote Kosak, who said she also faced gender and race bias. "I presented ideas for a standardized framework for penalizing sexual harassers to HR, as they had not implemented any remedies; those ideas went unresponded to...each and every man who harassed me was tolerated despite the company's so-called no-tolerance and no-asshole policy."

[USA Gymnastics, USOPC reach \\$380M settlement with victims](#) [Will Graves, The Associated Press, 13 December 2021]

The legal wrangling between USA Gymnastics and the hundreds of victims of sexual abuse by former national team doctor Larry Nassar, among others, is over after a \$380 million settlement was reached. The fight for substantive change within the sport's national governing body is just beginning. A federal bankruptcy court in Indianapolis on Monday approved the agreement between USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the more than 500 victims, ending one aspect of the fallout of the largest sexual abuse scandal in the history of the U.S. Olympic movement. Over 90% of the victims voted in favor of the tentative settlement reached in September. That agreement called for \$425 million in damages, but a modified

settlement of \$380 million was conditionally approved by the court. More than 300 victims were abused by Nassar, with the remaining victims abused by individuals affiliated with USA Gymnastics in some capacity.