

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 15 APRIL 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Census Launches Interactive Demographic Map](#) [Alexandra Kelley, Nextgov, 12 April 2022]

*The U.S. Census Bureau unveiled a new data tool on Monday that allows users to view the demographics sharing their individual communities across the nation. Called the [My Community Explorer](#), the tool is an interactive dashboard that offers profiles of all U.S. counties based on the data collected from the census survey. Beginning with a state, users can filter by demographic data including race and ethnic makeup, income and economic statistics, and industry and business profiles. The software is powered by microdata sourced from the American Community Survey, per the Census Bureau's web page. "MCE is an interactive map-based tool that highlights demographic and socioeconomic data that measure inequality and can help inform data-based solutions," the Census Bureau said. The Census Bureau notes that the tool is a result of President Biden's executive order to increase data transparency on diversity within the federal workforce to help promote underserved communities.*

[Marine Corps officer, prospective recruits file suit over religious discrimination against Sikhs](#)

[Alison Bath, Stars and Stripes, 12 April 2022]

*An active-duty Marine artillery officer and three prospective recruits, all of whom are Sikhs, are taking the U.S. military to court over rules prohibiting them from having a beard and long hair or wearing religious items. In the lawsuit, Capt. Sukhbir Singh Toor and the three others contend the Marine Corps is unfairly and unevenly applying grooming standards—relaxed or eliminated in some cases for other religious, ethnic or racial groups—while serving in combat zones or attending boot camp. The result violates the men's religious, speech, due process and equal protection constitutional rights, the lawsuit states. It also forces them to abandon the tenets of their faith if they want to succeed in their military careers or serve their country, it states.*

[National Urban League finds State of Black America is grim](#) [Michael Warren, The Associated Press, 12 April 2022]

*The National Urban League [released its annual report on the State of Black America](#) on Tuesday, and its findings are grim. This year's Equality Index shows Black people still get only 73.9 percent of the American pie White people enjoy. While Black people have made economic and health gains, they've slipped farther behind Whites in education, social justice and civic engagement since this index was launched in 2005. A compendium of average outcomes by race in many aspects of life, it shows just how hard it is for people of color to overcome systemic racism, the civil rights organization says. The index uses U.S. Justice Department statistics to chart social justice differences, noting that Black people have been more than twice as likely as White people to experience threats or uses of force during police encounters, and three times more likely to be jailed if arrested. In 2020, they were 93% more likely to be victims of hate crime.*

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## CULTURE

[Air Force clarifies policies for pregnant aircrew](#) [Staff Sgt. Nick Z. Erwin, *SECAF Public Affairs*, 11 April 2022]

*The U.S. Air Force recently clarified its policies that lifted some pregnancy restrictions for aircrew members. Air Force officials underscored that aircrew members may voluntarily request to fly during pregnancy and no waiver is required to fly in the second trimester with an uncomplicated pregnancy in a non-ejection seat aircraft if all flight safety criteria are met. All pregnant aircrew are authorized to apply for a waiver regardless of trimester, aircraft or flight profile. These changes, [implemented in 2019](#), represent data-driven policy adjustments, to include pushing some authorities down to the lowest level possible. To avoid any further confusion about the current policy, the Air Force Personnel Center emailed the policy clarifications to the entire force March 31. “Empowering women to make decisions for their own bodies and trusting them to appropriately manage risk, just as they do each time they step to the aircraft, will ensure all women aviators are able to perform to their full potential during all stages of womanhood, particularly pregnancy,” said Maj. Samantha Sliney, WIT co-chair.*

[Bean bags, pod chairs, iPads: How the Air Force plans to revamp new recruit training](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 April 2022]

*The Air Force is ditching textbooks in basic training in favor of iPads in an effort to keep up with recruits used to having mobile devices constantly in their hands and limitless information at their fingertips. “When we hand them a book, it’s foreign to them,” Marilyn C. Holliday, a spokeswoman for Air Education and Training Command, said in a recent phone interview. Officials also found that adopting modern digital technology in basic training could slash study times while avoiding the costs and complications of printing some 35,000 textbooks issued each year. Students at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., have been issued iPods or iPads for more than a decade. Earlier generations were weighed down with a dozen or more workbooks and stacks of audio cassettes.*

[A Chinese student Americanized her name to fit in. It took more to feel she belonged](#) [Sequoia Carrillo and Anya Steinberg, *NPR*, 11 April 2022]

*Aria Young didn’t become Aria Young until she was 16 years old. She was moving to Lancaster, Pa., from her home in Shanghai for high school. Her Chinese name, Yáng Qìn Yuè, was “too hard for the English tongue to pronounce,” Young explains in “What’s in a Name,” her entry for NPR’s College Podcast Challenge. Judges selected Young’s audio story as the grand-prize winner from 10 finalists. In the podcast, Young, now a sophomore at New York University, tries to coach her English-speaking friends through pronouncing her Chinese name correctly. It doesn’t go well. She knew it would be easier to make a home for herself in the U.S. if people could say her name. Taking an English name is not an uncommon practice among Asian international students. As one of Young’s old high school teachers explains in the podcast, “The [international] students from Spain and the students from Italy kept their names. The students from Asia did not keep their names. There might have been maybe one student in the five years I was there who kept their Chinese name. Everybody had an American name.”*

[Disney heir comes out publicly as transgender, condemns anti-LGBTQ bills](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 11 April 2022]

*Charlee Disney, one of the heirs of The Walt Disney Co., came out publicly as transgender and condemned anti-LGBTQ bills in a recent interview. Disney, who uses gender-neutral pronouns, announced that their family would match up to \$250,000 in donations to the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBTQ advocacy group, during the organization's annual gala in Los Angeles last month. Roy P. Disney, Disney's father and the grandson of the company's co-founder, upped that amount to \$500,000 last week. "Equality matters deeply to us," Roy P. Disney said in a statement, according to the Los Angeles Times, "especially because our child, Charlee, is transgender and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community." Charlee Disney, 30, a high school biology and environmental science teacher, told the L.A. Times that the HRC gala was sort of a public coming out for them, since they had come out privately as trans four years ago.*

[The gender binary was always a story. Now we can tell ourselves a new one](#) [Eliza Anyangwe, *CNN Equals*, 14 April 2022] [OPINION]

*As of Monday it is possible for U.S. citizens to select "X" instead of "F" and "M" when applying for a passport. The U.S. has now joined countries such as Germany, Canada, Nepal and Pakistan in offering a third gender category. There will invariably be those, both in the U.S. and beyond, who see this move as a further threat to certain values, after all 2021 was a record-breaking year for anti-trans legislation in the U.S. But a growing body of research shows that, when it comes to sex and gender, in nature, there are more than two. It is perhaps more useful then to see gender identity as a story, one made real by building power structures and administrative systems around it. Language is almost never neutral. Its meaning is shaped by context and it is used to exercise power and control. This is clearly visible in the construction of racial identity, which unlike gender, has no biological basis. Yet, the forces of power and control—who is allowed to enjoy certain social benefits, and who is excluded from them—can be seen in the ways that both gender and race are often policed so forcefully.*

[Giants' Alyssa Nakken becomes 1st MLB female coach on field](#) [Janie McCauley, *The Associated Press*, 13 April 2022]

*Alyssa Nakken was hard at work in the batting cage, just a few steps from the dugout, when suddenly the call came: The San Francisco Giants needed her to coach at first base. She quickly pulled off her sweatshirt, grabbed her No. 92 jersey and found a bright orange batting helmet. A few minutes later, Nakken made major league history as the first female coach on the field in a regular-season game when she took her spot Tuesday night in a 13-2 win over San Diego. "I think we're all inspirations doing everything that we do on a day-to-day basis and I think, yes, this carries a little bit more weight because of the visibility, obviously there's a historical nature to it," she said. "But again, this is my job." Nakken came in to coach first base for the Giants in the third inning after Antoan Richardson was ejected. When she was announced as Richardson's replacement, Nakken received a warm ovation from the crowd at Oracle Park, and a congratulatory handshake from Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer.*

[The Marine Corps' culture has to change](#) [Steven Arango, *Task & Purpose*, 12 April 2022]

[OPINION]

*To keep its best and brightest, the Marine Corps must look itself in the mirror—its culture suffocates talent. Within this culture rages a never-ending fight between uniformity of career progression and diversity of thought and experience. Yet, uniformity generally wins: there is less risk in known commodities. No doubt, uniformity is a great tool for discipline, but professional uniformity stifles new ideas and drives away some of the Marine Corps' best talent. The Marine Corps can leverage its professional diversity to improve its lethality, something it only recently realized. In late 2020, the Commandant of the Marine Corps published Talent Management 2030, a framework for redefining the way it will recruit and retain talent. But his concepts will take time to implement. In the meantime, Marines must focus on changing the culture behind our talent management; a singularly top-down approach will alienate some of our best Marines. To change this culture, we can start by giving credence to experience, fostering a culture of honesty, and creating an obligation to challenge the status quo.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New Air Force Leave Policy Gives Time off for Fertility Treatments, Sexual Assault Recovery, More](#) [Greg Hadley, *Air Force Magazine*, 13 April 2022]

*The Department of the Air Force updated its leave policies in early April, adding time off for Airmen and Guardians seeking fertility treatments, recovering after a sexual assault, or preparing for employment in civilian life. Another update included in the leave program is a policy allowing commanders to authorize up to 30 days of convalescent leave for Airmen and Guardians who are survivors of sexual assault. That change is in line with one of the recommendations from the Pentagon's independent review commission on sexual assault in the military, which Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III accepted and directed the services to implement. According to an Air Force release, the policy change was advocated for by the Women's Initiative Team, part of the department's Barrier Analysis Working Group, or BAWG. The BAWG has established seven subgroups to study specific barriers facing minorities in the service and to propose efforts to address those barriers.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Opera highlights creativity of deaf community](#) [Park La Brea News (Los Angeles, Calif.), 7 April 2022]

*Los Angeles Philharmonic music and artistic director Gustavo Dudamel will conduct the orchestra and a star-studded cast in a ground-breaking performance of Beethoven's opera "Fidelio" from April 14-16, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Created for deaf and hearing audiences, the performance is produced in collaboration with Deaf West Theatre and deaf performers of El Sistema's Coro de Manos Blancas. It draws on both American Sign Language's expressive, gestural poetry and Beethoven's music to tell a powerful tale of redemption and liberation. The idea for the production was originally developed by Dudamel through his foundation, which he co-chairs with his wife, actress María Valverde, as a means of elevating deaf artistry to illuminate the opera's central theme of fighting to overcome obstacles to discover one's own personal freedom. "Fidelio" premiered in 1805 as Beethoven was losing his hearing. The entire performance will be signed and sung, with supertitles provided.*

[Remembering Jackie Robinson's historic debut 75 years later](#) [Gabriel Pietrorazio, *ABC News*, 15 April 2022]

*Seventy-five years ago, Jackie Robinson debuted as a first baseman with the Brooklyn Dodgers while donning jersey No. 42. Stepping out of the dark dugout into the stadium's bright lights, the 28-year-old rookie played in front of a crowd toppling more than 26,000 fans at Ebbets Field. Today, fans and franchises around the league are still remembering his immeasurable contributions to America's pastime after shattering racial barriers in the sport of baseball. Commissioner of Baseball Rob Manfred Jr. said Robinson, the first Black baseball player in major league history, "took the field under incredibly challenging circumstances and unimaginable pressure." Through his courage, character, skill and values, Manfred said in a statement to ABC News he believes "he brought well-needed change to our game and advanced the Civil Rights Movement in our country."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The States Most Accepting of LGBTQ+ Residents](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 12 April 2022]

*Nearly all of the top 20 states are on the coasts, and the No. 1 state is surrounded by water, according to a recent report. While the U.S. has many liberal-leaning states, some are more progressive than others in terms of how their LGBTQ+ residents are treated, [according to Money.co.uk](#), a financial services website. Hawaii ranks No. 1 followed by states mainly on the East and West Coasts. Hawaii has the smoothest process for changing the gender marker on a birth certificate or driver's license. It also has high worker safety with low verbal harassment, sexual assault and other mistreatments toward the LGBTQ+ community, the report says. To determine the most accepting states, the study looked at how difficult it is to change the gender marker on a birth certificate and driving license, the level of state support for LGBTQ+ adults who have started or wish to start a family, work safety records, the percentage of adults age 18 or older who identify as LGBTQ+ and the percentage of LGBTQ+ adults over 25 years old raising children. The report also ranked the top LGBTQ+ countries.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Anti-LGBTQ marriage bill sparks criticism](#) [Kimberlee Krudsi, *The Associated Press*, 10 April 2022]

*Amid several bills introduced in Tennessee that have attracted national attention this year, none has sparked as much alarm among both Republicans and Democrats as a proposal that would create a new marriage contract specifically designed to exclude same-sex couples. Supporters argue the measure is needed to give religious officials, couples and others opposed to gay marriage an option that wouldn't conflict with their beliefs. Critics say it's a deliberate effort to circumvent the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling legalizing gay marriage and could lead to costly legal battles. Many have noted that the bill initially failed to include a minimum age—an omission that has opened the door to widespread mockery. Some worry the move helped reinforce stereotypes regarding Tennessee as backward. If enacted, the legislation would allow opposite-sex couples to fill out marriage "contracts" based on common law marriage principles.*

[Army still failing to process some naturalizations for foreign-born recruits, judge says](#) [Davis Winkie, *Military Times*, 12 April 2022]

*Despite an August 2020 court order that forced the Army to abolish minimum time-in-service requirements for foreign-born recruits requesting expedited U.S. citizenship, the service has failed to adequately implement the new rules, a federal judge said last month. The original court order came after the American Civil Liberties Union won a lawsuit arguing that the Defense Department unlawfully added time in service requirements and restrictive processing procedures to an expedited citizenship pathway available to troops through the Immigration and Nationality Act. Court filings reviewed by Army Times described cases of soldiers whose drill sergeants refused to accept the paperwork, others where units failed to process forms in the required timeframe, and one where a soldier graduated from his training pipeline and was stationed overseas without the legal protections provided by U.S. citizenship.*

[Board defends admissions policy at prestigious high school](#) [Denise Lavoie, *The Associated Press*, 13 April 2022]

*A new admissions policy at a prestigious high school in northern Virginia does not discriminate against Asian American students and is not an attempt to achieve “racial balancing,” a school board argued in its response to an emergency request filed with the U.S. Supreme Court by a coalition of parents trying to overturn the policy. In a response filed Wednesday in the Supreme Court, the school board insisted that its admissions policy is “race-neutral” and said the 4th Circuit was “entirely within its authority” to suspend the lower court ruling while the board appeals it. The board said the admissions policy does not set any racial quotas, goals or targets, and is administered in a “race-blind manner,” with all applications anonymized so evaluators do not know the race of any individual applicant. For decades, Black and Hispanic students have been underrepresented in the student body. After criticism over its lack of diversity, the school board scrapped a standardized test that had been at the heart of the admissions process and opted instead for a process that sets aside slots at each of the county’s middle schools. It also includes “experience factors” like socioeconomic background.*

[DOD Sent a Soldier’s Remains to a Dump. Now It Must Give His Wife a Civilian Job](#) [Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 14 April 2022]

*The Defense Department illegally retaliated against a whistleblower who applied for a civilian job after her husband was killed in action in Iraq and the Air Force disposed of his cremated remains at a landfill in Virginia, an appeals board ruled on Wednesday. Garilynn Smith notified the media and a congressman after she learned of the mistreatment of her husband’s remains, who was a U.S. Army sergeant and explosive ordnance disposal technician, five years after his 2006 death. Smith worked as an Army civilian in New Jersey at the time. She got a new job with the Navy, but quickly decided to apply for an executive assistant opening at her old office. After the Army selected someone else for the position, Smith filed a whistleblower complaint with the Office of Special Counsel. The case made its way to the Merit Systems Protection Board, where an administrative judge ruled in 2017 the Army had retaliated against Smith for disclosing what happened to her husband and demanded she be offered the position and back pay.*

[Flight attendants settle Frontier discrimination suit](#) [*The Associated Press*, 13 April 2022]

*Frontier Airlines has settled a discrimination lawsuit brought by a group of flight attendants who claimed the carrier discriminated against them during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. Denver-based Frontier agreed to keep or change several policies to address the needs of pregnant and lactating personnel in settling the litigation, the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, which represented the employees, announced Wednesday. In their 2019 federal lawsuit, the four employees alleged that Frontier forced them to take unpaid leave for pregnancy-related absences and did not make it possible for them to pump breast milk while working. Under the settlement, Frontier agreed to clarify that pregnancy-related absences are not subject to disciplinary action, The Denver Gazette reported.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Sky was limit for first Black aircrew at Dover Air Force Base](#) [Mike Finney, *Delaware State News*, (Dover, Del.), 3 April 2022]

*It was a challenge that turned into a dare that eventually led to the takeoff of one of the most momentous C-5A Galaxy flights out of Dover Air Force Base on Jan. 30, 1986. Retired Col. William “Bill” Jordan, now 79, vividly remembers the sequence of events that led to the first all-Black aircrew of a C-5A cargo plane leaving Dover bound for Germany that day. “The way it got started was I was chair of the Black History Month Committee that year and one of the members of that committee had suggested that we bring an R&B group down from Philadelphia and have a dance, and I was opposed to that,” Mr. Jordan said. “I said I didn’t think the base would go for that. “So, a female NCO on the committee said, ‘They never go for anything. I bet they won’t go for an all-Black flight C-5 crew.’” So, he and 17 other Black airmen representing Dover AFB’s 3rd Squadron, 9th Squadron and Reserves, were selected and put into place to fly a routine mission to Germany in honor of Black History Month in February. The purpose of the flight was to symbolize the role Black airmen played in national defense commitments.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Surface Navy tackling diversity as part of push for better retention, leadership](#) [Megan Eckstein, *Navy Times*, 11 April 2022]

*Commander of Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener said the surface force is the most diverse of all the Navy’s major warfare areas, but he’s not satisfied and thinks that focusing on diversity and inclusion can help the force gain further advantage over potential adversaries in multiple ways. “When people can say, okay, what do you think the opponent is going to do? ... Your opponent is not necessarily thinking like you, and what I found is that, if you can have people on our team that can think out of the box, perhaps different than the conventional Western way to think, it really is a game changer.” More broadly, he added, “it’s a proven fact that the more diverse you are, you’re going to be a better and more high-performing organization. But I just see it simply from the warfare perspective, where being able to have a team that can think with that kind of agility against an opponent that probably doesn’t have that agility is a huge advantage.”*

## **EXTREMISM**

[Former Virginia police officer who stormed U.S. Capitol found guilty on all charges](#) [Holmes Lybrand and Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN, 11 April 2022]

*Thomas Robertson, a former sergeant of the Rocky Mount police in Virginia, faced charges including impeding law enforcement officers, obstructing an official proceeding, entering and remaining in restricted grounds and tampering with evidence. The jury heard from multiple witness during the trial last week, including Washington police officers who were there during the attack, federal agents and Robertson's former police colleague and co-defendant who testified as part of a plea deal with the government. Prosecutors cited online posts Robertson allegedly wrote a month before the attack where he called for an "opened armed rebellion." "The defendant made good on that promise," assistant U.S. attorney Elizabeth Aloi told the jury during opening arguments, saying that Robertson used a large stick to impede officers who were called in as back up during the riot.*

[New York City police searching for suspect who set fire to LGBTQ bar](#) [N'dea Yancey-Bragg, USA TODAY, 8 April 2022]

*Investigators are searching for a man who set a fire to a recently opened Brooklyn bar popular with LGBTQ patrons. In surveillance footage released by the New York City Police Department, a man can be seen dumping a can of gasoline on the floor inside Rash while people were still inside around 9:20 p.m. Sunday. The footage shows the suspect toss what appears to be a cigarette, lean down and light the gasoline on fire. The suspect fled the scene as flames engulfed the bar, according to police. It's unclear what motivated the attack on Rash, which opened five months ago and has become a space for the LGBTQ and artistic community. A GoFundMe, which includes a photo of the extensive damage caused by the fire, has raised more than \$85,000 to support those affected and repair the space.*

[Soldier Who Was First Service Member Charged After Jan. 6 Riot Is Being Removed from the National Guard](#) [Steve Beynon, Military.com, 12 April 2022]

*A Virginia National Guardsman who pleaded guilty on charges related to his role in storming the U.S. Capitol, is being removed from the service component. Jacob Fracker pleaded guilty in March to a federal conspiracy charge, according to the Department of Justice. He served as an infantryman, assigned to the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division. "Now that his civilian charges have been adjudicated, the process has started for an administrative separation from the Virginia Army National Guard," Alfred Puryear, a spokesperson for the Virginia Guard, told Military.com in an emailed statement. Veteran advocates and some lawmakers are becoming increasingly concerned over radicalization among troops and the veteran community. There's little evidence to suggest current or former service members are more susceptible to falling into extremist ideology, but advocates warn that the inherent social credibility those groups bring and their military training, even if that training is limited, are attractive to radical groups.*

[Whitmer kidnap plot: 2 men acquitted, hung jury for 2 more](#) [John Flesher and Ed White, The Associated Press, 9 April 2022]

*A jury on Friday acquitted two men of all charges in a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer but couldn't reach verdicts against the two alleged leaders, a stunning defeat for the*

government after a weeklong trial that centered on a remarkable FBI sting operation just before the 2020 election. Whitmer's chief of staff critical was critical of Friday's outcome, saying that Americans are "living through the normalization of political violence." Daniel Harris, 24, and Brandon Caserta, 33, were found not guilty of conspiracy. In addition, Harris was acquitted of charges related to explosives and a gun. The jury could not reach verdicts for Adam Fox, 38, and Barry Croft Jr., 46, which means the government can put them on trial again for two conspiracy charges. Croft also faces a separate explosives charge. They'll remain in custody.

[\[REPRINT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Abusive bosses often blame a worker's lack of effort or care for poor performance when it's their own biases that may be the problem](#) [Zhanna Lyubykh, Nick Turner, Jennifer Bozeman and Sandy Hershcovis, *The Conversation*, 12 April 2022]

Managers may mistreat employees who perform poorly because they assume it results from a lack of diligence rather than other factors, [according to research we published in September 2021](#).

While [past research has suggested](#) that it's the poor performance of workers provoking managers' abusive reactions, we wanted to examine whether the faulty perception of the supervisor deserves at least some of the blame. So we conducted two studies, [drawing on research](#) showing that people are prone to perceptual errors when judging negative events. [One of these is the fundamental attribution error](#), a tendency to over-attribute negative outcomes to others' personalities rather than other explanations.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The managerial obsession with "busywork"](#) [Joanna York, *BBC Worklife*, 12 April 2022]

When employees are on the clock, most managers expect them to keep busy through the workday. This may mean either completing tasks within their remits, or finding ways to make sure their hands are in some work-related project. Even when workflows deliver some downtime, the message from management is generally clear: find a way to keep working. Examples of busywork might include compiling a pointless report, colour-coding a spreadsheet or proofreading a presentation that has already been checked. One [2016 study of 600 knowledge workers showed](#) they spent just 39% of their workdays doing their actual jobs, with the rest dedicated to meetings, emails and busywork such as writing status reports for managers. In the office, managers might assign busywork based on a quick visual check of what employees are doing. But the switch to remote work during the pandemic has changed that, as many managers can no longer easily monitor their employees. While studies suggest many remote employees are [significantly more productive](#), they are [also working significantly longer hours](#).

## INTERNATIONAL

[Earliest evidence of Maya calendar found inside Guatemalan pyramid](#) [Reuters, 13 April 2022]

A glyph representing a day called "7 Deer" on mural fragments dating from the third century BC found inside the ruins of a pyramid in Guatemala marks the earliest-known use of the Maya calendar, one of this ancient culture's renowned achievements. University of Texas professor of

*Mesoamerican art and writing David Stuart, lead author of the [research published in the journal Science Advances](#), described the fragments as “two small pieces of white plaster that would fit in your hand, that were once attached to a stone wall.” The calendar was among the achievements of a culture that also developed a writing system encompassing 800 glyphs, with the earliest examples also from San Bartolo. The Maya built temples, pyramids, palaces and observatories and engaged in sophisticated farming without using metal tools or the wheel.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Fantastic Beasts 3: Gay dialogue removed from film for Chinese audiences](#) [BBC News, 13 April 2022]

*References to a gay relationship in the new Fantastic Beasts movie were removed by Warner Bros for Chinese audiences. Six seconds of the third instalment, The Secrets of Dumbledore, which alluded to the romantic past between Dumbledore and Grindelwald, were cut. Harry Potter author JK Rowling said Dumbledore was gay in 2007, but the movies had never explicitly referenced his sexuality until now. The producers, Warner Bros, said the “spirit of the film remains”. Now in the Chinese version of the new movie, the edited-out dialogue between Jude Law's titular character and Grindelwald, played by Mads Mikkelsen, contained the lines “because I was in love with you” and “the summer Gellert and I fell in love”. The rest of the film remained the same, including an understanding that the characters share an intimate bond.*

[Kenny Shiels: Northern Ireland boss apologises for saying “women are more emotional than men”](#) [BBC Sport, 13 April 2022]

*Northern Ireland boss Kenny Shiels has apologised for saying “women are more emotional than men” when discussing his side’s 5-0 defeat by England. Shiels’ remarks drew criticism from former England players Siobhan Chamberlain and Ian Wright. He said on Wednesday that he was “sorry for the offence” caused. “I am an advocate for the women’s game and passionate about developing opportunities for women and girls to flourish,” he said. He told a post-match news conference: “I’m sure you will have noticed if you go through the patterns—when a team concedes a goal, they concede a second one in a very, very short space of time, [It happens] right through the whole spectrum of the women’s game, because girls and women are more emotional than men. So, they take a goal going in not very well.”*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[A bill to allow recruits with previous mental health treatment is on the way](#) [Meghann Myers, Military Times, 8 April 2022]

*In the vast majority of cases, young Americans hoping to join the military are barred from signing up if they’ve previously been treated for anxiety, depression or other mental health struggles. But there is some interest in changing that. Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, is working on a bill that would remove some of those barriers, he said Wednesday during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. While a mental health diagnosis generally disqualifies a recruit from the military, therapy and medication are available to service members diagnosed while in uniform. In some cases, acute mental health struggles can prohibit someone from serving in a particular job, but in general, a well-managed diagnosis doesn’t affect day-to-day service.*

*Though the bill isn't yet ready to be introduced, a spokesman for Sullivan confirmed it's in the works.*

[Experts: Asian population overcount masks community nuances](#) [Terry Tang and Mike Schneider, *The Associated Press*, 13 April 2022]

*Jennifer Chau was astonished last month when the U.S. Census Bureau's [report card](#) on how accurately it counted the U.S. population in 2020 showed that Asian people were overcounted by the highest rate of any race or ethnic group. The director of an Asian American advocacy group thought thousands of people would be missed—outreach activities had been scratched by the coronavirus pandemic, and she and her staff feared widespread language barriers and wariness of sharing information with the government could hinder participation. “I’m honestly shocked,” said Chau, director of the Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander For Equity Coalition. But Chau and other advocates and academics also believe the overcounting of the Asian population by 2.6% in the once-a-decade U.S. head count may not be all that it seems on the surface. They say it likely masks great variation in who was counted among different Asian communities in the U.S. They also believe it could signal that biracial and multiracial residents identified as Asian in larger numbers than in the past.*

[Inside the vast national experiment in test-optional college admissions](#) [Erin Einhorn, *NBC News*, 10 April 2022]

*Test-optional and test-blind admissions had begun to gain steam before the pandemic, with proponents arguing that SAT tests hurt the odds of applicants who have traditionally not done as well on them, including students whose first language isn't English, students whose parents didn't go to college, Black and Hispanic students, immigrant students and students whose families can't afford expensive test prep programs. But when the pandemic made it difficult to safely administer those tests, the test-optional wave became a tsunami. Nearly every college freshman in the country today—and nearly every high school senior who hopes to start next fall—was able to apply without submitting a score. MIT made headlines recently when it announced that it will again start requiring applicants to submit their scores—in part because MIT's leaders believe tests can help identify talented students whose circumstances in high school affected their grades. But many of the most competitive colleges, including those in the Ivy League, are still gathering data, watching to see how the experiment turns out.*

[Into the military metaverse: An empty buzzword or a virtual resource for the Pentagon?](#) [Andrew Eversden, *Breaking Defense*, 12 April 2022]

*In December, a small office within the stoic Air Force bureaucracy hosted a meeting with some 250 people, gathered in a conference room with the usual whiteboards, sticky notes and yellow folders. But the conference room didn't exist, and the attendees were hundreds of miles apart, spread from the United States to Japan, all wearing Oculus headsets. “It's not clear that you're even going to get really widespread adoption of this idea in the next year or two. Everyone's talking about it, [but] I'd say right now the metaverse is a corporate fad, not a user fad,” said Palmer Luckey, founder of defense startup Anduril Industries and the creator of the Oculus, perhaps the most popular VR headset. Eventually, however, “the metaverse is definitely going to happen.” An Army one-star gave a detailed answer on the history of the term metaverse at a*

conference in December. Military simulated training investments are characterized as metaverse research. And that Air Force office dubbed its virtual reality meeting as an early foray into the metaverse—accompanied by NFTs.

[Mimi Reinhard, who typed up Schindler’s list, dies at 107](#) [The Associated Press, 11 April 2022]

*Mimi Reinhard, a secretary in Oskar Schindler’s office who typed up the list of Jews he saved from extermination by Nazi Germany, has died in Israel at the age of 107. Reinhard died early Friday and was laid to rest Sunday in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv, her son Sasha Weitman confirmed. She was one of 1,200 Jews saved by German businessman Schindler after he bribed Nazi authorities to let him keep them as workers in his factories. The account was made into the acclaimed 1993 film “Schindler’s List” by director Steven Spielberg. Reinhard was born Carmen Koppel in Vienna, Austria, in 1915, and moved to Krakow, Poland, before the outbreak of World War II. After Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939, she was confined to the Krakow ghetto before being sent to the nearby Plaszow concentration camp in 1942. Reinhard’s knowledge of shorthand got her work in the camp’s administrative office, where, two years later, she was ordered to type up the handwritten list of Jews that were to be transferred to Schindler’s ammunition factory.*

[A Sailor With Diagnosed Mental Health Issues Says He’s Being Targeted for Seeking Help](#)

[Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 11 April 2022]

*Jatzael Alvarado Perez began struggling with life aboard the destroyer USS Farragut last year. The ship was in the process of getting ready to deploy, and a combination of the conditions aboard the Mayport, Florida-based ship and long stretches at sea were taking a toll on the 23-year-old sailor. After a couple of false starts, Perez would take the advice of a chaplain and seek help for the growing strains on his mental health, eventually receiving a diagnosis of a mood disorder. Instead of getting that help, though, he’s faced repeated disciplinary actions, a positive drug test that suddenly wasn’t, allegations of making it all up and, finally, confinement to the ship and a reduction in rank. Eventually, the situation drove his wife to spill everything in a post on Facebook.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Air Force Academy expels 22 cadets for 2020 cheating scandal](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Military Times*, 14 April 2022]

*The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado has expelled 22 students and put hundreds more on probation for cheating and plagiarism while learning from home in 2020, the school’s top officer said Wednesday. In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the Colorado Springs college decided to send all freshmen, sophomores and juniors home for the final months of the spring 2020 semester while seniors finished out their last year on campus. The sudden switch to distance learning invited one of the most widespread spates of academic misconduct in the academy’s history. Away from campus, students sought help on unauthorized websites, plagiarized papers and collaborated on tests. The vast majority of cadets who were suspected of cheating—231 of the 245 students—admitted to their actions, according to a presentation given by USAFA*

*Superintendent Lt. Gen. Richard Clark at an academy board meeting. That's about 10% of the more than 4,000 cadets who attend the academy each year.*

[How “Sugar Daddy Deals” and a “Black Book” Deny Service Members Justice](#) [Thomas J. Brennan, *The War Horse*, 7 April 2022]

*The week before Thanksgiving, one of the Marine Corps' most senior lawyers stood in front of a room full of defense attorneys at Camp Lejeune and discussed changes in sex crime adjudication in the military. When the colonel began taking questions, a captain with three years of experience as a military defense counsel asked what measures would be in place to protect lawyers and judges like him from improper influences, such as from the chain of command, the media, or Congress. The colonel conceded that the protections did not exist. Because a military defense is not truly independent from the military chain of command, the military lawyers' zealous defense of a case could negatively impact their promotions, he said. For the defense attorneys standing in the modular trailer, the perceived threat to their careers felt palpable, according to their sworn statements and exclusive interviews with *The War Horse*. The morning after the meeting, a [witness filed a formal complaint](#) to the office of the inspector general of the Marine Corps.*

## **RACISM**

[California reparations panel convenes at historic church](#) [Janie Har, *The Associated Press*, 13 April 2022]

*Members of California's first-in-the-nation reparations task force convened in a historic African American church in San Francisco on Wednesday, making their own history as they work to educate the public and develop a restitution proposal for the people harmed by the institution of slavery. The two-day meeting at the Third Baptist Church in the city's Fillmore district was the first time the nine-member task force gathered in person since its inaugural meeting nearly a year ago. The meeting comes mere weeks after the group voted to limit restitution to descendants of enslaved Black people. Wednesday's meeting was held in a neighborhood once thriving with African American night clubs and shops until government redevelopment forced out residents—a prime example of how local policies decimated a Black neighborhood. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation creating the two-year reparations task force in 2020, making California the only state to move ahead with a mission to study the institution of slavery, educate people about its findings and develop remedies.*

[Ida B. Wells pushed 7 presidents to pass anti-lynching legislation. Now it's finally law.](#) [Julianne McShane, *NBC News*, 11 April 2022]

*In March 1898, the journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett was the sole woman among eight congressmen who made a visit to the White House. They came to implore President William McKinley to punish the killers of Frazier Baker. South Carolina's new postmaster, who was the first Black person to hold the position, and his daughter Julia, had been shot to death by members of a White mob a month earlier. Last month, 124 years after Wells-Barnett visited the White House and after nearly 200 attempts by Congress to pass a federal anti-lynching law over the course of the 20th century, President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law, making the act a federal hate crime. Scholars say the bill's passage would not have been possible*

*without Wells-Barnett's decades-long crusade against lynching, in which she helped the world to see it as a tool of racist oppression.*

[Teen charged with hate crimes in 2 separate attacks on Sikh men in NYC](#) [Marlene Lenthang, NBC News, 15 April 2022]

*A 19-year-old was charged with hate crimes Thursday in connection to two separate attacks on three Sikh men this month, the New York City Police Department said. Vernon Douglas was arrested in connection with an April 3 attack on a 70-year-old Nirmal Singh, who was visiting from India, as well as an April 12 assault and robbery on two other Sikh men, 76, and 64, according to police. Both attacks were reported in the Richmond Hill area of Queens. Singh was dressed in traditional Sikh clothing and going for a walk just before 7 a.m. on April 3 near 95th Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard in Richmond Hill when he was punched in the face unprovoked, police said. In that case, Douglas was charged with hate crime assault, assault, and aggravated harassment, police said. Singh returned to India after the attack to be with his family but the investigation continued in his absence.*

[Turning Equity Into Action and Getting Results](#) [Jen Tolentino and Sophie Bergmann, Route Fifty, 12 April 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*Racial equity has always been an undercurrent in economic mobility work. Economic opportunity—defined broadly as access to jobs, living wages and financial security—differs vastly for White and non-White Americans, thanks to centuries of policies designed to achieve that very result. As our colleagues Jennifer Park and Anjali Chainani noted in Results for America's work on City Budgeting for Equity & Recovery, "Now, in a time of heightened concerns about both economic inequities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and broader racial justice, interest in equity factors is growing among public-sector leaders." Racial equity can't just be an interest among leaders. It must be an explicit goal in all public service delivery—something leaders name, work toward and measure against. Leaders must start by moving past a broad definition of equity to a clear, shared articulation of what it looks like in practice for their jurisdiction.*

[Woman who attacked a Black teenager while falsely accusing him of stealing her phone pleads guilty to hate crime charge](#) [Amir Vera and Rob Frehse, CNN, 12 April 2022]

*The California woman who falsely accused a Black teenager of stealing her cell phone and then attacked him in a New York City hotel lobby pleaded guilty to unlawful imprisonment in the second degree as a hate crime, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office announced. In December 2020, Miya Ponsetto was seen on video attacking 14-year old Keyon Harrold Jr., who was with his father, a musician, in the Arlo Hotel. Ponsetto said she thought he had her cell phone, but investigators later determined he did not. District Attorney Alvin Bragg said Ponsetto "displayed outrageous behavior." "As a Black man, I have personally experienced racial profiling countless times in my life and I sympathize with the young man victimized in this incident," Bragg said. "This plea ensures appropriate accountability for Ms. Ponsetto by addressing underlying causes for her behavior and ensuring this conduct does not reoccur."*

## RELIGION

[Catholics mark Good Friday outside Notre-Dame three years after fire](#) [Reuters, 15 April 2022]  
*Hundreds of Catholic worshippers gathered for prayer and song outside Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris on Good Friday, three years to the day after its roof was destroyed in a massive blaze. Notre-Dame has been closed for restoration since the fire in 2019 gutted its roof and sent its spire crashing down, to the horror of the nation and tourist onlookers. A few hundred people gathered on Friday on the Ile de la Cite, in the middle of the river Seine, to listen to a sermon under the shadow of a crane and scaffolding that has cloaked the 12th-century church since the blaze. President Emmanuel Macron has pledged to reopen the church to worshippers by 2024, when Paris will the Olympic Games.*

[What is Passover? Here's a guide to the Jewish holiday.](#) [Saleen Martin, USA TODAY, 13 April 2022]

*Friday marks the beginning of a special time for many Jewish people around the world. It's Passover, also called Pesach, which celebrates Exodus, the liberation of Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Passover happens every year during the month of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. In Israel, it lasts seven days; everywhere else, it's eight days. This year's Passover is from Friday April 15 to April 23. The holiday is named for the story behind it, when the angel of God passed over the houses of Israelites and saved them, said Clémence Boulouque, associate professor of Jewish and Israel Studies at Columbia University in New York. People celebrate it over conversation and dinner, telling stories about liberation, the end of enslavement and those who are still fighting for freedom. It's meant to make people appreciate freedom and push for social justice, she said. This year, it's especially powerful because of current events and conflicts around the world, said Rabbi Michael Holzman from the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation in Reston.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Ukrainian refugees to gather for Passover Seder near Warsaw Ghetto uprising site](#) [Corky Siemaszko, NBC News, 15 April 2022]

*Nearly eight decades after Polish Jews trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto rose up against their German occupiers, a group of Ukrainian refugees will gather near the sacred site Friday to celebrate Passover. Helping lead the traditional Seder meal in Warsaw will be a Ukrainian American Jew descended from Holocaust survivors who left Ukraine for Israel as a child. She is in Poland aiding Ukrainian refugees who fled their homeland because of the Russian invasion. The Jewish Federations of North America, which have raised \$50 million to aid Ukraine, will also help sponsor Passover Seders on Friday in other major European cities that have taken in Ukrainian refugees, including Budapest, Hungary. But there will be a side of solemn symbolism at the Seder in Warsaw, where a third of the population was Jewish before the Germans wiped them out during the Holocaust.*

## **SEXISM**

[Decades after Title IX, girls face tough battles on and off the sports field](#) [Amna Nawaz, Layla Quran and Sam Lane, PBS News, 11 April 2022]

*It's been nearly 50 years since the passage of Title IX, a landmark civil rights law prohibiting sex-based discrimination at federally funded schools, including in athletic programs. But violations still exist. Schools often provide better opportunities and benefits for boys' sports. On June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law. It required gender equity in education, including in athletics. That year, only 7 percent of high school varsity athletes in the U.S. were women. The law is meant to guarantee all institutions receiving federal funding provide equal opportunities, supplies and facilities to students, regardless of their gender. Since Title IX passed 50 years ago, girls' participation in sports has skyrocketed, millions now playing in high school programs across the country. But experts say, to this day, boys programs still get better uniforms, better facilities, and more support, all potential Title IX violations.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Budget hang-ups slow sexual assault prevention reforms](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 13 April 2022]

*The Pentagon is about to meet its first deadline on a years-long implementation plan for more than 80 recommendations released last year after a review commission drilled down on the Defense Department's sexual assault prevention and response programs. But things aren't as far along as they would have liked, according to the DOD's No. 2 official. Though implementation began in September, Congress didn't pass a full year's budget until March 10, holding up some of the progress. That delayed one of the plan's cornerstones, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks told *Military Times* on Tuesday, which includes hiring a dedicated workforce to administer prevention training and response programs, rather than the commonplace troops on collateral duty doing it now. While the most groundbreaking parts of the plan are on the response side, the prevention piece will be a huge lift.*

[House lawmakers consider four bills that provide greater support for military sexual trauma survivors](#) [Sam Samora, *Stars and Stripes*, 12 April 2022]

*House lawmakers are considering four bills that could help veterans suffering from the effects of sexual trauma in the military by improving the process for receiving benefits and providing greater support to victims. Military sexual trauma is a term used to describe sexual assault or sexual harassment that a veteran experienced during their service, accord to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA reported in May 2021 that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men said they experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment during their service in the military. The VA Office of Inspector General investigated denied claims for military sexual trauma and found VA processors didn't always follow the policies and procedures for them. Leaders of the Veterans Benefits Administration didn't monitor compliance, and there were ongoing "failures in governance," according to the IG report.*

## **VETERANS**

[Veteran Athletes in Invictus Games Show Value of Competition to Ease Trauma](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 11 April 2022]

*Marine veteran Tiffany Hudgins worked with Afghan women when she served in the military, trying to set them up with opportunities in a culture dominated by men. She was teaching those Afghans more advanced sewing techniques when she was injured by an improvised explosive device while patrolling with 1st Special Forces Group. It left her with a traumatic brain injury and changed her life. Then, she discovered competitive archery. It sharpened her mind, reduced stress and required her to maintain athleticism—all critical elements to balancing and maintaining mental health following a traumatic injury. She is now among the U.S. veterans competing in this year's Invictus Games, an international competition for the wounded that will be held in the Netherlands. The games are set to kick off Saturday and will host a number of events, such rowing, archery and powerlifting. Roughly 70 veterans and active-duty troops will represent the U.S. The biennial event was originally set for 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic.*