

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 29 JULY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### [“Courage and sacrifice”: UN Command honors Korean War veterans on armistice’s 69th anniversary](#)

[David Choi, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 July 2022]

*The United Nations Command, at the table where the armistice was signed, on Wednesday marked 69 years since the Korean War ended. “Like thousands of other artifacts that sit in this incredible memorial museum, it’s a daily reminder of the solidarity, the faith in purpose, and the courage and sacrifice of those who have gone before,” said the deputy U.N. commander, British army Lt. Gen. Andrew Harrison, at the War Memorial of Korea. Seven decades on, the command remains in place and the border between North and South is still a hostile zone. U.N. Command “will be here, until that blessed day when we are no longer needed,” Harrison said. “We will serve, and if necessary, sacrifice, to maintain the freedom, the peace and the prosperity” of South Korea.*

[SEE ALSO]

[Lives lost in Korean War recognized with Wall of Remembrance dedication](#) [Shifra Dayak, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 July 2022]

[Capt. Harold Barber remembers the “Chosin Few”](#) [Claire Barrett, *Marine Corps Times*, 27 July 2022]

#### [A new dictionary will document the lexicon of African American English](#) [Jeevika Verman, *NPR*, 27 July 2022]

*Black Americans have long contributed to the ways in which the English language is used, and now a new [research project](#) aims to compile the first Oxford Dictionary of African American English. “Finally we will have a space that recognizes our language in a way that encompasses all the people within African American language communities,” said Sonja Lanehart, a linguistics professor at the University of Arizona who grew up in the South. The research project is a collaboration between Harvard University’s Hutchins Center for African and African American Research and Oxford University Press, with Lanehart among the advising editors. “It will be much more expansive and inclusive of the language as opposed to [just] some words here and there,” she said. And instead of just defining or spelling the words, the project will also provide some historical context.*

#### [Why the Pentagon would rather not create a specific military law against extremism](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 26 July 2022]

*It’s been more than one year since the Defense Department launched an offensive against extremism in the services, including a daylong standdown for the entire department and an updated policy against extremist activity. But the services aren’t interested in fielding a new Uniform Code of Military Justice article that would specifically outlaw that activity. That’s the recommendation from a [report](#) submitted to the Senate Armed Services Committee in June, part of the department’s obligation under the most recent National Defense Authorization Act. Instead, according to the report, DOD would like to give its previous efforts a couple of years to percolate before taking any more steps. The report argues that a specific UCMJ article isn’t necessary because already there are so many other articles that could address everything from extremism rhetoric to planning a violent attack, including a handful that deal with defying orders and policies in general.*

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## **SPECIAL: BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY, 28 JULY**

[1LT John R. Fox celebrated during USAICoE annual Buffalo Soldier Recognition Ceremony](#) [Amy Stork, *U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence Public Affairs*, 28 July 2022]

*The U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence (USAICoE) and Fort Huachuca held its second annual Buffalo Soldier recognition ceremony at Fitch Auditorium, July 28. The ceremony honored 1st Lt. John R. Fox, a Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor Recipient, who called for fire on his own position to defend his fellow Soldiers. “This day commemorates the history and legacy of the Buffalo Soldier, African American men and women, whose service to the Nation is marked by heroism, honor, and distinction,” said Maj. Gen. Anthony R. Hale, USAICoE and Fort Huachuca commanding general. “By their integration in 1952, Buffalo Soldiers had earned over twenty congressional Medals of Honor and 170 French Legion of Honor Medals—the highest honor for the military in America and France.”*

[Black Buffalo Soldiers biked through Lincoln 125 years ago; solo cyclist retracing their trip](#) [Peter Salter, *Lincoln Journal Star (Lincoln, Neb.)*, 13 July 2022]

*As the sun was rising on June 14, 1897, a group of soldiers in southwest Montana straddled their bikes and turned their handlebars east. They were about to spend the next 41 days, 1,900 miles and endless hardships—mountain sleet, Nebraska heat and tire-sucking Sandhills—trying to prove their young lieutenant’s point: That, by the turn of the last century, the bicycle was an effective way to transport U.S. troops. The 20 Black members of the 25th Infantry Regiment Bicycle Corps Buffalo Soldiers, they were called—along with two officers and a reporter rode up and over the mountains of Montana, across Wyoming and Nebraska and all the way to St. Louis, where they were met by an estimated 1,000 civilian cyclists and accompanied to a parade in their honor.*

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

[Buffalo Soldier exhibit gets “to the heart of history” in downtown Panama City](#) [Eboney Burrell, *The News Herald (Panama City, Fla.)*, 25 July 2022]

*A historical exhibit in downtown Panama City is teaching the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. Robert Clarke, a lifetime member of the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, uses his knowledge to educate others on the background of Buffalo Soldiers through an exhibit he brings to local communities. The nonprofit museum is based in Houston, but has members in various regions across the country. The exhibit features Clarke’s collection of Buffalo Soldier uniforms and items to demonstrate their use to a soldier. It also includes photos of notable soldiers and historical facts that are placed throughout the exhibit, with the option to scan a QR code to pull up more information on a mobile device. Buffalo Soldiers were Black soldiers who mainly served on the frontier following the American Civil War. The term “Buffalo Soldiers” originates from members of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army, which formed on Sept. 28, 1866.*

[Commemorating the Buffalo Soldiers](#) [Spc. Hassani Ribera Soto, *U.S. Army News Service*, 28 July 2022]

*With the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, and the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment deploying to Europe, not many people know about the rich histories of these units and their roles as the original Buffalo Soldier units. July 28th commemorates the formation of the first regular U.S. Army regiments composed of African American Soldiers in 1866. Members of the 9th Cavalry Regiment also became the first park rangers of what would become the National Park Service, protecting wildlife from poachers*

*and building roads and trails. The election of President Woodrow Wilson prevented the Buffalo Soldiers from serving in Europe during World War I. However, they still made their presence known, as noncommissioned officers made up the leadership backbone of Black units sent with the American Expeditionary Force. In 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces, allowing African American Soldiers to fight alongside White Soldiers.*

[Fort Larned's Dark Chapter](#) [Kurt Repanshek, *National Parks Traveler*, 24 July 2022]

*A friendly game of billiards at Fort Larned [Kansas] exposed the simmering rift early on January 1, 1869, when a group of White soldiers from Company C of the Third Infantry Regiment entered the sutler's store operated by Tappan and Weichsdbaum and told three Buffalo soldiers from Company A of the Tenth Cavalry to relinquish the table. "We have struck one n----- today!" one of the White soldiers said before they attacked one of the Black soldiers, who drew his service revolver in defense. Early the next day, January 2, the stables that housed the Buffalo soldiers' horses and much of their gear erupted in flames. The stables burned to the ground, killing 41 of 60 horses. That incident and its curious details from more than 150 years ago is just one of the stories told at Fort Larned, a Civil War-era fort on the Western frontier that arose in 1859 to protect travelers along the Santa Fe Trail.*

[The Story Of The "Buffalo Soldiers," The First All-Black Peacetime Regiments In U.S. History](#)

[Natasha Ishak, *ATI.com*, 7 July 2022]

*You may have heard the term "Buffalo Soldier" from the famous Bob Marley song of the same name. But the real "Buffalo Soldiers" were the men of the all-Black U.S. Army regiments who served in the Western frontier after the Civil War. The Buffalo Soldiers were tasked with controlling the Native Americans of the Plains, capturing cattle rustlers and thieves, evicting poachers, and protecting settlers. Despite enduring severe racism, they became legendary for fighting courageously — and for expanding America westward. This is their story, one that's too often gone tragically overlooked. After the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, the U.S. Congress allowed African Americans to join the army during peacetime as soldiers. Many Black people jumped at the opportunity. They hoped that serving their country would shield them from poverty and racism.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Winooski church recognized for historic role serving Buffalo Soldiers](#) [Kiana Burks, *WCAX-TV.com* (Burlington, Vt.), 26 July 2022]

*A Winooski [Vermont] site is getting recognition for the part it played in history with a historic site marker and a spot on the Vermont African American Heritage Trail. The Winooski United Methodist Church is in the process of becoming a registered historic landmark. The church was the home church for many buffalo soldiers and their families from 1909 to 1913. Buffalo soldiers were African American soldiers who mainly served on the western frontier following the American Civil War. Ellen Ravelin, the pastor of the church, intervened when the church was on the verge of being torn down and spearheaded the movement to get it historically recognized. Ravelin believes the work they do there carries on the legacy the soldiers left behind. "We're carrying on the tradition of the buffalo soldiers because they were here too, to serve the community and we're here to serve the community, just anyone who has a need whether it be a building to do your work in or food clothing, whatever it is that should be our goal as a church," Ravelin said.*

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## CULTURE

[An Amelia Earhart statue joins the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall](#) [Vanessa Romo, NPR, 27 July 2022]

*A statue of Amelia Earhart—the pioneering aviator who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in—was unveiled at the National Statuary Hall inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday. Earhart became an overnight celebrity in 1928—a sort of aviating pop/reality star—after becoming the first woman to complete any transatlantic flight. Ticker-tape parades were held in her honor, and she was so popular that crowds would swarm around her when she made public appearances. The unveiling of the statue at the Capitol fell a little short of that type of mania—but it was joyous nonetheless. The honor guard from the Kansas Air National Guard played the national anthem, people crossed their right hands over their hearts in the pledge of allegiance, and the gathered crowd cheered and woo-hoo'd when the black drape was dramatically removed from the figure. The statue is one of two to represent Kansas in the Capitol's Statuary Hall Collection.*

[Army launches weight loss and academic programs to broaden its pool of eligible recruits](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, Stars and Stripes, 26 July 2022]

*The Army has created a new program designed to help potential recruits meet academic and fitness eligibility requirements as the service scrambles to address falling recruitment rates, the service announced Tuesday. A pilot program called the Future Soldier Preparatory Course is set to start in early August at Fort Jackson, S.C. The program will offer two three-month courses—one to help potential recruits raise their Armed Forces Qualification Test score to the desired 31 or higher and another to help recruits slim down to the service's body fat requirement, according to the Army. To qualify for Army service, potential male soldiers can have a maximum of 20-26% body fat and female soldiers can have about 30-36%, depending on their age. To participate in the new weight-loss course, potential recruits can have up to 6% more body fat than the acceptable amount for their age and gender category.*

[Army looks at easing rules for alcohol in barracks to help reduce sexual assaults, suicides](#) [Rose L. Thayer, Stars and Stripes, 27 July 2022]

*Nearly 70% of incidents related to the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program involve alcohol, according to the December 2020 report of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee. The Defense Department's Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military reported in July 2021 that alcohol also serves as a main risk factor for suicidal behavior and domestic violence. [Sgt. Maj. of the Army] Grinston introduced the task of improving the Army's alcohol culture to a gathering of about 150 of the Army's top enlisted leaders last month in El Paso, Texas. The group met to examine ways of reducing instances of suicide and sexual assault among soldiers from several angles. Sifting through research on the subject, the leaders narrowed down to two root causes that lend to soldiers drinking too much—acceptance and a lack of education on how to drink moderately.*

[Dior accused of “culturally appropriating” centuries-old Chinese skirt](#) [Oscar Holland, CNN Style, 28 July 2022]

*Dior is facing accusations of cultural appropriation after Chinese social media users—and protesters outside one of the label's Paris stores—claimed that a \$3,800 skirt was inspired by a centuries-old traditional garment. The pleated wool and mohair skirt has drawn comparisons to an item of [historic Chinese clothing](#) known as a “mamiqun,” or “horse face skirt,” despite being described by the*

French fashion house as a “hallmark Dior silhouette.” The controversy began earlier this month, with Chinese netizens and state media outlets accusing the brand of failing to acknowledge the alleged inspiration behind its design. A recent editorial in the Communist Party’s official mouthpiece, *People’s Daily*, said that Dior had “shamelessly” misrepresented the skirt as an original creation, describing social media outrage as “completely understandable.”

[For once, Cherokee actor Wes Studi cast as romantic co-star](#) [Jake Coyle, *The Associated Press*, 25 July 2022]

*In Wes Studi’s potent and pioneering acting career, he has played vengeful warriors, dying prisoners and impassioned resistance leaders. For three decades, he has arrestingly crafted wide-ranging portraits of the Native American experience. But one thing he had never done in a movie is give someone a kiss. But recently, Studi is increasingly getting a chance to play a wider array of characters. Along with Max Walker-Silverman’s “A Love Song,” which opens in theaters Friday, he’s a recurring, funny guest star on Sterlin Harjo’s “Reservation Dogs,” the second season of which debuts Aug. 3 on Hulu. “Hopefully it has to do with creating a better understanding of Native people by the general public,” Studi said in an interview earlier this summer. “It does still exist, the misconception that we were all killed off and we don’t exist anymore as peoples.”*

[How the backlash to “woke” culture has made a way for racist humor to thrive](#) [Raul A. Reyes, *NBC News*, 28 July 2022]

*Author and sociologist Raúl Pérez attended a diverse university in California that promoted mutual respect among students, “yet after hours, in the dorms, I saw many boundaries tested with racial humor.” “We were sociology majors, we were taking ethnic studies courses,” Pérez said, “and here we were in an environment where people were free to make racist and offensive jokes.” Convinced that there was more behind such experiences than “just jokes,” Pérez embarked on [academic research](#) on the intersection between humor, race, power and inequality. Now he has [released his first book](#), “*The Souls of White Jokes*,” which aims to show how racist humor fuels White supremacy. Pérez argues that racist humor goes well beyond the entertainment world, and that it is actually dangerous in certain segments of society. There are significant patterns, for example, of law enforcement agencies across the country circulating racist jokes among themselves.*

[Jackie Robinson Museum honoring baseball, civil rights icon opens in NYC](#) [Claretta Bellamy, *NBC News*, 26 July 2022]

*Treasured items capturing Jackie Robinson’s life and legacy are now on display for the world to see. A heartfelt ribbon-cutting ceremony brought to life the new Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City’s Lower Manhattan Tuesday afternoon. Robinson’s widow, Rachel, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, cut the ribbon while New York City Mayor Eric Adams delivered remarks in the presence of Robinson’s family and other guests, including tennis star Billie Jean King and filmmaker Spike Lee. The Jackie Robinson Museum chronicles the life of Robinson, who made history as the first Black Major League Baseball player on April 15, 1947. Now that the museum is a reality, come September visitors will be able to look at the work of Jackie and Rachel Robinson, who were both active in the civil rights movement and sought positive change for Black people.*

[Massachusetts joins wave of states banning racial discrimination against natural hair](#) [Zachary Schermele, *NBC News*, 27 July 2022]

*Massachusetts has joined the growing list of states to ban discrimination based on natural hairstyles. Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, on Tuesday signed the state's version of the CROWN Act, which stands for "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair." Variations of the legislation have cropped up around the country in recent years. The new Massachusetts law, which was passed unanimously by both chambers of the legislature, specifically guards against discrimination "based on hair texture, hair type and hairstyles." The law includes, but is not limited to, "natural and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, twists, Bantu knots and other formations."*

[Navy Hopes Measuring Female Sailors Will Finally Fix Ill-Fitting Uniforms](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 26 July 2022]

*The Navy is continuing its years-long quest for a better-fitting uniform for female sailors with a fit-test survey in Norfolk, Virginia, this month. The goal is to get enough measurements to make sizes better and more accurate for women. The project comes at a time when complaints about the fit of female uniforms persist in the sea service, but service members in other branches struggle to even buy uniform items. Courtney Williams, a spokeswoman for the Navy Exchange—the command in charge of the project, told *Military.com* in an email that "the current fit of the U.S. Navy female uniform is not standardized among all styles and was developed in the 1980s." Uniform fit and sizing complaints are not new for the Navy. Since at least the early 2010s, there have been studies and surveys indicating that female sailors found at least some uniforms uncomfortable and ill-fitting.*

[North Carolina town's entire police department quits after town hires Black city manager](#) [Dianne Gallagher and Jacquelyne Germain, *CNN*, 29 July 2022]

*The mass exodus of an entire police department after the hiring of a Black city manager in North Carolina has opened a conversation about public safety and race relations in a small town of just over 1,500 residents. Last week, the entire police department in Kenly, North Carolina, resigned, citing a "hostile" work environment less than two months after Justine Jones, a Black woman, began her role as the town's newly selected city manager. Brittney Hinnant, a Kenly resident, said she feels like the situation is a "race issue" given that Jones is Black, while the entire Kenly Police Department is White. Hinnant also said she doesn't think the police department supports Black people and she feels they often harass Black residents. "I feel like they don't want a Black woman over top of them, basically managing them or telling them what to do," Hinnant said. [Studies show](#) people in organizations often think Black women are more likely to have angry personalities, with studies also suggesting that this negative perception is a unique occurrence for Black women, according to the *Harvard Business Review*.*

[A Proclamation on National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 26 July 2022]

*In June of 1950, the United States answered the call to defend freedom abroad by joining the Republic of Korea in its fight against the communist regime in North Korea and eventually the People's Republic of China. After 3 years of violent combat across the Korean peninsula, an armistice was signed by representatives of the United States as head of the United Nations Command, the People's Republic of China, and North Korea. For nearly 70 years, the ensuing peace and the abiding relationship between the Korean and American people has been the foundation for the thriving democracy and incredible economic progress of the Republic of Korea. Today and every day, we continue to remember our Nation's Korean War Veterans and honor all that they made possible through service to our Nation and our highest ideals.*

[A project named for “Peanuts” character Franklin aims to boost Black animators](#) [Mandalit Del Barco, NPR, 28 July 2022]

*In 1968, Charles M. Schulz introduced the first Black character to his famous comic strip; Franklin joined Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the Peanuts gang. Over the years, the low-key, friendly character was an inspiration to generations of Peanuts fans. Now, more than half a century later, Peanuts Worldwide has created [The Armstrong Project](#) in his honor to support up-and-coming Black writers, animators and cartoonists. According to the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, fewer than 4% of animators are African American. California school teacher Harriet Glickman came up with the idea of integrating the Peanuts comics. In 1968, shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Glickman [wrote a letter to Schulz](#).*

[Seattle Audubon will change its name, severing tie to slave owner](#) [Alexandra Yoon-Hendricks, *The Seattle Times* (Seattle, Wash.), 26 July 2022]

*The Seattle chapter of the National Audubon Society has a new logo, at least for now: an elegant yellow bird, a pelagic cormorant to be exact, with a paintbrush in its beak and the word “Audubon” crossed out. It marks a new era for the bird-watching and conservation group. Pointing to the racist actions and beliefs of its namesake, John James Audubon, the local organization announced that it will change its name to better reflect its mission and values. Audubon was an artist and ornithologist whose extensive collection of watercolor illustrations depicting North American avian life made him a celebrated figure in the nature community. He also enslaved people, rejected the abolition movement and stole Indigenous human remains, sending them to a colleague who used the skulls to assert that White people were superior to all other races.*

[“This is our history:” African American churches, museums and landmarks work to preserve Black history](#) [Deborah Barfield Berry, *USA TODAY*, 19 July 2022]

*Termites had destroyed beams at the historic Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, Alabama, where decades earlier civil rights activists gathered before marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Water had damaged the walls. Balconies were sagging. Armed with a newly awarded \$150,000 grant, officials at the 114-year-old chapel plan to use the money to help repair parts of the church, which is closed to the public. Earlier this year, it was put on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s list of 11 most endangered historic places. Other sites receiving grants include landmarks such as the home of civil rights icons Medgar and Myrlie Evers in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Chicago home of Emmett Till, whose brutal murder in Mississippi in 1955 helped spark the civil rights movement. The effort is one of several in recent years, including by the National Park Service, to step up the preservation of important sites in African American history. The projects come at a critical time as the nation wrestles with social justice issues and how, or if, to teach the nation's history.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Unexpected Harlem Armory time messenger reveals snapshot of 1923](#) [Eric Durr, *DVIDS*, 25 July 2022]

*The replacement of a 99-year-old granite cornerstone plaque of the New York National Guard’s Harlem Armory drill floor, exposed a mystery when contractors found a sealed copper box inside the stone on Feb. 19, 2022. The armory, home of the New York Army National Guard’s 369th Sustainment Brigade, was built to house the 369th Infantry Regiment -the drill hall in 1921-24 and the administrative building in the 1930s- made famous during their service in World War I as the Harlem Hell Fighters. Originally the 15th Infantry, New York National Guard, the regiment comprised of Black Soldiers and commanded mostly by White officers, fought as part of a French division. Renumbered as the 369th U.S. Infantry, the*

*regiment spent 191 days in combat, never retreated and accumulated 170 French Croix de Guerre awards for heroism. The mystery box's contents highlighted the pride of Black New Yorkers in their regiment, their culture, and city officials' recognition of the 369th and the Black community, according to Courtney Burns, the director of the New York State Military Museum, in Saratoga Springs, New York.*

[Young adults in U.S. are much more likely than 50 years ago to be living in a multigenerational household](#) [Richard Fry, Pew Research Center, 20 July 2022]

*As successive generations of young adults in the United States cope with rising student debt and housing costs, multigenerational living is increasingly providing a respite from the storm. A quarter of U.S. adults ages 25 to 34 resided in a multigenerational family household in 2021, up from 9% in 1971. Multigenerational living—that is, living in a household that includes two or more adult generations, typically consisting of those ages 25 and older—has increased among all age groups over the past five decades. But the increase has been fastest among adults ages 25 to 34. A Pew Research Center [survey](#) conducted last October found that financial issues are a major reason why adults live in multigenerational households.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[DOJ: Buffett company discriminated against Black homebuyers](#) [Ken Sweet, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2022]

*A Pennsylvania mortgage company owned by billionaire businessman Warren Buffett's company discriminated against potential Black and Latino homebuyers in Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware, the Department of Justice said Wednesday, in what is being called the second-largest redlining settlement in history. Trident Mortgage Co., a division of Berkshire Hathaway's HomeServices of America, deliberately avoided writing mortgages in minority-majority neighborhoods in West Philadelphia like Malcolm X Park; Camden, New Jersey; and in Wilmington, Delaware, the Justice Department and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said in their settlement with Trident. As part of the agreement with the government, Trident will have to set aside \$20 million to make loans in underserved neighborhoods.*

[Feds investigate USC student's complaint of anti-Semitism](#) [*The Associated Press*, 26 July 2022]

*The U.S. Department of Education will investigate the University of Southern California after a Jewish student claimed she resigned from student government because she endured harassment over her pro-Israel views. The probe by the department's Office for Civil Rights stems from a complaint by the Jewish advocacy nonprofit Louis D. Brandeis Center alleging the university in Los Angeles "allowed a hostile environment of anti-Semitism to proliferate on its campus," the center said in a statement Tuesday. The complaint was filed on behalf of Rose Ritch, who stepped down as student body vice president in August 2020. Ritch said she resigned following a campaign to remove her over her alleged lack of commitment to racial justice amid the national outcry over George Floyd's killing and the Black Lives Matter movement.*

[LGBTQ+ Americans face greater health care barriers in rural areas, study finds](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 25 July 2022]

*In a [study](#) published earlier this year in the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, researchers and physicians practicing in the Appalachian regions of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia said LGBTQ+ patients outside of urban centers are more likely to struggle to find medical professionals that*

are familiar with LGBTQ+ issues or identities, a potential detriment to the health of sexual and gender minorities. Patients in rural areas are also more likely to face stigma around their sexual orientation or gender identity, according to the study, and many practicing physicians in rural communities are likely to have a worldview that is rooted in “heteronormativity,” or a belief that heterosexuality is the normal or preferred sexual orientation. Doctors in rural America are also largely unequipped to address unique health challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community, like disproportionate rates of depression and anxiety.

[One of New York’s largest LGBTQ clubs is accused of fostering a toxic environment](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 26 July 2022]

Before it opened, *The Q* held a lot of promise. It was meant to be a game changer for New York City’s nightlife. “I wanted to create a safe space not in the sometimes trite sense we see the term used, but a true and sacred space for all of our queer family to feel safe enough for freedom, fun, and cathartic self-expression,” [Frankie] Sharp said. Instead, what ended up being built was far more controversial. This summer, Sharp sued Bob Fluet and Allan Pikus, the two partners he worked closely with for more than two years to open the club. Explicit details in the [lawsuit](#) contain allegations that Pikus created a toxic environment from the moment the club opened and freely used racist, transphobic and generally discriminatory language.

[Republican AGs sue U.S. agency over LGBTQ school guidance](#) [Kimberlee Kruesi, *The Associated Press*, 26 July 2022]

More than 20 Republican attorneys general filed a lawsuit Tuesday against President Joe Biden’s administration over a Department of Agriculture school meal program that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The challenge, led by Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery, claims that the federal government is attempting to force states and schools to follow antidiscrimination requirements that “misconstrue the law.” In May, the USDA announced that it would include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as a violation of Title IX, the sweeping 1972 law that guarantees equity between the sexes in “any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The directive requires states to review allegations of discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as update their policies and signage. The agency warned that states and schools that receive federal funds, which include the national school lunch program overseen by the USDA, have agreed to follow civil rights laws.

[U.S. agencies temporarily barred from enforcing LGBTQ guidance](#) [Mark Gillispie, *The Associated Press*, 16 July 2022]

A judge in Tennessee has temporarily barred two federal agencies from enforcing directives issued by President Joe Biden’s administration that extended protections for LGBTQ people in schools and workplaces. U.S. District Judge Charles Atchley Jr. in an order on Friday ruled for the 20 state attorneys general who sued last August claiming the Biden administration directives infringe on states’ right to enact laws that, for example, prevent students from participating in sports based on their gender identity or requiring schools and businesses to provide bathrooms and showers to accommodate transgender people. The Department of Education guidance from June 2021 said discrimination based on a student’s sexual orientation or gender identity would be treated as a violation of Title IX, the 1972 federal law that protects sex discrimination in education. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [released guidance](#) that month about what could constitute discrimination against LGBTQ people and advised the public about how to file a complaint.

## DIVERSITY

### [13-Year-Old Girl Gets Accepted to Medical School a Year After Graduating High School: “Mama I Made It”](#) [Amanda Taylor, *People*, 22 July 2022]

*Alena Analeigh Wicker is just 13 and she was recently accepted into the University of Alabama’s Heersink School of Medicine for 2024. According to The Washington Post, she was accepted as part of the school’s Early Assurance Program, which partners with HBCU schools in Alabama to offer students early acceptance as they plan to enter medical school. In 2021 she became the youngest intern ever at NASA. In an interview with The Baltimore Times, Alena said the dream started early for her. Alena’s impressive achievements don’t even stop there. She also founded the Brown STEM Girl, an organization for girls of color who are interested in exploring careers in STEM—and was a finalist for this year’s TIME’s Top Kid of the Year.*

### [All-female team breaks world record by rowing from California to Hawaii](#) [Good Morning America, 26 July 2022]

*Four female rowers made history Tuesday morning when they arrived in Hawaii after rowing more than 2,400 nautical miles from California to Hawaii. Libby Costello, Sophia Denison-Johnston, Brooke Downes and Adrienne Smith of the Lat35 team started the Great Pacific Race in San Francisco in June and arrived in Honolulu after rowing for 34 days, 14 hours and 11 minutes. They rowed unassisted and it was also their first time rowing in the deep ocean. They also relied on boil-to-order prepackaged meals for sustenance and had to endure seasickness, extreme wind and rough seas. The team, however, was determined to break barriers.*

### [A national fellowship that supports disabled artists has a new class for 2022](#) [Neda Ulaby, *NPR*, 27 July 2022]

*When the Ford Foundation and the Mellon Foundation decided to create the first national fellowship devoted to supporting disabled artists in 2020, they wanted to expand understanding of disability justice, creativity and life. The [first class of Disability Futures Fellows](#) included filmmaker Tourmaline and choreographer Alice Sheppard. Among the grantees this year receiving \$50,000 in unrestricted funds include JJJJerome Ellis, a composer in Norfolk, Va., who spells his name with multiple “J”s as part of his practice, to reflect his stuttering. Alexandria Wailes is an actor, dancer and Tony honoree who works with Deaf West Theatre. The work of poet and visual artist Naomi Ortiz brings together disability justice and climate action in Tucson, Arizona where she lives.*

### [The State Department’s Diversity and Inclusion Officer Says ‘This Time is Different’](#) [Courtney Bublé, *Government Executive*, 26 July 2022]

*The State Department has had varied progress on diversity over the years, according to a January 2020 report from the Government Accountability Office, and Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said recently that the department had more success with diversity in the 1980s than in more modern times. A hearing the committee hosted on Tuesday examined recent progress as well as what more needs to be done at the department. “It’s not enough to recruit a representative workforce. We have to keep them,” said Amb. Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, who became the State Department’s first standalone chief diversity and inclusion officer in April 2021. Abercrombie-Winstanley said her first priority upon coming to the department was to launch a diversity,*

equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) data working group to coordinate the department's efforts to conduct barrier analysis.

## **EXTREMISM**

[A Capitol rioter who said she wanted to shoot Nancy Pelosi in “the friggin” brain” was sentenced to 2 months in prison](#) [Erin Snodgrass, *The Business Insider*, 21 July 2022]

*Dawn Bancroft pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor charge of parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building in September 2021. She initially faced four counts related to her role in the January 6, 2021, attack, including entering and remaining in a restricted building and disorderly conduct in a Capitol building. But as the government works to prosecute the more than 870 people arrested in connection with the attack, federal prosecutors have offered some rioters lesser charges in exchange for their guilty pleas. A defense attorney for Bancroft argued in a court filing that her client did not literally mean to threaten Pelosi's life that day. Judge Emmet Sullivan told Bancroft in court on Wednesday that he was particularly disturbed by the comments and had initially considered a longer sentence before prosecutors recommended two months, according to CNN.*

[Ex-Marine booted for extremist activities accused of calling for Nazi-inspired mass rape and murder](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 27 July 2022]

*An ex-Marine in jail for gun charges and reportedly discharged from the service for extremist activity is now accused of helping to write the manifesto of a White supremacist group called “Rapekrieg,” which combines the Nazi goal of murdering Jews with a philosophy that women can be controlled through rape, federal prosecutors claim. Matthew Belanger is currently in jail after being arrested on June 10 for allegedly using an unnamed police officer as a strawman to purchase a PTR .308 assault rifle and a Luger pistol for him while he was serving in the Marine Corps, court records show. The Marine Corps did not release what type of discharge Belanger received, but federal prosecutors noted in a July 14 court document that Belanger was discharged under “Other Than Honorable Conditions for Misconduct (Serious Offense), specifically for dissident/extremist activity.” In that same document, prosecutors urged a federal judge to keep Belanger in jail until his trial, claiming that he allegedly planned to attack a synagogue on Long Island and that he also planned to carry out killings and rapes.*

[FBI says man accused of attempting to kill Brett Kavanaugh said he was “shooting for 3” justices](#) [Holmes Lybrand and Tierney Sneed, *CNN*, 27 July 2022]

*In the weeks before traveling to the Washington, DC area, the man accused of attempting to murder Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh researched how to assassinate individuals and said he would be “shooting for 3” justices, according to a search warrant application from the FBI. Nicholas Roske, who prosecutors say traveled to Kavanaugh's home with a pistol, extra ammunition, a tactical knife and other gear, looked up terms like “most effective place to stab someone” and “quietest semi auto rifle,” the application states. According to court documents, Roske told investigators that he was upset over the leaked Supreme Court draft opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* as well as the potential for Kavanaugh to help loosen gun laws in the country. Roske, according to investigators, said he decided to kill Kavanaugh after thinking about giving his life purpose.*

[Man who assaulted law enforcement at U.S. Capitol sentenced to five years in prison](#) [Avery Lotz and Andrew Millman, *CNN*, 26 July 2022]

*A federal judge sentenced a man who assaulted law enforcement officers with poles during the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol...to more than five years in prison on Tuesday. Mark Ponder pleaded guilty in April to assaulting law enforcement and has been held without bond since March 2021. The 56-year-old Washington, DC, resident also was sentenced to three years of supervised release. Ponder remained on Capitol grounds for nearly three hours on January 6. After being detained for attacking officers released earlier in the day amid the chaos, Ponder engaged in a second violent assault in one of the most brutal attacks between officers and rioters that day. Chutkan's sentence went several months beyond the Justice Department's request of 60 months and, during Tuesday's hearing, the judge said she even considered going above the maximum guideline recommendation of 71 months.*

[National Guard member sought out extremists, planned attack on police](#) [Salvador Rizzo, *The Washington Post*, 26 July 2022]

*A former National Guard member who admitted in pleading guilty to a weapons charge that he sought out violent extremists and discussed a potential attack on Virginia Beach police was sentenced Monday to four years and nine months in prison. Francis P. Harker, 22, of Norfolk, pleaded guilty to possessing several firearms while he was regularly using LSD and other drugs. He was sentenced Monday based on that offense, but prosecutors said it was "just the tip of the iceberg." A backpack in Harker's car trunk contained ingredients for molotov cocktails, prosecutors said, and Harker "admitted to interacting online with members of a group called 'The Base,' " a violent white-supremacist and anti-government group.*

[Seattle man charged with threatening to shoot Black customers at Buffalo grocery store](#) [CBS News, 22 July 2022]

*A suburban Seattle man has been arrested and accused of threatening to shoot Black customers at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court. The complaint comes just months after a man killed 10 Black people in a mass shooting at a different Buffalo grocery store. Joey George, the 37-year-old Seattle man, is charged with making interstate threats and is scheduled to appear in court Friday afternoon, *The Seattle Times* reported. George phoned a Buffalo grocery store twice in July threatening to shoot Black people in the store and ranting about a "race war," the complaint said. Prosecutors said George is also being charged in connection with a May call to a restaurant in San Bruno, California, in which he allegedly threatened to shoot Black and Hispanic patrons, and with making other threatening calls to businesses in Maryland, Connecticut and Washington over the last year.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Depression is likely not caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain, study says](#) [Joseph Guzman, *The Hill*, 21 July 2022]

*A recent [review study](#) is pushing back against long-held views in medicine that depression is caused by a serotonin imbalance in the brain. Researchers from University College London conducted an umbrella review of past meta-studies and systematic analyses of depression's relationship to serotonin activity that included tens of thousands of participants. The study published this week in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry* concluded that there's "no clear evidence" that serotonin levels or serotonin activity is responsible for depression. Researchers say the review calls into question the basis for the use of antidepressants. "It is always difficult to prove a negative, but I think we can safely say that after a vast amount of research conducted over several decades, there is no convincing evidence that depression is*

caused by serotonin abnormalities, particularly by lower levels or reduced activity of serotonin,” professor Joanna Moncrieff, the study’s lead author, said in a [statement](#).

[How our brains cope with speaking more than one language](#) [Nicole Chang, *BBC Future*, 19 July 2022] Speaking a second or even a third language can bring obvious advantages, but occasionally the words, grammar and even accents can get mixed up. This can reveal surprising things about how our brains work. Multilinguals commonly juggle the languages they know with ease. But sometimes, [accidental slip-ups can occur](#). And the science behind why this happens is revealing surprising insights into how our brains work. Research into how multilingual people juggle more than one language in their minds is complex and sometimes counterintuitive. It turns out that when a multilingual person wants to speak, the languages they know can be [active at the same time](#), even if only one gets used. These languages can interfere with each other, for example intruding into speech just when you don’t expect them. And interference can manifest itself not just in vocabulary slip-ups, but even on the level of [grammar](#) or [accent](#).

[The passive-aggressive colleagues who poison workplaces](#) [Megan Tatum, *BBC Worklife*, 26 July 2022] Subtle digs veiled as compliments. Deliberately withholding information. Refusing to cooperate with the rest of the team. The list of small passive-aggressive behaviours Catherine says she faced from a senior colleague in her role as an office administrator for a large US publishing house built up slowly over several years. “I felt like I was being subtly manipulated and controlled,” says Catherine, who now works an author and life coach. “It was very frustrating, and made me feel powerless.” Troublingly, many workers report passive-aggressive behaviour like this is endemic in the workplace. A small May 2022 [survey](#) by Boston-based language-tutoring service Preply showed 20% of the 1,200 American respondents said their colleagues are the people in their lives most likely to exhibit passive-aggressive behaviour—more than either friends or family. Seventy-three percent said they had to handle passive-aggressive comments of one form or another at work—52% on a weekly basis.

[“Soft skills”: The intangible qualities companies crave](#) [Kate Morgan, *BBC Worklife*, 28 July 2022] In order to do your job effectively, you need hard skills: the technical know-how and subject-specific knowledge to fulfil your responsibilities. But in a forever-changed world of work, lesser-touted ‘soft skills’ may be just as important—if not even more crucial. These skills are more nuanced, even low-profile: think personal characteristics and behaviours that make a strong leader or a good team member. Especially amid the normalisation of remote work, where collaboration and the ways to innovate have changed, companies are beginning to catch on to the importance of these intangibles when building out diverse, successful teams. For some workers, some soft skills are innate—personality traits that make someone a naturally good communicator or analytical thinker. But for others, developing and honing soft skills can be more challenging.

## INTERNATIONAL

[Ahead of next hearings, Hockey Canada releases plan to address systemic issues](#) [*Sportsnet.ca*, 25 July 2022]

Ahead of the second round of parliamentary hearings on how Hockey Canada has handled sexual assault complaints, the organization [released an action plan on](#) Monday, outlining the steps it intends to take to “address systemic issues in hockey” with the aim of curtailing “toxic behaviours”—both on and off the ice—and confronting the “culture of silence that exists in corners of the game.” A special

*committee of unspecified “independent experts” will be appointed by Hockey Canada’s board of directors by Sept. 15, 2022. The group will be tasked with providing guidance on implementing the organization’s plan. Though the details of the plan were sparse and the efficacy of their implementation remains to be seen, the commitments signaled a measured expansion of what Hockey Canada says it intends to do to address the culture of the sport—and its role in creating and enabling it.*

[Amnesty: Taliban crackdown on rights is “suffocating” women](#) [Rahim Faiez, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2022]

*The lives of Afghan women and girls are being destroyed by a “suffocating” crackdown by the Taliban since they took power nearly a year ago, Amnesty International said in a [report](#) released Wednesday. After they captured the capital, Kabul, in August 2021 and ousted the internationally backed government, the Taliban presented themselves as having moderated since their first time in power, in the 1990s. Initially, Taliban officials spoke of allowing women to continue to work and girls to continue their education. Instead, they formed an all-male government stacked with veterans of their hard-line rule that has banned girls from attending school from seventh grade, imposed all-covering dress that leaves only the eyes visible and restricted women’s access to work.*

[The AP Interview: Japan minister says women “underestimated”](#) [Mari Yamaguchi and Foster Klug, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2022]

*Japan’s minister for gender equality and children’s issues called the country’s record low births and plunging population a national crisis and blamed “indifference and ignorance” in the male-dominated Japanese parliament. In a wide-ranging interview with *The Associated Press*, Seiko Noda said the steadily dwindling number of children born in Japan was an existential threat, saying the nation won’t have enough troops, police or firefighters in coming decades if it continues. The number of newborns last year was a record low 810,000, down from 2.7 million just after the end of World War II, she said. “People say that children are a national treasure. They say that women are important for gender equality. But they are just talking,” Noda, 61, told the AP in a Cabinet office in downtown Tokyo’s government complex. “The politics of Japan will not move unless (the problems of children and women) are made visible.”*

[Historic pride jersey sparks player boycott in Australia](#) [Tiffanie Turnbull, *BBC News*, 26 July 2022]

*Seven players in Australia’s National Rugby League (NRL) will boycott a key match over their team’s decision to wear a pride jersey. On Thursday, the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles will become the first team in the competition ever to don a kit which promotes LGBT inclusivity in the sport. But players weren’t consulted and some object to the move on religious and cultural grounds. Coach Des Hasler said the club had made a “significant mistake” that had caused “confusion, discomfort and pain for many people, in particular those groups whose human rights we were in fact attempting to support”. In a press conference on Tuesday, he apologised to the LGBT community and to the players involved. Others accused the seven of hypocrisy, pointing out the team is sponsored by a brewery and betting agency.*

[Liberia marks its founding and independence amid challenges](#) [Jonathan Paye-Layleh, *The Associated Press*, 26 August 2022]

*Liberia is celebrating two major anniversaries this year—200 years ago freed slaves from the U.S. arrived here and 25 years later they declared the country to be independent. Amid the festivities for Independence Day on Tuesday, many Liberians say the West African country’s promise is unfulfilled*

*and too many of its people still live in poverty. Information minister Ledgerhood Rennie, however, said that major celebrations for these anniversaries are necessary to build national pride and honor the work of many to establish the nation. “This country has a rich history—Liberia stood as the pedestal for Black independence south of the Sahara—other nations of Black people were looking up to Liberia as a glowing nation on the continent of Africa,” The U.S. has had a lasting influence on the West African country. Liberia’s flag, constitution, form of government and many laws are modeled on those of the U.S. The capital is named in honor of America’s fifth president, James Monroe, who was in power when the freed slaves were repatriated.*

[The secret mission to save LGBT Afghans](#) [Lauren Moss, *BBC News*, 25 July 2022]

*Ali [an alias] has spent his life being cautious. If officials in his home country of Afghanistan ever found out he was bisexual, he could have been arrested and taken to court. But when the Taliban seized control of the country a year ago, he knew he had to leave. Under their interpretation of Sharia law, homosexuality is punishable by death. Almost overnight, people like Ali began being actively hunted. “They are not primitive like you think they are. They can hack phones, they can look at your messages, even a simple song could have been enough to get you in trouble,” he said. Shortly after the Taliban regained power, Ali and about 30 others were evacuated in a highly secret mission, organised by the UK government and charities, which BBC News can reveal details of for the first time.*

[Studies: France is a melting pot but discrimination lurks](#) [Jade Le Deley, *The Associated Press*, 16 July 2022]

*Two [landmark new studies](#) in France are bursting myths about immigration at a time when xenophobic far-right discourse has gained ground. They show that the children of immigrants are increasingly melting into French society but some with African and Asian backgrounds face persistent discrimination. Advocates who fight discrimination welcomed the new data published this month that gives a rare insight because France follows a universalist vision that doesn’t differentiate citizens by ethnic groups. The surveys published by the state statistics agency and the French state Institute for Demographic Studies, Ined, provide national data and statistics about the path of immigrants to France, their children and—for the first time—their grandchildren.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[A brief history of Esperanto, the 135-year-old language of peace hated by Hitler and Stalin alike](#) [Joshua Holzer, *The Conversation*, 25 July 2022]

*For years, L.L. Zamenhof—a Jewish man from Białystok who had trained as a doctor in Moscow—had dreamed of a way for diverse groups of people to communicate easily and peacefully. On July 26, 1887, he published what is now referred to as “Unua Libro,” or “First Book,” which introduced and described Esperanto, a language he had spent years designing in hopes of promoting peace among the people of the world. Esperanto’s vocabulary is mostly drawn from English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Polish, Russian and Yiddish, as these were the languages that Zamenhof was most familiar with. Now, 135 years later, Europe is again riven by violence and tension, most notably by the war between Russia and Ukraine, which is at least partially driven by a political debate about language differences. Unfortunately, conflicts over language are common around the world. The promise of peace through a shared language has not yet caught on widely, but there are perhaps as many as 2 million Esperanto speakers worldwide. And it’s still spreading, if slowly.*

## RACISM

[Aerospace engineer and Black WWII veteran falsely labeled a mutineer dies at 101](#) [Nathan Solis, *Los Angeles Times*, 24 July 2022]

*Bernard Benedict James sat his young children down in the family living room decades ago in their La Mirada home, where he'd written a set of math equations on a blackboard. The Harvard-educated aerospace engineer was working for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the time and wanted to give his 10 children an impromptu lecture on mathematics. "I was just learning about fractions in primary school, and my dad started to put up math about black holes," his son David, now a 59-year-old visual effects artist, said this week. But before the math lessons, and before James worked on two missions that sent astronauts into space, the World War II veteran spent two years in prison after hastily being convicted of mutiny and insubordination, a Black soldier who dared question a White superior officer. James and his family worked tirelessly over the ensuing decades to clear his name, but he did not live long enough to see a full correction to his service record. James died in his sleep July 18 at the La Mirada home where he once tutored his children. He was 101.*

[AP exposes the Tuskegee Syphilis Study: The 50th Anniversary](#) [Jean Heller, *The Associated Press*, 25 July 2022]

*On July 25, 1972, Jean Heller, a reporter on The Associated Press investigative team, then called the Special Assignment Team, broke news that rocked the nation. Based on documents leaked by Peter Buxtun, a whistleblower at the U.S. Public Health Service, the then 29-year-old journalist and the only woman on the team, reported that the federal government let hundreds of Black men in rural Alabama go untreated for syphilis for 40 years in order to study the impact of the disease on the human body. Most of the men were denied access to penicillin, even when it became widely available as a cure. A public outcry ensued, and nearly four months later, the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" came to an end. The investigation would have far-reaching implications: The men in the study filed a lawsuit that resulted in a \$10 million settlement, Congress passed laws governing how subjects in research studies were treated, and more than two decades later President Bill Clinton formally apologized for the study, calling it "shameful."*

[SEE ALSO] [How an AP reporter broke the Tuskegee syphilis story](#) [Allen G. Breed, *The Associated Press*, 25 July 2022]

[Mississippi police chief fired after audio of slurs surfaces](#) [Nick Valencia, *CNN*, 23 July 2022]

Editor's Note: This story contains language that some readers may find offensive.

*The White police chief of a predominantly Black town in Mississippi was terminated this week after audio surfaced, allegedly of him using racist and homophobic slurs, telling one of his officers he wouldn't care if the officer "killed a m\*therf\*\*ker in cold blood," and that he himself had killed 13 people. The officer, Robert Hooker, says he recorded the nearly 17-minute clip during a conversation he had in April with Lexington's now former police chief Sam Dobbins. Dobbins told the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, which first reported the story, he was unaware of a recording, denied using slurs, saying "I don't talk like that," and declined to comment on the alleged shootings. In the recording, Dobbins also used homophobic and profanity-laced remarks to describe gay people. Hooker, who is Black, is a 20-year veteran of law enforcement, who worked for Lexington's police department for four and a half months, and has since resigned, he said.*

[What the U.S. can learn from apartheid-era book bans in South Africa](#) [Helen Kapastein, *The Conversation*, 28 July 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*“Beloved.” “The Hate U Give.” “Maus.” “Burger’s Daughter.” Each of these books has been banned at some point in time, but one stands out. Instead of being banned in 21st-century America, Nadine Gordimer’s “Burger’s Daughter” was banned in 20th century South Africa during apartheid, that country’s period of official White supremacist rule. So why include it in this list? Despite the decades and distance between bans on this book and the others, the rise in attempts to ban and censor books in America in 2022 looks an awful lot like what South African censors did during apartheid. I make this observation as a scholar who specializes in studying literature to better understand the intersections of race, oppression and resistance.*

## RELIGION

[Hays board asked to remove satanism reference in dress code](#) [*The Associated Press*, 25 July 2022]

*Hays [Kansas] school officials are reconsidering the district’s dress code for elementary and middle school students after a parent asked that a ban on clothing that references satanism be removed. Mary Turner, who has three children in the district, told the Board of Education last week that her family has belonged to the Satanic Temple for years. She noted the district’s non-discrimination policy says no student will be discriminated against based on their religion but dress codes for the elementary and middle schools specifically ban any attire that references satanism. The high school dress code does not explicitly ban satanic references. The Satanic Temple has been a federally recognized church since 2019. Superintendent Ron Wilson said the basis for any dress code policy is not a moral statement but whether the clothing is disruptive.*

[Pope apologizes for “devastating” school abuses in Canada](#) [Nicole Winfield and Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 25 July 2022]

*Pope Francis issued a historic apology Monday for the Catholic Church’s cooperation with Canada’s “catastrophic” policy of Indigenous residential schools, saying the forced assimilation of Native peoples into Christian society destroyed their cultures, severed families and marginalized generations in ways still being felt today. “I am deeply sorry,” Francis said, to applause from school survivors and Indigenous community members gathered at a former residential school south of Edmonton, Alberta, the first event of Francis’ weeklong “penitential pilgrimage” to Canada. The morning after he arrived in the country, Francis traveled to the lands of four Cree nations to pray at a cemetery. Four chiefs then escorted the pontiff in his wheelchair to powwow ceremonial grounds where he delivered the long-sought apology and was given a feathered headdress.*

## VETERANS

[102-year-old WWII veteran from segregated mail unit honored](#) [Jay Reeves, *The Associated Press*, 26 July 2022]

*Millions of letters and packages sent to U.S. troops had accumulated in warehouses in Europe by the time Allied troops were pushing toward the heart of Hitler’s Germany near the end of World War II. This wasn’t junk mail—it was the main link between home and the front in a time long before video chats, texting or even routine long-distance phone calls. The job of clearing out the massive backlog in a military that was still segregated by race fell upon the largest all-Black, all-female group to serve in the war, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. On Tuesday, the oldest living member of the unit is*

*being honored. Romay Davis, 102, will be recognized for her service at an event at Montgomery City Hall. It follows President Joe Biden's decision in March to sign a bill authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal for the unit, nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[His late father was one of the first Black Marines who's due a Congressional Gold Medal](#) [Devarrick Turner, *The Knoxville News Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tenn.), 26 July 2022]

*Even as the United States reeled from the Japanese advance throughout the Pacific in 1942 and the military sought desperately to ramp up the American war machine, it was remarkable that James Cook Sr. was even allowed to enlist. It took the existential threat of world war for the military to open new roles to African American men, and Cook was in the first wave of Black Marines. Cook started his military journey at Camp Montford Point, a segregated Marine training camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and went on to serve in the Pacific Theater. Growing up, James "Jimmy" Cook Jr., who is now 75 and a Knoxville resident, knew nothing about his father's storied place in history as one of the Montford Point Marines, who served in all-Black units and distinguished themselves in war. Now, Jimmy Cook will receive on his father's behalf the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can award for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions.*

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