

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 20 AUGUST 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[General's Sex Assault Court-Martial Heralds Changes to Flawed System, Experts Say](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 August 2021]

The unprecedented court-martial of an Air Force general for sex offenses is spurring debate among legal experts about the wider significance of the case for the military. Maj. Gen. William Cooley, the former head of the Air Force Research Laboratory, [was referred for court-martial in April](#) based on accusations that he groped and kissed a civilian woman in 2018. Cooley will be tried on a charge of sexual assault. He denies the allegation. It is the first time in the service's 74-year history that it has prosecuted a general officer for such alleged misconduct. The proceedings could stem from politics, a societal evolution, progress in military justice or all three, analysts said. "It's a recognition that sexual assault is a serious crime, and that in and of itself is an evolution," said Rachel E. VanLandingham, a former Air Force judge advocate and professor at the Southwestern Law School. "Twenty years ago, those kinds of things were just dismissed out of hand."

[Multiracial population grew in almost every county in the U.S.. It doesn't mean racism is over](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 15 August 2021]

Bárbara Abadía-Rexach spent months appearing in webinars and radio shows talking to Puerto Ricans about why they should identify as Black or more than one race on the 2020 Census. "If you are constantly being described as non-White, why would you still choose White?" said Abadía-Rexach, a Black Latina and member of Colectivo Ilé, an anti-racism group of educators and organizers in Puerto Rico. The figures released by the Census Bureau Thursday show that the multiracial population in almost every county in the United States grew between 2010 and 2020. In Puerto Rico, half of the people said they were more than one race—a trend that demographers say happened across the U.S. as people shifted to multiracial identities. "Our analysis of the 2020 Census results show that the U.S. population is much more multiracial, and more racially and ethnically diverse than what we measured in the past," said Nicholas Jones, the director and senior adviser of race and ethnic research and outreach in the U.S. Census Bureau's population division.

[Poll Highlights Deep Divides Over Increased Attention on Racism, History of Slavery](#) [Jean Dimeo, *Route Fifty*, 16 August 2021]

About half of U.S. adults say that increased attention to the history of slavery and racism in America is "a good thing for society," according to a national [survey by the Pew Research Center](#). But that view is not held evenly across political parties and racial and ethnic groups, with support concentrated among minority and Democratic poll respondents. Among Black adults 75% say heightened public attention to these topics is either a "very good" or "somewhat good" thing for society, with 54% saying it is "very good." Asian American (64%) and Hispanic (59%) residents also view attention to slavery and racism in a positive way, though smaller shares say it is a very good thing. White adults have very different opinions, the survey shows. Just 46% say

greater attention to the history of slavery and racism is good for society, and 24% say it is very good.

CULTURE

[Airmen with shaving waivers will have to shave every week at Moody Air Force Base](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 16 August 2021]

Airmen at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia who have skin conditions that make shaving painful are in for a world of hurt, since a base leader is requiring airmen with a shaving waiver to show up to work clean-shaven on the first duty day of the week. “Be clean shaven every first duty day of the week at the beginning of their shift,” wrote an unnamed leader of the Moody-based 23rd Logistics Readiness squadron in a memo that was posted to the popular Facebook page Air Force amn/nco/snco on Thursday. An email sent with the memo said the policy was established by the commander of the 23rd LRS. In July 2020, that commander was Maj. Truett Kinard. “If the member does not shave on the first duty day of the week, their shaving waiver can be revoked by the Squadron Commander,” the memo read, much to the chagrin of observers. After all, airmen who have shaving waivers receive them from doctors because they have skin conditions that make shaving painful or damaging to their skin. Indeed, the Moody policy seems to defeat the purpose of a shaving waiver. This condition is more commonly found among Black airmen than White airmen, which adds a racial component to the issue of shaving in the Air Force.

[At The “Museum Of Black Joy,” It’s The Everyday Moments That Go On Display](#) [Neda Ulaby, *NPR*, 14 August 2021]

The first words greeting visitors to the digital Museum of Black Joy are simple and affirmative: “I see you. You are beautiful.” Before curator and creator Andrea Walls started exploring photography, she was a Pushcart Prize nominated poet. Clad in a red flat cap and a black V-neck shirt, the 57-year-old spoke to NPR from her combination garage and studio in Philadelphia, where she launched this “borderless exhibition” on the first day of a terrible year, January 2020. The news was filled with rancor, she remembers. Stories of strife and animosity dominated headlines and social media. Many of those stories were about violence directed against minorities and people of color. “It was really starting to impact my emotional self, and became so psychically overwhelming,” she says. “So I just saw the power of shifting the lens, making a conscious decision to pay attention to the joy.” Every day, she decided, she would post images of Black people reflective of her own experience: A serious girl looking for books in a library, a beaming senior citizen pumping her first in a Black Power salute, a couple chatting over milkshakes at an outside dinette.

[Background Check Agency Wants a Social Media Search Tool](#) [Aaron Boyd, *Nextgov*, 18 August 2021]

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency wants a tool to automatically cull social media and other public websites to create a searchable database of posts, actions and interactions that can be used in insider threat investigations. Along with conducting background

investigations for all of government, DCSA also manages the insider threat program for the Defense Department. When a DOD employee or contractor is flagged as a potential threat—to information or physical security—DITMAC analysts are charged with investigating, including using digital evidence contained within DOD networks. But nothing happens in a vacuum. And with so much information being posted to social media and other open forums, public digital sources can provide important context, [according to a request for information](#) posted to SAM.gov.

[Batman comic shifts focus to Robin’s private life, his sexuality](#) [Reuters, 18 August 2021]

Caped Crusaders Batman and Robin have been busy fighting crime together for years, but now the focus of the story has shifted to Robin’s private life as he explores his sexuality. In the latest edition of DC comics’ series “Batman: Urban Legends,” character Tim Drake, who is the third version of Robin, is seen accepting an offer of a date from a male friend. “There’s been a bunch of conversations about whether or not he’s been queer coded throughout time, and this just felt like the piece that was missing in order to understand Tim Drake’s story better,” writer Meghan Fitzmartin says. Fitzmartin says she is delighted DC was happy to expand his personal story and that there is no label on his sexuality. Fitzmartin says she didn’t realize what an impact this story line would have and hopes it raises awareness that “people exist who are questioning and queer and in various states of understanding their own sexuality.” “I want people who maybe don’t have access to this type of content to feel seen and feel heard. And I also want those who maybe have never ... knowingly met a queer person before to ... see that Tim Drake exists,” she says.

[Black Lives Are Celebrated In Bisa Butler’s Extraordinary, Technicolor Quilts](#) [Cheryl Corley, NPR, 15 August 2021]

At the top of the Grand Staircase at the Art Institute of Chicago hang massive, colorful banners announcing the art work of Bisa Butler. Butler’s specialty is fabric, specifically quilts. And the bold images of Black people she stitches together, using textiles like paint in an explosion of color, is quilting transformed. “I describe my artwork as a quilted photo album of a Black family. But it’s the Black diaspora family,” says Butler, standing in the exhibition hall and overlooking her work. She explains that some of the people depicted in her photo album are well known, others just ordinary folk often overlooked. No matter. All are celebrated. “These ordinary folk who may have been very poor are some people who should be highly regarded, the love in the care that they have for each other, the way they’re presenting themselves,” she says. “I see the dignity and the beauty. So I want other people to see that.” This is her first solo museum exhibit, which debuted in New York. Many of the works are based on archival photos from the 1930s and 40s.

[Brown named honorary Tuskegee Airman, receives symbolic red jacket](#) [Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Serrano, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 18 August 2021]

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. was named an honorary Tuskegee Airman and presented the highly symbolic red jacket during a ceremony at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Aug. 14. Induction into the elite group of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. as an honorary member is a direct reflection of an individual’s dedication to preserving the heritage and legacy of the “Red Tails” as well as introducing youth to aviation and science, technology, engineering

and math opportunities. “Gen. Brown, just like the Tuskegee Airmen, you have been a trailblazer,” said Jerry Burton, Tuskegee Airmen Inc. national president. “You, like them, have shown that hard work and staying on task results in success.” Formed during the onset of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen pioneered the way for desegregation in the military while simultaneously dominating the skies in Europe. Their accomplishments and famous Red Tails have been celebrated throughout history. Just as they did more than 80 years ago, despite public scrutiny, the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. continues to set the standard for courage, leadership and innovation of today’s Air Force. The heritage of the Tuskegee Airmen remains a symbol of hope against the challenges the nation faces today.

[“Coda” is a small movie that hits all the right notes](#) [Brian Lowry, CNN, 13 August 2021]

[REVIEW]

Adapted by writer-director Siân Heder from a 2014 French film, the title refers to an acronym for child of deaf adults—in this case, Ruby (newcomer Emilia Jones, an actress with a very bright future), a high-school senior who has served as the translator for her parents (Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur) and older brother (Daniel Durant), who is also deaf. The title, however, also offers a nod to Ruby’s passion, which is, strangely enough, singing, a talent recognized and pushed by her new choir instructor (Eugenio Derbez), who presses her to really give her artistry a chance. The problem, alas, is that her family’s fishing business in Gloucester, Massachusetts, has hit a rough patch, and Ruby’s help navigating the hearing world appears more vital than ever. Moreover, the family is largely mystified, and even a little hurt, by her interest in an avocation that they can’t possibly appreciate. “If I was blind, would you want to paint?” her mother asks.

[TRAILER]

[Deb Haaland asks America to teach the history it doesn’t want to repeat](#) [Jennifer Gerson, *The 19th*, 16 August 2021]

*Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland is used to discussing the role she plays as “the first.” As the very first Native American to hold the position as Cabinet secretary within the United States government, she inherently understands “the blessing and the burden,” as she told PBS NewsHour’s Lisa Desjardins for *The 19th Represents Summit*. Right now, that strength of conviction is especially critical in light of the conversation currently gripping the United States about what parts of American history should and should not be taught in schools. As Desjardins said to Haaland, there are currently many White Americans who believe that teaching America’s racist past is somehow an effort to shame America—a belief that most recently has spurred lawmakers, educators and people in power within various government agencies to ban what’s known as critical race theory. “It’s important we all embrace our history so we can change our future,” Haaland said, noting that doing so has “nothing [to do with] shaming,” but rather “coming into the knowledge we all need.” Accounting for, and teaching, the full history of America is the path towards a more unified country, and not a more divided one, Haaland said.*

[REPRINT]

[Despite calls to hear from students and staff, Newberg school board approves ban on Pride and Black Lives Matter flags](#) [Elizabeth Miller, *Oregon Public Broadcasting (Portland, Ore.)*, 11 August 2021]

When students in Newberg Public Schools show up for the first day of school next month, they may not see Pride flags, or flags reading “Black Lives Matter.” The school board voted Tuesday evening, four to three, to enact a ban on those flags, and any broadly “political” signs, clothing and other items, with the board’s three-member policy committee set to outline what constitutes “political.” This action goes against recent state efforts to highlight support for students, including the Oregon Department of Education’s Black Lives Matter October 2020 resolution and recent efforts to help LGBTQ+ students. Supporters of the flags said they made students feel seen, help students being bullied, while supporters of the board’s vote said the signs were “divisive,” and that signs don’t make people feel safe. Discussion and votes on two other related topics, drafting “replacement language” on the district’s new anti-racism policy and rescinding the district’s “Every Student Belongs” policy, was pushed to the district’s next board meeting - likely a special meeting later this month. If the board votes to roll back “Every Student Belongs,” the district would be in violation of state standards.

[Feel Like You’re Addicted To Your Phone? You’re Not Alone](#) [Tori Dominguez, NPR, 13 August 2021]

As we head into the weekend, many of us will get a weekly notification on our phones showing how many hours a day we spend on our devices. Have you ever gotten one of these reports and were shocked at how much time you spend on your phone? If so, it’s not just you—the average American adult spends more than four hours a day on their phone. But at what point does it become an addiction? NPR’s The Indicator from Planet Money wanted to know, so they asked Lena Song, a behavioral economist. She set out to find the answer in a [study](#) with 2,000 volunteers.

[Historic American church set to integrate its slavery ties](#) [Mark Pratt, The Associated Press, 17 August 2021]

The great contradiction of Boston’s Old North Church is that a site pivotal to the freedom of the nation is the same place where slave owners and traders once worshiped. Now, with a \$75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities announced Tuesday, the foundation responsible for the preservation of the church campus and the visitor experience plans to overhaul its educational programming to better reconcile and integrate those ties to slavery. The grant is one of \$28.4 million in grants for about 240 projects nationwide. “We’ll be able to address what I call the paradox of the Old North Church,” said Nikki Stewart, executive director of the Old North Foundation, which is distinct from the active Episcopal congregation that still uses the site for religious services. “People see us as a symbol of liberty and independence, but the reality is that the church benefitted from the enslavement of Africans.”

[Inside The Effort To Preserve And Map Black History In Fauquier County, Virginia](#) [Margaret Barthel, NPR, 18 August 2021]

Karen Hughes has a map of Fauquier County’s Black history in her head. As she drives around the mostly rural Virginia county where she grew up, she offers a tour of that history, the result of diligent research, lived experience, and curiosity. She points to the sites of one-room segregated schoolhouses, creeks where Black churchgoers were baptized, corner stores where she ate ice cream, roads where Black family homes clustered together, the plantations where White people

kept Black people in human bondage, and the places she avoided when driving home from work out of fear of the Ku Klux Klan. She's captivated by the stories of the landscape where her family has lived for at least eight generations. "From the beginning [of] my driving around, I would envision people running away, escaping. Any wooded areas and anything—I just was caught up in history," she says. "As I would learn different things, I'd be thinking about, OK, what happened here? Who lived here?" Hughes is the founding director of the [Fauquier County Afro-American Historical Association](#). She started researching local history in the late 1980s, desperate to help her daughter see her Black ancestors in the history she was learning at school.

[LGBTQ groups across the U.S. consider a new flag meant to be more inclusive of the transgender community and people of color](#) Keely Aouga and Taylor Romine, CNN, 16 August 2021]

Fifty-five years ago this month, a group of transgender women in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco fought back against police as they arrested patrons at Compton's Cafeteria, a go-to hangout for temporarily avoiding the harshest harassment, discrimination and physical violence they faced on the streets. While the ultimate reason for their arrests is unknown, police frequently arrested those who dressed in clothing "opposite" to their sex, which was a crime at the time. In late June, the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District (CQCD) in San Francisco voted to recommend to the Castro Merchants, the business association that has jurisdiction over the flagpoles, that it replace the original Pride flag in Harvey Milk Plaza with a new version of the flag that's more inclusive of Black, brown, and transgender members of the LGBTQ community. The CQCD Advisory Board voted 7 to 2 to recommend the change of the commonly recognized rainbow flag, also known as the Gilbert Baker design with the Progress Pride Flag. This new version includes black, brown, light blue, white and pink stripes, in addition to the original colors of the Pride flag, to recognize and include Black, brown and transgender members of the LGBTQ community.

[New "Jeopardy!": host Mike Richards apologizes after past sexist comments surface](#) [Samantha Kubota and Diana Dasrath, NBC News, 18 August 2021]

Newly named "Jeopardy!" host Mike Richards apologized Wednesday evening for sexist comments he made years ago on a podcast. Richards, who hosted "The Randumb Show" podcast from 2013 to 2014, said in a statement that the podcast was "intended to be a series of irreverent conversations between longtime friends who had a history of joking around." "Even with the passage of time, it's more than clear that my attempts to be funny and provocative were not acceptable, and I have removed the episodes," he said. "My responsibilities today as a father, husband, and a public personality who speaks to many people through my role on television means I have substantial and serious obligations as a role model, and I intend to live up to them." The online media outlet The Ringer reviewed all 41 episodes of "The Randumb Show"—which were reported to be laden with sexist comments about women's bodies and clothing—before the recordings were pulled offline Tuesday.

[UPDATE] [Mike Richards steps down as new "Jeopardy!" host](#) [Daniel Arkin, NBC News, 20 August 2021]

[The story of Nearest Green, America's first known Black master distiller](#) [Stefanie Benjamin, *The Conversation*, 17 August 2021]

When you hear the name Jack Daniel, whiskey probably comes to mind. But what about the name Nathan “Uncle Nearest” Green? In 2016, The [New York Times published a story](#) about the distiller’s “hidden ingredient”—“help from a slave.” In the article, the brand officially acknowledged that an enslaved man, Nearest Green, taught Jack Daniel how to make whiskey. Since then, scholars, researchers and journalists have descended upon Lynchburg, Tennessee, hoping to learn more about a man who, until then, had appeared as a mere appendage in the story of the country’s most popular whiskey brand. As a [scholar of tourism](#) whose research involves highlighting marginalized populations and counter-narratives, I followed these developments with keen interest. In the fall of 2020, my critical sustainable tourism students created a short documentary, “Uncovering Nearest.” I wanted my students to learn more about Green, since so many voices and faces of enslaved Africans and Black Americans have been [silenced or erased from American history textbooks](#) and heritage tourism sites.

[This forgotten language is seeing a revival thanks to TikTok](#) [Bianca Brutus, NBC News, 17 August 2021]

Cia, 20, was scrolling through TikTok one night when she came across a video about a forgotten secret tongue. She learned this language was called Tut. It was a clandestine form of communication, rooted in English and created by Black people during the 18th century. Cia said she did not know about the existence of Tut prior to the video. In fact, she never knew African Americans had their own form of communication during slavery. “I am learning Tut now,” said Cia, who asked to only use her first name to avoid jeopardizing future career prospects. “I personally found it easy to learn, but then later found out there were three different dialects—two from the South and one western.” The video Cia found isn’t the only one, nor is she alone as a student of this language. Videos teaching how to speak and write in Tut, and the history behind the language have flooded TikTok in recent months, but Tut’s reach is spreading throughout social media.

DISCRIMINATION

[Atlanta woman files complaint alleging daughter’s school segregated students](#) [Natalie Prieb, The Hill, 12 August 2021]

A woman in Atlanta filed a federal complaint against her daughter’s school, alleging civil rights violations because it segregated Black students from their peers, [according to NBC](#). Kila Posey, who is Black, said she learned that Principal Sharyn Briscoe of Mary Lin Elementary School was separating the school’s 12 Black second graders from their classmates last year. Posey discovered the practice after discussing with Briscoe whether to put her daughter in the class of a certain teacher, to which Briscoe told her “that’s not a Black class,” NBC reported. Posey said she demanded that Briscoe put her daughter in a class with White students, and the principal responded that her child would be isolated, WSB reported. Sharese Shields, Posey’s attorney, said her client filed the complaint last month with the Education Department’s Office of Civil Rights and is alleging that Briscoe and the elementary school violated Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, NBC noted. The law prohibits discrimination, exclusion and benefits due to race, color or nationality in programs that receive government funding.

[Disability rights group sues Texas governor over ban on school mask mandates](#) [Olafimihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 18 August 2021]

A disability rights group has sued Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) over his ban on mask mandates in state schools, The Dallas Morning News reported. Advocacy group Disability Rights Texas (DRT) in a lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that Abbott’s executive order on mask mandates violates the federal discrimination law, which prohibits the exclusion of students with disabilities in public schools. DRT is representing students under the age of 12 who have “disabilities or underlying conditions” that can lead to more serious cases of COVID-19, according to the Morning News. Stephanie Paresky, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, told the Morning News that “it’s a risk” to send her 8-year-old son, who has multiple disabilities, to school under these conditions, adding that she doesn’t want him to miss out. “It’s definitely a risk sending him to school, but we want to give him an education that everyone else is receiving,” Paresky said. “We don’t want him to have lesser just because he’s at-risk.”

[Nearly half of trans people have been mistreated by medical providers, report finds](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 19 August 2021]

For three years, Jesse Brace avoided getting care for their seizures after they experienced discrimination at an emergency room near their home in Lawrence, Kansas, in 2017. They said they told the staff that they are transgender and nonbinary, that their name is different from their legal name and that they use gender-neutral pronouns. “They refused to even so much as acknowledge this information, and not only did they not use [my pronouns], but they also sent me home without treating me for what I went in for,” said Brace, 25. Brace’s experience in the ER—and the impact that health care discrimination had on their life—is something many trans people face and fear when they try to get care, [according to a report released Wednesday](#) by the Center for American Progress, or CAP, a liberal think tank. Discrimination, among other factors, prevents trans people from seeking necessary care, which leads to health disparities that can affect many other areas of their lives, the report found.

[New Illinois law bans “hairstyle discrimination” in schools](#) [The Associated Press, 14 August 2021]

Illinois schools will be prohibited from issuing rules regarding hairstyles historically associated with race and ethnicity, such as braids and twists, under a new law signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker. The measure approved by the Legislature this spring and signed by Pritzker on Friday aims to end discrimination based on students’ hairstyles. It is known as the Jett Hawkins Law after Gus “Jett” Hawkins, a Black student who at age 4 was told to take out his braids because the hairstyle violated the dress code at his Chicago school. His mother, Ida Nelson, began an awareness campaign after the incident, saying stigmatizing children’s hair can negatively affect their educational development. She called Friday’s bill signing “monumental.” “For us, this is bigger than just hair. Our hair is an extension of who we are as a race and is deeply connected to our cultural identity,” Nelson said. “This is one huge step towards improving the mental health outcomes for our children, as it ensures that they will be in healthier learning environments.”

[Religious health care providers win injunction on ACA rules](#) [Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 13 August 2021]

A federal judge has issued a permanent injunction on behalf of religious health care providers who feared the Biden administration would interpret the Affordable Care Act as requiring them to perform abortions or gender-transition treatment against their conscience. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had argued that it doesn't require religious providers to offer such procedures and has never brought or threatened any enforcement activity against a religious entity in such a case. But U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor interpreted HHS regulations as forcing the plaintiffs—a Catholic hospital system in the Midwest and a Christian medical association—to choose between their beliefs and their livelihood, resulting in “irreparable injury.” The decision underscores a continued dispute between conservative religious health care providers and HHS over an issue that has generated a patchwork of rulings that will likely have to be sorted out by appellate courts.

[Transgender victory over Hobby Lobby could have national impact](#) [Dan Avery, *NBC News*, 18 August 2021]

An appellate court deciding Hobby Lobby violated Illinois anti-discrimination law by denying a transgender employee access to the women's restroom could have nationwide implications, experts say. Meggan Sommerville, a trans woman who has worked at a Hobby Lobby location in Aurora for more than 20 years, has been denied access to the store's women's room since transitioning at work in 2010. As a result, she has had anxiety and recurring nightmares and has been forced to limit her fluid intake, according to filings. On Friday, the Illinois 2nd District Appellate Court upheld a lower court decision that determined the crafts chain violated the Illinois Human Rights Act both as an employer and as a place of public accommodation. “Sommerville is female, just like the women who are permitted to use the women's bathroom,” the three-judge panel said in its decision. “The only reason that Sommerville is barred from using the women's bathroom is that she is a transgender woman.” The ruling is one of first impression, meaning it presents a legal issue that has never been decided in the court's jurisdiction.

DIVERSITY

[AFL-CIO elects first woman as president](#) [Karl Evers-Hillstrom, *The Hill*, 20 August 2021]

The AFL-CIO on Friday elected longtime labor advocate Liz Shuler as its new president. Shuler, who served as the organization's secretary-treasurer since 2009, is the first woman to lead the AFL-CIO in the organization's history. The AFL-CIO also elected United Steelworkers International Vice President Fred Redmond to succeed Shuler as secretary-treasurer. Redmond is the first African American to hold the organization's second-highest-ranking position. Rep. Andy Levin (D-Mich.), a fierce labor advocate, said in a statement Friday that Shuler “never stopped fighting for the working class of this country and the equality of all working people.”

[Centralized hiring process to drive diversity, speed in recruitment efforts](#) [Marisa Alia-Novobilski, *Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs*, 12 August 2021]

The Air Force Materiel Command has refined an existing centralized selection and hiring process to ensure it hires the right people to fill critical, entry-level developmental positions across the enterprise, faster and more efficiently. “We should always seek the most qualified person when hiring,” said Bill Snodgrass, AFMC director of manpower, personnel and services. “However,

unconscious biases may exclude highly qualified people from competing. Centralized hiring for entry-level positions is one way AFMC plans to reduce unconscious bias and ensure our hiring process promotes diversity. It will also allow us to hire into critical positions faster.” The Centralized Selection and Hiring Process will leverage Centralized Selection Cells within each AFMC center to manage recruitment efforts for developmental positions in which organizations have the authority to appoint qualified candidates directly into critical, hard-to-fill positions. Developmental positions are designed to train or develop employees in preparation for further career advancement.

[Fostering inclusion to build a stronger force](#) [Heather Heiney, 341st Missile Wing Public Affairs, 19 August 2021]

Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton, Air Force Global Strike Command deputy commander, was recently confirmed by the Senate for a fourth star and will soon be the first Black man to lead AFGSC. “It’s Airmen who drive our ability to adapt, it’s Airmen whose know-how and determination allow us to conduct warfighting, and as we push towards a more lethal and ready force, it is a diverse and inclusive force of Airmen that will help drive that end state,” he said. Maj. Rashida Brown, 341st Medical Group group-practice manager, has been one of the Airmen working toward that vision. She recently completed the Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program with Cornell University where she learned more about improving engagement, fostering an inclusive environment and diversity and inclusion at work. Part of Brown’s training focused on distinguishing between diversity and inclusion. She explained that diversity means significant representation of people who are different from an organization’s historical norms, while inclusion is ensuring the environment is supportive of those differences and employees are engaged and feel they have a say in influencing the organization. “Diversity is our greatest strength, but we must shift the culture to be more inclusive of the differences that make us diverse in the first place,” she said.

EXTREMISM

[Hundreds of cases are being reviewed after police officers involved were relieved of duty over racist and anti-Semitic messages](#) [Alexandra Meeks, CNN, 20 August 2021]

Two former officers with the Torrance Police Department were charged Thursday with vandalism for allegedly spray-painting an impounded vehicle with a swastika, authorities said. In addition, Torrance Police Chief Jeremiah Hart said that he has relieved 13 other officers of their duty because of an ongoing investigation into messages that he characterized as “racism and hatred.” Former officers Christopher Tomsic, 29, and Cody Weldin, 28, were charged with one felony count each of vandalism and conspiracy to commit vandalism, according to a statement from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Both men pleaded not guilty to the charges, it said. At a joint news conference with the police chief, District Attorney George Gascón said the other Torrance officers who were suspended were “exchanging racist, discriminatory, homophobic and anti-Semitic messages.” “We have seen an increase in hate crimes, not only in our own home town but around the country. And it’s unacceptable,” Gascón said. “But it becomes doubly unacceptable when we have the people that are sworn to protect all of us who engage in this behavior.”

[Lawsuit Alleges Wisconsin Authorities' Conspiracy With Racists Led to Kyle Rittenhouse Killings](#) [Reuters, 17 August 2021]

The family of a man fatally shot by U.S. teenager Kyle Rittenhouse during racial justice protests in Wisconsin last August filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against the city of Kenosha and local law enforcement, citing their alleged relationship with White militia members. The federal lawsuit was filed by the family of Anthony Huber, one of two people shot dead by Rittenhouse, then 17, with a semi-automatic rifle during the street protest on Aug. 25, 2020. Huber, 26, was killed when he tried to disarm Rittenhouse with a skateboard. The lawsuit claims that they conspired with White militia members, signaling their tacit approval to engage in violent, dangerous behavior. "Defendants' open support of and coordination with the armed individuals in the minutes and hours before the shootings deprived Anthony Huber and the other protestors of the basic protections typically provided by police. It was a license for the armed individuals to wreak havoc and inflict injury," the lawsuit says. "If Kyle Rittenhouse were Black, Defendants would have acted much differently," the lawsuit argues.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Man surrenders after claiming to have bomb near U.S. Capitol](#) [Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Colleen Long and Michael Biesecker, *The Associated Press*, 20 August 2021]

A North Carolina man who claimed to have a bomb in a pickup truck near the U.S. Capitol surrendered to law enforcement after an hours-long standoff Thursday that prompted a massive police response and the evacuations of government buildings in the area. Authorities were investigating what led the suspect, identified as 49-year-old Floyd Ray Roseberry, to drive onto the sidewalk outside the Library of Congress, make bomb threats to officers and profess a litany of antigovernment grievances as part of a bizarre episode that he live-streamed for a Facebook audience. Police later searched the vehicle and said they did not find a bomb but did collect possible bomb-making materials. As police continued negotiations, video surfaced of Roseberry on Facebook Live inside the truck, which was stuffed with coins and boxes. He threatened explosions, expressed hostility toward President Joe Biden, profanely warned of a "revolution" and laid bare a series of grievances related to U.S. positions on Afghanistan, health care and the military. Videos posted to Facebook before the page was taken down appear to show Roseberry at a Nov. 14 Washington rally attended by thousands of Trump supporters to protest what they claimed was a stolen election.

[Online sleuths help FBI arrest Michigan bodybuilder caught on video assaulting officer at Jan. 6 riot](#) [Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, 17 August 2021]

The FBI has arrested a Michigan bodybuilder and right-wing conspiracy theorist for his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the bureau told Metro Times on Tuesday. Logan Barnhart is in custody and faces multiple federal charges after he was seen on video grabbing a D.C. Metropolitan police officer and dragging him down the steps of the Capitol, where the officer was beaten by another insurrectionist with an American flag pole. The FBI had been trying to identify Barnhart for months and referred to him as 128-AFO. He was wanted for assaulting federal officers. Sedition Hunters, online sleuths who team up to help identify insurrectionists, helped track down Barnhart using a facial recognition website. They found Barnhart on Instagram, bodybuilding websites, and even on the covers of several romance

novels. After the riot, Barnhart didn't go into hiding. He often posted videos and photos on Instagram, mocking the FBI and Black Lives Matter and suggesting the insurrection was part of a deep state conspiracy theory. Barnhart is the 12th Michigan resident to be arrested for participating in the riots.

[Plymouth shooter made misogynist remarks echoing the “incel” ideology](#) [Lauren Kent and Hannah Ritchie, CNN, 15 August 2021]

Jake Davison, the 22-year-old man who shot dead five people in the English city of Plymouth on Thursday, made repeated misogynist remarks on social media that echoed the ideology of “incel,” a movement of men who often claim they feel unfairly denied sex by women or girls. Davison went on hateful rants about women on a YouTube channel that has been taken down. In video clips seen by CNN, he makes numerous hateful remarks, calling women “very simple-minded” and shallow, saying that most women are only motivated by money. The videos paint a picture of a young man who had been frustrated with his lack of success with women sexually since he was a teenager. While police have not made any official link between the shootings and Davison’s videos, the gunman’s misogynist comments echo those often heard by men and boys in the incel—“involuntary celibate”—movement. Incels are almost always men or boys who espouse misogynist views and often say they want to have sex but feel that women or girls are denying them of it.

[Plymouth shooting: Inside the dark world of “incels”](#) [Jonathan Griffin, BBC News, 14 August 2021]

Jake Davison, the man suspected of killing five people in Plymouth had been active on social media platforms discussing the “incel” movement—young men describing themselves as “involuntarily celibate”. At least two previous mass killings, both in the United States have drawn attention to the online activities of these groups. So what do we know about those who participate in these forums? “Obviously I don’t have much hope of attracting a woman in the first place.” Jack Peterson is one of the thousands of young men who visit forums on Reddit and other incel websites. “I’ve had a couple of negative experiences in relationships and so that has made me feel, like you know... it’s hard to move on from my past and start a new relationship,” he says. “I’ve had women who have done pretty bad things to me.” These overall themes of failure and frustration—along with anger and hate—are common on incel forums. I spoke to several young men who call themselves incel. They’re in their teens or early 20s and many have experienced rejection or negative encounters with women.

[Proud Boys supporter pleads guilty to threatening Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock: “Dead men can’t pass laws”](#) [Julian Mark, *The Washington Post*, 17 August 2021]

Hours before the special Senate runoff in Georgia was called for the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, a Democrat, in the early hours on Jan. 6, Eduard Florea went on the conservative social media platform Parler and wrote: “Warnock is going to have a hard time casting votes for communist policies when he’s swinging with the . . . fish.” In a later post, he wrote in reference to Warnock: “Dead men can’t pass [expletive] laws.” Now, Florea is facing up to 15 years in prison for making those threats, prosecutors announced Monday. The 41-year-old from Queens pleaded guilty to one count of transmitting threats to injure and one count of possessing ammunition after

having been convicted of a felony. “With today’s guilty plea, Florea admits to threatening the life of a successful candidate for the U.S. Senate and to urging others to take up arms to unleash violence at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 to thwart the results of the Presidential election,” Jacquelyn M. Kasulis, acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said in a news release on Monday. Agents discovered more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, plus hatchets, swords and 75 military-style combat knives. The ammunition was illegal for Florea to have because he had previously been convicted of illegally possessing an AR-15 rifle and a semiautomatic shotgun in 2014, according to the New York Times.

[Real estate agent who asked Trump for a pardon pleads guilty in Capitol riot](#) [Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN, 19 August 2021]

Jenna Ryan, 51, pleaded guilty to illegally demonstrating inside the Capitol building on January 6. She agreed to pay \$500 in restitution for damage done to the Capitol during the riot. Prosecutors have cut the same deal for other low-level defendants who weren’t violent or destructive inside the building. In March, Ryan tweeted that she is “definitely not going to jail. Sorry I have blonde hair White skin a great job a great future and I’m not going to jail... I did nothing wrong.” According to court documents, Ryan and two friends took a private jet to Washington, DC, to attend the Stop the Steal rally. After the rally, Ryan went back to her hotel room. But when she saw Vice President Mike Pence presiding over the certification of the Electoral College vote on TV, the group decided to go to the Capitol. In the days after the attack, Ryan stayed defiant. She tweeted, “We just stormed the Capital. It was one of the best days of my life,” prosecutors say, and told a Dallas TV station that she deserved a pardon from Trump. But a few weeks later, Ryan told the Washington Post that she “bought into the lie” and “I regret everything.”

[Researchers identify key QAnon influencer “GhostEzra”](#) [Chris Mills Rodrigo, The Hill, 20 August 2021]

Researchers at the intelligence firm Logically have identified a key member of the QAnon community who has used his significant platform to spread antisemitic conspiracies. In a [new report](#) released Friday, the researchers identified the person behind “GhostEzra” as Robert Smart of Boca Raton, Fla. GhostEzra has recently emerged as one of the most influential figures in far-right online spaces, amassing well over 300,000 Telegram channel subscribers since the beginning of the year. The channel frequently spars with other QAnon influencers, something that has distinguished it from the other voices trying to fill the void left when the shadowy figure Q stopped posting on image boards last fall. GhostEzra has used his platform to spread antisemitic conspiracy theories that Jewish people control the media and banking as well as outright neo-Nazi propaganda. The account also shares unsubstantiated theories about President Biden being dead, the 2020 election and coronavirus.

[U.S. Warns 9/11 Anniversary Could Inspire Extremist Attacks](#) [The Associated Press, 13 August 2021]

The upcoming 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks as well as approaching religious holidays could inspire extremist attacks, the Department of Homeland Security said in a terrorism alert issued Friday. DHS did not cite any specific threats in the National Terrorism Advisory System

Bulletin. But it noted that the U.S. is in a “heightened threat environment,” fueled by factors that include violent extremists motivated by racial and ethnic hatred and resentment of restrictions imposed during the pandemic. DHS issues the warnings to alert the public as well as state and local authorities. They reflect intelligence gathered from other law enforcement agencies. The bulletin is an extension of a similar one issued in May that expired on the day the new one was issued. DHS says domestic extremists remain a national threat priority for U.S. law enforcement and will for at least the remainder of the year.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Imagination Exercise Reveals COVID-19 Risk of Local Activities](#) [Karl Bates, *Futurity*, 10 August 2021]

Study participants from all over the country who had dismissed their risks of COVID-19 and those who had perhaps over-responded to the danger both rethought their personal decisions after going through the imagination exercise. Three weeks later, their attitude adjustments still held. The experimental intervention is now being integrated into a [publicly accessible data dashboard](#) through a collaboration between the Duke University research team and scientists at Georgia Institute of Technology. The project has funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to see if it could help more people properly calibrate their risks and behaviors during the pandemic. The studies, which appear this week in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) and in [Nature Aging](#), drew on established science about memory and decision-making. The researchers sought to design an intervention that would help people more accurately gauge the risks they face from the COVID virus while engaging in their typical local activities, such as going to the gym or getting their hair cut.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

INTERNATIONAL

[BHP sacked 48 over sexual harassment and assaults at Australian mines](#) [Frances Mao, *BBC News*, 20 August 2021]

Mining giant BHP says it has fired at least 48 workers for sexual assaults and harassment at its Western Australia mining camps since 2019. Australia’s richest mining companies are facing intense scrutiny over the treatment of women at their isolated sites. Recent court cases have prompted a state government inquiry into sexual harassment at mining locations. Other miners, including Rio Tinto and Fortescue Metals, also reported allegations but did not disclose if they had sacked workers. Thousands of workers are flown in each season and housed in village camp-style accommodation. Critics say a hard-drinking, male-dominated culture has been allowed to flourish for years. BHP—Australia’s largest miner—told the inquiry that it recognised sexual harassment in its camps was a problem. Between 2019-2021, it received 18 reports of sexual assault and 73 of sexual harassment among its 13,500-strong workforce. All had been reported to police. Internal investigations had “substantiated” allegations of two rapes, one attempted rape, and three cases of forced kissing or groping, the miner said. Female workers had endured unwanted touching and advances, and inappropriate texts and pictures from colleagues, the company added.

[Homophobic chanting mars Liverpool's win against Norwich City in Premier League](#) [John Sinnott, CNN, 15 August 2021]

Hundreds of thousands of fans attended English Premier League matches this weekend for the first time in nearly 18 months, though one game was marred by homophobic chanting and another by “isolated incidents of disorder” ahead of kick off. Norwich City midfielder Billy Gilmour, who was playing for the newly promoted club on loan from Chelsea, was allegedly targeted by homophobic chanting by some Liverpool fans during the visiting team’s 3-0 win at Carrow Road on Saturday. “Great result today marred by homophobic chanting by some of our fans targeting Chelsea loanee Billy Gilmour,” tweeted Kop Outs, Liverpool’s LGBT+ Fans Group. “If you can’t support without resorting to bigoted nonsense, you don’t understand YNWA,” concluded the tweet, a reference to the club’s “You’ll Never Walk Alone” anthem. Liverpool FC’s Twitter account said the chant was “offensive and inappropriate—a message we have repeatedly communicated alongside Kop Outs.” “We urge supporters to remember the inclusive values of the club and to refrain from using it in the future.”

[Nubya Garcia: The British sax star who is jazzing up the BBC Proms](#) [Paul Glynn, BBC News, 17 August 2021]

*For UK jazz saxophonist Nubya Garcia, the summer of 2021 will forever be one to remember. Last month, the Camden-born composer’s debut album *Source*, which celebrates rich British-Caribbean rhythms, made the Mercury Prize shortlist. And on Wednesday, she will be given the keys to the Royal Albert Hall to perform tracks from the LP—which is sprinkled in reggae, dub, calypso, soca and cumbia—at her own solo concert for [the BBC Proms](#). Black and ethnic minority musicians have been often underrepresented by the Proms, it has been noted in recent times. But now Garcia, Moses Sumney and British-Iranian composer Shiva Feshareki all appear on its line-up in the same week as Mozart’s *Requiem* and Sir Simon Rattle conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. Garcia, whose family’s roots are in Guyana and Trinidad, speaks to us about her musical upbringing, her critically-acclaimed album and how she’s feeling about the big night.*

[Thousands march in Bucharest LGBTQ pride parade](#) [Reuters, 15 August 2021]

Thousands of people joined an LGBTQ pride march in Bucharest on Saturday for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, ahead of planned legislation that would chip away at minority rights. Socially conservative Romania, which decriminalised homosexuality in 2001, still bars marriage and civil partnerships for same-sex couples. Lawmakers from two different parties—the junior ruling coalition ethnic Hungarian party UDMR and the opposition ultra-nationalist Alliance for Uniting Romanians (AUR)—said they plan to introduce legislation to ban so-called gay propaganda in schools when parliament reconvenes in September. An estimated 8,000 people joined the march on Saturday, dancing and waving rainbow flags. Riot police fined the organisers for exceeding the number of participants allowed at civic protests. The organisers will challenge the fine.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Asians in the U.S. are the fastest growing racial group. What's behind the rise.](#) [Kimmy Yam and Sakshi Venkatraman, *NBC News*, 13 August 2021]

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities continue to grow steadily, the 2020 census data showed. The data, released Thursday, revealed almost 20 million people identified as “Asian,” and another 4 million checked boxes as “Asian” combined with another race group, for a total of 7.2 percent of the population. Another 0.5 percent of the population identifies as “Native Hawaiian” and “Other Pacific Islander” alone or in combination with another race group. The results make the Asian population the fastest growing racial group in the United States at 35.5 percent. Aggressive outreach in addition to the shifting demographics helped impact the group’s participation in the census, as well as overall population growth, Karthick Ramakrishnan, founder of AAPI Data, a policy and research nonprofit group, told NBC Asian America. The communities confront multiple barriers to census participation including distrust in the census, as well as a lack of outreach, experts say.

[Colorado governor rescinds 1864 order encouraging the massacre of Native Americans](#) [Leah Asmelash, *CNN*, 19 August 2021]

More than 150 years ago, leaders in Colorado issued proclamations urging citizens to kill Native Americans in the area. That order was never officially rescinded—until now. On Tuesday, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed an executive order rescinding the proclamation, ordered by Territorial Gov. John Evans in 1864. “The 1864 Proclamations were never lawful because they violated established treaty rights and federal Indian law. Further, when Colorado became a state, they never became law, as they were superseded by the Colorado Constitution, United States Constitution, and Colorado criminal code,” the executive order reads. Because the proclamations were never officially rescinded, “they therefore remain as a symbol of a gross abuse of executive power during that grave period in our State’s history,” the executive order signed this week reads. Tribal leaders and members from the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho, and the Northern Arapaho tribes also attended the ceremony, according to CNN affiliate KRDO.

[Department of Defense Mental Health Resources for Service Members and Their Families](#) [DOD News Release, 18 August 2021]

Even as U.S. service members support ongoing evacuation operations in Afghanistan, recent events also impact our service members, civilian employees, and their families. Department of Defense personnel have served in Afghanistan and in support of Afghanistan throughout the past 20 years, and recent events have brought up memories and feelings that can be stressful, painful, and difficult. The Department of Defense offers a variety of mental health support resources to service members, employees, veterans, and their families. Our personnel have served professionally and completed missions as required and as necessary to protect our freedoms and safeguard our Allies and partners. We are forever grateful to those who serve and their families. See article for all available resource links.

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

[Mental health resources are available for veterans unsettled by Afghanistan news](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 16 August 2021]

[U.S. to erase student debt for those with severe disabilities](#) [Collin Binkley, *The Associated Press*, 19 August 2021]

The Biden administration announced Thursday it will automatically erase student loan debt for more than 300,000 Americans with severe disabilities that leave them unable to earn significant incomes. The move will wipe out more than \$5.8 billion in debt, according to the Education Department, and it marks the start of a broader overhaul of a program that has been criticized for having overly burdensome rules. “We’ve heard loud and clear from borrowers with disabilities and advocates about the need for this change and we are excited to follow through on it,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement. The federal government offers student debt relief for people who are “totally and permanently disabled” and have limited incomes. But the current rules require them to submit documentation of their disability and undergo a three-year monitoring period to prove they’re earning little pay. Advocates celebrated the change as a victory. Aaron Ament, president of the National Student Legal Defense Network, called it a “life-changing” step.

RACISM

[The disturbing history of how conservatorships were used to exploit, swindle Native Americans](#) [Andrea Seielstad, *The Conversation*, 13 August 2021] [COMMENTARY]

Pop singer Britney Spears’ quest to end the conservatorship that handed control over her finances and health care to her father demonstrates the double-edged sword of putting people under the legal care and control of another person. A judge may at times deem it necessary to appoint a guardian or conservator to protect a vulnerable person from abuse and trickery by others, or to protect them from poor decision-making regarding their own health and safety. But when put into the hands of self-serving or otherwise unscrupulous conservators, however, it can lead to exploitation and abuse. Perhaps nowhere has the impact been so grave than with respect to Native Americans, who were put into a status of guardianship due to a system of federal and local policies developed in the early 1900s purportedly aimed at protecting Native Americans receiving allotted land from the government. Members of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma—Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole nations—were particularly impacted by these practices due to the discovery of oil and gas under their lands.

[Over 20 organizations demand Biden “redouble” efforts to fight anti-Asian bias](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 19 August 2021]

More than 20 Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations called on President Joe Biden to further protect the community ahead of next week’s release of the findings of an investigation into the origins of the coronavirus. The organizations said in a [letter](#) to Biden on Thursday that when the review of the virus’s source was ordered in May, many people across the country had already begun to interpret it as “validation for the so-called ‘lab leak theory.’” As the 90-day investigation is set to conclude at the end of this month, the groups warned that discussions of the report could aggravate anti-Asian bias, and they urged him to “redouble your efforts to combat anti-AAPI hate and violence—to speak out and to act.” Russell Jeung, a co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, said that regardless of the results, the organizations are concerned that people could weaponize the report to spread conspiracy theories, further motivating hate incidents. “That’s

why we wanted to pre-empt these attacks. We wanted to put the nation on alert and call on the president to put more substance in his stopping anti-Asian racism,” Jeung said.

RELIGION

[What is Sharia law? What does it mean for women in Afghanistan?](#) [BBC News, 18 August 2021]
The Taliban say they will rule Afghanistan according to a strict interpretation of Islam’s legal system called Sharia law. In the first press briefing after taking control in Kabul, a Taliban spokesman said issues such as the media and women’s rights will be respected “within the framework of Islamic law”, but the group has not yet provided any details of what that will mean in practice. When they were last in power, the Taliban introduced or supported punishments such as public executions of convicted murderers and adulterers. Sharia law is Islam’s legal system. It is derived from both the Koran, Islam’s central text, and fatwas—the rulings of Islamic scholars. Sharia literally means “the clear, well-trodden path to water”. Sharia law acts as a code for living that all Muslims should adhere to, including prayers, fasting and donations to the poor. It aims to help Muslims understand how they should lead every aspect of their lives according to God’s wishes. Sharia can inform every aspect of daily life for a Muslim.

SEXISM

[Female scientists set back by the pandemic may never make up lost time](#) [Kristina Lerman, *The Conversation*, 12 August 2021]
During the COVID-19 quarantines, scientists, like most professionals, took their work home. Women researchers, however, [bore the disproportionate burden of caregiving responsibilities](#), forcing a [drop in their productivity](#). Although this decrease may be temporary, my research suggests the [hit to women’s reputations and their scientific impacts](#) may compound over time, potentially setting female scientists back by years, if not decades, compared to their male colleagues. The reason is the inequitable structure of rewards in science. I [study](#) social systems from the perspective of network science, which focuses on the structure of connections between people. My colleagues and I analyze statistics about scientific publications to understand how collaborations form and how researchers cite each other. We have found that [inequalities in science emerge from biased individual decisions](#) about whom to cite. Our work shows that this [leads to gender disparities](#) in scientific impact.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Forensic nurse who examined woman accusing Trevor Bauer of sexual assault: “I had never seen that before”](#) [Azmi Haroun, *Insider*, 18 August 2021]
A judge on Tuesday heard testimony from a nurse who examined the woman accusing Trevor Bauer of sexual assault. It was the second day of hearings related to allegations against the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher. Kelly Valencia, a forensic nurse examiner who had been called by the woman’s legal team to testify about her injuries, said she administered a Sexual Assault Response Team exam, or SART exam, to the woman in May. “I had never seen that before,” Valencia told the court, describing “red and purple” bruising around the woman’s genitals. “It was frankly

alarming,” she said. On June 29, the woman filed an ex parte restraining order against Bauer accusing the MLB pitcher of assaulting her during two sexual encounters in April and May. She is seeking a five-year extension to the restraining order. Bauer has denied all wrongdoing. His lawyer, Jon Fetterolf, denied allegations of sexual abuse and said the encounters between Bauer and the woman were consensual.

[No charges for National Guard mishandled sex assault cases](#) [Scott Bauer, *The Associated Press*, 19 August 2021]

Prosecutors have not filed criminal charges for about 30 sexual assault cases mishandled by the Wisconsin National Guard following an 18-month investigation, the state Department of Justice said Thursday in releasing its findings and recommendations. The state justice department reviewed the cases for 18 months and determined that while no criminal charges have been filed, the cases involved conduct that was “degrading, harassing, and highly inappropriate in any setting.” Three of the cases reviewed had already been prosecuted. In seven cases, the district attorney declined to bring charges. In at least 12 cases, the statute of limitations had expired. Three cases were not referred due to requests by a survivors, in one case there was not sufficient information to conduct a review and in seven the department determined a prosecution was not likely. The federal National Guard Bureau in 2019 found more than 30 cases that were mishandled by the Wisconsin National Guard, leading to the state justice department review.

[“No probable cause” in series of Fort Sill sexual assault allegations, Army says](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 19 August 2021]

The Army will not bring criminal charges against Fort Sill, Oklahoma, drill sergeants and instructors accused of sexual assault earlier this year, officials announced in a Thursday media conference. “Military prosecutors determined...they had no probable cause to believe the allegations occurred,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper, the installation’s commanding general. “I have confidence in the independent military prosecutor’s determination.” Despite the high-profile case ending in unsubstantiated allegations and the trainees’ purportedly unrelated departure from the Army, Kamper encouraged survivors of sexual assault to report their experiences. “So we take every report of sexual assault or sexual harassment with the utmost seriousness,” Kamper said. “We encourage reporting because our goal is to root out harmful behaviors that negatively impact our ability to build cohesive teams where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.”

VETERANS

[Montford Point Marine and longtime Inkster resident dies](#) [Sam Fogel, *The Detroit Free Press*, 18 August 2021]

One of the last remaining members of the Montford Point Marines, pioneering Black members of the Marine Corps, has died. Calvin C. Shepherd, 96, a longtime Inkster resident, died following a brief illness Aug. 3 at his home in Mission Hills, California. The Montford Point Marines were the first African Americans in the U.S. Marine Corps. They were trained at Montford Point, North Carolina, a camp segregated from the rest of the Corps. They were continually disrespected and discriminated against throughout their training and deployment. “The Montford

Point Marines were warriors, they fought not only home but abroad during hard times," said Marine Brig. Gen. Brian Cavanaugh in a ceremony in 2012. The U.S. Congress under President Barack Obama in 2012 administered Congressional Medals of Honor to all Montford Point Marines for their service, which was often overlooked in their time. Shepherd was one of these Marines who received a medal in 2012.

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