

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 18 MARCH 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[DOD works to increase participation of women in security](#) [Terri Moon Cronk, *DOD News Service* (via *Fort Campbell Courier*, Fort Campbell, Ky.), 17 March 2022]

On the occasion of Women's History Month, Michelle Strucke, deputy assistant secretary of defense for global security, spoke on the Participation Of Women in Security and Defense Institutions at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies on March 10. "Before I dive into the benefits and challenges of incorporating diverse perspectives into our national security decision making, I'd like to highlight our Women, Peace and Security program, where much of our work to advance gender equity and equality is centered," she said. "My colleagues in the Office of Personnel and Readiness, as well as senior advisors to Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, have done an excellent job of integrating gender into our efforts to address extremism, ensure that LGBTQI+ people are able to serve freely and openly, and work towards a joint force that reflects America's diversity," Strucke said.

[New Data Show a Major Gender Gap in Local Government Leadership](#) [Bill Lucia, *Route Fifty*, 17 March 2022]

The share of top appointed local government leadership positions that women hold across the U.S. has climbed in recent years. But there's still a major gender gap and if the rise of women in these jobs continues at its current pace, it'll be another quarter century before they're on equal footing with their male counterparts. Those are some of the [findings in a new analysis](#) from the professional association Engaging Local Government Leaders and nonprofit research group CivicPulse. The groups are calling their research, which provides insights into gender disparities in local government leadership between places and over time, first of its kind. The [research](#) is featured as part of a "Local Government Diversity Dashboard" project from ELGL and CivicPulse, which aims to provide ways to track, benchmark and visualize data related to local government workforce diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

[These are the contenders for rebranding Army posts with Confederate namesakes](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 17 March 2022]

The Confederate renaming commission has narrowed down tens of thousands of recommendations into a [list of about 100 new namesakes](#) for nine Army posts originally named in honor of Confederate troops. Some of them will be familiar to anyone who has followed along on the renaming saga, including Roy Benavidez, Hal and Julia Moore and Alwyn Cashe. Others will be familiar for their notoriety as high-ranking military and civilian leaders, including Dwight D. Eisenhower and Colin Powell. The choices were narrowed down from more than 34,000 submissions, including 3,670 unique names, according to the release. The names were gathered both from an online form and from site visits to the posts to speak with troops there and surrounding community leaders. The next step will be more site visits to discuss options with installation leaders, before a final list of recommendations goes to Congress by Oct. 1.

CULTURE

[For the first time in its history, architecture’s top award goes to a Black architect](#) [Neda Ulaby, NPR, 15 March 2022]

Diébédo Francis Kéré appears on a Zoom screen in a loose white Oxford shirt and an enormous, slightly flabbergasted smile. “Can you imagine?” the newest [Pritzker Architecture Prize](#) laureate exclaims. “I was born in Burkina Faso, in this little village where there was no school. And my father wanted me to learn how to read and write very simply because then I could then translate or read him his letters.” The first Black winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize had already received numerous accolades in his field, including the Aga Khan Award and the Thomas Jefferson medal, but Kéré was as surprised as anyone else to be selected for the field’s most famous prize. Many architects and critics had openly supposed that 2022 would be Sir David Adjaye’s year. The most prominent Black “starchitect” is best known for designing such notable buildings as the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

[Holi is a celebration of love, color and spring](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 17 March 2022]

With winter finally coming to an end, millions of people in India—and other parts of the world home to Hindus—are gearing up for one of the most joyous celebrations of the year. That celebration is Holi, the Hindu festival of love, color and spring. It’s a time when Indians don simple, inexpensive clothes and take to the streets to drench each other in clouds of colored powder and buckets of water. There’s singing, dancing, and of course, food. But in some parts of India, communities begin the festivities by lighting bonfires the night before in a celebration known as Holika Dahan, or Choti Holi. The bonfires are a nod to one of the most well-known legends associated with the festival. The story is about the triumph of good over evil. The morning after, when the bonfires have gone out, some Hindus gather the ashes and smear them on their bodies as a purifying act, CNN reported in 2018. Holi’s signature tradition, however, is the throwing of colored powders—a tradition with roots in the love story of [Radha and Krishna](#).

[How Irish dance has become more diverse over the decades](#) [Arvin Temkar, NBC News, 16 March 2022]

A mostly White world of big, curly haired wigs, sparkly costumes, “Riverdance” leaps and monster calves, competitive Irish dance has become more diverse over the decades. When Lisa Petri started the Doherty Petri School of Irish Dance on Long Island in 1991, people would call and ask, “Do you have to be Irish to do Irish dancing?” It’s an understandable question, given the dance’s name. There are now Irish dance schools from China to Mexico. In the U.S., people of color are making a name for themselves in the sport—Julia O’Rourke, who is half-Filipino and half-Irish, has won four Irish dance world championships. Though many students are White, “I would say probably over 70 percent of our dancers have no Irish connection whatsoever,” said Emma Burke of Atlanta Irish Dance by Burke Connolly, the dance school Johnson trains in. “I think that’s true for a significant portion of Irish dance schools around the world. A vast majority of it is people who’ve just fallen in love with the dance form.”

[Jane Campion apologizes for comments made about Venus and Serena Williams](#) [Alana Wise, NPR, 14 March 2022]

*Director Jane Campion has apologized to tennis legends Venus and Serena Williams for her “thoughtless” remarks about the pair during a Sunday evening acceptance speech at the Critics’ Choice Awards. Campion, a White woman from New Zealand, was accepting the award for Best Director for her film *The Power of the Dog* when she made the comments. In her speech, Campion—the only woman nominated in the category—praised the Williams sisters as “marvels” in their craft, but implied that the two Black women did not face the same battles in gender equality as women in film. “Serena and Venus, you are such marvels. However, you don’t play against the guys, like I have to,” Campion said with a laugh. Her remarks were met with swift backlash on social media, where commenters pointed out the years of racism and sexism the Williams sisters faced in their careers.*

[Less than a quarter of Army recruiters are women. Here’s why that’s a problem](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 11 March 2022]

The Army wants to get more women in uniform. To do that, it helps if the recruiter encouraging them to enlist can speak to what it’s like to be a woman in the Army from personal experience. However, just 12% of Army recruiters are women, Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, said on Thursday. Having women serve as recruiters is “absolutely critical,” he said, but part of the reason for the low numbers is due to how many women are across the Army—and how few of them are available to be recruiters. “Before we can place women noncommissioned officers in recruiting, we’ve got to have the population,” Vereen said. The percentage of female recruiters falls in line with the overall percentage of women in the Army. Women accounted for roughly 15% of soldiers in 2021, according to a Defense Department [fact sheet](#). That is around the same percentage as was [reported for fiscal year 2018](#) by the Government Accountability Office, which found women made up 15.1% of the Army.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Saint Patrick, the man behind St. Patrick’s Day holiday, wasn’t even Irish](#) [Maria Jimenez Moya, USA TODAY, 17 March 2022]

Who was Saint Patrick and why do we celebrate him? Saint Patrick is the protecting and guiding saint of Ireland. Ironically, he was not Irish. Saint Patrick went from being sold into slavery to being credited to bringing Christianity to Ireland, according to Elizabeth Stack, executive director for the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, New York. “He had a dream that the Irish were crying for him that they needed him,” Stack said. “He returns to Ireland and brings Christianity with him. He is who made the Celts and the pagans into Christians.” St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated on March 17, the day he is assumed to have died. The holiday originally was tied to religious ideals but now is also a symbol of Irish pride.

[St. Brigid, the compassionate, sensible female patron saint of Ireland, gets a lot less recognition than St. Patrick](#) [Lisa Bitel, *The Conversation*, 11 March 2022]

On March 17, the world celebrates the feast day of St. Patrick, a zealous British bishop of the fifth century who became famous for spreading Christianity in Ireland. Patrick is Ireland’s main patron saint. But as a medieval historian, I suggest that we also pause to remember another of

Ireland's patron saints, the nurturing, compassionate St. Brigid. This year, following a three-year campaign by a feminist organization, [herstory.ie](https://www.herstory.ie), the Irish government finally acknowledged Brigid's importance by declaring a new national holiday on her feast day of Feb. 1. Until now, Ireland counted her among their official three patrons, along with St. Patrick and St. Columcille, or Columba, but gave workers a day off only on St. Patrick's Day.

[U.S. Jewish groups urge those celebrating Purim not to wear offensive blackface or costumes that might stereotype minority groups](#) [Joshua Zitser, *Insider*, 16 March 2022]

U.S. Jewish groups have urged those celebrating Purim to "exercise sensitivity" this year, calling on observers to avoid blackface and costumes that might stereotype minority groups. The carnival-like Purim holiday is a unique holiday in the Jewish religious calendar, as Insider's Gabbi Shaw explained. It begins on Wednesday night and continues until Thursday night and is celebrated with parades and costume parties to commemorate the Jewish people's deliverance from a plot to exterminate them in the ancient Persian empire 2,500 years ago, as told in the Book of Esther. Last year, a small group of religious Jewish children in New Jersey sparked controversy when they wore blackface and shirts with "Black Lives Matter" written on the back.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

DISCRIMINATION

[Biden moves to shrink gender pay gap for federal employees](#) [Rebecca Shabad, *NBC News*, 15 March 2022]

The [White House announced](#) Tuesday that it will propose a new regulation to prevent federal agencies from taking a job applicant's salary history into consideration in the hiring process. The Office of Personnel Management plans to issue the proposed regulation, which stems from an executive order President Joe Biden signed last year aimed at improving pay equity for women and minorities, senior administration officials said. "Banning the use of prior salary history can help break the cycle of past arbitrary and potentially discriminatory pay that can follow women and workers of color from job to job, entrenching gender and racial pay gaps over time," the White House said in its announcement. Vice President Kamala Harris is scheduled to lead a virtual summit marking Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, which will feature administration officials, CEOs and athletes, including current and former members of the U.S. women's national soccer team.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A Kansas teacher is suing school officials for requiring her to address students by their preferred names, saying the policy violates her religious freedom](#) [Alaa Elassar, *CNN*, 12 March 2022]

Pamela Ricard, who teaches math at Fort Riley Middle School, says she refuses to use the preferred names and pronouns of transgender and nonbinary students because it violates her religious beliefs. After being disciplined multiple times for refusing to use a student's preferred name, Ricard filed a federal lawsuit against the Geary County Schools Unified School District on Monday. In the lawsuit, she argues that denying requests to allow her to ignore students' preferred names and pronouns "deprived her of due process and equal protection of law" and violated her First Amendment rights to free speech and exercise of religion. Ricard maintains in

the lawsuit that her decision does not harm her students, but LGBTQ organizations and medical associations throughout the country have consistently stressed the detrimental consequences of misgendering children and ignoring their preferred names.

[Transgender woman, 79, can claim Maine nursing home discriminated against her](#) [Benjamin Ryan, *NBC News*, 16 March 2022]

A 79-year-old woman has reasonable grounds to claim that a Maine assisted-living facility discriminated against her for being transgender when it rejected her as a potential resident, the Maine Human Rights Commission found. The commission's 3-2 vote on Monday sets in motion a process that could result in a lawsuit being filed against Sunrise Assisted Living in the town of Jonesport on a claim of violating state nondiscrimination law by denying Marie King's application for residency. King's attorneys say the case has already made legal history as the nation's first known discrimination complaint filed by a transgender person against a long-term care facility. Nearly half of U.S. states, including Maine, have laws explicitly forbidding discrimination based on gender identity in both housing and public accommodation, legal categories that apply to homes caring for the elderly.

DIVERSITY

[100 women have now graduated U.S. Army Ranger School](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 11 March 2022]

"The Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade [confirmed](#) that the 100th woman graduated the course with Ranger Class 03-22," said Col. Antwan L. Dunmyer, Commander of the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia. Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia, is one of the most grueling courses in the Army. The eight-week assessment and selection includes three phases that test soldiers physically and psychologically. The first women graduated Ranger School in August 2015, and since then women have continued breaking barriers. Capt. Kristen Griest, one of the very first women to earn the Ranger tab, became the first female infantry officer in the Army. Another one of the first 10 women to graduate Ranger School, Capt. Shaina Coss, became the first woman to lead Rangers in combat. Sgt. Danielle Farber, one of the first two women from the National Guard to finish Ranger School, said in a 2020 press release that the school was the "hardest course I've done by far."

[Chasing her dream: Soldier paves way for women in her family](#) [Sirena Clark, *Fort Campbell Courier (Fort Campbell, Ky.)*, 11 March 2022]

Cpl. McKynzie Dragoo was just 17 years old when a Family friend was killed while serving in Afghanistan. At that moment, she knew she wanted to enlist in the U.S. Army. At 26 years old, she followed through on that dream and shocked both Family and friends when she picked her current military occupational specialty—15R, or attack helicopter repairer. Dragoo said her decision to work with helicopters took most by surprise because she had no experience in mechanics, and that there were people who questioned whether she was cut out for it. Her success came in part because her Family supported her every step of the way, she said. When she arrived at her unit she was the only female in her section, a fact that intimidated her at first, she said. "I was definitely nervous because coming into this you're told that it is a male-dominated

job and career,” Dragoo said. “But I was welcomed as soon as I got here and everyone in my unit has been very willing to teach me and help me, and I was never treated any differently.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Michigan hires Power 5’s first female graduate assistant](#) [Connor Grott, *United Press International*, 15 March 2022]

The University of Michigan has hired Milan Bolden-Morris as the first woman to be a graduate assistant coach at a Power 5 college football program, the school announced Tuesday. Bolden-Morris, who recently completed her basketball career at Georgetown, will start working with Michigan’s quarterbacks June 1. “The opportunity to be the first female GA in the Power 5, especially the Big Ten, is an absolute honor,” Bolden-Morris, a Florida native, said. “It speaks volumes to the efforts that Coach Harbaugh has made to create an environment of inclusion. These opportunities have been an anomaly for a Black woman until recently.”

[Penn’s Thomas becomes first transgender woman to win NAAs](#) [Charles Odum, *The Associated Press*, 18 March 2022]

Lia Thomas took control in the final 100 yards of the 500-yard freestyle to make history Thursday as the first transgender woman to win an NCAA swimming championship. Thomas, the University of Pennsylvania senior who entered the NCAA women’s swimming and diving championships as the top seed, had a season-best time of 4 minutes, 33.24 seconds. Thomas has followed NCAA and Ivy League rules since she began her transition in 2019 by starting hormone replacement therapy. The inclusion of the transgender swimmer created controversy, even within the sport. There were fewer than 10 protesters outside the Georgia Tech facility, and some carried banners which read “Save Women’s Sports” in the stands. “I try to ignore it as much as I can,” Thomas said. “I try to focus on my swimming ... and just try to block out everything else.”

[Shalanda Young becomes first Black woman to lead White House budget office following Senate confirmation](#) [Kate Sullivan and Ali Zaslav, *CNN*, 15 March 2022]

Shalanda Young on Tuesday became the first Black woman to lead the White House budget office after the Senate confirmed her to the Cabinet-level position with bipartisan support. The vote was 61-36. Young has served as acting director of the Office of Management and Budget for the past year. She was confirmed last March by the Senate to serve as the deputy director and ascended to the top role after Neera Tanden’s nomination was withdrawn because Tanden didn’t have enough support in the Senate. Nearly nine months after Tanden’s nomination was withdrawn, Biden officially nominated Young as director. “Another glass ceiling shattered by a remarkable member of the President’s historic Cabinet,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said of Young in a speech on the Senate floor on Monday ahead of the vote.

EXTREMISM

[Gunman who attacked Florida yoga studio gave off decades of warning signs, Secret Service finds](#) [Pete Williams, *NBC News*, 15 March 2022]

The Florida man who opened fire inside a Tallahassee yoga studio in 2018, killing two women and injuring five, repeatedly engaged in offensive and criminal behavior for decades, presenting

missed opportunities to prevent the rampage, the Secret Service said in a new analysis issued Tuesday. The agency's National Threat Assessment Center [studied](#) the background of Scott Beierle, the 40-year-old man who walked into Hot Yoga on Nov. 2, 2018, drew a semi-automatic handgun and began shooting. But for decades, he gave off warning signs involving inappropriate and criminal behavior toward women and girls, the report found. He was fired from several jobs, banned from some public places, thrown out of the military and even arrested. Secret Service researchers found that he touched girls without their consent in high school and openly admired Hitler and the Aryan Nations. After failing in his dream of becoming a screenwriter, he lived with his parents and wrote stories and songs described as "dark, violent and misogynistic."

HUMAN RELATIONS

[The complicated truth of post-traumatic growth](#) [David Robson, *BBC News*, 13 March 2022]
Eranda Jayawickreme was born in London but grew up in Sri Lanka during the 80s and 90s, in one of the most turbulent periods in its history. He witnessed the insurrection by the People's Liberation Front, and the ongoing civil war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "There was a lot of violence," he says. "But growing up with so much adversity and trauma going on around me, I was often struck by the extent to which people somehow managed to 'keep on keeping on' in the wake of all these bad experiences." When he moved to the U.S. to study psychology at university, it was perhaps only natural that he would be drawn to the science of human resilience. Jayawickreme was particularly fascinated by the concept of "post-traumatic growth". This is the idea that many people not only recover from life-shattering events, but also experience a positive transformation in their values, actions and relationships. The research seemed to affirm Nietzsche's aphorism that "what doesn't kill me makes me stronger. As Jayawickreme delved into the research, however, he found that the truth was much more complicated than some of the media coverage would suggest—and that many of the scientific studies themselves may have serious flaws.

INTERNATIONAL

[Bermuda ban on same-sex marriage is constitutional, London tribunal says](#) [Brian Ellsworth and Don Burgess, *Reuters*, 14 March 2022]
A London tribunal on Monday ruled that a 2018 Bermuda law that bans same-sex marriage in the British overseas territory is constitutional, a departure from the broad trend towards legalisation of gay marriage in the West. Bermuda's top court in 2018 ruled that the 2018 Domestic Partnership Act, which allows same-sex couples to form partnerships but prohibits them from marrying, violates constitutional freedom of conscience. London's Privy Council, the highest court of appeal for British territories, ruled on Monday that the constitution does not in fact require the state to recognise same-sex marriages, in response to an appeal by Bermuda's government. OUTBermuda called on the government to clarify how it will treat same-sex marriages that had been lawfully performed since 2017. The Bermuda court's 2018 ruling had suspended the prohibition.

[India court upholds a ban on hijab in schools and colleges](#) [Sheikh Saaliq, *The Associated Press*, 15 March 2022]

An Indian court Tuesday upheld a ban on wearing hijab in class in the southern state of Karnataka, saying the Muslim headscarf is not an essential religious practice of Islam. The high court in Karnataka state delivered the verdict after considering petitions filed by Muslim students challenging a government ban on hijabs that some schools and colleges have implemented in the last two months. The dispute began in January when a government-run school in Karnataka's Udupi district barred students wearing hijabs from entering classrooms, triggering protests by Muslims who said they were being deprived of their fundamental rights to education and religion. That led to counterprotests by Hindu students wearing saffron shawls, a color closely associated with that religion and favored by Hindu nationalists.

[In India and many other countries, there is little gap between men and women in attitudes on gender issues](#) [Jeff Diamant, *Pew Research Center*, 15 March 2022]

Most Indians support gender equality, but a [new Pew Research Center survey](#) finds that traditional gender norms still hold sway for many people in the country. And even though traditional norms tend to give men, rather than women, more prominent roles in several aspects of family and public life, women do not differ substantially from men in their opinions on these issues. One example is how Indians view interactions between husbands and wives. Asked if they agree with the statement that "a wife must always obey her husband," women in India (86%) are only slightly less likely than Indian men (89%) to say they either completely or mostly agree. This phenomenon, where women are either as likely as or only modestly less likely than men to express traditional attitudes about gender, is not unique to India. In a different [survey of 34 countries](#) conducted by Pew Research Center in the spring and summer of 2019, only 11 countries had statistically significant differences between men and women in the shares who say that if jobs are scarce, men should have more rights to employment than women.

[Suicides by women up in Japan for second year](#) [Reuters, 15 March 2022]

The number of women who died by suicide in Japan rose for a second straight year in 2021 although the overall number of people who took their own lives in the country edged down, police said on Tuesday. Suicide has a long history in Japan as a way of avoiding shame or dishonour, and its suicide rate had long topped the Group of Seven nations, but a concerted national effort brought numbers down by roughly 40 percent over 15 years—although they rose in 2020 due to stresses brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, the Health Ministry said. While the overall number of suicides edged down by 74 to 21,007 from the year before, the number of women who took their own lives rose by 42 to 7,068, the second straight year of increase, according to data from the National Police Agency. By contrast, the number of men who died by suicide decreased by 116 to 13,939.

MISCELLANEOUS

[36% of Government Workers Are Considering Quitting Their Jobs](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 11 March 2022]

In a recent study, 36% of public servants surveyed said that working during the pandemic has made them consider quitting their government jobs, [according to research](#) conducted by MissionSquare Research Institute and Greenwald Research. That's up from 20% in May 2020. In addition, 33% of those surveyed said they are considering retiring, and 28% said they might leave the workforce entirely, the report shows. More than three in four (76%) said Covid-19 has influenced what they do, where they work and how they handle work tasks, the report says. While the overall percentage of those reporting any impact has remained steady at 76% since May 2021, the intensity of the impact decreased from 32% in May 2021 to 27% in November/December 2021.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Air Force tries to develop more agile mindset](#) [Dave Ress, *The Daily News (Newport News, Va.)*, 14 March 2022]

It made for an unusual exercise at Langley Air Force Base. A group of intelligence specialists were handed some new communications gear and directed to set up a "C3" operation—command, control and communications—as if they'd just been dispatched to a remote and unused airfield. Unusual because the observers—a team from Air Combat Command's new Agile Battle Lab operation—weren't there to grade the airmen. They were there to learn. The lessons were about a new Air Force focus on preparing airmen for tasks outside their specialties and to move the force to a mindset more like the expeditionary units at the Navy's Little Creek base, the Marines who board Norfolk-based amphibious ships and the Army's Fort Eustis-based 7th Transportation Brigade. "We don't want them to have to wait for a comms specialist," said Master Sgt. Andrea Murray, the Agile Battle Lab's Langley-based intelligence integration manager. "They did great. They got everything up and running in 10 minutes ... their web was running I think at 10 times the usual speeds," she said.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Auschwitz survivor Leon Schwarzbaum dies at 101 in Germany](#) [Kirsten Grieshaber, *The Associated Press*, 14 March 2022]

Leon Schwarzbaum, a survivor of the Nazis' death camp at Auschwitz and a lifelong fighter for justice for the victims of the Holocaust, has died. He was 101. Schwarzbaum died early Monday in Potsdam near Berlin, the International Auschwitz Committee reported on its website. No cause of death was given. "It is with great sadness, respect and gratitude that Holocaust survivors around the world bid farewell to their friend, fellow sufferer and companion Leon Schwarzbaum, who in the last decades of his life became one of the most important contemporary witnesses of the Shoah," the committee said. Schwarzbaum was the only one of his family to survive the concentration camps at Auschwitz, Buchenwald and a subcamp Sachsenhausen, the Auschwitz committee said. He became known to a wider audience when film director Hans Erich Viet made a movie in 2018 about his life. "[The Last of the Jolly Boys](#)" was shot with Schwarzbaum himself at original locations.

[Commands are deferring alcohol treatment for troops in need: IG report](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 14 March 2022]

Troops who have been referred for alcohol abuse treatment are not getting the care they need because of command deferrals, [according to a Defense Department inspector general report](#) published Monday. There were a few reasons for this, according to an audit. Some commanders thought the requirements for getting a service member into treatment were unclear; some treatment centers were understaffed or didn't have enough spots; and some commanders put off getting their troops into treatment because of "operational requirements, legal actions, or other reasons." "According to the medical records we reviewed and unit leadership we interviewed, leadership encouraged service members to self-refer instead of submitting a command referral following an alcohol-related incident or suspected alcohol misuse," DoD IG spokesman Megan Reed said in a statement. There was a reason behind it, she added, though in practice it amounted to passing the buck.

[Military spouse unemployment continues to weigh on service member families](#) [Scott Maucione, *Federal News Network*, 16 March 2022]

Service members and their families are continuing to worry about their financial situations as the world feels the effect of increased prices due to the war in Ukraine and backlash from the pandemic. The largest [annual study](#) of military families found that spouse unemployment is the biggest stressor for the second year in a row for service members and their partners. Forty-three percent of active duty families surveyed said spousal unemployment is an issue for them. One of the combining factors in keeping spouses from employment is the lack of reliable child care. A third of active duty spouses reported the expense of child care as the reason they are not in the work force. Only 24% of active duty families said they can't find a child care situation that works for them.

[Teleworking DOD Civilians May Be Recalled to In-Person Work](#) [Bradley Peniston and Elizabeth Howe, *Government Executive*, 18 March 2022]

Defense Department civilians who have been teleworking amid the pandemic may be recalled to in-person work, [according to a Thursday memo](#) from Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks. But Hicks also praised telework, which expanded to unprecedented levels in the past two years, and appeared to endorse its continued broad use. Entitled "DOD Workplace Guidance for Final Reentry of DOD Civilian Personnel," Hicks' three-page memo broadly directs supervisors to begin talking with their civilian employees about "reentry plans," which should be crafted to reflect "organizational needs, the Health Protection Condition framework, and force health protection guidance." The memo instructs supervisors of two kinds of civilian employees—those who have worked remotely full-time since the pandemic began, and those who "have had work schedules that differ from their organization's regular schedules, such as shift work to maintain physical distancing or a flexible schedule related to dependent care"—to start planning and discussing any changes to their telework policies.

RACISM

[Asian woman punched 125 times in New York attack; suspect charged with attempted murder as hate crime](#) [Doha Madani, *NBC News*, 14 March 2022]

A man was charged with attempted murder in what police have described as a “brutal hate crime” against an Asian woman in New York state last week, with video of the incident showing the woman being punched over 100 times. Tammel Esco, 42, was arrested and accused of calling a 67-year-old woman an “Asian b----,” following her into a building and severely beating her Friday in Yonkers, just north of New York City. Esco was detained shortly thereafter when officers saw him still outside the building. Yonkers police announced the arrest and released security video from the building’s vestibule area Monday. The woman, who was not publicly identified, is stable and recovering in a hospital, police said. She suffered facial bone fractures and bleeding on the brain. Esco was charged with attempted murder as a hate crime and one count of assault as a hate crime.

[Death of man found hanged in city park in 1922 ruled a homicide](#) [Gregg Montgomery, WISH.TV.com (Indianapolis, Ind.), 12 March 2022]

The body of George Tompkins, his hands tied behind his back, was found hanging from a tree March 16, 1922, in the Municipal Gardens section of Riverside Park. On Saturday, the case of the 19-year-old Black man was officially ruled a homicide. The death, which appeared on the front pages of Indianapolis newspapers 100 years ago, had initially been ruled a suicide on the death certificate. But Tompkins’ death had long been what the [Indiana Remembrance Coalition](#) described in a news release as a “hidden chapter of Indianapolis history.” The coalition based at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church had a ceremony Saturday for Tompkins at Floral Park Cemetery. The coalition’s news release also said, “In contrast to many of the more than 4,000 lynchings after Reconstruction and before the civil rights era, George Tompkins had never been accused of a crime. The motive for his killing has never been determined.”

[Student at Vanderbilt Catholic High in Houma charged with hate crime in racist bullying incident](#) [Dan Copp, *The Courier (Houma, La.)*, 16 March 2022]

A 15-year-old ninth-grader at Vanderbilt Catholic High was arrested on a hate crime charge Tuesday in connection with a racist bullying incident last week in the Houma school’s cafeteria, authorities said. The student was charged with simple battery and hate crime and was booked into the Terrebonne Parish juvenile detention center, Sheriff Tim Soignet said in a news release. A video of the incident surfaced Wednesday on social media showing a White male student throwing cotton at a Black male student who is seated in the cafeteria. The White student then whips the Black student with what appears to be a small belt. “The video that appears to be racially motivated was allegedly recorded at a local high school during school hours,” the Sheriff’s Office said. “TPSO detectives met with the parents of the victim and an investigation is being conducted. The parents of the victim also met with the school’s administration and they are diligently assisting the parents with addressing this non-acceptable episode.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Three Maryland middle schoolers are charged with a hate crime for social media threats aimed at Black students](#) [Amy Simonson, CNN, 11 March 2022]

Three Maryland middle schoolers have been charged as juveniles with a hate crime after threatening Middletown Middle School’s Black students, a spokesperson for the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) told CNN Thursday. FCSO deputies and school resource officers

responded to the school Wednesday after social media threats posted on Instagram and Snapchat targeting Black students at the school were posted, according to FCSO spokesperson Todd Wivell in an interview with CNN. According to Wivell, all three of the students who were charged are White, and in addition to the hate crime charge, one of the three was also charged as a juvenile with possession of a firearm by a minor. In a statement emailed to CNN the Frederick County Public Schools Interim Superintendent Mike Markoe said, “It has been an extremely painful 48 hours for the Frederick County community, particularly for our Black/Brown community members. The appalling social media post containing hate speech and the threat of violence toward Black students has frightened, saddened and angered our entire community.”

RELIGION

[Black Catholics in America](#) [Jeff Diamant, Besheer Mohamed and Joshua Alvarado, Pew Research Center, 15 March 2022]

Black Catholics are a minority in the United States in numerous ways. They comprise a small share of Black adults (6%) and an even smaller share of Catholic adults (4%). Still, there are approximately 3 million Black Catholics in the U.S., and the group received media attention after Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington, D.C., became the first Black American cardinal in 2020. A [recent Pew Research Center study](#) designed to capture the diversity of Black American religious life offers new insights into Black Catholics’ religious habits and experiences, finding that their experiences at parishes and at Mass are often distinctive from those of other U.S. Catholics. It also shows that their religious beliefs and practices differ from those of Black Protestants. One way the religious experience of Black Catholics stands out is that they are a lot less likely than White or Hispanic Catholics—who together make up the vast majority of U.S. Catholics—to worship in parishes where most people share their race or ethnicity.

[The first bat mitzvah was 100 years ago, and has been opening doors for Jewish women ever since](#) [Lisa Fishbayn Joffe, *The Conversation*, 15 March 2022]

March 18, 2022, marks the 100th anniversary of the first bat mitzvah ceremony in the United States. Judith Kaplan, daughter of the influential rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, became the first woman to publicly celebrate the traditional Jewish coming-of-age ceremony. Becoming a bat mitzvah, or “daughter of the commandments,” signifies that a young woman has attained legal adulthood under Jewish law. A bat mitzvah is based on the centuries-old ritual of bar mitzvah, or “son of the commandments,” the ceremony for 13-year-old boys. Today, it typically involves months or years of study, chanting Torah in front of the congregation and giving a reflection on the week’s reading. Since that day in 1922, coming-of-age ceremonies for Jewish girls have gradually become more popular, especially in more liberal branches of Judaism.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Ex-prison nurse charged with sex assault of women in custody](#) [*The Associated Press*, 14 March 2022]

The U.S. Department of Justice has unsealed an indictment that accuses a former Oregon Department of Corrections nurse of sexually assaulting a dozen women in custody at the state

women's prison. Tony Klein, 37, has been charged with 21 counts of depriving the victims of their constitutional right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment by sexually assaulting them at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, The U.S. Attorney's Office District of Oregon said Monday. The indictment alleges that in 2016 and 2017 Klein, of Clackamas County, committed various forms of sexual assault including aggravated sexual abuse and "some resulting in bodily injury," the Justice Department said. Klein could face life in prison if convicted.

[Rare firing of flag officer for sexual harassment came after unwanted kissing](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 17 March 2022]

The former head of the Navy's fleet readiness centers kissed a subordinate employee on the mouth without consent prior to his ouster in April 2021, according to a report from the Office of the Naval Inspector General obtained by *Navy Times*. Then-Rear Adm. Trent DeMoss, who assumed the top job at Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers aboard NAS Patuxent River in Maryland in August 2020, told investigators it was typical for him to hug and kiss those he was friendly with and that he meant the kiss in a "friendship sort of way." But Complainant 1, who identified herself to *Navy Times* as a civilian public affairs specialist, said the kiss was the final straw following a series of behaviors that made her uncomfortable. Despite the physical nature of the interaction, the Navy proceeded to investigate the matter as sexual harassment rather than assault after consulting the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. DeMoss is the first admiral since 1995 to be relieved following substantiated allegations of sexual harassment, according to Navy officials.

["We are disposable"—Sexual assault survivor blasts Air Force after convicted offender allowed to retire](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 16 March 2022]

A military sexual trauma survivor blasted her branch on social media on Friday after the Secretary of the Air Force revealed that the senior enlisted airman convicted of abusing her would be allowed to retire. "Understand this isn't about one bad guy doing one bad thing to someone," wrote Tech Sgt. Cambria Ferguson on Facebook. "This is EVERY PERSON in my squadron and [major command] chain of command failing to not only hold him accountable, but take care of me in any way." *Air Force Times* first reported on March 9 that Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall would allow former Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Zier to retire. The news came about 19 months after Zier was convicted of abusive sexual contact and dereliction of duty in August 2020 after an incident at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey in 2015, when Ferguson was an airman first class. Zier remained in the Air Force despite the service's "zero tolerance" stance on sexual assault and harassment outlined in official reports, statements and policy guidelines.

VETERANS

[Marine who lost an arm in Afghanistan finds new purpose in Paralympic snowboarding](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 10 March 2022]

A medically retired Marine who lost an arm to an improvised bomb in Afghanistan will race for gold in Paralympic snowboarding on Friday. The explosion in December 2010 that wounded Michael Spivey—a young combat engineer with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Helmand

province, Afghanistan—wasn't his first. Spivey emerged unscathed from a roadside bombing that damaged his truck in Ramadi, Iraq, in 2008, he said. The Afghan blast was another story. Spivey lost his left arm below the elbow and had shrapnel in his legs and back. Another Marine lost his legs and an arm, Spivey said. A year later Spivey tried snowboarding for the first time after a therapist suggested he attend an adaptive sports event in Breckenridge, Colo. His passion for the sport took a few years to ignite, the San Diego native, 41, told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday from Beijing, where he is representing his country as a member of Team USA.

[Vets Accuse VA Therapist of Abuse Involving Sex, Astrology, Psychedelic Drugs](#) [Stephen Stock, Michael Bott, Michael Horn and Mark Villarreal, *NBC Bay Area News (San Jose, Calif.)*, 16 March 2022]

Three Bay Area military veterans struggling with serious mental health issues have filed a federal lawsuit accusing their former Veterans Affairs (VA) psychiatrist of serious ethical and legal lapses, including sexual abuse, dosing an unwitting patient with a potent psychedelic drug, and using astrology to inform therapeutic decisions. In their darkest emotional hours—coping with major trauma experienced both in and outside of the military—the veterans say they turned to VA psychiatrist Dr. Ferda Sakman for help. Instead, she left new scars, they say in the lawsuit. Dr. Sakman did not contest the medical board's charges and surrendered her medical license in 2020, according to state records. She's not the only Palo Alto VA doctor to be accused of sexual abuse in recent years. Earlier this month, a cardiologist at the facility pleaded guilty to one count of felony sexual contact for groping a subordinate and making repeated unwanted sexual advances.