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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Military jurors acquit SEAL of murder

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Military jurors Tuesday acquitted a decorated Navy SEAL of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive under his care in Iraq in 2017.

The same jury returned to court Wednesday to decide whether he should serve any jail time for the single charge he was convicted of: posing with the 17-year-old militant's corpse.

The final step comes after the verdict Tuesday was met with an outpouring of emotion as the jury also cleared Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher of attempted murder in the shootings of two civilians and all other charges.

President Donald Trump, who intervened earlier this year to have Gallagher moved from the brig to less restrictive confinement, tweeted congratulations to the SEAL and his family.

"You have been through much together. Glad I could help!" the president wrote.

The outcome dealt a major blow to one

of the Navy's most high-profile war crimes cases and exposed a generational conflict within the ranks of the elite special operations forces.

Gallagher could face up to four months imprisonment for the single conviction along with a reduction in rank, forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay and a reprimand.

On Wednesday, the Navy prosecutor asked only for a reduction in rank. The defense noted that Gallagher has already spent 201 days in pretrial confinement and recommended no punishment.

After the verdict was read, the defense attorneys jumped up from their seats as Gallagher turned and embraced his wife over the bar of the gallery.

Asked in an interview Wednesday on "Fox & Friends" what his message might be to future Navy SEALs, Gallagher said he would tell them that "loyalty is a trait that seems to be lost. ... You're there to watch your brother's back, and he's there to watch your back."

Speaking of his accusers, Gallagher said

"this small group of SEALs that decided to concoct this story in no way, shape or form represent the community that I love."

Gallagher also thanked Fox News "for being behind us from day one," and also thanked Trump along with Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter, of California, and Ralph Norman, of South Carolina.

Defense lawyers said Gallagher was framed by junior disgruntled platoon members who fabricated the allegations to oust their chief and the lead investigator built the probe around their stories instead of seeking the truth. They said there was no physical evidence to support the allegations because no corpse was ever recovered and examined by a pathologist.

Lt. Jacob Portier, the officer in charge of the platoon, has been charged separately for overseeing Gallagher's reenlistment ceremony next to the corpse and not reporting the alleged stabbing.

The Navy is still pursuing the case against Portier, defense lawyer Jeremiah J. Sullivan III said.

Sex harassment claims are up at Coast Guard Academy

Associated Press

Almost half of female cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy said they were sexually harassed, and about one in eight women reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact, according to a Pentagon survey released Wednesday.

The anonymous 2018 gender relations survey completed by cadets at the school in New London, Conn., shows that 45% of women and 17% of men said they experienced sexual harassment, up from 36% and 11%, respectively, in 2016.

And 12.4% of women said they experienced unwanted sexual contact, up from 8% in 2016.

The percentage of men saying they experienced unwanted sexual contact, which includes sexual assault, attempted sexual assault and unwanted sexual

touching, was 3.6%, up from 1% in 2016.

The percentage of cadets experiencing unwanted sexual contact is the highest since the survey began a decade ago. Officials noted that the increases could at least partially reflect a greater willingness to report misconduct as a result of the Coast Guard's focus on the problem and new training programs.

The survey, conducted every two years, comes after an already tough year for the Coast Guard Academy. Lawmakers have criticized its handling of racial discrimination and harassment, and the college is the subject of a congressional investigation into harassment, bullying and discrimination against minority cadets.

All the U.S. military academies are "facing a sexual as-

sault crisis, and we are asleep at the wheel," Rep. Jackie Speier, a California Democrat, said in June. She is trying to create a four-year pilot program for independent prosecutorial review of all sexual assault reports at the academies.

Most instances of unwanted sexual contact at the Coast Guard Academy involved cadets in the same class year, with 65% of women and 85% of men saying the alleged offender was a classmate, according to the survey. Most occurred in a dorm or living area at the academy. Seventy percent of women and 92% of men didn't report what happened to authorities, the survey said.

About 1,100 cadets attend the academy, and 77% of them filled out the survey in March 2018. It asked about their academy experiences since June 2017.

The Coast Guard Academy survey showed that 30% of women who experienced unwanted sexual contact reported it, marking the first time the reporting rate among women climbed above 10%. Men had an 8% reporting rate.

On a positive note, the vast majority of cadets reported intervening if they observed a potentially risky situation, and there were fewer cases of unwanted sexual contact involving alcohol than in 2016.

Most cadets, 62% of women and 76% of men, believe the academy's senior leadership make honest and reasonable efforts to stop unwanted sexual contact and sexual harassment, though those percentages are down from 80% and 86%, respectively, in the 2016 survey.

Marines test unusual pairing at Valhalla drill

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps recently found that pairing scout snipers, well-known for their stealth and deadly aim, with electronics wizards from a little-known and secretive discipline doesn't mean sacrificing the ability to sneak around the battlefield. It may even enhance it.

A team of Marines from the Corps' electronic warfare and signals intelligence field accompanied the snipers as they crawled through rough terrain and evaded enemy soldiers last month during Exercise Valhalla in Norway, officials said Tuesday.

"Ultimately, we were able to show that attaching the [electronic warfare] Marines to the scout snipers did not negatively affect operations, specifically in regards to slowing movement or causing compromise," said 1st Lt. Gabby Gonzalez, an electronic warfare Marine in charge of the drill.

The pairing was part of the Marine Corps' effort to field electronic warfare support teams, or EWSTs, to support combatants where electromagnetic signals play an increasingly important role. The drill helped develop and test the use of dedicated electronic warfare specialists to help the sniper team track enemy targets, Marine spokesman 2nd Lt. Dan Linfante said.

The opposing force was made up of Norwegian soldiers and other Marines deployed to Norway with Marine Rotational Force-Europe, who have been continually rotating to the country since 2017.

Before Exercise Valhalla, the Marines were concerned that the extra manpower and equipment required by a dedicated EWST might lead to the scout snipers being exposed to the enemy, Gonzalez said.

But even after exercise planners tipped off the opposing force to the presence of the electronic warfare-enhanced sniper teams, and after they began looking for them, the Marine reconnaissance team was not detected.

"That's a success, especially given the terrain in which the exercise took place," Gonzalez said, referring to the sparse foliage, which provided little concealment.

Putting EWSTs with infantry battalions was an idea Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert B. Neller discussed in a 2017 statement about his plans to "reshape the Corps for the future operating environment." At the time, Neller said the Marines were still working out how exactly to employ the teams on the ground.

During the exercise last month, the EWST accompanied the scout snipers as they infiltrated the lines of a larger enemy force to conduct reconnaissance and destroy several high-value targets. The electronic warfare Marines listened to enemy radios and pinpointed their signals.

Electronic warfare includes the use of electromagnetic energy, such as radio waves, to "attack" enemies or protect friendly forces. It has become a Pentagon priority as focus shifts from combating insurgencies in the Middle East to preparing for potential future conflicts with larger

adversaries like Russia or China.

Electronic warfare is among the "well-defined areas that we're behind our adversaries," said Jim Faist, the Pentagon's director of advanced capabilities, speaking to reporters in May, *Breaking Defense* reported. "We have to catch up."

Also in May, the *Al-Monitor* news site said it had obtained documents outlining a Pentagon effort to help "regain U.S. dominance in the electromagnetic spectrum," following what the site called a "pervasive threat" of signal jamming that American forces had experienced in Syria.

In America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the electronic warfare threat has been limited, Col. Liam Collins, a career Army Special Forces officer and director of the Modern War Institute at West Point, said in a post on the Association of the United States Army website last July.

But in Ukraine, Russia used drones and ground systems to conduct electromagnetic reconnaissance and jamming against satellite, cellular and radio communications, Collins said. Russian forces were also adept at pinpointing Ukrainian positions by their electromagnetic signatures.

After outlining scenarios in which the Russians might lock onto a Ukrainian cellphone signal's location for targeting an artillery strike or to send "pinpoint propaganda" via text message, Collins called on military leaders to better prepare for a battlefield where troops will need to better camouflage or hide their electronic signatures.

Pentagon: Company's F-35 engines are chronically late

Bloomberg

United Technologies Corp.'s Pratt & Whitney unit is chronically late delivering engines for the Pentagon's costliest program, the F-35, raising questions about whether the company is ready for a surge to full-rate production scheduled for next year.

Pratt remains under a previously unreported "Corrective Action Request" from the Defense Contract Management Agency that cites "poor delivery performance" on its current batch of engines for the fighter jet, including for the most complicated version used by the Marine Corps and the U.K. for vertical takeoffs and landings.

The agency's action is likely to be watched not only by the Pentagon and international buyers of the F-35 but also by shareholders and investors assessing United Technolo-

gies' planned merger with Raytheon Co., which would fortify the combined company's standing as one of the top U.S. defense contractors. The F-35 engines would be one of the new company's top revenue producers.

The company, which is the sole supplier of engines for the fighter built by Lockheed Martin Corp., must demonstrate by year's end that it has delivered on promised improvements to solve the problems that led to the agency's formal request in December, spokesman Mark Woodbury said in a statement outlining the issues.

The \$428 billion F-35 program is scheduled for approval next year to enter full-rate production, the most lucrative phase of a weapons program for contractors. The decision is contingent on an assessment during the aircraft's current round of in-

tensive combat testing that it's effective and can be maintained.

The primary issues resulting in late engine deliveries "have been related to supply-chain capacity, material shortages" and production issues, according to the contract management agency.

"Engine test failures due to high vibrations and foreign object debris continues to plague" production, the agency said in an internal quarterly assessment for January through March. Deliveries of the Marine Corps model engines "have been consistently late," it said.

As of early June, Pratt & Whitney was contractually required to deliver 108 engines in the latest production contract, the program's 11th. Of the 90 delivered, 88 were "late by an average of 40 days," Woodbury said in his statement.

Military hardware in place for Trump event

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military hardware is moving into place. So are the protesters. And, ever the showman, President Donald Trump is promising the “show of a lifetime” on the National Mall for the Fourth of July.

Trump is marshalling tanks, bombers and other machinery of war for this year’s Independence Day celebration. It’s an event that is traditionally light on military might, and critics have accused the president of using America’s military as a political prop.

Trump pushed back Wednesday against complaints about the cost of the extravaganza, tweeting that the expenses “will be very little compared to what it is worth.”

Under White House direction, the Pentagon was scrambling to arrange for an Air Force B-2 stealth bomber and other war-

planes to conduct flyovers of the celebration on the National Mall. There will be Navy F-35 and F-18 fighter jets, the Navy Blue Angels aerial acrobatics team, Army and Coast Guard helicopters and Marine V-22 Ospreys.

The Pentagon said it had made no overall estimate of the cost of the military’s participation. The Air Force said it costs \$122,311 an hour to fly a B-2 bomber, which is making the trip from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and back. Officials said this will be considered a training event, with the cost already budgeted. They said the per-hour flying cost of the F-22 fighter is \$65,128.

Two Bradley fighting vehicles were in place Wednesday near the Lincoln Memorial, where Trump will deliver a speech for the Independence Day celebration. In addition, two 60-ton Army Abrams battle tanks were sent to Washington by rail to be posi-

tioned on or near the National Mall, to the dismay of District of Columbia officials.

Kevin Donahue, deputy mayor for public safety, told The Associated Press the city expects the federal government to pay for any damage to streets or bridges from moving the tanks. Civil engineers will assess the roads and bridges after July 4 to determine if any damage has been done.

Donahue said the city had little choice but to accept the tanks and other heavy equipment, despite objections from members of the City Council.

Trump, casting the extravaganza as a “Salute to America,” tweeted Wednesday that the show at the Lincoln Memorial “is looking to be really big. It will be the show of a lifetime!”

On Wednesday, the Defense Department said Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was expected to attend.

House committee sues for Trump tax returns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House committee sued the Trump administration in federal court Tuesday for access to President Donald Trump’s tax returns, setting up a legal showdown over the records.

The House Ways and Means Committee said it needs the documents for an investigation into tax law compliance by the president, among other things. It asked the court to order the administration to turn over the documents.

The lawsuit is the culmination of a long-running fight between Democrats and Trump over the returns, dating to the 2016 campaign, when Trump claimed that he

could not release them due to an IRS audit. The records hold the promise of information that Trump has carefully guarded from public view, including about his business entanglements, relationships with foreign creditors and governments, and the value of his assets.

The committee originally demanded six years of Trump’s tax records in early April under a law that says the Internal Revenue Service “shall furnish” the returns of any taxpayer to a handful of top lawmakers. But Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the committee in May that he wouldn’t be turning over the returns to the Democratic-controlled House.

Mnuchin concluded that the Treasury Department is “not authorized to disclose the requested returns and return information.” The Justice Department in a legal opinion backed Mnuchin’s position, saying the request lacked a legitimate legislative purpose and was an “unprecedented” use of congressional authority.

The argument is the same one Trump has used in refusing other demands from Congress for financial records from accountants and banks Trump and his family have done business with. Lawsuits over those records were filed in federal courts in Washington and New York, and Trump has lost in those lawsuits’ opening rounds.

Kaepernick stirs new controversy for Nike over shoe

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nike’s sales have only grown since it seized attention with its ad campaign featuring former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick. So the shoemaker deferred to its star endorser when he raised concerns over a sneaker featuring an early American flag.

Nike pulled the Air Max 1 USA shoe, which included a Revolutionary-era U.S. flag with 13 white stars in a circle on the heel. Kaepernick reached out to Nike after learning they planned to release the sneaker to explain that the flag recalls an era

when black people were enslaved and that it has been appropriated by white nationalist groups, a person familiar with the conversation told The Associated Press.

The person requested not to be named because the conversation was intended to be private.

Nike decided to recall the shoe after it had been already sent to retailers to go on sale this week for the July Fourth holiday, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The decision caused an instant backlash among conservatives, who accused Nike of denigrating U.S. history, with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey tweeting that he is asking the

state’s Commerce Authority to withdraw financial incentives promised to Nike to build a plant in the state.

Others expressed surprise that the symbol known as the “Betsy Ross” flag, so named after the beloved Philadelphia woman credited with designing it, could be considered offensive.

Although some extremist groups appear to have appropriated the flag, it is not widely viewed as a symbol of hate, and is used in museums that focus on 18th-century U.S. history.

The Anti-Defamation League does not include it in its database of hate symbols.

Japanese warship shows nation's military ambitions

Associated Press

ABOARD THE JS IZUMO — One of Japan's largest warships, the helicopter carrier Izumo, offers a glimpse of where its military is headed. For the first time, troops from a newly formed amphibious brigade of Japan's army participated in an extended naval deployment.

The Izumo left Subic, a former U.S. naval base in the Philippines, at the end of a two-month deployment in the Indo-Pacific region at a time of prolonged tensions involving China's sweeping territorial claims in and around the South China Sea. The carrier, along with the destroyers Murasame and Akebono, just finished a series of drills with the United States and other countries.

Japan's ability to project military power beyond its borders is severely constrained by the commitment to pacifism and rejection of use of military force in conflict enshrined in its post-World War II constitution, though in 2015 it was reinterpreted to allow the use of force in defending itself and allies. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made amending the constitution to allow the military greater leeway one of his lifetime goals. President Donald Trump has sought to help that cause, calling for Japan to

do more to defend itself under its alliance with the U.S.

In May, Japan conducted its first quadrilateral exercise with France, the U.S. and Australia in the Bay of Bengal. France deployed its flagship nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the FS Charles de Gaulle, while the United States sent a missile destroyer, the William P Lawrence. Other drills have included Canada, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines.

Japan is preparing to reconfigure the Izumo to accommodate U.S. stealth fighters, including F-35Bs, after announcing it would purchase 42 of its own. The purchase underscores Japan's growing role in its alliance with the U.S.

"In order to incorporate what was not originally in the design, or something new that had not even been thought of, I think this would require research into many areas; otherwise, it wouldn't go well," said Capt. Katsuyoshi Motoyama, the Izumo's commanding officer.

Yasukazu Tanaka, of the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, similar to the U.S. Marines, said the exercises were meant to deepen coordination between them and ground troops to facilitate use of the carrier for transporting troops to front lines in the future.

Iran warns of boost in uranium enrichment

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president warned European partners in its faltering nuclear deal on Wednesday that Tehran will increase its enrichment of uranium to "any amount that we want" beginning Sunday, putting pressure on them to offer a way around intense U.S. sanctions targeting the country.

The comments by President Hassan Rouhani come as tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S. over the deal, which President Donald Trump pulled America from over a year ago.

Authorities on Monday acknowledged Iran broke through a limit placed on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium.

An increasing stockpile and higher enrichment closes the estimated one-year window Iran would need to produce enough material for a bomb, something Iran denies it wants but the nuclear deal sought to prevent.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has rushed an aircraft carrier, B-52 bombers and F-22 fighters to the region and Iran recently shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone. On Wednesday,

Iran marked the shutdown by the U.S. Navy of an Iranian passenger jet in 1988, a mistake that killed 290 people and shows the danger of miscalculation in the current crisis.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting in Tehran, Rouhani's comments seemed to signal that Europe has yet to offer Iran anything to alleviate the pain of the renewed U.S. sanctions targeting its oil industry and top officials.

Iran's nuclear deal currently bars it from enriching uranium above 3.67%, which is enough for nuclear power plants but far below the 90% needed for weapons.

"In any amount that we want, any amount that is required, we will take over 3.67," Rouhani said.

"Our advice to Europe and the United States is to go back to logic and to the negotiating table," Rouhani added. "Go back to understanding, to respecting the law and resolutions of the U.N. Security Council. Under those conditions, all of us can abide by the nuclear deal."

There was no immediate reaction in Europe, where the European Union just the day before finalized nominations to take over the bloc's top posts.

AFRICOM provided support during recent attack in Niger

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command said it provided surveillance support earlier this week and assisted in the evacuation of Nigerien forces caught in a battle with suspected Islamic militants at an army camp near the country's border with Mali.

The attack, which Nigerien authorities said killed 18 soldiers and prompted air support from France and the U.S., was the latest in a string of cross-border assaults by Islamic militants. AFRICOM said it

did not launch any airstrikes during the incident, but "ISR (Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance) support was provided."

"U.S. Africa Command also assisted Niger with contracted evacuation support," said Becky Farmer, an AFRICOM spokeswoman, adding that no U.S. forces were in the area at the time.

The U.S. military relies on contractors to assist with medical evacuations in West Africa to help fill capability gaps. The shortage of military medevac personnel has long been a point of concern for AFRICOM

leadership.

While Niger has granted the U.S. permission to carry out armed drone strikes in the country — an authorization that came in the aftermath of a 2017 ambush that killed four U.S. soldiers — AFRICOM has said it uses drones exclusively for intelligence gathering.

The latest attack against Niger forces came amid warnings that various militant groups are gaining ground in the Sahel. Last week, the outgoing commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, Air Force Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks, warned the security situation

was "rapidly deteriorating."

The region also continues to be dangerous for American troops. On June 8, U.S. military personnel escaped injury when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb while taking part in a training mission in Niger.

The attack Monday at an army camp near Niger's western border with Mali started when two vehicles exploded at the entrance to the camp, after which "terrorists on motorcycles opened fire," the Nigerien government said in a statement published in French media.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Drone gets images of shark near kids

FL NEW SMYRNA BEACH — A father captured video of a shark swimming dangerously close to his children as they swam off Florida's Atlantic Coast.

Professional photographer Dan Watson told Fox35 in Orlando he was flying the drone to take photos of his children last month as they swam off New Smyrna Beach when he spotted a shadowy figure. He yelled for his wife, Sally, to get the kids out of the water.

Another photo captured the children leaving the water and the shark swimming away.

Woman accused of online harassment

SC COLUMBIA — A South Carolina woman was arrested for allegedly sending more than 200 harassing messages to someone via social media.

News outlets reported Kathryn Leigh Witt, 50, was charged with harassment.

South Carolina Law Enforcement in an arrest warrant said Witt created multiple fake social media accounts to send the messages and told the victim they were being "surveilled and monitored."

A conviction on a charge of first-degree harassment is punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Lawsuit alleges bias in size of serving

NC MOUNT HOLLY — A North Carolina man filed a handwritten lawsuit against a fast food chain, saying he was discriminated against because he had too few hash browns with his breakfast

order.

Tommy Martin, of Mount Holly, claims that because he is black he got fewer hash browns than is typically served with Hardee's breakfast platter. He said a cashier tried to correct the situation before a manager intervened and eventually refunded the purchase.

Martin called local police over the May 30, 2018, incident. He said his civil rights were violated and the slight created a fear of food.

Airman receives his diploma 80 years later

MO JEFFERSON CITY — A Missouri man who was unable to finish high school but went on to serve as crew chief for the famed Tuskegee Airman received an honorary diploma Monday nearly 80 years after leaving high school.

Military historian Jeremy Amick said James Shipley didn't have a chance to earn his diploma years ago. He attended an all-black high school that wasn't credentialed through 12th grade.

The Tuskegee Airmen were black military pilots and crew who made up the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces.

Princess Di's workout sweatshirt for sale

MA BOSTON — The baggy Virgin Atlantic sweatshirt Princess Diana wore to discourage media interest in her exercise routine is for sale.

Boston-based RR Auction said the dark blue cotton-polyester sweatshirt that was a gift from airline founder Richard Branson is expected to get more than \$5,000 during the online auction.

The garment features the airline's "flying lady" logo with the words "Fly Atlantic" in white.

It is being sold by Jenni Rivett, Diana's longtime personal trainer. Diana gave Rivett several sweatshirts months before her August 1997 death.

Police: Woman ate cake, wouldn't pay

TX WICHITA FALLS — Authorities said a Texas woman ate half a cake while roaming the aisles of a Walmart store and then refused to pay full price for it, claiming she had found it half-eaten.

Wichita Falls police Sgt. Harold McClure said the woman picked up the cake at the store's bakery and ate half of it before getting to the check-out counter. He said a manager called police after the woman claimed she had found the cake that way and would not pay full price for it.

Officers ordered her to pay the full price but did not issue her a citation. She was banned from the store and her name wasn't released.

State raises price per tail for large rodents

LA NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana wildlife officials are upping the price they'll pay hunters who catch a large aquatic rodent known for harming marsh ecosystems.

Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has increased the bounty from \$5 to \$6 after fewer Nutrias were caught than in the past. Nutrias are webbed-toed, buck-toothed rodents that are in between the size of muskrats and beavers.

They're known for nibbling on tree roots and causing erosion and damage to marshes.

Officials hope the greater

sum will encourage more hunters to kill Nutrias during the 2019-20 season. All they have to do is bring the tails in as proof to cash in.

Crowd of youths damage police cars

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police restored calm in Philadelphia after a roving crowd of teens and young adults damaged six patrol cars in the city.

Police told WPVI-TV an estimated crowd of 800 to 1,000 people swarmed through a section of the city just before 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

Chief Inspector Joel Dales said police had no warning and don't know why the crowd had gathered.

Police said the crowd started to break up by 1 a.m. Monday.

No injuries were reported and no arrests were made.

Models sue over use of their images in ads

NV LAS VEGAS — Twelve professional models including Carmen Electra and Lucy Pinder are suing five Las Vegas strip clubs, alleging their photos have been used for advertising without permission or payment.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported separate federal civil lawsuits filed this month accuse each club of violating the federal Lanham Act by falsely and misleadingly using the models' images for advertising, and Nevada's right of publicity law.

Electra sued under her real name, Tara Leigh Patrick. She and Pinder allege "pirated" photos of them were used without their consent on social media and promotional flyers.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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US women advance to World Cup final

Associated Press

LYON, France — With Alex Morgan's cheeky tea-sipping celebration and a postgame mobbing of goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, the United States has moved a step closer to successfully defending its latest Women's World Cup title.

Morgan scored the go-ahead goal and Naeher preserved the 2-1 semifinal victory over England by smothering a late penalty kick Tuesday night.

The top-ranked United States will now face the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between the Netherlands and Sweden in the Americans' third straight appearance in the World Cup title match.

Christen Press—who started with Megan Rapinoe out with a hamstring injury—put the United States up early but Ellen White's goal tied it before 20 minutes had passed. Morgan's sixth goal of the tournament came before the break, and on her 30th birthday. She hadn't had a goal since she scored five

in the team's 13-0 rout of Thailand to open the tournament.

After her goal, Morgan pantomimed a sip of tea on the field.

"I feel like this team just has had so much thrown at us, and I felt that we didn't take the easy route to the final this tournament, and that's the tea," she said.

White's goal was also her sixth but Morgan has the edge for the tournament's Golden Boot with three assists. White appeared to score her seventh in the 69th minute but video review determined she was offside—and the Americans in the crowd of 53,512 at Stade de Lyon roared.

Another video review went against the United States late in the game when it determined Becky Sauerbrunn had fouled White in the penalty area. England captain Steph Houghton's penalty shot was stopped by a diving Naeher in the 84th minute.

It was the first penalty kick saved by a U.S. goalkeeper in

regular time at the World Cup. At the final whistle, the team mobbed Naeher in front of the goal in celebration. Rapinoe gave her a bear hug.

The mild-mannered goalkeeper was asked afterward if it was the biggest save of her life. "Probably up there, yeah," she said smiling.

"It's a special team and everybody fought hard tonight for all 90 minutes. Players on the field, players on the bench, ready to come in and make differences," Naeher said. "Obviously Christen coming in and starting tonight and scoring a great goal was huge for us. And I think it's just a testament to the team."

The Americans have been to the semifinals of all eight World Cups, and they've won the trophy three times, more than any nation. The U.S. team's lone loss in a World Cup title match came to Japan in 2011.

Third-ranked England went through to the semifinals in 2015 but fell to Japan before beating Germany in the third-

place match for the Lionesses' best finish in the tournament.

"No words that I can say tonight will make them feel any better," said England coach Phil Neville.

England will play in the third-place match on Saturday in Nice against the loser of the other semifinal.

The United States has won 11 straight World Cup matches and is undefeated in its last 16. With the quarterfinal victory over France, the Americans tied Norway's record winning streak set over the 1995 and 1999 tournaments.

The Americans have exuded confidence since arriving in France. After pouncing on Thailand 13-0 in the opener and celebrating each goal in the rout, they beat nemesis Sweden, the team that ousted the United States in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Olympics. And Rapinoe struck a victorious pose in a 2-1 quarterfinal victory over France on Friday night in Paris.

Angels still reeling from sudden death of Skaggs

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas—Mike Trout led a parade of Los Angeles Angels into the interview room of the Texas Rangers for the first interaction with reporters since teammate Tyler Skaggs died.

The two-time AL MVP tried to smile when it was his turn to talk, only to find himself fighting back tears almost immediately. Trout wasn't alone following a 9-4 win over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night, a day after the 27-year-old Skaggs was found unresponsive in his room at the team hotel.

Andrew Heaney, a starter alongside Skaggs who said the fellow left-hander was his best friend, choked back sobs before finding his composure.

It was the opposite for Justin Upton, who started with a smile

talking about how Skaggs' reaction to the victory would be to say, "We're nasty!" Soon, though, the outfielder dropped his head and stopped in the middle of a sentence, getting a squeeze on the shoulder from Trout.

The emotion was just as raw in that same room a few hours earlier with manager Brad Ausmus and general manager Billy Eppler.

"It's just a tough 24 hours," Trout said as he sniffed and gained a handle on his emotions. "Like Brad said earlier, Skaggs wouldn't want us to take another day off. The energy he brought to the clubhouse, every time you saw him, just pick me up."

The Angels clubhouse was closed to reporters before and after the game, which is unusual in an industry with arguably the best media access among

the four major U.S. professional sports.

There was some question whether Trout and his teammates would talk to reporters after the game—until just about every one of them showed up in a room normally reserved for the home team's manager after each game.

Ausmus, much more composed than he was in a pre-game meeting with reporters that included Eppler, owner Arte Moreno and team president John Carpino, said he would take questions about the game before turning it over to the players.

There was one question each for five players, including Kole Calhoun after his two-run homer that included a heartfelt celebration at home plate when he pointed skyward and had a message for his fallen teammate.

Justin Bour, who had a two-run single on the only pitch he saw as a pinch-hitter after All-Star second baseman Tommy La Stella injured his right shin and had to leave the game on a 3-2 count, finished off the interview session.

Bour went through the same thing three years ago with the Miami Marlins, when pitcher Jose Fernandez was killed in a boating accident late in the season.

"Like the guys say, reserve your sorrow for Skaggs' family, his wife," Bour said. "We're going to keep grinding every day and playing hard and playing with a spirit."

Heaney was singled out for a question among the couple of dozen players because of his close relationship with Skaggs, a Southern California native remembered as a fun-loving teammate.

Hurricanes match offer sheet to Aho

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes are keeping star forward Sebastian Aho and say they will match the \$42 million offer sheet the Montreal Canadiens tendered him.

General manager Don Waddell announced the decision Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the Canadiens extended their offer to the 21-year-old restricted free agent. Aho will receive a five-year, front-loaded, bonus-heavy contract worth \$42.27 million. It carries an average annual value of \$8.454 million.

"Writing that check is no big deal," team owner and billionaire Tom Dundon said. "That doesn't mean we don't want to do contracts that are best for the organization."

Waddell — who last week said the Hurricanes would match any offers extended to Aho —

called it "an easy decision."

The Canadiens offered an \$11.3 million lump sum payment within a week of Aho's signing and another for \$9.87 million July 1, 2020. Overall, the offer is 91.3% bonuses and 8.7% salary. The Hurricanes have until July 8 to make the match official, and Waddell said he didn't know exactly when that would happen. But when they do, Aho's initial lump-sum payment is due within another week of that date.

"It's our job to manage our cap space as our players develop and hit free agency," Waddell said in a statement. "There was no concern at any point that we would not be able to match this contract. Once again, the Carolina Hurricanes should not be underestimated. We have a plan and all the resources to win a Stanley Cup."

Extending offer sheets to re-

stricted free agents has been a rare move in the NHL, with Aho the first player to receive one since Calgary tendered one to then-Colorado center Ryan O'Reilly six years ago. The Avalanche matched it. And not since 2007 has a team declined to match one.

This one had both general managers a bit feisty.

Waddell, speaking about half an hour after learning of the offer to Aho, quipped that he was "actually surprised it wasn't more" and added that his summer instantly became more stress-free because "I'm not going to spend all summer negotiating a contract now."

Canadiens GM Marc Bergevin said his team "saw a vulnerable position" in extending the offer, adding "we all have a competitive edge" and maintaining that Aho "wants to come to Montreal."

Waddell on Tuesday said Aho's agent, Gerry Johansson, "sold a bill of goods."

Aho had career highs with 30 goals, 53 assists and 83 points last season while helping Carolina reach the Eastern Conference finals in its first postseason appearance since 2009. He's just the sixth player in franchise history with 30 goals and 50 assists in the same season, and the fourth with an 80-point season before turning 22.

He will be 26 when this contract expires following the 2023-24 season.

Dundon said the offer sheet tug-of-war ultimately won't hurt his relationship with his young star.

"I am so happy for Sebastian and so happy that he's part of the organization," Dundon said. "It's never going to come up again."

Sports briefs

Lawyers: Person was broke when he accepted bribes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lawyers for former Auburn University assistant basketball coach Chuck Person said Tuesday the 13-year NBA veteran was broke and financially desperate when he joined a bribery conspiracy that cheated young athletes by steering them toward bribe-paying advisers and managers.

They asked a judge in papers filed in Manhattan federal court to spare him from prison in the scandal that touched some of the biggest schools in college basketball.

"Chuck recognizes that his failure to manage his money responsibly led him to make the worst decision of his entire life," the lawyers said. "He grew up poor and suddenly came into millions of dollars without a clue how to manage it. Chuck spent too freely, gave to anyone who asked, made dreadful investment decisions,

and turned to high-interest loans as his financial circumstances deteriorated."

Prosecutors say Person, scheduled to be sentenced next Tuesday, accepted \$91,500 in bribes to steer top players to a government cooperator posing as a financial adviser. Sentencing guidelines call for two years in prison though three other coaches who pleaded guilty to the same charge have received leniency.

After he was drafted by the Indiana Pacers in 1986, he went on to play for five NBA teams over 13 seasons.

Lawyers wrote that Person's financial troubles intensified almost as soon as his NBA career ended when he was paying \$30,000 monthly to his ex-wife while he was earning \$18,000 annually in his first non-playing role with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

By 2016, when he was an assistant coach at Auburn, he was

deeply in debt with bank loans, including one to finance a community center in his hometown, and several private loans, the lawyers said.

Warriors add 2 more

OAKLAND, Calif. — Glenn Robinson III reached agreement on a two-year contract to join the Golden State Warriors, giving the team shooting depth next season as Klay Thompson works back from a serious knee injury.

Also Tuesday, a person with direct knowledge of the deals confirmed the Warriors will also add Willie Cauley-Stein and re-sign center Kevon Looney.

The moves continue an already busy offseason for Golden State, which lost Kevin Durant to the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday.

Looney agreed to a three-year deal expected to be for

\$15 million to stay with Golden State.

He will be joined in the Warriors' center rotation by Cauley-Stein, who makes the short move from Sacramento. The No. 6 pick in the 2015 draft, Cauley-Stein averaged 10.1 points and 6.4 rebounds with the Kings.

Robinson spent last season with Detroit and averaged 4.2 points and 1.2 rebounds in 47 games.

In other NBA news:

■ Veteran forward Jared Dudley has agreed to a one-year deal with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The 33-year-old Dudley will be joining his seventh franchise for his 13th NBA season. He spent last season with Brooklyn, averaging 4.9 points and 2.6 rebounds while starting 25 games and mentoring the Nets' youngsters.

Nola, Bruce power Phillies past Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Aaron Nola wanted to make up for his most recent start against the Braves, a no-decision last month in which he gave up five runs in 4¹/₃ innings.

This time, Nola had full command of his fastball, and the deep Atlanta lineup couldn't solve him.

"That's a big win tonight for us, especially over here against these guys," Nola said. "They've been playing really good this past month to month and a half. Winning the first game of a series is always big."

Nola pitched eight innings, Jay Bruce hit a two-run double and the Philadelphia Phillies spoiled Dallas Keuchel's home

debut with Atlanta, beating the Braves 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Nola (7-2) allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked three in his second consecutive scoreless outing. He threw a career-high 117 pitches before Hector Neris finished for his 17th save in 19 chances, struck out the side.

The second-place Phillies, winners of six of eight, trimmed the Braves' NL East lead to 4¹/₂ games in front of the seventh sellout at SunTrust Park this season. Atlanta, shut out for just the second time this season, dropped two in a row for the first time since June 5-6, a span of 24 games.

It marked the sixth time this year that the Braves, whose 56 homers in June set a franchise

high for a calendar month, were held to four or fewer hits.

"(Nola) didn't throw many heaters and when he did throw one it was perfectly placed in a spot where he was setting up his off-speed," Braves All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman said. "Sometimes good pitchers shut down good offenses."

Philadelphia went ahead to stay in the fourth. With two out and runners on first and second, Bruce doubled to right to give him 22 RBIs in 23 games with the Phillies.

Keuchel (1-2) allowed five hits in seven innings in his third start with the Braves.

"One pitch got me tonight, but I was able to get through seven," Keuchel said. "Seven's really the benchmark for me.

I don't really feel whole unless it's seven-plus, so that's what I strive for every time out."

But it wasn't good enough against Nola, who has been dominant of late.

The ace right-hander, who was still hitting 95 mph on the radar gun in the eighth, has a 0.39 ERA over his last three starts. He is 9-3 with a 2.26 ERA in 15 career starts versus Atlanta.

"He proved that he could go deeper into the game," Philadelphia manager Gabe Kapler said. "He proved that his body was bouncing back for him, that he could handle the volume and that he was staying in his delivery. He ended it just the way an ace does."

MLB roundup

Angels earn emotional win after Skaggs' death

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Justin Bour delivered a two-run single on the first pitch he saw after replacing injured American League All-Star Tommy La Stella, and the grieving Los Angeles Angels beat the Texas Rangers 9-4 on Tuesday night.

The emotional win came a day after the death of 27-year-old pitcher Tyler Skaggs, who was found unresponsive in his room at the team's hotel before what was supposed to be the series opener Monday. That game was postponed.

A few hours after watching with his teammates as manager Brad Ausmus struggled to keep his composure in a news conference to discuss Skaggs' shocking death, Jonathan Lucroy had a tying two-run single in the sixth inning and finished with three RBIs.

Bour entered the game on a full count with two outs in the sixth after La Stella fouled a 97 mph fastball from Texas reliever Jose Leclerc off his right leg, just below the knee. The second

baseman had to be helped off the field.

Kole Calhoun connected for his 18th homer for Los Angeles.

As the stocky outfielder approached home plate, he raised both arms above his head, pointed upward while looking at the sky and let loose with some of his emotion in a message for his fallen teammate.

"We know we've got an angel watching over us now," Calhoun said after the game, surrounded by teammates in a display of unity in the media interview room.

"When I got to the plate, it felt right to pay some respect to him, and like I said, we know we've got somebody watching over us up there."

Mets 4, Yankees 2: Michael Conforto hit a two-run double that snapped an eighth-inning tie and lifted the Mets over the Yankees in their Subway Series opener at Citi Field.

Rays 6, Orioles 3: Charlie Morton struck out six straight batters and a season-high 12 overall, and host Tampa Bay

beat Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 6: David Price pitched six innings to win his fifth straight decision, Rafael Devers homered twice and matched his career-high with six RBIs, and visiting Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Reds 5, Brewers 4 (11): Christian Yelich hit his major league-leading 31st homer, but Yasiel Puig homered to start Cincinnati's comeback and scored the winning run in the 11th inning, ending Milwaukee's streak of six straight wins at Great American Ball Park.

Nationals 3, Marlins 2: Patrick Corbin pitched seven strong innings on an emotional night, and Trea Turner doubled home the winning run in the ninth as host Washington beat Miami.

Astros 9, Rockies 8: Yuli Gurriel homered twice and drove in four runs to lead visiting Houston over Colorado.

Indians 9, Royals 5: Jake Bauers matched a career high with four hits while driving in

three runs and the Cleveland bullpen bailed Trevor Bauer out of a late jam in a win over host Kansas City.

Pirates 5, Cubs 1: Adam Frazier hit a three-run home run after a long rain delay to lead host Pittsburgh past Chicago.

Giants 10, Padres 4: Evan Longoria had two home runs among his four hits and drove in five runs, and Kevin Pillar also had four hits for visiting San Francisco in a win over San Diego.

Athletics 8, Twins 6: Chris Herrmann hit a grand slam in his first game as host Oakland beat Minnesota for its fourth straight victory.

Mariners 5, Cardinals 4: Tim Beckham hit a pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning and host Seattle beat St. Louis.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4: Cody Bellinger's bases-loaded walk — the fifth in a row given up by Arizona's bullpen with two outs — forced in the winning run in the ninth for host Los Angeles.