

Britain

Lawsuit against newspaper

Court backs Meghan over privacy dispute

LONDON, Dec 4, (AP) — The Duchess of Sussex won the latest stage in her privacy lawsuit against a British newspaper on Thursday, when three senior judges ruled its publisher breached her privacy by reproducing parts of a letter she wrote to her estranged father.

The duchess formally known as American actress **Meghan Markle** said the Court of Appeal ruling was a victory of “right versus wrong.” She issued a call to “reshape a tabloid industry” that has long been the bane of both celebrities and British royals.

Losing claimant Associated Newspapers said it was considering an appeal to the UK Supreme Court.

Britain’s High Court ruled in February that the publisher of The Mail on Sunday and MailOnline website unlawfully breached Meghan’s privacy with five articles that reproduced a large chunk of a handwritten letter she sent her father, Thomas Markle, after she married Prince Harry in 2018.

The publisher appealed, and a hearing was held last month. Dismissing the appeal, senior appeals judge Geoffrey Vos said Thursday that “the Duchess had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of the letter. Those contents were personal, private and not matters of legitimate public interest.”

In a statement, Meghan, 40, said the ruling was “a victory not just for me, but for anyone who has ever felt scared to stand up for what’s right.”

Brave

“What matters most is that we are now collectively brave enough to reshape a tabloid industry that conditions people to be cruel, and profits from the lies and pain that they create,” she said.

Associated Newspaper’s lawyers disputed Meghan’s claim that she didn’t intend the letter to be seen by anyone but her father.

They said correspondence between Meghan and her then-communications secretary, Jason Knauf, showed the duchess suspected her father might leak the letter to journalists and wrote it with that in mind.

The publisher also argued that the publication of the letter was part of Thomas Markle’s right to reply following a People magazine interview with five of Meghan’s friends alleging he was “cruelly cold-shouldering” his daughter in the run-up to her royal wedding.

But Vos said that the article, which the Mail on Sunday described as “sensational,” was “splashed as a new public revelation” rather than focusing on Thomas Markle’s response to negative media reports about him.

In their appeal, Associated Newspapers had also argued that Meghan made private information public by cooperating with Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand, authors of “Finding Freedom,” a sympathetic book about her and Harry.

The duchess’ lawyers had previously denied that she or Harry collaborated with the authors. But Knauf said in evidence to the court that he gave the writers information, and discussed it with Harry and Meghan.

Knauf’s evidence, which hadn’t previously been disclosed, was a dramatic twist in the long-running case.

In response, Meghan apologized for misleading the court about the extent of her cooperation with the book’s authors.

The duchess said she didn’t remember the discussions with Knauf when she gave evidence earlier in the case, and had “absolutely no wish or intention to mislead the defendant or the court.”

Meghan, a former star of the American TV legal drama “Suits,” married Harry, a grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, at Windsor Castle in May 2018.

Quitting

Meghan and Harry announced in early 2020 that they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. They have settled in Santa Barbara, California, with their two young children.

In her statement Thursday, Meghan said she had been subject to “deception, intimidation and calculated attacks” in the three years since the lawsuit began. She accused the publisher of treating the case as “a game with no rules” and of dragging out proceedings “in order to generate more headlines and sell more newspapers - a model that rewards chaos above truth.”

In February, a High Court judge issued a summary judgment, ruling without a full trial that Meghan’s privacy and copyright had been breached. Associated Newspapers argued in its appeal that the case should go to trial.

The publisher said in a statement Thursday that “judgment should be given only on the basis of evidence tested at trial,” especially since “Mr. Knauf’s evidence raises issues as to the Duchess’s credibility.”

Lawyer Mark Stephens, who specializes in media law and is not connected to the case, said he believed the publisher will appeal, though it would be unusual for Britain’s Supreme Court to take such a case. He said the publisher could also try to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

“There’s an issue of principle here, which is whether this case should be finished before a trial without disclosure, without testing the evidence,” Stephens said. The ruling did not settle questions about whether the letter to Thomas Markle was “always intended for Meghan’s side to publish and to leak and to use as briefing material,” he added.

Associated Newspapers “have a right to this trial, and I think that that is just going to protract the pain for Meghan Markle,” Stephens said.

Britain’s governing Conservative Party has held onto a seat in Parliament in a special election triggered by a lawmaker’s death. But the party saw its margin of victory slashed after weeks of headlines about politicians’ ethics breaches and an uncertain coronavirus picture.

Conservative candidate **Louie French** was elected to the House of Commons for the district of **Old Bexley and Sidcup**, results showed Friday. He took 51.5% of votes cast, down from the 64.5% share the **Tories** won during the 2019 election. The Labour Party came second and increased its vote share by from 23.5% to 31%.

Turnout for Thursday’s vote was 34%, about half the level that would be expected in a national election.

The election for the constituency in southeast London was triggered by the death from cancer of former Cabinet minister **James Brokenshire** in October at the age of 53.



Dawn Neptune Adams stands on the banks of the Penobscot River, Tuesday, Nov 23, 2021, on Indian Island, Maine. When Adams was a child she was one of the many Penobscot and Passamaquoddy people who were removed from their homes by the state of Maine and placed with white foster families. She recently co-directed a film that focuses on the Phips Proclamation of 1755, one of the dozens of government-issued bounty proclamations that directed colonial settlers to hunt, scalp and kill for money. (AP)

America

Biden says it’s just a cold: President Joe Biden has at least one thing in common with thousands of parents and grandparents this winter: He’s picked up a cold from his young grandson.

The president has had an unusually low, scratchy voice and an occasional cough all week, prompting questions from the press about his health on Friday. He assured reporters that he’s tested frequently for COVID-19 and is negative, and that has been dealing with a scratchy throat for a much less concerning reason.

“What I have is a one-and-a-half year old grandson who had a cold who likes to kiss his pop,” he said. “It’s just a cold.”

Biden spent the Thanksgiving weekend with his family in Nantucket, and on Monday, his youngest grandson Beau - named after Biden’s deceased son - was at the White House to help his grandmother welcome the White House Christmas tree. (AP)

Officer killed, suspect wounded: A shooting outside a suburban Dallas supermarket left a police officer dead and a suspect wounded on Friday, authorities said.

It happened about 1:40 p.m. outside an Albertson’s supermarket in Mesquite, Police Chief David Gill said. The officer was responding to a report of a disturbance in the store parking lot when the suspect pulled a gun and opened fire, striking the officer twice, he said. The officer returned fire, wounding the suspect once.

Both were taken in critical condition to a Dallas hospital, where the officer died, Gill said. The suspect was being treated at the hospital. Gill said he did not know his current condition. (AP)

Teens charged with killing teacher: Two Iowa teenagers charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in

Tribe

‘Immoral program existed for generations’

Gov sorry for State’s role in schools

CARSON CITY, Dec 4 (AP) — When it was time for Winona James to return to school, her family hid her in brush near their home in the Carson Valley to prevent officials from the Stewart Indian School from finding her.

James, a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, was among the more than 20,000 students who were sent to the boarding school as part of a federal program designed to forcibly assimilate Native Americans into dominant Euro-American culture. She attended for one year, but her family feared for her life.

“I can remember that my grandmother didn’t want me to come back to Stewart because she thought I would never, ever go back home again,” she said in interview for a University of Nevada, Reno history initiative in 1984.

The Stewart School in Carson City is among more than 350 residential schools that the U.S. Interior Department plans to examine as part of the Federal Boarding School Initiative Review, which includes an investigation into student deaths and known and possible burial sites.

On Friday, Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak

heard stories from tribal elders about the school’s history. The governor, tribal leaders, state agency heads and Interior officials discussed ways the state - which funded the school’s construction and helped gather children to send there - can contribute to the federal efforts to confront historic injustices and intergenerational trauma and honor the children who died at boarding schools.

Descendants of Paiute, Washoe and Shoshone people who attended the Stewart School during the 90 years it was in operation told stories of bounties being offered to bring Native children to the school; of students attempting to run away due to starvation; and of extreme overcrowding in dormitories.

“It is a tragedy that it has taken so long for the federal government to undertake an honest accounting of an immoral program that existed here for generations,” Sisolak said at the Stewart Indian School, which now houses a cultural center and museum.

The governor apologized on behalf of the state and promised to fully cooperate with the Interior Department and its first Native American secretary, Deb Haaland, as they

review records and investigate the federal government’s past policies and oversight of Native American boarding schools.

Stacey Montooth, executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission, said it was unclear how many children had attended or died at the Stewart Indian School.

Though the federal government never focused on keeping track of students, Montooth said, the fact that it took all records and archival materials when it shuttered the school in 1980 has made accounting for deaths difficult.

Despite the lack of available archival material, Native Americans in Nevada continue to reckon with the history of boarding schools, she said: “There’s not a Paiute, Shoshone or Washoe person in this state who doesn’t have a direct connection to this campus.”

Since children’s remains were discovered at a residential school in Canada, tribes both there and in the United States have pushed the government to acknowledge the enduring effects of policies that Pennsylvania boarding school founder Richard Pratt described in the 19th century as “Kill the Indian, Save the Man.”

the death of their high school Spanish teacher will remain in jail after a judge opted to keep their bail bond at \$1 million cash only in a decision released Friday.

Attorneys for Willard Noble Chaiden Miller and Jeremy Everett Goodale, both 16, asked Judge Joel Yates to reduce their bond so they could be released from custody while awaiting

trial. Prosecutors resisted citing the brutal nature of the teacher’s death and asked that bond be maintained at \$1 million or even raised to \$2 million. (AP)

Company showcased latest solar power solutions in its booth

Zain sponsors Kuwait’s first Electric Vehicles Show



Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Kuwait Electric Vehicles Show (KEV) titled “Green Kuwait”. The event is the first roadshow of its kind in the nation to showcase the latest electric and hybrid vehicles available in the Kuwaiti market, and aims at introducing the role of EVs in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change.

Zain was present at KEV through its dedicated booth, through which the company showcased the latest solar power and photoelectric technologies in collaboration with its global partner Huawei. Zain introduced visitors to the huge benefits behind solar and photoelectric innovations in preserving natural resources and mitigating climate change. This is especially true as solar power is one of the best sustainable sources for renewable energy to charge electric vehicles.

The Kuwait Electric Vehicles Show (Green Kuwait) is a special gathering that introduces the public to the latest EV and hybrid models available in the Kuwaiti market, and features six local dealers that represent the biggest

car brands in the world. The event also aims at gathering the public and private sectors to affirm the positive and active role of EVs in mitigating climate change and contributing to achieving carbon neutrality.

Zain recently participated in the Global Digital Power Summit 2021, organized by Huawei on the sidelines of GITEX in Dubai, with the aim of enabling organizations to seize the opportunities inherent in renewable energy by relying on digital technologies to achieve sustainability goals.

Zain joins the global efforts that focus on digital energy business, where hopes are pinned on advancing digital transformation in the energy sector to eliminate carbon emissions. The company looks forward to the success of these efforts that seek to integrate digital and electrical technologies to generate safe energy, which is accelerating after the pandemic. The tech sector is currently looking to rely on safe energy, especially with the stage of economic recovery as a contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The telecom sector is taking



collaborative measures to be fully transparent about climate emissions resulting from the industry’s operations, and the sector has developed an industry-wide roadmap for climate action. The sector aims at achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. Zain is one of the 50 telecom operators that make up more than two-thirds of mobile telecommunications companies in the world to reveal the impact of its operations on the climate, such as its energy consumption rates and greenhouse gases emissions.

Zain realizes that the risks of climate change are an unfolding crisis that poses serious risks to the prosperity and wellbeing of the region. The company is taking concerted actions in achieving its goals to reduce carbon emissions, and is also committed in its operations to reducing its environmental footprint.

Zain is committed towards initiatives that help reduce environmental impacts, and is serious about playing a proactive role in building its operations, as well

as managing its products, services, and value chain to achieve its goals related to reducing carbon emissions.

The company is keen on aligning its actions with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report and with the goals of Paris Agreement, along with the recommendations of the Global Mobile Telecommunications Union (GSMA), and through digital transformation initiatives, expanding the reach of the list of services as much as possible.

The company is working to unleash many opportunities offered by the Sustainability Developmental Goals (SDGs), and as part of these efforts, Zain was keen to be a member of the “Carbon Disclosure Project” (CDP). The company took a decisive step in disclosing its climate impacts, energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions, and is now rated in this global project in Management Scope (B), making it the first telecom company in the Middle East and Africa region to achieve this rating in addressing climate change.