

# ★ HARRY: 'I'M JUST OVER THE MOON'

Prince announces birth of baby boy

The Associated Press

WINDSOR, England — A beaming Prince Harry said his wife, Meghan, gave birth to a baby boy early Monday morning.

Harry says he's "incredibly proud" of his wife and that they have a healthy baby boy who weighs 7 pounds, 3 ounces. He has not yet been named.

Harry said the child was a little bit overdue and that had given them more time to contemplate names. He says he is ecstatic about the birth of their first child and said more details will be shared in coming days.

"This little baby is absolutely to die for," he said. "I'm just over the moon."

The infant will be seventh in line to the British throne and Queen Elizabeth II's eighth great-grandchild. Harry is the younger son of Prince Charles, the next in line to the

throne, and the late Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

The child will be eligible for dual British-U.S. citizenship if Meghan and Harry want to go through the application process.

Harry, speaking before TV cameras on Monday afternoon, was present for the birth, which he said was an amazing experience. The couple has said they didn't find out the baby's sex in advance.

Senior royals have been informed of the birth, as has the family of Princess Diana.

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, was formerly known as Meghan Markle and was a TV star before retiring from acting to marry Harry at St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle a year ago.

Journalists and well-wishers had camped out for days in Windsor, about 22 miles west



Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, shown in December, became parents for the first time on Monday.

AP / FRANK AUGSTEIN

of London, awaiting the baby's arrival.

Meghan, a California native, had a starring role on the American TV series "Suits." She had a previous marriage that ended in divorce and has strong feminist views. As the daughter of a black mother and a white father, she says she identifies as biracial.

Harry, who has said he wanted to protect his wife from intrusive media coverage, and Meghan have said they plan to keep many of the details of the birth private.

The birth marks the completion of Harry's transformation from troubled teenager to committed military man to proud fa-

ther. He has long spoken of his desire to start a family.

He and his older brother, Prince William, along with their wives, are seen by many in Britain as the new, fresh faces of a royal family that had become stodgy and aged. They are raising the next generation of royals amid a genuine groundswell of public support for the monarchy.

Meghan in particular represents a change for the royals: She is American, older than her husband, divorced, and comes from a biracial background.

She also achieved considerable success in her own right before agreeing to a blind date with Harry that changed both

their lives. Meghan had an important role in "Suits," which was a popular series, and had a wide following even before she joined the world's most famous royal family.

Harry and Meghan recently moved from central London to a secluded house known as Frogmore Cottage near Windsor Castle, 25 miles west of London. The move is seen in part as reflecting a desire for privacy as they raise their first child.

It also separates Harry and Meghan from William and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, who had been living in the same compound at Kensington Palace in central London.

## Authorities: Limit vaccination exemptions

The Associated Press

ALBANY — New York state must allow only medical exemptions for vaccinations, members of more than two dozen medical organizations and county health officials said Monday as the number of reported measles cases continued to rise nationwide.

Representatives from 28 physician, nurse and health advocacy groups, and public health organizations held a news conference near the state

Capitol in downtown Albany to support legislation that would ban religious exemptions for required childhood vaccinations.

"Ensuring that enough of the population is immune to a contagious disease by vaccination is vitally important to protect those who are not medically eligible for certain vaccines," including infants, pregnant women and people with a weakened immune system, said Dr. Linda Effren of the American College of Physicians' New York chapter.

Earlier in the day, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 764 measles cases have been reported in 23 states so far this year, making it the biggest measles breakout since 1994, when 963 were reported. The current total of cases increased by 60 over last week, according to the CDC.

Most cases reported over the past four months have occurred in New York State, where health officials say the majority of cases have occurred in Orthodox Jewish com-

munities in New York City and nearby Rockland County. State and city health officials have confirmed 675 cases, including 215 in Rockland as of Friday.

Measles was once common but gradually became rare after a vaccination campaigns that started in the 1960s. Health officials declared the disease eliminated in the U.S. in 2000.

The Democrats have introduced legislation that would eliminate all nonmedical vaccination exemptions, including those based on religious beliefs, some-

thing the lawmakers referred to as "religious loopholes."

The medical and public health organizations urged lawmakers in the Democrat-controlled Legislature to pass the legislation as soon as possible so it can be sent to Democratic Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who initially voiced concerns over the First Amendment legal issues involved with eliminating the religious exemptions. More recently he said such exemptions don't hold sway over public health concerns.