



MAYOR-ELECT DYER'S WINNING REACTION: TEARS AND PRAYER

March 11, 2020 | David Taub

Jerry Dyer said he was humbled upon learning Wednesday that he clinched the Fresno mayoral race. "When I found out the news today, I was in tears. The first thing I did do was fall on my knees

"When I found out the news today, I was in tears. The first thing I did do was fall on my knees and thank God for allowing me to become mayor of this city." — Mayor-Elect Jerry Dyer and thank God for allowing me to become mayor of this city,"
Dyer told the media at a news conference at City Hall. After the latest round of election results was released

earlier in the day, there were not enough votes remaining to reduce Dyer's 51.8% share below the majority threshold needed to avoid a November runoff. Second-place finisher Andrew Janz, with 39.9%, conceded the race in a call to Dyer and later on Twitter.

Related Story: Dyer Prevails in Latest Count for Fresno Mayor. Janz Concedes.

Homelessness Remains Top Priority

Mayor-elect Dyer said his top priority remains homelessness. Adhering to what he discussed during his campaign, Dyer wants to enlarge current navigation centers — where multiple services would be at a single location. The homeless would than transition into bridge housing. "When we centralize services to those individuals, I believe we will have a much better opportunity allowing them to be productive," Dyer said. During the campaign, three city councilmembers publicly objected to Dyer's plan to enlarge those navigation centers in the downtown area. They felt such services should be spread throughout the city.

Related Story: Dyer Offers Specifics on Safety, Homeless, Business

Dyer Will Have Say in New Police Chief

Dyer said he is in discussions with current Mayor Lee Brand to select a new police chief. "I fully anticipate he's going to initiate that process here in the next month or so. I will be part of that process. He's asked me to be part of that process," Dyer said. Andy Hall succeeded Dyer as chief last October. However, Hall faces a mandatory retirement in the spring of 2021. "I don't think there is any police chief candidate in the country, let alone internally, who would take that position unless the incoming mayor is part of that decision-making process," Dyer said.

Related Story: Brand's Police Chief Choice Reflects His Integrity, Not a Charade

Eight Month Transition

Dyer, who won't take office until next January, said he will spend the time reviewing each department's needs. That includes bringing in an outside consultant ahead of time to determine best business practices. Dyer said it will be paid for privately. He

will also reach out to all city council members, including Miguel Arias who campaigned against Dyer. Dyer's goal to reach out to council is to "unite this city and be able to do the things quite frankly the citizens of Fresno

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deserve. They do not deserve a divided relationship between the mayor and the council." Asked if he would retain the current City Hall administration, including City Manager Wilma Quan, Dyer said those decisions would be made at a later date. "I want to build a team that has a can-do attitude, a team that is looking to gravitate toward yes," Dyer said...

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March 10, 2020 | David Taub

One of the San Joaquin Valley's greatest athletes will be fighting in front of a hometown crowd one last time. Boxing champion Jose Ramirez announced his sixth and perhaps last fight at the Save Mart Center in Fresno. The WBC/WBO World Super Lightweight champ will take on Viktor Postol on May 9, live on ESPN. "It's going to be very hard to get him back here. I was lucky to strike a deal to get him back this time," Ramirez's manager and promoter Richard Mirigian said.

It's bittersweet for Ramirez, the Avenal native, former Olympian and rapidly rising star in the world of boxing. "I'm very sad about it, because I know this fight means a lot to the people," Ramirez said. "For now, I'm very happy that I get to give Fresno one more fight." The bout was scheduled to take place last month in China, but postponed because of the coronavirus.

Hometown Success

Ramirez's 25-0 record means he is undefeated both at home and the road. In addition to his five Save Mart Center bouts, Ramirez fought three times at Selland Arena in Fresno, and twice in Lemoore. The hometown crowd motivates Ramirez.

"Anytime I fight in Fresno, anytime I walk out of that tunnel into the ring, I've never seen nothing like it," Ramirez said. "The atmosphere, the noise (fans) make, the excitement they show ... it definitely gives me a lot of energy and it takes the butterflies out of my stomach before I ever get to the ring."

Ramirez takes up a cause with each bout, which is promoted nearly has hard as the fight itself. In the past, Ramirez fought for water and immigrant rights. On May 9, Ramirez is...

CLOVIS READIES PLAN TO CHARGE BUILDERS MORE FOR NEW WATER SUPPLY

March 10, 2020 | David Taub

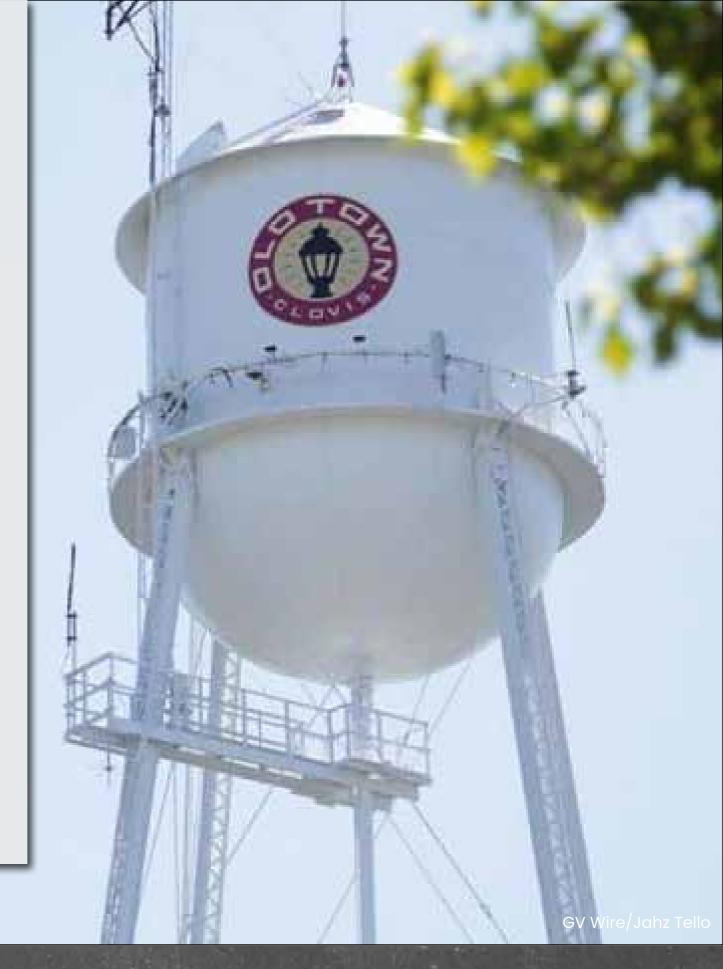
Home and commercial developers looking to build in Clovis will pay more for water under a plan adopted by city council members Monday. The new charge will help defray \$35 million in costs the city will incur to secure additional water supplies from the Fresno Irrigation District, needed to support Clovis' future growth.

Water Deal Made Last Year

Last year, the Clovis City Council entered into a long-term contract to increase its municipal water supply. Now, the city has a plan to pay for it. The council voted unanimously to allow a new fee to be charged to developers for future projects. How much to charge and which projects will be required to pay the fee is set to be finalized on March 16. As part of the \$35 million water deal, FID will provide up to 7,000 acre feet of water annually for 25 years. One acre foot of water is about 326,000 gallons. An average household uses a half to one acre-foot of water a year. The city will directly fund \$5 million of the cost — due in...

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CORONAVIRUS WON'T STOP FREE SCHOOL MEALS — EVEN IF SCHOOLS HAVE TO CLOSE

March 11, 2020 | Nancy Price

California school kids will still get free meals if their schools are forced to close to halt the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, thanks to a special waiver program announced Tuesday by the California Department of Education. This week, Parlier Unified School District announced the temporary closure of two schools over coronavirus concerns. A growing number of other public and private schools across California have also done so,

One of the major concerns for school officials in low-income areas is whether students who get free breakfasts, lunches, and snacks at school would have to go hungry if schools close. But the California Education Department has received a special waiver, CA COVID19, from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the meals through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option programs. The federally funded, state-administered programs serve free meals to students age...

some indefinitely. **Concern Over Student Access to School Meals READ MORE »**

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NEWSOM: NO LARGE GATHERINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

March 12, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom urged an end to gatherings of more than 250 people to counter the spread of new coronavirus, a move he said would cause "real stress" for many people and businesses but save lives. Newsom said California public health officials late Wednesday issued an updated policy saying "non-essential" gatherings such as sporting events, concerts and conferences should be postponed or canceled until at least the end of March. Smaller events can proceed only if organizers can keep people at least six feet apart to avoid transmission of the virus.

The policy does not apply to school classes. Gatherings that include those at higher risk for severe illness should be limited to no more than 10 people no closer

"Not holding that concert or community event can have cascading effects—saving dozens of lives and preserving critical health care resources that your family may need a month from now. The people in our lives who are most at risk—seniors and those with underlying health conditions—are depending on all of us to make the right choice."

- Gov. Gavin Newsom

than six feet apart. "Not holding that concert or community event can have cascading effects — saving dozens of lives and preserving critical health care resources that your family may need a month from now," Newsom said in a statement.

"The people in our lives who are most at risk – seniors and those with underlying health conditions

— are depending on all of us to make the right choice." The policy defines a "gathering" as anything that brings together people in a single space including auditoriums, stadiums, large conference rooms, meeting halls and cafeterias. The announcement came hours after both-San Francisco and Oakland banned large gatherings of 1,000 or more people. On Monday, Santa Clara County, home to San Jose and Silicon Valley, announced a similar ban.

There Are More Than 175 Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in California

Last week, Newsom declared a statewide emergency because of the virus. His announcement on gatherings is a recommendation and not a ban like the one Washington Gov. Jay Inslee imposed on all gatherings of 250 or more in Seattle's metro area. That order affects three counties with nearly 4 million people. At least

25 people have died in Washington, most at a single suburban Seattle nursing home.

There are more than 175 confirmed coronavirus cases in California and

There are more than 175 confirmed coronavirus cases in California and four virus-related deaths, including the first one in Los Angeles County on Wednesday.

four virus-related deaths, including the first one in Los Angeles County on Wednesday. Officials in Sacramento County are taking steps to protect residents of an assisted living facility after a resident in her 90s died on Tuesday.

Newsom said eliminating larger gatherings "will cause real stress — especially for families and businesses least equipped financially to deal with them." He said the state is working with businesses "who will feel the economic shock of these changes." Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said restricting large gatherings will be a headache and a potential financial hit for the city and the state, but it's the right thing to do to stem the spread of the virus.

Garcetti also said he's hopeful the city eventually will be able to offer drive-through testing and that doctors will be able to offer treatment via the internet and phone.

Related Story: Walters: We Are Nation's Ground Zero for Coronavirus

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LATE-WINTER SYSTEMS TO BRING RAIN, SNOW TO CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

March 12, 2020 | AP News

A low-pressure system moving inland through Southern California on Thursday was expected to draw subtropical moisture northwestward, bringing showers and a chance of thunderstorms, the National Weather Service said. With heavy rain possible in some spots, flash flood watches were to go into effect at noon for a vast swath of interior valleys, mountains and desert. Some high elevation mountains could get "substantial" snow by Friday, forecasters said. The next weather system is expected to begin bringing rain to Central and Northern California during the weekend and snow in higher elevations.

Moderate Drought Covers Most of the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada

With spring just a week away, California is way below normal winter rain and snowfall levels. The U.S. Drought Monitor report issued Thursday shows more than 48% of California now in moderate drought and another 30% characterized...

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WATER IS LIFE. IT'S ALSO A BATTLE. SO WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR CALIFORNIA?

March 9, 2020 | CalMatters

Water plays a lead role in the state's political theater, with Democrats and Republicans polarized, farmers often fighting environmentalists and cities pitted against rural communities. Rivers are overallocated through sloppy water accounting. Groundwater has dwindled as farmers overdraw aquifers. Many communities lack safe drinking water. Native Americans want almost-extinct salmon runs revived. There is talk, too, of new water projects, including a massive new tunnel costing billions of dollars.

Scientists say climate change will bring more unpredictable weather, warmer winters and less snowpack in the mountains. These challenges and some ideas for remedies are outlined in a new plan, called the California Water Resilience Portfolio, released by Gov. Gavin Newsom in January to a mix of praise and disappointment. Below, an explanation of the state's water development — as well as the challenges, today and tomorrow, of providing water for California's people, places...

March 11, 2020 | AP News

California's uber-popular Coachella music festival has been postponed from its usual two-weekend-run in April to October due to concerns about the growing coronavirus. The festival's producer Goldenvoice made the announcement Tuesday, also confirming that Stagecoach, a country music festival, will also be postponed.

Coachella, held in Southern California, will now take place on Oct. 9-11 and Oct. 16-18, while Stagecoach will take place Oct. 23-25. "At the direction of the County of Riverside and local health authorities, we must sadly confirm the rescheduling of Coachella and Stagecoach due to COVID-19 con-

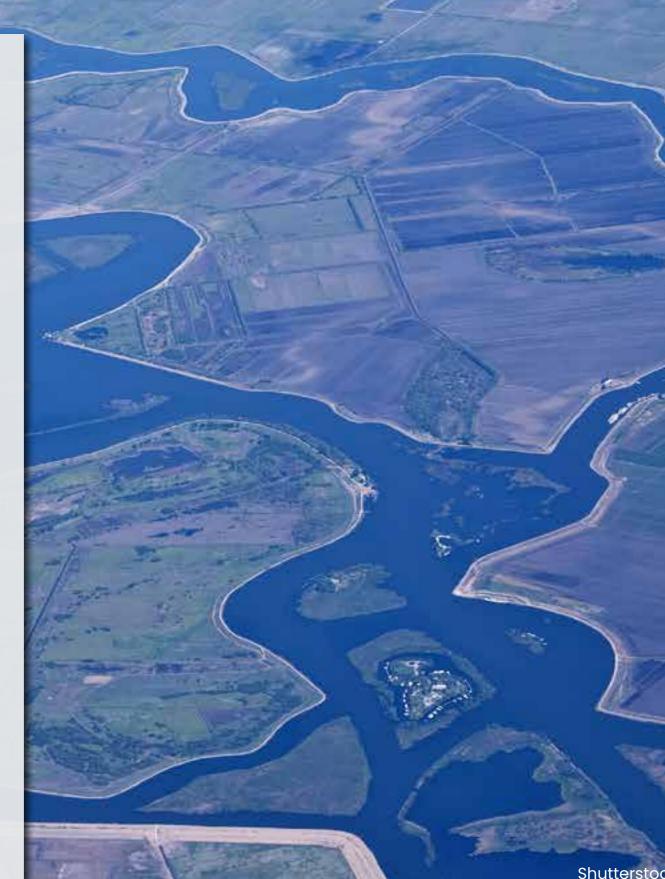
cerns. While this decision comes at a time of universal uncertainty, we take the safety and health of our guests, staff and community very seriously. We urge everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by public health officials," Goldenvoice said in a statement.

The company said all passes for original dates will be honored for the rescheduled shows, and customers will be notified by Friday on how to obtain a refund if they cannot attend. Rage Against the Machine, Travis Scott and Frank Ocean were originally announced as headliners of Coachella; Goldenvoice didn't say if the performance lineup would...

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TRAVEL BANS, MARKET CHAOS: REACTION TO VIRUS SPREAD

March 12, 2020 | AP News

ROME — Sweeping travel bans accelerated around the globe Thursday, walling regions apart, keeping people inside their homes, and slowing the engines of commerce to try to slow the unfolding coronavirus pandemic. In the U.S., stocks dropped so fast that trading halted for the second time this week. President Donald Trump, who had downplayed the virus for weeks, delivered a somber Oval Office address announcing strict rules on travel from much of Europe after accusing governments there of failing to respond quickly to the threat. The State Department followed with an extraordinary warning to Americans to "reconsider travel abroad" as well.

The European Union quickly slammed Trump's "unilateral" decision, declaring the virus a "global crisis, not limited to any continent and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action." The virus detected three months ago in China has produced crippling outbreaks in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, ignited global financial

"It's similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that's going to shake us for weeks and weeks."

— Dr. Jeff Duchin a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks

panic and in the last week has seen dizzying developments that are erupting by the hour.

Those include an official designation of "pandemic" from the World Health Organization, a dramatic halt to much travel between the United States and 26

European countries, and infections being announced in rapid-fire pace by Hollywood celebrities, sports stars and political leaders as well as ordinary people on cruise ships. In Italy's Lombardy region, the virus' hospitals were overwhelmed with both the sick and the dead. "It's similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that's going to shake us for weeks and weeks," said Dr. Jeff Duchin a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has

one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks. Around the world, nursing homes emptied of visitors to protect the elderly, who are especially vulnerable to the virus. More than 127,000 people in more than 110 countries

have been infected. The vast majority are in just four countries: China and South Korea — where new cases are declining —and Iran and Italy, where they are not. The

"If we avoid each other and listen to the scientists, maybe in a few weeks it will be better." — Koloud "Kay" Tarapolsi of Redmond, Washington

spread has slowed so much in China that the government offered to send a medical crew to Italy and surplus supplies to Iran and other countries in need.

Even Remote Mount Everest Closed for Business

More than 4,700 people have died worldwide. In California, the governor advised officials to cancel any gatherings of more than 250 people, as well as any smaller meetings where people must be closer than 6 feet (2 meters) — a description that includes everything from dinner parties to political rallies. Congress shut the U.S. Capitol and House and Senate office buildings to the public until April 1, and the White House canceled tours.

Related Story: Newsom: No Large Gatherings Due to Coronavirus

In Italy, new restrictions closed restaurants, cafes and retail shops Thursday after the prime minister imposed a nationwide lockdown on personal movement earlier in the week. Grocery stores, pharmacies and outdoor markets were allowed to operate, as were newspaper stands. Rosanna Farina, whose family has run a newspaper kiosk in Rome's historic center since the 19th century, was torn on whether it was worth staying open. "So few people are out and about. People are terrorized," she said, wearing a scarf around her face. "I'd...

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US HEART SURGEON TREATS CHILDREN LACKING **CARE IN LIBYA'S WAR**

March 12, 2020 | AP News

TRIPOLI, Libya — Yazan, a 1-year-old Libyan boy, was born with congenital heart disease. With just one chamber, the organ pumped so little blood that when Yazan cried, his skin turned black. Without surgery, he would not survive. But Yazan's country, Libya, has only one heart surgeon who can't possibly perform surgeries on 1,200 or so infants born every year with heart defects.

Of those, typically some 150 are in dire need of surgery and die in their first year, said William Novick, an American pediatric cardiac surgeon. His international team of experts, part of the Novick Cardiac Alliance, regularly flies into Libya to perform surgery on patients like Yazan. "To me this is simply an unacceptable situation that needs our attention," said Novick, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee. The medical trips help prop up Libya's fragile health care system, which the World Health Organization has described as overburdened...

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BERNIE SANDERS SAYS HE'S MOVING AHEAD WITH HIS DEM CAMPAIGN

March 11, 2020 | AP News

BURLINGTON, Vt. — While acknowledging his deficit in the Democratic race, Bernie Sanders said Wednesday he's pressing ahead with his presidential campaign at least long enough to debate Joe Biden this weekend and try to force him to answer questions about economic inequality and the country's fraying social safety net.

The Vermont senator offered no further details on what his campaign may look like before or after he and Biden — the last two major candidates left in the Democratic presidential nomination — spar Sunday night on stage in Arizona.

And that will continue to raise questions — as unlikely as it may seem less than two weeks after losing his front-runner status – about how long Sanders will persist against increasingly daunting odds.

Sanders addressed reporters after offering no public statements Tuesday night, when he suffered a devastating primary defeat in Michigan and losses in Missouri, Idaho and Mississippi at the hands of Biden. Sanders noted that he won North Dakota and the continuing count in Washington state remained close. But he admitted he was trailing badly...

WILL WARM WEATHER STOP THE SPREAD OF NEW VIRUS? **NO ONE REALLY KNOWS**

March 12, 2020 | AP News

JAKARTA, Indonesia — As outbreaks of the new coronavirus that first emerged in China continue to spread in more than 100 countries — particularly those experiencing winter one of the biggest unanswered questions is how it will behave in warmer weather.

Like influenza, the new disease is a respiratory infection belonging to a family of viruses that typically survive longer in colder environments. Most people experience only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, but older adults and people with existing health problems may have more severe illnesses, including pneumonia.

The virus has reached every continent except Antarctica but has yet to cause major outbreaks in the Southern Hemisphere. Some key questions on how the virus might behave

once the temperature rises: No one knows. The new...

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ROYAL FAREWELL: HARRY, MEGHAN ON FINAL DUTY BEFORE NEW LIFE

March 9, 2020 | AP News

"I think this is a blow

because I don't think

LONDON — It's definitely a farewell. But will it be fond? Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, fulfilled their final royal commitment when they appeared Monday at the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in London. It's the last time they will be seen at work with the entire royal Windsor

clan before they fly off into self-imposed exile in North America.

(the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmed-down monar-The service marks the end chy would have actualof a two-month drama that ly meant that there was began when the couple no role for Meghan and announced plans to walk Harry. I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand." - Pauline Maclaran, co-author of 'Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture

away from their roles as senior members of Britain's royal family and into a world where they will have to earn a living, pay their own way and even open some doors for themselves. It's uncharted territo-

ry for the House of Windsor, even as the family seeks to downsize. "I think this is a blow because I don't think (the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmeddown monarchy would have actually meant that there was no role for Meghan and Harry," said Pauline Maclaran, co-author of "Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture." "I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand."

It wasn't supposed to happen this way. Less than two years ago, Harry and Meghan were seen as a golden couple that would help extend the royal family's appeal to a new generation. Their wedding on May 19, 2018, united a grandson of 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II with the former Meghan Markle, a bi-racial American actress who had starred for seven years on the U.S. television series "Suits." George Clooney, Serena Williams and Elton John attended their wedding at Windsor Castle, which ended with the royal couple kissing for their flag-waving fans and riding through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage. But the horses were barely back at the stable before pressures intensified on the couple, who became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on their wedding day.

Related Story: Questions of Racism Linger as Harry, Meghan Step Back

The Prince Was Stung by Media Reports of a Split **Between Him and His Older Brother**

Even before the ceremony, Britain's tabloid newspapers featured stories about a rift between Meghan and her father. When Meghan became pregnant, some commentators criticized her for jetting off to New York for

a baby shower, a strange American tradition to many in Britain. Others lampooned Meghan's politically correct pronouncements on the environment and women's rights. Meghan's sup-

"For me, and for my wife, of course there's a lot of stuff that hurts, especially when the majority of it is untrue. I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum." — Prince Harry

porters saw racism at work. Harry publicly defended his wife and directed his anger at the intrusive media he has resented all his life because of the paparazzi's role in chasing his mother, Princess Diana, on the night in 1997 when she died in a Paris car accident.

The prince himself was stung by media reports of a split between him and his older brother, Prince William. The notion that the brothers and their glamorous wives would be a royal "Fab Four" for the 21st century began to fade. "For me, and for my wife, of course there's a lot of stuff that hurts, especially when the majority of it is untrue," Harry, 35, told ITV News last fall. "I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum." Then in January, the couple sparked a royal crisis when they...

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March 10, 2020 | AP News

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed his tightly guarded political plans Tuesday and supported a constitutional amendment that would allow him to seek reelection in 2024 by restarting the term count. The constitutional change would pave the way for the 67-year-old Putin to stay in office until 2036, if he desires.

A lawmaker who is revered in Russia as the first woman to fly in space proposed either scrapping Russia's two-term limit for presidents or stopping the clock so the law wouldn't apply to Putin's time in office. The Russian leader and the lower house of parliament quickly endorsed the proposal put forward by 83-year-old former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. Kremlin critics denounced the move as cynical manipulation and called for protests.

Lawmakers also passed a set of constitutional amendments proposed by Putin that include defining marriage as a heterosexual union and language pledging homage to "ancestors who bequeathed to us their ideals and a belief in God." In a speech to lawmakers debating the package of amendments, Putin opposed doing away with the presidential term limit but backed stopping the count and restarting it in 2024, if the Russian Constitution is revised. Putin's second six...

MYANMAR MPS REJECT BID TO ALLOW SUU KYI TO BECOME PRESIDENT

March 11, 2020 | AP News

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar — Myanmar's parliament rejected on Wednesday a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed the country's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, to officially become president. The rejection had been expected because the proposal was opposed by the military, which under the constitution adopted when it held power, holds enough parliamentary seats to block any constitutional change.

The defeated motion was one of several constitutional changes proposed by Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy party, with most expected to be blocked. Article 59(f) of the constitution bars a person from becoming president if his or her spouse or children are foreign citizens. Suu Kyi's two sons are British nationals, as was her late husband. Despite the rule, Suu Kyi holds executive power in the government because of a legal loophole that allowed the creation of the post of state counsellor, to which she was...

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NETANYAHU RIVALS TO COOPERATE ON FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT

March 9, 2020 | AP News

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief rival said Monday that he has agreed with a smaller party to work together to form a new government following national elections last week. The announcement by Benny Gantz, leader of the Blue and White Party, dealt a new setback to Netanyahu as he struggles to hold on to power ahead of his upcoming trial on corruption charges.

In a statement, Gantz said that he had a good meeting with Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the small Yisrael Beitenu party. "We discussed questions of fundamental principle and determined that we will work together to assemble a government that will pull Israel out of the political deadlock and advert a fourth round of elections," Gantz said. In last week's election, Israel's third in under a year, Netanyahu's Likud Party emerged as the largest party. But with his smaller religious and nationalist allies, he secured only 58 seats in...

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