
Fwd: NewsBank Hot Topics - November 2020

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NewsBank Hot Topics November 2020

Current Events

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: U. S. Presidential Election

TOPIC: Both President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden in their presidential campaigns have taken different positions on a range of issues such as mask mandates as protection from Covid-19, U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization, political independence of the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and China Trade. What are the positions of each candidate on these issues and why? What

are some issues the two candidates agree on and why? What have been some concerns each side has about the stability of the voting process this year and why? What are some of the concerns about being able to quickly determine a winner, the acceptance by supporters of the losing candidate and why have these been concerns? What steps will be taken if a clear winner is not determined after the votes are counted?

SEARCH TERMS: Trump AND Biden AND (campaign OR campaigns) AND (transition OR absentee OR "mail-in" OR violence OR threats OR "counting votes" OR "determine a winner")

HEALTH: Europe – Coronavirus Spikes Across the Continent

TOPIC: As cold weather sets in, cases of Covid-19 are back on the increase across the continent. There is no common response to the disease, though some countries are using the same techniques to try and break the disease's grip? How do the responses differ from country to country? Which country seems to be achieving its goals? How many countries have returned to full or partial lockdowns and do they seem to be working? How are people responding to their government's regulations on their life?

SEARCH TERMS: Europe AND (Covid-19 OR coronavirus) AND (response or lockdown)

ECONOMICS: Worldwide – Small Businesses

TOPIC: One aspect of the responses around the world to the coronavirus crisis is the impact on small businesses. Many of them were deemed non-essential businesses and were forced to close. What was the economic impact that this closure had on individual countries? What business sectors were especially hurt by the pandemic?

SEARCH TERMS: "small business" AND (Covid-19 OR coronavirus)

HEALTH: Remdesivir Approved by FDA for Treatment of COVID-19

TOPIC: Gilead Sciences' intravenous antiviral medicine Remdesivir has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) making it the first drug to be sanctioned by the FDA in the treatment of COVID-19. What did the World Health Organization (WHO) study reveal about the drug's effectiveness on hospitalized patients? What have National Institute of Health (NIH) studies shown regarding the drug's impact on recovery time? What other COVID-19 treatments are being studied?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Food and Drug Administration" OR FDA) AND approve* AND remdesivir AND treat* AND (coronavirus OR "COVID-19") AND ("World Health Organization" OR WHO OR "National Institute of Health" OR NIH)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Australia – Reintroducing Tasmanian Devils

TOPIC: Tasmanian devils, which have been extinct in Australia for 3,000 years but have survived in Tasmania, have been reintroduced in two batches. The animals that have been chosen are free from the cancer that has led to a population decline in Tasmania. They are in the Barrington Tops wildlife refuge and have been tagged with GPS monitors. What are some of the reasons given for re-introducing them into an environment that they haven't been part of for so long? What could be some of the unexpected results of this action?

SEARCH TERMS: Australia AND "Tasmanian devils"

Business and Economics

BUSINESS: Justice Department Sues Google

TOPIC: The U.S. Department of Justice and a group of state attorney generals have filed antitrust lawsuits against Google, LLC, charging the technology company with noncompetitive practices in the industry. What specific anticompetitive and exclusionary practices does the lawsuit claim Google is guilty of and why? What is another key antitrust case that has been brought by the federal government against a technology company and how does it differ from this one?

SEARCH TERMS: Google AND Barr AND Justice AND (antitrust OR monopoly) AND (lawsuit OR sued)

BUSINESS: South Korea – Lee Kun-Hee and Samsung Electronics

TOPIC: Lee Kun-Hee, as CEO, led the transformation of his family's firm Samsung Electronics from a small TV maker into a huge corporation that was a leading maker of phones and chips. What other markets did Samsung enter under his leadership? What scandal marred his time as CEO?

SEARCH TERMS: Samsung AND "Lee Kun-Hee"

BUSINESS: Purdue Pharma Reaches Plea Deal with U.S. Department of Justice

TOPIC: Purdue Pharma, manufacturer of OxyContin and other addictive prescription painkillers that have led to the U.S. opioid crisis, will plead guilty to three felony counts as part of its \$8.3 billion settlement with the Department of Justice (DOJ). What has been Purdue Pharma's role in the opioid epidemic, and what are the criminal charges against the company? What is the Sackler family's involvement in the company, and what criminal and civil lawsuits could they face? What will happen to the company under the terms of the deal, and why do critics say the settlement is insufficient?

SEARCH TERMS: (OxyContin OR opioid*) AND (settlement OR plea OR deal) AND justice AND (epidemic OR crisis) OR ("Purdue Pharma" OR "Sackler family")

BUSINESS: Walmart vs. Federal Government in Opioid Fight

TOPIC: Walmart has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Justice Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency for poor regulatory laws dealing with opioids after the Attorney General's office said it intends to indict Walmart for selling dangerous opioid prescriptions. What is the basis behind the case each side is making? What are some of the key reasons for the opioid crisis in the United States?

SEARCH TERMS: Walmart AND (opioid OR opioids) AND (DEA OR Federal OR "Justice Department") AND (suit OR lawsuit OR sued OR sues)

BUSINESS: China – Ant Group's IPO

TOPIC: Ant Group is preparing to list its stock on both the Hong Kong and Singapore exchanges in what promises to be the most successful IPO since the Saudi Arabian oil company Aramco. What services does Ant Group provide to Chinese consumers? What is its relationship to Alibaba and Jack Ma, Alibaba's founder? Why did it list on both exchanges?

SEARCH TERMS: "Ant Group" AND "Jack Ma"

ECONOMICS: Worldwide – Small Businesses

TOPIC: One aspect of the responses around the world to the coronavirus

crisis is the impact on small businesses. Many of them were deemed non-essential businesses and were forced to close. What was the economic impact that this closure had on individual countries? What business sectors were especially hurt by the pandemic?

SEARCH TERMS: "small business" AND (Covid-19 OR coronavirus)

ECONOMICS: Stanford University Economists Win Nobel Prize

TOPIC: Stanford University economists Robert B. Wilson and Paul Milgrom have won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for advancing an auction theory that has changed bidding and pricing in a way that's positive for society. What is the auction theory and how specifically did these two economists advance it? What are some ways the auction theory has improved society?

SEARCH TERMS: Wilson AND Milgrom AND (economic OR economics) AND ("Nobel Prize" OR "Nobel Prizes") AND "auction theory"

FINANCE: Mortgage Rates and Delinquency

TOPIC: Recent reports have shown that although demand for mortgages is rising due to low interest rates, the rate of mortgage delinquencies is the highest it has been in twenty years. What are the reasons for both of these happening simultaneously? What are some of the ideas being discussed to remedy the situation and what has already been put into practice?

SEARCH TERMS: (mortgage OR mortgages) AND (delinquency OR delinquencies)

Civics, Government and Politics

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: U. S. Presidential Election

TOPIC: Both President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden in their presidential campaigns have taken different positions on a range of issues such as mask mandates as protection from Covid-19, U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization, political independence of the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and China Trade. What are the positions of each candidate on these issues and why? What are some issues the two candidates agree on and why? What have been some concerns each side has about the stability of the voting process this year and why? What are some of the concerns about being able to quickly determine a winner, the acceptance by supporters of the losing candidate and why have these been concerns? What steps will be taken if a clear winner is not determined after the votes are counted?

SEARCH TERMS: Trump AND Biden AND (campaign OR campaigns) AND (transition OR absentee OR "mail-in" OR violence OR threats OR "counting votes" OR "determine a winner")

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Chile – Constitutional Referendum

TOPIC: Chilean citizens overwhelmingly voted in favor of a new constitutional convention, to replace the Pinochet-era Constitution that is currently in place. They also voted that the convention delegates should be ordinary Chileans, rather than a mix of politicians and citizens. What were some of the arguments against the Pinochet-era Constitution? What were some of the arguments against adapting a new constitution? Why did the voters opt for an all-citizens' convention?

SEARCH TERMS: Chile AND Constitution AND referendum

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Amy Coney Barrett Becomes 115th Supreme Court Justice

TOPIC: Just days before the election, Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett was administered the judicial oath after being narrowly confirmed with a partisan senate vote of 52 to 48. Justice Barrett fills the vacancy left by the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, becoming the third justice nominated by President Trump during his time in office and securing the court's conservative majority. What is Barrett's educational and professional background, and how does it qualify her for a seat on the Supreme Court? How has the timing of her nomination and confirmation created controversy when compared to President Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court? Why are critics concerned about her ideology, and what reassurance has she given to the American people? Since Barrett has described herself as an 'originalist', how does her philosophy potentially impact court decisions?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Amy Barrett" OR "Amy Coney Barrett" OR "Justice Barrett") AND "Supreme Court"

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: United Kingdom – Labour's Antisemitism

TOPIC: The Equality and Human Rights Commission released a report about the Labour Party that was critical of the party's response to allegations of anti-Semitism within the party. The party suspended its former leader Jeremy Corbyn after his remarks in response to this report were deemed to be insufficient. What did the EHRC say about the party's response to the allegations? How did Corbyn reply to the report? How did the current leader of the party, Keir Starmer, react to the report and how did his reaction differ from Corbyn's?

SEARCH TERMS: Labour Party AND "Jeremy Corbyn" AND suspension

HISTORY: Mass Unmarked Grave Reveals Victims of 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

TOPIC: Oklahoma archeologists have discovered the skeletal remains of ten bodies in an unmarked mass grave, identifying them as victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, and opening the investigation up to a forensic team for confirmation and victim identification. What do historians say happened during the massacre? What is the "Red Summer," and how is it associated with the massacre? How many people were wounded or killed during the massacre, and what other acts of violence and destruction did the mob perform?

SEARCH TERMS: Tulsa AND (riot* OR massacre OR mob) AND remains AND victims AND (Black* OR "African Americans")

HISTORY: Great Britain – Tudor Revelation

TOPIC: A Tudor warrant book has been discovered that contains details of how Henry VIII wanted the execution of his second wife Anne Boleyn to proceed. He chose beheading over burning her alive and chose a sword over an axe as the instrument of her death. Who were his instructions for? What were warrant books usually meant to record? Who found this passage and what December TV show will this book be featured in?

SEARCH TERMS: "Henry VIII" AND "Anne Boleyn" AND execution

Social Issues

CRIME AND LAW: Boy Scout Sex Abuse Claims Skyrocket as Litigation Deadline Approaches

TOPIC: With the mid-November deadline approaching for the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceedings, 28,000 sexual abuse survivors have brought claims against the organization with support from the Coalition of Abused Scouts for Justice. What is the history of abuse allegations against the Boy Scout organization, and what measures have they taken in response? What is the Coalition of Abused Scouts for Justice, and how are they advocating on behalf of survivors? What is the scope and magnitude of the allegations, and what might the judge's ruling mean for the survivors?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Boy Scouts of America" OR "Coalition of Abused Scouts for Justice") AND bankruptcy AND "sexual abuse" AND deadline AND (survivors OR accusers OR victims) AND claims

CRIME AND LAW: South Africa – Justice at Last?

TOPIC: Six years after the killing of soccer star Senzo Meyiwa, the national team captain, five men accused of the act were brought to trial. While it had been thought that the killing took place during a robbery, investigators now claim it was a targeted death. What were the accused charged with? How did they react to the charges? Why did the investigation take so long and what were some of the missteps along the way?

SEARCH TERMS: South Africa AND "Senzo Meyiwa"

EDUCATION: Philippines – Remote Learning in a Poor Country

TOPIC: The Philippines has mandated remote learning for grad and high school students until a vaccine is found for Covid-19. While some students are able to access classes and educational lessons from computers and going online, the majority are making do with printed educational modules. How are teachers able to respond to these students? What is the role radio stations and TV will play in this flexible educational system? How many students are there in the Philippines?

SEARCH TERMS: Philippines AND students AND ("remote learning" or "flexible education")

EDUCATION: Campus Safety Handbook

TOPIC: The U.S. Department of Education has offered a simpler alternative to the Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting that had been issued in response to Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. What is the Clery Act and why was the Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting simplified? What has been the reaction from colleges and universities to the new, smaller handbook?

SEARCH TERMS: "Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy" AND "Handbook for Campus Security" AND (Devos OR "Department of Education" OR "Education Department")

RELIGION: Wilton Daniel Gregory

TOPIC: Pope Francis has announced that he will make Washington, D. C. Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory the first African-American Catholic Cardinal. What are some cities before Washington DC where Gregory has served as a Bishop and later an Archbishop and what are some of his accomplishments in those cities? What are some of his accomplishments as Archbishop of Washington DC? What was his position on the "safe carry act" and what was the reaction to his position?

SEARCH TERMS: (Archbishop OR Cardinal) AND "Wilton Daniel Gregory"

RELIGION: Roman Catholic Church – Same Sex Civil Unions

TOPIC: Pope Francis has endorsed the idea of same sex civil unions in an interview that was part of a documentary about him called *Francesco*. No other pope has ever expressed this opinion and his immediate predecessor Benedict XVI had specifically outlawed them when he was the head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in a 2003 document. How controversial within the church are these comments? When did he make these remarks and why weren't they broadcast at the time? Who made the film and how did he come to make it?

SEARCH TERMS: "Pope Francis" AND "civil unions"

SOCIAL RELATIONS: Europe – Jewish Population Declines

TOPIC: The Institute for Jewish Policy Research, based in London, has reported that the percentage of Jewish people living in Europe has declined by nearly 60% in the past half-century. Only 9% of Jewish people live there now, compared with nearly 90% at the end of the nineteenth century. What is the biggest factor in this decline in this time period? What are some of the other reasons for it?

SEARCH TERMS: Europe AND "Jewish people" AND population

SOCIAL RELATIONS: Ruling Allows Texas Social Workers to Turn Away Vulnerable Clients

TOPIC: A unanimous vote by the Texas State Board of Social Workers removes disability, sexual orientation and gender identity from the nondiscrimination clause of its code of conduct, allowing providers to deny services to LGBTQ and disabled clients. What does a social worker do, and why do critics say the ruling contradicts social workers' professional ethics? Why did Texas Governor Greg Abbott recommend the change to the board? What do experts say could happen to mental health services in the state if the ruling is not reversed?

SEARCH TERMS: Texas AND ("social worker" OR "social workers") AND (LGBT OR LGBTQ OR disabled) AND client*

Science, Technology and Health

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Australia – Reintroducing Tasmanian Devils

TOPIC: Tasmanian devils, which have been extinct in Australia for 3,000 years but have survived in Tasmania, have been reintroduced in two batches. The animals that have been chosen are free from the cancer that has led to a population decline in Tasmania. They are in the Barrington Tops wildlife refuge and have been tagged with GPS monitors. What are some of the reasons given for re-introducing them into an environment that they haven't been part of for so long? What could be some of the unexpected results of this action?

SEARCH TERMS: Australia AND "Tasmanian devils"

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Fracking

TOPIC: Both President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have brought up fracking in their campaigns. What is the position of each man on the issue of fracking and why? What is fracking? What are the benefits of fracking and what are the concerns about it?

SEARCH TERMS: Trump AND Biden AND fracking

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Madagascar – Rare Chameleon Seen

TOPIC: Scientists from Germany and Madagascar have reported seeing

the rare Voeltzkow's chameleon, last seen 100 years ago. What did they say about the life cycle of this chameleon? To what other chameleon is it related? Where on the island was this rare species found?

SEARCH TERMS: Madagascar AND "Voeltzkow's chameleon"

HEALTH: Europe – Coronavirus Spikes Across the Continent

TOPIC: As cold weather sets in, cases of Covid-19 are back on the increase across the continent. There is no common response to the disease, though some countries are using the same techniques to try and break the disease's grip? How do the responses differ from country to country? Which country seems to be achieving its goals? How many countries have returned to full or partial lockdowns and do they seem to be working? How are people responding to their government's regulations on their life?

SEARCH TERMS: Europe AND (Covid-19 OR coronavirus) AND (response or lockdown)

HEALTH: First Confirmed Case of Covid-19 Reinfection in the U.S.

TOPIC: A 25-year-old Nevada man, who tested positive twice within three months with two varying strains of coronavirus, became the first confirmed case of Covid-19 reinfection in the U.S. and the fifth case worldwide. What did The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal reveal about the timeline surrounding the patient's symptoms and his testing? How did the severity of symptoms vary between his first and second infection? What other countries have confirmed cases of reinfection, and what are the circumstances surrounding those cases?

SEARCH TERMS: Nevada AND "25-year-old" AND man AND ("Covid-19" OR coronavirus) AND (infect* OR reinfect*) AND (twice OR two)

HEALTH: Remdesivir Approved by FDA for Treatment of COVID-19

TOPIC: Gilead Sciences' intravenous antiviral medicine Remdesivir has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) making it the first drug to be sanctioned by the FDA in the treatment of COVID-19. What did the World Health Organization (WHO) study reveal about the drug's effectiveness on hospitalized patients? What have National Institute of Health (NIH) studies shown regarding the drug's impact on recovery time? What other COVID-19 treatments are being studied?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Food and Drug Administration" OR FDA) AND approve* AND remdesivir AND treat* AND (coronavirus OR "COVID-19") AND ("World Health Organization" OR WHO OR "National Institute of Health" OR NIH)

HEALTH: Scientists Unite to Condemn Covid-19 Herd Immunity Strategy

TOPIC: Leading experts and researchers have denounced herd immunity – when enough low-risk people become immune to a disease through natural infection, thus protecting others in the community by making its spread unlikely – calling it "a dangerous fallacy unsupported by the scientific evidence." Instead, scientists claim the strategy would result in a much higher Coronavirus death rate, recommending continued use of safe and effective public health measures until a vaccine becomes available. What statistical criteria defines whether a community has achieved herd immunity? What is the Great Barrington Declaration, who wrote it, and why is it being denounced by many in the scientific community? What is the White House's position on herd immunity through natural infection, and what do supporters and critics say about the administration's stance?

SEARCH TERMS: "herd immunity" AND ("covid-19" OR coronavirus) AND

scientist* AND debate AND (theory OR strategy)

HEALTH: New Zealand – Referendum Results

TOPIC: Voters in New Zealand's recent election have overwhelmingly approved legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide. At this writing, the legalization of the marijuana referendum vote is too close to call. Who would be allowed access to either of these treatments under the terms of the referenda? What other countries allow euthanasia? What were the arguments for legalizing marijuana what were the arguments against it?

SEARCH TERMS: "New Zealand" AND euthanasia

SCIENCE: Worldwide – Ancient Dog DNA Research

TOPIC: DNA has been processed from 33 ancient dogs' remains and has determined that 11,000 years ago dogs had already split into five main lines that were geographically widely separated. They also determined that dogs probably descend from an unidentified ancient wolf and that they were domesticated around 20,000 years ago. Where dogs were first domesticated remains unknown. What is a surprising conclusion about the composition of the DNA of modern dogs and wolves? How has human breeding changed dogs over the years?

SEARCH TERMS: dogs AND DNA

SCIENCE: NASA Spacecraft Makes Historic Landing on Asteroid

TOPIC: Following two years of orbiting the asteroid, the OSIRUS-REx robotic spacecraft made contact with Bennu, located 200 million miles away from Earth. Rocks collected using the spacecraft's sampling arm will be brought back to U.S. in 2023, when research will begin on the first-ever asteroid samples collected by NASA. What was the initial timeline of the OSIRUS-REx mission, and why were there delays? What did the mission seek to accomplish, and what do scientists hope to learn about the solar system by researching the samples? Why is the mission considered historic, and what are other some other significant firsts in U.S. space exploration?

SEARCH TERMS: NASA AND Osiris-Rex AND asteroid AND Bennu

TECHNOLOGY: Congress Revisits Communications Decency Act

TOPIC: In response to Justice Department recommendations to update Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) of 1996, members of Congress have introduced legislation aimed at expanding the scope of Section 230 by incentivizing Big Tech companies to address illicit material on their platforms. What was the intention of Section 230 of the CDA in its infancy, and why are some concerned that its revision may impact free speech? What news story has Twitter and Facebook been accused of suppressing, and why do some consider it to be election interference? What is the Federal Communications Commission role in enforcement of the legislation?

SEARCH TERMS: "communications decency act" AND "Section 230" AND (updat* OR revisit* OR reform*)

Sports

SPORTS: World Series

TOPIC: The Los Angeles Dodgers have won their first World Series in thirty-two years after beating the Tampa Bay Rays. Who were the star players in this series and what were the most exciting plays? What are the major strengths and weaknesses of each team? How did the coronavirus

pandemic impact this year's World Series?

SEARCH TERMS: "World Series" AND Dodgers AND ("Tampa Bay" OR Rays)

SPORTS: Great Britain – Lewis Hamilton

TOPIC: British driver Lewis Hamilton has surpassed Michael Schumacher's record of ninety-one Formula One victories by winning the Portuguese Grand Prix. He is on pace to tie Schumacher's record of seven Championship titles this season. What teams did Schumacher race for and with which team did he win many of his titles? For what teams has Hamilton raced and with which team has he had the most success? What other records does each man hold?

SEARCH TERMS: "Lewis Hamilton" OR "Michael Schumacher"

SPORTS: Italy – Giro d'Italia

TOPIC: The first and second place winners of this year's edition of the Giro d'Italia were separated by only thirty-nine seconds. Tao Geoghegan Hart beat Jai Hindley and the rest of the field to claim the victory. How did Hart win? What has been his career in cycling? What team does he ride for? What has Hindley's career been?

SEARCH TERMS: "Tao Geoghegan Hart" AND "Giro d'Italia"

SPORTS: Swiss Skydiver wins Preakness Stakes

TOPIC: The thoroughbred horse race Preakness Stakes was won this year by the filly Swiss Skydiver. How did the coronavirus impact this year's race? Who rode Swiss Skydiver and what other horses and riders did well in the race? What are the key strengths of Swiss Skydiver and her jockey in this sport?

SEARCH TERMS: Preakness AND "Swiss Skydiver"

SPORTS: France – French Open

TOPIC: One of the four majors of tennis, the French Open was postponed from the spring until October due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was held under quarantine conditions that not every player wished to experience. What were those conditions? Which players chose not to participate and why? How did the fall weather impact players? Who won the women's tournament? What was special about Rafael Nadal's victory over Novak Djokovic?

SEARCH TERMS: tennis AND "French Open"

Arts and Literature

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE: Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project

TOPIC: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project will be the largest initiative in its history and its goal is to create new monuments as well as recontextualize many existing ones. What is meant by this goal and how does this project plan to achieve it?

SEARCH TERMS: "Mellon Foundation" AND "Monuments Project"

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE: Germany – Vandalism on Museum Island

TOPIC: More than sixty exhibits in the various museums on Berlin's Museum Island were found to be smeared with an oily liquid. In a separate incident, some teens damaged an outdoor sculpture on the island. Have the police determined what the oily liquid was and how damaging it might

have been to the artworks? Do they have any suspects or have they determined what the motives of the vandals might have been? What types of restoration processes are used when there is damage to works of art?

SEARCH TERMS: "Museum Island" and exhibits and (vandalism or "oily liquid")

LITERATURE: Albania – Writer Honored

TOPIC: Albanian author Ismail Kadare has won the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. The prize celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Kadare first came to prominence during the 1960s with his novel *The General of the Dead Army*. What is the Neustadt Prize and who awards it? What other prizes has Kadare won over his career?

SEARCH TERMS: "Ismail Kadare" OR "Neustadt Prize"

LITERATURE: Louise Gluck Receives Nobel Prize for Literature

TOPIC: Selected by the Nobel Academy "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal," American poet and essayist Louise Gluck becomes the 16th woman to be honored with the Nobel Prize for Literature. What is Gluck's background and when did she begin writing? What are her best-known poems and collections, and what themes resonate in her work? What other honors has she received during her career?

SEARCH TERMS: "Louise Gluck" AND Nobel AND Literature NOT (chemistry OR economics OR medicine OR peace OR physics OR physiology)

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: United Kingdom – Sean Connery

TOPIC: Sean Connery was a Scottish actor. After working on stage, he had a lengthy, career in films. His most famous role was James Bond. He was the first to play the part on the big screen. What were some of his other notable roles? What honors was he given for his work?

SEARCH TERMS: "Sean Connery"

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: Canada – Glen Gould Prize

TOPIC: The 2020 Glenn Gould Prize has been awarded to the Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin. She has produced more than fifty documentaries for the National Film board of Canada, many of them dealing with the concerns of First Nations peoples. How did Obomsawin get into filmmaking? What are some of the documentaries she has produced? What other honors has she won? Who are some of the other Glenn Gould prize winners been?

SEARCH TERMS: "Alanis Obomsawin"

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: Regal and Cineworld Shutting Theaters

TOPIC: The Regal and Cineworld movie theater chains have shut down hundreds of theaters due to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic but they are now reopening some of them. What has been the reason for some to reopen? What have been some of the strategies that movie theaters have come up with to help them survive during the pandemic?

SEARCH TERMS: Regal AND Cineworld AND theaters

MUSIC: Billboard Music Awards

TOPIC: Post Malone and Billie Eilish were the big winners at this year's Billboard Music Awards, especially Post Malone, winning nine awards of his sixteen nominations. What music was Post Malone most recognized for and what are the qualities of his music that impressed the critics? What

music was Billie Eilish most recognized for and what are the qualities of her music that impressed the critics? Who were some of the other big winners and what qualities in the music impressed the critics?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Billboard Awards" OR "Billboard Music Awards") AND "Post Malone"

MUSIC: Iran – Mohammad Reza Shajarian

TOPIC: Mohammad Reza Shajarian was a masterful singer of traditional Iranian music whose music had been banned for his political statements supporting demonstrators in 2009. He was called "The Voice of Iran." Why was his music allowed to be performed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution? How did he become a singer and what were some of his notable songs? Why did he speak out against the regime in 2009?

SEARCH TERMS: "Mohammad Reza Shajarian"

PERFORMING ARTS: Great Britain – Performing Arts Awards

TOPIC: Although most venues have been shut since last spring's lockdown, the Olivier Awards were presented in a pre-taped broadcast and streaming event. These awards honor the best in the previous year's theater, dance and opera fields. The next time these awards will be given is likely to be 2022. Who won the acting awards? What was the best play of the year? Who won the dance awards?

SEARCH TERMS: "Olivier Awards"

PERFORMING ARTS: JQA

TOPIC: The San Diego Repertory Theatre is presenting a play by Aaron Posner called JQA, about the U.S. President John Quincy Adams. How is President John Quincy Adams portrayed in the play? What is interesting about the casting? What qualities of this play have been praised by the critics?

SEARCH TERMS: "Aaron Posner" AND JQA AND (theater OR theatre OR play)

People

PEOPLE: Whitey Ford

TOPIC: Whitey Ford was a leading pitcher in Major League Baseball (MLB) whose sixteen year career was with the New York Yankees. What were his primary skills as a pitcher and what awards did he win in his career? After retiring as a player, what coaching position did he hold for the Yankees and how did he do? What business did he open in Garden City, NY?

SEARCH TERMS: "Whitey Ford" AND Yankees

PEOPLE: Eddie Van Halen

TOPIC: Eddie Van Halen was a classic rock guitar legend and a founding member of the chart-topping band, Van Halen. When and how did he get his start in the music industry? How did the band come together, who were the founding musicians, and how did the members evolve over the years? What legacy does he leave behind as a guitarist, and what songs, albums, and achievements define the band's fame?

SEARCH TERMS: "Eddie Van Halen" AND rock* AND (guitar OR music* OR band)

PEOPLE: France – Kenzo Takada

TOPIC: Kenzo Takada was a Japanese-born fashion designer. He came

to prominence in the 1970s after his first few collections. What was noteworthy about his early collections? How did his career advance throughout the rest of the century? What had he been doing since his retirement from fashion?

SEARCH TERMS: "Kenzo Takada"

PEOPLE: New Zealand – Ardern Re-elected

TOPIC: Jacinda Ardern was re-elected as Prime Minister of New Zealand. Her response to the coronavirus crisis played a large part in her success. Her party won enough seats to be able to govern without forming a coalition government. What other actions during her first term were important in ensuring her re-election? How did her government respond to Covid-19? Who else ran and how were their positions on the issues different from hers?

SEARCH TERMS: "Jacinda Ardern" AND election

PEOPLE: Diane di Prima

TOPIC: Diane di Prima was a writer most famously known for her poetry. How was she associated with the Beat Movement and how was that reflected in her poetry? What were the qualities of her poems that most impressed her fans and the critics? What causes was she an activist for?

SEARCH TERMS: "Diane di Prima" AND (poet OR poetry)

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