
Fwd: NewsBank Hot Topics - October 2020

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To: staff <staff@smrld.org>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 12:45 PM

There are some really interesting hot topics this month. Find ones that interest you!

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From: **NewsBank** <pcomrie@newsbank.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Subject: NewsBank Hot Topics - October 2020
To: <juliettedouglas@sixmilerld.org>

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NewsBank Hot Topics October 2020

Current Events

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: U.S. Presidential Race Debate

TOPIC: President Trump and ex-Vice-President Joe Biden have had their first debate, noted for the often tumultuous tone and open exchanges. What were the topics debated? What are the differences in policy and strategy of each candidate and how did the opponents attempt to convey their point of view? How did each of the candidates handle the “open discussion” portion of the debate?

SEARCH TERMS: Biden AND Trump AND debate AND Cleveland

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Japan – A Change in Governments

TOPIC: Yoshihide Suga has succeeded Shinzo Abe as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and Prime Minister of Japan. Abe has stepped down from both roles due to health issues. What role did Suga have in Abe's government? Where in Japan is Suga from and what was his path to power? Will he continue Abe's domestic and foreign policies or will he pursue new paths?

SEARCH TERMS: Japan AND "Yoshihide Suga"

ECONOMICS: Worldwide – Coronavirus Impact on Economy

TOPIC: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has issued a new report regarding the state of the world's economies during the pandemic. In June it forecasted that the gross domestic product would shrink by 6%, but now it feels the overall decline will be 4.5%. What does it predict for China? What does it predict for the U.S.? What other countries are predicted to do somewhat better than in the June report?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development" OR OECD) AND "global economy"

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Middle East – Agreements

TOPIC: Israel has formalized relations with both Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, signing bilateral agreements with them. Palestinians were upset with these agreements. Why are the Palestinians disturbed by the agreements? What do these agreements pledge the respective governments to do? What other Arab states have relations with Israel and what other states may be close to establishing them?

SEARCH TERMS: Israel AND Bahrain AND "United Arab Emirates"

HEALTH: Worldwide – Coronavirus Covid-19 Surges Again

TOPIC: Nations around the world have seen a recent upswing in the number of confirmed covid-19 cases. The world recently passed the one million deaths mark, but the age group that now has the most are young adults in their 20s. What are the underlying social conditions that may be fueling this upswing in the case levels? How are the governments of the impacted nations rethinking the re-opening of schools, universities, stores and workplaces?

SEARCH TERMS: (covid-19 OR coronavirus) AND "new cases"

SCIENCE: Venus – Signs of Life

TOPIC: Astronomers have determined that the gas phosphine exists in the upper layers of Venus's atmosphere. On Earth this gas is associated with living things. How did the astronomers determine it was there? Why did they think that there might be small life forms making the gas rather than other processes? What do other scientists think of the astronomers' conclusions?

SEARCH TERMS: Venus AND phosphine

Business and Economics

BUSINESS: TikTok Chooses Oracle to Oversee U.S. Market

TOPIC: In response to the Trump administration's impending ban on the Chinese-owned app due to national security concerns, TikTok's negotiations with U.S.-based software giants concluded with Oracle

emerging as the “trusted technology provider.” Now the 100 million U.S. users of the popular video-sharing platform await the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFI-US) review of the acquisition proposal and its subsequent recommendation to the president. How does CFI-US impact international trade and trade relations? How does the agency protect national security? What are other some other examples of recent acquisitions that have involved CFI-US oversight? What is the basis for the administration’s ban of TikTok in the U.S. how has a judge ruled on it and what has been the public reaction?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Committee on Foreign Investment" or "CFIUS" or "CFI-US") AND ("trade" or "foreign" or "investment" or Chin*)

BUSINESS: Germany – VW on Trial

TOPIC: Former CEO of Volkswagen Martin Winterkorn will stand trial for the company’s diesel emissions scandal, in which the VW diesel cars had software that would allow the cars to pass emissions tests while on a testing platform, but would not run during the normal driving of the cars. What defense did Winterkorn offer at this stage of the proceeding? What has been the cost to VW of trying to make things right? What has been the cost to its reputation?

SEARCH TERMS: (Volkswagen OR VW) and “Martin Winterkorn” AND diesel

BUSINESS: Wall Street’s First Female Chief Executive Officer

TOPIC: Citibank has named Jane Fraser as its new CEO effective February 2021. With her appointment, the Citibank president and CEO of global consumer banking becomes the first female CEO of a major U.S. bank. How did Fraser’s education and professional background prepare her for this role? Who are some of the other modern-day female CEOs in the U.S.? What are some examples of U.S. business sectors that have higher numbers of female CEOs than others?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Woman CEO" or "Female CEO") AND ("S&P" or "S&P500") AND "Jane Fraser"

BUSINESS: Report on Boeing

TOPIC: The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation Committee has issued a report of their investigation into the crashes of Boeing’s 737 Max airplane crashes, blaming both the Boeing Company and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). What mistakes did the report find were made at Boeing and the FAA? How have Boeing and the FAA responded to the report?

SEARCH TERMS: Boeing AND “737 Max” AND House AND “Transportation Committee”

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SEARCH TERMS: (“Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development” OR OECD) AND “global economy”

ECONOMICS: Federal Reserve Proposals for CRA

TOPIC: The U.S. Federal Reserve is proposing a change to regulations on

the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). What are the changes the Federal Reserve is proposing and why? What is the CRA and how does it work?

SEARCH TERMS: "Federal Reserve" AND (CRA OR "Community Reinvestment Act") AND (moderniz* OR regulat*) AND (banks OR banking)

FINANCE: Unemployment Claims

TOPIC: As the economic recovery has slowed, unemployment claims have recently risen to historic highs and various state agencies are having problems getting people their checks. What problems are states having in handling these claims? How has the delayed federal stimulus impacted unemployment claims?

SEARCH TERMS: unemployment AND states AND claims AND (fraud OR backlog* OR stimulus)

FINANCE: Income Taxes

TOPIC: The New York Times has reviewed more than two decades of President Trump's tax returns and has published its findings. What do his tax returns reveal about his financial status? What does it reveal about his tax payments and why did he pay so little in taxes?

SEARCH TERMS: "New York Times" AND Trump AND "tax returns"

Civics, Government and Politics

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: U.S. Presidential Race Debate

TOPIC: President Trump and ex-Vice-President Joe Biden have had their first debate, noted for the often tumultuous tone and open exchanges. What were the topics debated? What are the differences in policy and strategy of each candidate and how did the opponents attempt to convey their point of view? How did each of the candidates handle the "open discussion" portion of the debate?

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SEARCH TERMS: Japan AND "Yoshihide Suga"

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Presidential Transition

TOPIC: Both the Republican and the Democratic Party leaders have assured the public that if Joe Biden wins the election in November, there will be a peaceful transition of power when he takes office. Why did party leaders feel they needed to give the public confidence on this matter? What has been the history of transitions of power between presidents in the United States and what are some examples of exiting presidents extending themselves for the benefit of their successors?

SEARCH TERMS: "peaceful transition" AND Biden AND Trump AND Republican*

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SEARCH TERMS: Israel AND Bahrain AND "United Arab Emirates"

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Stopgap Funding

TOPIC: The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a stopgap funding bill that will keep the federal government open until December 11, 2020. What is a stopgap funding bill and what needs to happen for it now to pass? What has the U.S. Congressional Budget Office reported recently about the federal debt and how did it impact decisions on federal spending?

SEARCH TERMS: ("stop-gap" OR stopgap) AND funding AND bill AND (House OR Senate)

HISTORY: World – United Nations Anniversary

TOPIC: The United Nations has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1945. It was an organization that was meant to serve as a world peacekeeping body following World War II. What have been the achievements of the organization? What have been some of the crises that have confronted it? Who has led it as secretary-general and how successful have they been?

SEARCH TERMS: "United Nations" AND anniversary

HISTORY: Constitution Day

TOPIC: September 17th is Constitution Day in the United States and it is recognized in a variety of ways that honor the U.S. Constitution. What are some recent constitutional issues that have been raised in the United States and why? What are the Articles of Confederation and why did they have to be replaced by the Constitution? What were some of the most contentious points in the U.S. Constitution at the time the founding fathers wrote and passed it? What were some of the key persuasive arguments in favor of having a U.S. Constitution made by the Federalist Papers?

SEARCH TERMS: "U.S. Constitution" AND "Articles of Confederation"

Social Issues

CRIME AND LAW: Breonna Taylor Case

TOPIC: Three Louisville, Kentucky police officers have been acquitted of homicide in a case where, seeking a search warrant, they forced themselves into the apartment of Breonna Taylor and fatally shot her after her boyfriend, thinking their home was being invaded fired a warning shot. What is the "no-knock" policy for entry and why is it so controversial? What has been the public response to the killing of Taylor and the verdict in the case? What are the laws that protect police in cases like this and why are they being questioned? What has ballistics investigations shown in this case?

SEARCH TERMS: "Breonna Taylor" AND (Louisville OR protests OR "no-knock")

CRIME AND LAW: South Africa – George Bizos

TOPIC: George Bizos was Nelson Mandela's lawyer who defended him in

the Rivonia Trial and remained his lawyer for the rest of Mandela's life. He helped negotiate Mandela's release from prison and was involved in helping his family while he was imprisoned. Who were some of the other antiapartheid activists that Bizos represented? How did he help the emerging South African state after the end of apartheid?

SEARCH TERMS: "George Bizos"

CRIME AND LAW: Canada – Return to Court

TOPIC: Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. CFO, and daughter of its founder, Meng Wanzhou has returned to court in an attempt to avoid extradition to the U.S. for bank fraud. Her lawyers will be arguing that U.S. authorities abused the process, that HSBC knew about the company's dealings with Iran and the risk to them, and the extradition document was therefore flawed. When was Ms. Meng arrested and how long has she been under house arrest? What did the prosecution argue in return? What will happen if the court finds in her favor? When is her extradition trial set to take place?

SEARCH TERMS: "Meng Wanzhou" AND extradition

CRIME AND LAW: Congressional Concerns Over Increased Violence and Deaths at Fort Hood

TOPIC: With this year's increase in violent behavior and the deaths of thirty service members, the Fort Hood Army base has the highest rate of violent crime of all U.S. military installations. Concerns over concealment of the incidents and the subsequent culture of fear among Fort Hood residents has led to a congressional investigation and the introduction of the I AM Vanessa Guillen Act in response to the harassment, disappearance and April 2020 murder of SPC Vanessa Guillen. Who was Vanessa Guillen, what is the I AM Vanessa Guillen Act and how will it protect service members from harassment and violence? What other recent casualties at Fort Hood prompted the congressional investigation? Who is leading the congressional delegation and what has been the outcome of their investigation?

SEARCH TERMS: "Fort Hood" AND (violence or death* or harassment or assault) AND "Vanessa Guillen"

EDUCATION: School Challenges During Reopening

TOPIC: Schools have reopened with many different procedures to protect students from Covid-19. What have been some of the procedures that have worked, what have not worked and why? What are the educational advantages and disadvantages of learning remotely versus being in a class face-to-face with teachers and other students? Why have so many students who were scheduled to attend school not shown up? How has the rate of Covid-19 among students changed since schools reopened?

SEARCH TERMS: (schools OR colleges OR universities) AND (coronavirus OR COVID-19 OR COVID19 OR "COVID 19") AND remote AND attend*

RELIGION: Saudi Arabia – New Hajj Terms Proposed

TOPIC: Being cautious because of the pandemic, Saudi Arabia is going to allow the smaller, year-round pilgrimages to Mecca, allowing up to 6,000 pilgrims a day into the Grand Mosque. This will only be open to Saudi citizens to begin with, and they will have to reserve dates and times in advance. When will non-Saudi citizens be allowed to participate in the "umrah" pilgrimages? How does the umrah pilgrimage differ from the massive annual hajj? How is Saudi Arabia doing in the fight against the pandemic?

SEARCH TERMS: "Saudi Arabia" AND pilgrimages**RELIGION: People of Praise**

TOPIC: President Trump's nomination of Appellate Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court has drawn attention to a little-known Christian fellowship called People of Praise that Judge Barrett is affiliated with. What is the history of People of Praise and how does it operate as an ecumenical community of Christian faiths? Why do some say that Catholicism is the controlling faith of this ecumenical fellowship? What is unique and different about People of Praise from Catholicism?

SEARCH TERMS: "People of Praise" AND Catholic*

SOCIAL RELATIONS: Little Free Libraries and Diversity

TOPIC: Small book-sharing boxes called Little Free Libraries which exist in all fifty U.S. states are slowly seeing areas adopting efforts to add more racial and religious diversity to the topics and authors of the books being shared. Book borrowers who rarely see their ethnicity reflected in the choices can now have more representation in literature and readers can broaden their understanding of other ethnicities and religions. Where did these efforts start and how are they spreading? What are some popular books that have enhanced understanding of different ethnic groups in the U.S.?

SEARCH TERMS: ("Little Free Libraries" OR "Little Free Library") AND diversity

Science, Technology and Health**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: West Coast Wildfires**

TOPIC: Wildfires raging in California, Oregon and Washington state since August have become so strong that their smoke can be seen and smelled in the eastern U.S. How many acres have burned, what are some efforts that have been made to control the fires and why haven't they worked? How many fires are there? How many California residents have had to flee their homes and how are their locations being managed?

SEARCH TERMS: ("West Coast" OR California OR Oregon OR Washington) AND wildfire* AND (smoke OR smog) AND "East Coast"

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Atlantic Ocean – Active Hurricane Season

TOPIC: This year's hurricane season has been so active that the world has run out of names to call them. They have used the entire list from A (Arthur) to W (Wilfred) and are now starting to use the Greek alphabet to name the storms for the rest of the year. What organization maintains the lists of names and how do they choose a name for a lot of them? Are any names retired and, if so, why? What were the worst Atlantic storms of this year and where did they hit?

SEARCH TERMS: "Atlantic Ocean" AND "hurricane names"

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: Australia – Mass Whale Stranding

TOPIC: Almost 500 pilot whales have stranded themselves off the coast of Tasmania, in the largest mass whale stranding in history. 111 of the 470 whales have survived, with authorities needing to dispose of 350 whale carcasses. What in their social life could contribute to these pilot whales stranding? Why are scientists taking samples and preserving the skulls of some of the whales that have died?

SEARCH TERMS: Tasmania AND "whale stranding"

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE: California's Gas-Run Car Ban

TOPIC: California became the first state in the U.S. to set a ban on gas-powered cars when Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order requiring all new cars in the state to be zero-emission starting in 2035. What are the planned steps to get to this goal? Where will cars coming in from other states find gas stations? What are the plans for interstate commerce when this change occurs?

SEARCH TERMS: California AND ("zero-emission" OR (gasoline AND ban))

HEALTH: Worldwide – Coronavirus Covid-19 Surges Again

TOPIC: Nations around the world have seen a recent upswing in the number of confirmed covid-19 cases. The world recently passed the one million deaths mark, but the age group that now has the most are young adults in their 20s. What are the underlying social conditions that may be fueling this upswing in the case levels? How are the governments of the impacted nations rethinking the re-opening of schools, universities, stores and workplaces?

SEARCH TERMS: (covid-19 OR coronavirus) AND "new cases"

HEALTH: CDC Reports and Political Influence

TOPIC: A series of emails shared with the press have revealed the Health and Human Services (HHS) spokesperson Michael Caputo pressured the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to adjust their weekly reports, which inform doctors, researchers and the general public on the progress being made in combating COVID-19, to fall more in line with the administration's pronouncements. What are some specific areas where the HHS was asked to make changes? How did the CDC respond and how did the Trump administration respond when these emails were revealed?

SEARCH TERMS: CDC AND HHS AND "Michael Caputo" AND reports

HEALTH: Berkeley Bans Junk Food at Checkouts

TOPIC: The city of Berkeley California has banned junk food placed near the checkout registers. What are they defining as junk food and how is the city planning on enforcing this ordinance? Why is the placement of junk food within a store considered to be an issue?

SEARCH TERMS: ("junk food" OR candy) AND Berkeley AND checkout AND (ban OR bans OR banning OR banned)

SCIENCE: U.S. Space Force

TOPIC: The U.S. Space Force, a newly formed branch of the U.S. Armed Services, is having its first foreign deployment. Where are they now being deployed and why? What constitutes the U.S. Space Force and why was it formed?

SEARCH TERMS: "United States Space Force" OR "U.S. Space Force"

SCIENCE: Venus – Signs of Life

TOPIC: Astronomers have determined that the gas phosphine exists in the upper layers of Venus's atmosphere. On Earth this gas is associated with living things. How did the astronomers determine it was there? Why did they think that there might be small life forms making the gas rather than other processes? What do other scientists think of the astronomers' conclusions?

SEARCH TERMS: Venus AND phosphine

TECHNOLOGY: Great Britain – New Mayflower Launched

TOPIC: A new Mayflower is being launched in Plymouth Harbor, from which the original ship sailed 400 years ago. This boat is autonomous, it has no crew or passengers, and its trip will be a research voyage captained by Artificial Intelligence. Its voyage has been delayed until 2021. What will power this vessel? What type of research will be done during its voyage?

SEARCH TERMS: “Mayflower Autonomous Ship”

TECHNOLOGY: Drone Organ Delivery

TOPIC: An unmanned aviation company called MissionGo and the Nevada Donor Network have announced successful test flights of using drones to transport human organs and tissue over twenty-one miles which is a new record for drone organ delivery. What is the history of drone organ delivery and how are the organs protected during drone transport? What has been the common practice for delivering organs and what challenges does that practice now face?

SEARCH TERMS: MissionGo AND “Nevada Donor Network” AND (organ OR organs) and (drone OR drones)

Sports

SPORTS: France – Tour de France

TOPIC: Slovenian Tadej Pogacar won the Tour de France cycling race on the next to last day with a stunning time trial stage and then an uphill race to Planches des Belles Filles. He defeated his fellow Slovenian Primož Roglič, who had worn the yellow jersey from stage 9 on. Pogacar won on his attempt at the grueling race. What other great riders won this race during their first attempts? When was the last time two riders of the same nationality placed one-two and how often has this occurred?

SEARCH TERMS: “Tour de France” AND “Tadej Pogacar”

SPORTS: Dominic Thiem Wins U.S. Open

TOPIC: Dominic Thiem has won tennis’s Grand Slam title at the 2020 U.S. Open. What was it about Thiem’s rally in this win that is unique for a Grand Slam? What are some other high points in his tennis career? What are his major strengths as a player and how did they work for him in this win?

SEARCH TERMS: “Dominic Thiem” AND “Grand Slam” AND “U.S. Open”

SPORTS: Spain – Messi Will Stay with Barcelona

TOPIC: Lionel Messi has ceased his attempts to have Barcelona FC sell him to another club. He will finish out his contract and become a free agent next summer. This doesn’t mean he’s happy with his choice. What are some of the decisions the club has made that have upset Messi? How desirable a player will he be next summer and should teams attempt to sign him? How is Barca doing in the start of the new season?

SEARCH TERMS: “Lionel Messi” AND “Barcelona FC”

SPORTS: Titans Covid-19 Outbreak

TOPIC: The NFL football team, The Tennessee Titans, are the first to see a major in-season outbreak of Covid-19 with an initial eight cases confirmed among players and staff. What decisions have been made after this discovery to improve safety? What precautions have the NFL been taking while running their season during the pandemic?

SEARCH TERMS: “Tennessee Titans” AND (coronavirus OR covid-19 OR

covid19 OR "covid 19") AND NFL

SPORTS: Britain – Angela Buxton

TOPIC: Angela Buxton was a British-born tennis player who partnered with Althea Gibson when both were shunned by other tennis players because of their backgrounds – Gibson was black and Buxton Jewish – and won the French Open Doubles and the Wimbledon doubles. She and Gibson remained friends for the rest of their lives. How did she come to Ms. Gibson's aid in the mid-1990s? What are some examples of the antisemitism that she faced in the tennis world?

SEARCH TERMS: "Angela Buxton"

SPORTS: Doris Burke Becomes First Female NBA Finals Analyst

TOPIC: Moving from sideline reporter to radio announcer, the ESPN broadcaster Doris Burke made history this season as the first woman to serve as an NBA finals analyst for network television or radio. Who is Burke and how did she get her start in sports journalism? How long has she been with ESPN and what is her history with the network? What other milestones has she achieved during her time with ESPN?

SEARCH TERMS: "Doris Burke" AND ESPN AND (first OR milestone OR groundbreak*) AND (analyst OR announce* OR call* OR broadcast*) AND (woman OR female) AND NBA

SPORTS: Michael Jordan and NASCAR

TOPIC: Retired basketball star Michael Jordan has entered into a partnership with NASCAR driver Danny Hamlin to become owners of a new NASCAR team with Bubba Wallace as their driver. Who sold them the team and why? Who is Bubba Wallace currently driving for and when is he going to be switching teams? When did Jordan and Hamlin meet and how did this idea come up?

SEARCH TERMS: "Michael Jordan" AND ("Danny Hamlin" OR "Bubba Wallace") AND NASCAR

Arts and Literature

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE: Mark Bradford's Quarantine Paintings

TOPIC: The Los Angeles branch of the Hauser & Wirth art gallery chain is showing a digital-only exhibit of artist Mark Bradford's large abstract paintings that he creates from a variety of materials. What kind of artwork did Bradford display at his first major solo exhibition, how does it compare to this current exhibit and what are the qualities that impress the critics in his work? What awards has he won for his works and why? How has he frequently used paper in his artworks?

SEARCH TERMS: "Mark Bradford" AND "Quarantine Paintings"

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE: Great Britain – Hokusai Drawings

TOPIC: Several original drawings by the Japanese artist Hokusai were discovered in Paris and have been purchased by the British Museum and are currently on display and available to view online. They were made as part of his *The Great Picture Book of Everything*, his attempt to produce a pictorial encyclopedia. Who was Hokusai, what was his preferred art medium, and what image of his is probably the best-known? Where are other collections of works that might have been created for *The Great Picture Book of Everything*? What is the theory about how the artworks came to Paris?

SEARCH TERMS: Hokusai AND "British Museum"**LITERATURE: Great Britain – Women's Prize for Fiction**

TOPIC: The Women's Prize for Fiction was awarded to Northern Ireland-born author Maggie O'Farrell for her novel *Hamnet*. This book examines the death of William Shakespeare's son at age 11 and its effect on his mother and siblings. What were some of the other books in competition with the ultimate winner? What was the cash prize given to Ms. O'Farrell? How did coronavirus affect the judging and the presentation of the award?

SEARCH TERMS: "Women's Prize for Fiction" AND (Hamnet OR "Maggie O'Farrell")

LITERATURE: Rage

TOPIC: Bob Woodward has recently finished a new book on the presidency of President Trump, titled *Rage*. What are some of the most discussed revelations in the book and what impact could they have on the upcoming presidential election? What was Woodward's previous book on President Trump and what are some consistent themes in these two books?

SEARCH TERMS: "Bob Woodward" AND Rage AND Trump

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: Long-running Reality Show Featuring the Kardashians Cancelled

TOPIC: The E! network announced the cancellation of *"Keeping Up with the Kardashians"* in 2021 after its 20th season. Launched in 2007, the reality show comes to an end as E! respects the family's decision to "live life without our cameras" amid speculation that decreased ratings and the family's high price tag were also contributing factors. Who are the members of the Kardashian family and how have they contributed to pop culture? In what ways have they influenced social media and the fashion/beauty industry? Has their fame led to controversy and if so, how?

SEARCH TERMS: Kardashians and ("reality show" or "reality tv" or "reality television show") and (end* or cancel*)

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: Canada/Italy – Award Winner

TOPIC: Chloe Zhao's film *Nomadland* has won both the Golden Lion for the best film at the Venice Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Award. The film which stars Frances McDormand, is the first to win both awards. What is the film about? What did voters from the jury in Venice have to say about it? What films did it compete against in both festivals?

SEARCH TERMS: "Chloe Zhao" AND *Nomadland*

MOVIES AND TELEVISION: Schitt's Creek

TOPIC: Acclaimed Canadian situation comedy *Schitt's Creek* has swept all the major Emmy Awards for comedy. What is the premise of the show and what Emmys did it win? What have the critics said about the strength of the show's character portals and the script writing?

SEARCH TERMS: "Schitt's Creek"

MUSIC: Japan – Seiji Ozawa

TOPIC: Seiji Ozawa, the longest serving conductor of the Boston symphony from 1973 to 2002, has turned 85 years old. How did the symphony acknowledge his birthday? What other orchestras was Ozawa attached to? How did the city of Boston deal with this occasion? How does Ozawa feel about the city of Boston and its orchestra?

SEARCH TERMS: "Seiji Ozawa"

MUSIC: Big Sean's "Detroit 2" Debuts at #1 on Billboard 200

TOPIC: The 32-year-old rapper's latest album, and sequel to his 2012 hometown tribute, debuts in the top spot as the artist opens up on social media about his battle with depression and suicidal thoughts. What is Big Sean's background and how did he get his start in the music industry? How many Big Sean albums have hit #1 on the Billboard charts? How have his emotional and mental health struggles shaped his music and career?

SEARCH TERMS: "Big Sean" AND (album OR rap OR music OR release) AND Detroit

MUSIC: American County Music Awards

TOPIC: Thomas Rhett and Carrie Underwood both have won Entertainer of the Year awards in this year's American County Music Awards (ACM) marking the first tie in ACM history. What were the qualities of those works that impressed the critics? Who were some of the other big winners and why?

SEARCH TERMS: "American County Music Awards" AND "Carrie Underwood" AND "Thomas Rhett"

PERFORMING ARTS: Jamaica – Toots Hibbert

TOPIC: Toots Hibbert gave the music genre reggae its name with his early song *Do the Reggay*. He and his band The Maytals were great favorites in Jamaica and among his other songs were *Pressure Drop* and *Monkey Man*. Where did Hibbert grow up and what attracted him to music? Who were the musicians that most inspired Toots?

SEARCH TERMS: "Toots Hibbert"

PERFORMING ARTS: 12 Angry Men...and Woman

TOPIC: Brooklyn New York's Billie Holiday Theater is presenting a group reading by noted actors and actresses titled *12 Angry Men...and Women: The Weight of the Wait* that will be streamed live on YouTube. What acclaimed work is being read, who edited it and why is the filming location of this reading relevant to the readings? Who are some of the readers aside from the noted actors and why were they chosen to read? **SEARCH TERMS:** "Angry Men" AND Women AND "Billie Holiday Theater" AND "Black Lives Matter"

People**PEOPLE: Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

TOPIC: Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a Supreme Court Judge. How was Justice Ginsburg's legal philosophy understood at the time of her nomination and how did it change in the span of her career on the Supreme Court? What were some of the most notable majority opinions that she wrote and what were some of her famous dissenting opinions? What were some of the cases that she successfully argued before the Supreme Court in her earlier career as a lawyer?

SEARCH TERMS: "Ruth Bader Ginsburg"

PEOPLE: Cambodia – Kaing Guek Eav

TOPIC: Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, ran one of the most notorious prisons for the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and admitted to the torture or killing of 16,000 people. He was convicted of crimes against

humanity and war crimes. Who were the Khmer Rouge, how did they come to power in Cambodia, and who were their leaders? What tribunal tried Duch and what other leaders were tried and convicted by it? What did he confess to during his trial?

SEARCH TERMS: "Khmer Rouge" AND ("Kaing Guek Eav" OR Duch)

PEOPLE: John Thompson

TOPIC: Georgetown University basketball coach John Thompson was the first African-American head collegiate coach to win a major championship when the Georgetown Hoyas beat the Houston Cougars in 1984. What was his coaching style? What was his earlier career like as a center for the Boston Celtics in the mid-1960s?

SEARCH TERMS: "John Thompson" AND Georgetown AND basketball

PEOPLE: Great Britain – Diana Rigg

TOPIC: Diana Rigg came to prominence when she co-starred in the British TV show *The Avengers* and who was the only Bond girl to actually marry James Bond in the films. She was most recently seen in *Game of Thrones*. What was iconic about her role on *The Avengers*? What other films did she make and what roles did she portray on stage? What awards did she win?

SEARCH TERMS: "Diana Rigg"

PEOPLE: U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy Investigated for Fraud

TOPIC: Following concerns over delayed deliveries, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform sought to determine if the holdups were an intentional effort to obstruct the delivery and receipt of mail-in ballots amid accusations that Postmaster Louis DeJoy had pressured former employees to donate to his favored politicians. After two days of testimony, the committee determined the interruptions were most likely due to the leader's attempts to cut costs after years of declining revenue. What is DeJoy's educational and professional background? What has contributed to the sharp decline in U.S. Postal Service profits between 2007 and today? Since his appointment as Postmaster General in June, what measures has DeJoy taken to cut spending and increase earnings?

SEARCH TERMS: "Louis DeJoy" AND (mail* OR post* OR deliver*) AND (election OR ballot*) AND (delay* OR disruption* OR obstruct* OR holdup*) AND investigation

PEOPLE: Gayle Sayers

TOPIC: Gayle Sayers was best known for his years as a star halfback on the Chicago Bears during the late 1960s and early 1970s. What was Gale Sayers's major talent as a football player and what injuries did he have to overcome during his career? What was his popular autobiography, why was it popular and what TV movie was made from it?

SEARCH TERMS: "Gale Sayers" AND football

PEOPLE: Chadwick Boseman

TOPIC: Chadwick Boseman was a popular actor, mostly known for his lead role in the film *Black Panther*. What are some other film and TV roles that he has been celebrated for? What awards did he win for *Black Panther* and why?

SEARCH TERMS: "Chadwick Boseman"

PEOPLE: Helen Reddy

TOPIC: Helen Reddy was a very popular singer with many hits but is best known for her composition and hit song *I Am Woman* which became a

feminist anthem in the 1970s. What were the qualities of her singing that impressed the critics? What are some of her other hits? What film roles has she been in?

SEARCH TERMS: "Helen Reddy" AND "I Am Woman"

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