

Faces and Places



Sirhan Sirhan

On August 27th, a California parole board recommended Sirhan Sirhan for parole. Sirhan was found guilty of murdering Robert F. Kennedy, the former U.S. Senator and brother of President John F. Kennedy. Robert Kennedy was killed at the age of 42, after giving a speech at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles in 1968. Sirhan was convicted and sentenced to death in 1969, but after three years in prison, was given a life sentence instead. Sirhan has been in prison ever since. He is now 77 years old and has attempted to gain parole 16 times. Six of Robert Kennedy's children have condemned the parole board's decision, while two of Kennedy's children have supported it. California Governor Gavin Newsom will review the case before making a final decision on whether or not to grant Sirhan his freedom. **Do you think Sirhan should be released from prison? Why or why not?**

Charlie Watts

Charlie Watts, the drummer for the British rock band the Rolling Stones, died at the age of 80 on Tuesday, August 24th. Watts had been a member of the band since he joined in 1963. During the 1960s and 70s, the Rolling Stones were one of the most popular bands in the world. Watts was born in London, England, in 1941 and displayed musical talent at an early age. He received his first drum kit from his parents in 1955. Watts worked as a graphic designer and played drums in a jazz band on the side until he met members of the Rolling Stones in the 60s. Watts was known to be a more reserved person than his bandmates Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. Watts was considered by many to be one of the best rock drummers of all time. Rolling Stone magazine put him at number 12 on their list of "100 Greatest Drummers of All Time." **Are you a fan of the Rolling Stones? What do you think made Watts' drumming special?**

Louisiana

On Sunday, August 29th, Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana. Ida was a category 4 hurricane, making it the most powerful storm to strike Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Reports show that the storm contributed to the deaths of five people. Ida caused extreme flooding in coastal areas, and search-and-rescue teams are still working to rescue people in some of the hardest-hit areas. More than one million people in Louisiana lost power due to the storm and experts estimate it could take months to restore electricity across the state. The levees and floodwalls that protect the city of New Orleans survived the storm, but some areas around the city still experienced major flooding. The storm is believed to have caused at least \$15 billion worth of insured damage so far. **What should Louisiana do to help prevent major power losses from storms in the future?**

Singapore

In late August, the nation of Singapore announced it had fully vaccinated 80 percent of its population, or around 4.4 million people. The announcement means Singapore has the highest vaccination rate of any country in the world. Several other countries have vaccinated at least 70 percent of their populations, including Chile, Uruguay, and the United Arab Emirates. Singapore has managed the COVID pandemic well compared to other countries. So far, they have reported a total of 67,171 confirmed cases and only 55 deaths. With the success of the vaccination program, Singapore plans to ease some of its COVID restrictions. The country will now allow travelers from certain countries and intends to reopen its economy slowly. Masks are still mandatory in most public places, group gatherings are limited, and residents must use a contact tracing app. **Why do you think Singapore was so successful in its vaccine campaign?**