

US superstar Beyoncé has 'Breton roots'



Beyoncé the Breton? According to a local genealogical society, the superstar can trace her roots back to 18th century Brittany. Photo: Martinb/Wikimedia/AFP

Superstar Beyoncé Knowles may be one of the biggest and most successful singers ever to come out of America, but her roots are well and truly French, or more precisely Breton, a French genealogical association claimed on Monday.

She may not dance in the traditional style of a Breton woman, but Beyoncé does in indeed have Celtic roots, according to the French genealogical association "Racines et Rameaux" (Roots and Branches).

The world-famous star, who is one of the most successful US artists of all time, has her origins in the tiny island of Belle-Ile-en-Mer off the coast of the region of Brittany in the west of France.

According to the association, the former Destiny's Child singer's great-great-great-great grandmother was Marie-Francoise Trahan, a member of a family who fled Acadia, a French colony in present-day Canada, and settled in the Morbihan region of Brittany in the late 18th century.

Around a decade later Trahan is believed to have sailed from the west coast of France to the US state of Louisiana, where she then met her husband Joseph Broussard.

The great granddaughter of the couple was Celestine Anne, who is none other than Beyoncé's mother.

André Thomas, a local genealogist who can also trace his ancestry back to Marie-Françoise Trahan, seemed non-plussed by being distantly related to Beyoncé.

"I don't know her at all. Never heard her music. I don't really listen to music," he told The Local on Monday.

"Besides, we're used to finding famous people with Acadian roots - like Céline Dion, for example," added the resident of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, the largest of the islands off the coast of Brittany, situated some 14 km from the Quiberon Peninsular..

Speaking to local paper Le Télégramme, however, Thomas did note that his grandchildren were "amazed when I told them they were cousins of Beyoncé."



Can you see the likeness? Like Beyoncé, André Thomas (R) can trace his ancestry back to Marie-Françoise Trahan.

Of his long-lost relative, he told The Local: "I don't know her. Never heard her music." Photo: Instagram/André Thomas

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Beyoncé is most famous for her two chart-topping tracks Single Ladies and Crazy in Love.

According to France's TF1 TV, the discovery of her Breton roots was made by Jacques Nerrou the president of Racines et Rameaux, which specialises in researching the pioneers who left to settle in America before the 19th century.

Source: <https://www.thelocal.fr/20130902/us-singer-beyonce-has-breton-roots>

Owner of Segway Company Dies in Segway Accident

The owner of Segway died on Sunday riding one of his company's electric scooters off a cliff and into a river.

The 62-year-old millionaire Jimi Heselden crashed into the River Wharfe in Northern England while inspecting his North Yorkshire estate, according to [multiple reports](#).

Heselden was riding a rugged-country version of the Segway, which was also recovered at the scene, according to the [Telegraph](#).

Unveiled in 2001, the [Segway was invented by Dean Kamen](#), who dreamed of launching a transportation revolution. The scooter contains five gyroscopes linked to a set of computers to monitor a rider's center of gravity.

Heselden, chairman of Hesco Bastian and a former miner who earned millions from defense contracts, purchased the Segway company in early 2010.

Hesco Bastian this morning posted a memorial message and a photo of Heselden, below the jump:



Jimi Heselden OBE
1948 – 2010

It is with great sadness that we have to confirm that Jimi Heselden OBE, has died in a tragic accident near his home in West Yorkshire.

Jimi Heselden, 62, was Chairman of Hesco Bastion Ltd, the world-leading manufacturer of protective barriers used to protect British and coalition troops around the world.

Jimi is perhaps best known for his charity work with Help for Heroes and the Leeds Community Foundation. A £10m gift to the Foundation earlier this month saw his lifetime charitable donations top £23m.

Our thoughts go out to his family and many friends, who have asked for privacy at this time.

September 27th, 2010

Seals FaceTime To Keep Long-Distance Love Alive

Love knows no bounds, after all.



By Samantha Guff



CATERS NEWS

Long-distance relationships are hard. Especially if you're a seal, and you're in love with another seal who happens to be 160 miles away.

Luckily for these seals, technology is a beautiful thing. They now use FaceTime to keep their long-distance relationship strong.

Sija and Babyface are [two smitten seals](#) who were separated for getting too frisky, according to the New York Post. They met back in 2007, when Sija was transferred to the same sanctuary in England as Babyface. They “sealed the deal” and conceived a pup, even though 37-year-old Babyface was [almost too old to procreate](#), according to ABC AU.

With Babyface's health in mind, sanctuary workers put 10-year-old Sija on a birth control pill and hoped it wouldn't happen again. Somehow, they were still able to have a second pup together. Love knows no bounds, after all.

Unfortunately for them, this was too risky for Babyface, so Sija was sent to a separate, all-female enclosure at SEA LIFE, according to Mashable.



CATERS NEWS

"Sija has settled in really well with the other girls here, but we thought it would be nice for her and Babyface to keep in touch so we've arranged a video link," Displays Curator at Weymouth SEA LIFE Fiona Smith told Mashable.

Both seals are responding well to the FaceTime sessions, which the staff refers to as SealTime.

What's next? Netflix n' Seal?

Source: <https://bit.ly/2AfHdfL>

iPhone 5 Update: Planned Obsolescence?

28 October 2019, 7:51 am EDT By **Staff Reporter** Tech Times



(sdcsd)

Do you still love your iPhone 5? Well, you've got six more days to make sure that you get to keep online functions such as the App Store, email, iCloud, Safari browsing, and the like.

Since releasing bug-fix updates back in July, Apple has been sending out full-screen alerts warning iPhone 5 users to update their Operating System (OS) to the latest iOS 10.3.4 before 12:00 A.M. UTC on Nov. 3. This is in accordance with the Global Positioning System (GPS) time rollover that happened last April 6 that affected devices relying on date and time to tell your location.

The GPS technology works by using a time and date function, which defines a 10-bit number referred to as a "week number" or WN, which means every 1,024 weeks, the WN that is transmitted resets to zero. Because of this, the devices which are relatively older and are manufactured without accounting for the rollover are suffering from the same issue.

If you don't update, you won't be able to go online.

According to Apple, failure to update your iPhone 5 before the said date would totally prevent the device from connecting to the internet, thereby preventing Over-The-Air (OTA) software updates or iCloud backup. However, your device can still be updated after Nov. 3 by connecting it to a computer, backing up your files, and restoring it with iTunes on a PC or Mac.

Planned Obsolescence

Just last year, the tech giant Apple was fined €10m in Italy after being found guilty of "planned obsolescence" by the nation's competition authority. Planned obsolescence is the intentional shortening of a smartphone's lifespan by its manufacturer. It is usually done by releasing updates that generally slow down a phone's performance, which forces you to upgrade to a better one or the latest model. With the iPhone 5 having a non-removable battery and practically everlasting, this new update could be another way for Apple to make older models obsolete.

How to Update

To update your iOS, you can go to Settings > General then Software Update. Additionally, to check if the update was done successfully, go to Settings > General > About. If the update was a success, the number beside software version should be iOS 10.3.4 for iPhone 5 and iPad 4th generation while iOS 9.3.6 for iPhone 4s, iPad mini, iPad 2, and iPad 3rd generation. Additionally, it must be noted that this issue doesn't affect any newer devices, iPad models with the Wi-Fi only function, and iPod touch.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2zzQ4ZY>



Jason Michael @Jeggit · Aug 28, 2017

Believe it or not, this is a shark on the freeway in Houston, Texas.
[#HurricaneHarvy](#)



6.4K

78.6K

135.3K



Source: <https://twitter.com/jeggit/status/902048241646280704?lang=en>

Snowfall in Sahara Desert, a rare thing that happened in 2018

Panchali Dey | Times Travel Editor | [TRAVEL NEWS](#), [ANTARCTICA](#)

Jan 11, 2018, 14.24 IST



Photo courtesy: Karim Bouchetata/Geoff Robinson

This year, Sahara Desert, the hottest place on earth received snow, much to the surprise of the locals as well as people around the world. Locals were stunned to wake up to a blanket of dense snow settling in their small town of Ain Sefra, popularly known as the 'gateway of the desert.' It actually snowed here for the fourth time in nearly 40 years.



Photo courtesy: twitter.com/Discover_DZ

As per Meteorologist Jason Nicholls, "The cold pool of air coupled with precipitation from the surface storm led to precipitation falling as snow instead of rain. The same feature responsible for the snow over the Sahara brought the heavy snow to the Alps earlier this week." Scientists are, however, not attributing this rare snowfall event to the climate change as extreme weather conditions might become more of a common thing in the future, as well as the climate changes.

Study reveals that the Sahara Desert covers most of Northern [Africa](#) and has gone through shifts in moisture and temperature over the past few thousand years. Actually, even though Sahara weather is too dry today, it is expected to become greener in around 15,000 years.



As per reports, more than 15 inches (40 cm) of snow blanketed the sand dunes across this small town. Although snowfall is a rare phenomenon in such a hot place, a similar thing happened even last year. Sahara being one of the hottest and driest places on earth, where temperature reaches to 122 degrees, witnessing snowfall is actually a rarity. The reason associated with the snowfall in this region is because of cold air aloft associated with a surface storm drifting from [Spain](#) to northern Algeria.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/yc86gsvr>

Joe Biden Calls Trump Supporters “Dregs of Society”

by A1F Staff -



Using his speech at the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner as an opportunity to air grievances, former Vice President Joe Biden railed against conservative segments of American society.

“Despite losing in the courts and in the court of public opinion, these forces of intolerance remain determined to undermine and roll back the progress you all have made,” Biden said, alluding in particular to same-sex marriage and other LGBT causes. “This time they—not you—have an ally in the White House. They’re a small percentage of the American people, virulent people. Some of them are the dregs of society.”

Given the backlash Hillary Clinton faced for labeling Trump supporters “deplorables,” it is unclear why Biden would go so far to replicate her mistake. This seems to point to a potential presidential candidate who is either unhinged or cynically attempting to exploit divisions among the American people. Biden is no friend of the Second Amendment, and freedom-loving Americans should be cautious about the kinds of moves he is making.

Source: <https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2018/11/27/joe-biden-calls-trump-supporters-dregs-of-society/>