



Trapped by tumbleweeds!

Several people were stuck in their cars as the clocks struck midnight on New Year's Eve on State Route 240 in Washington, after becoming trapped by a giant tumbleweed pile. It was up to 6-9 metres high! Trooper, Chris Thorson, of the Washington state patrol said five cars and one 18-wheel semi-truck had been trapped in the tumbleweeds, in an incident which he dubbed "tumbledegdon". Tumbleweed, a plant that breaks off from its roots at the end of its life and is then blown around on the ground by the wind, is a common sight in some parts of North America. Motorists driving down this highway often have to deal with winds tossing the shrubs into the road, but this invasion was very unusual! The plants were so thick that the road had to be closed in both directions for hours and snow ploughs had to be used to clear the scene. Last year, tumbleweeds in California piled high enough to trap residents in their homes.



Pictured: The tumbleweeds trapping vehicles on the road taken from the Twitter page of Trooper C. Thorson, Washington State Patrol District 3 Public Information Officer.

Britain's youngest ever summer Olympian?



Pictured: Sky Brown competing at a skateboarding competition taken from her and her brothers Twitter page, Sky & Ocean.

Sky Brown is an eleven-year-old skateboarder who hopes to become Britain's youngest ever summer Olympian. She spends her time living between Japan and California in the United States and started skating not long after she could walk. Sky also has a love for surfing and won Dancing With The Stars: Juniors last year. She now boasts half a million followers on Instagram and is one of the youngest athletes to have ever been sponsored by Nike. She hopes she can inspire other young people, saying, "Everyone gets to see how cool skateboarding is; How fun it is; How creative you can be with it! I am super excited. I want to show girls it doesn't matter how old you are, you can do anything. So, if they see me, this little girl that does a trick, they will think they can do it too hopefully."



'Aliens exist and could be here on Earth'



Pictured: Helen Sharman with her spacesuit at the science museum where it is displayed, taken from their Twitter page.

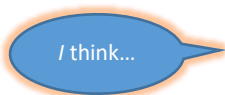
Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut to go to space, has said that aliens exist, and it is possible they are already here on Earth. Dr Sharman made history when she participated in a mission to the Russian modular space station Mir in May 1991. The first British cosmonaut said "Aliens exist, there's no two ways about it. There are so many billions of stars out there in the universe that there must be all sorts of different forms of life. Will they be like you and me, made up of carbon and nitrogen? Maybe not. It's possible they're here right now and we simply can't see them". She also spoke of the breath-taking beauty of the Earth from up high, "I'll never forget the first time I saw it. After take-off we left the atmosphere and suddenly light streamed in through the window. We were over the Pacific Ocean. The gloriously deep blue seas took my breath away."

Greta Thunberg changes her name to Sharon!

Greta Thunberg has changed her name to Sharon on Twitter, in honour of a game show contestant who appeared to have no idea who she was! While appearing on BBC's Celebrity Mastermind, actor Amanda Henderson was asked the question "The 2019 book entitled No-one Is Too Small To Make A Difference is a collection of speeches made by a Swedish climate change activist. What is her name?" Looking stumped, Henderson shook her head and guessed: "Sharon." Viewers thought the gaffe was utterly hilarious, with many posting about it on social media. A clip of her answer has gone viral, being viewed more than five million times.



Pictured: Greta Thunberg changes her Twitter handle to Sharon, taken from her Twitter page.



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