THE LOWDOWN

21/10/26

GLOBAL NEWS



Tesla has unveiled a new Roadster prototype that can briefly leave the ground using high-pressure air thrusters developed with SpaceX.

During a demonstration in Texas, the vehicle performed aerial stunts including hops and flips. Tesla says the Roadster could enter production in 2028.

What do you think would be the biggest challenge of introducing flying cars: safety, cost, or rules and regulations? Why?

THE LOWDOWN

GLOBAL NEWS

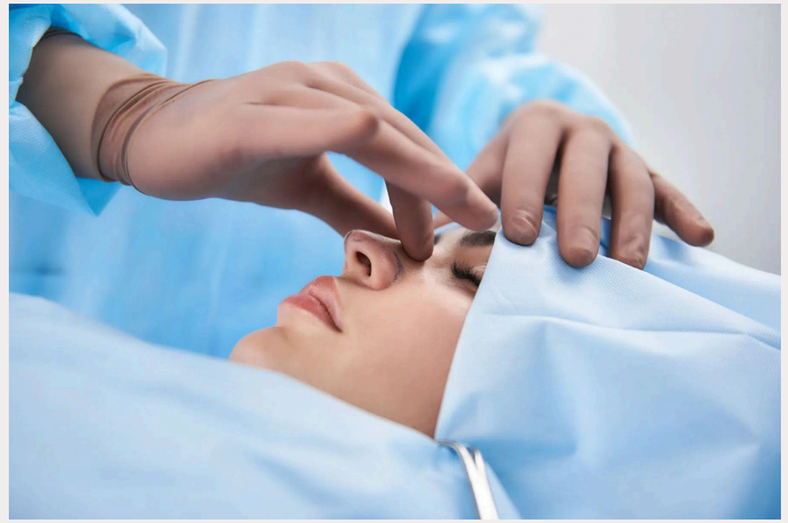
A BBC News article has sparked debate by asking whether having a romantic relationship with a video-game character could be considered cheating.

The discussion was prompted by Grand Theft Auto VI, which allows players to develop a relationship between its two main characters. While most people in a recent poll said it is not cheating, others said they would feel uncomfortable with it.



What counts as cheating in a relationship, and do you think virtual relationships should be treated differently from real ones?

NATIONAL NEWS



Tighter rules planned to protect people from cosmetic surgery that goes badly wrong

New government plans could make it much harder for unqualified people to perform cosmetic procedures after concerns about people being left with serious injuries and health problems.

Many cosmetic treatments are heavily promoted on TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat, often by influencers showing "before and after" transformations. But not everything you see online shows the risks.

- Should anyone be allowed to offer cosmetic procedures?
- How can you tell if someone is properly qualified?
- Do influencers have a responsibility to talk about the risks as well as the benefits?

NATIONAL NEWS

Jackdaw Gas Field Approved





The UK government has given the green light for gas to be produced from the Jackdaw gas field in the North Sea. Gas from the site could start reaching UK homes this winter, but the decision has divided opinion.

Supporters say it will boost energy supplies and protect jobs, while critics worry about its impact on climate change.

The decision has sparked debate because Labour pledged not to approve new oil and gas licences. However, Jackdaw had already been approved before Labour came to power. Supporters say this means Labour has kept its promise, while critics argue it conflicts with its climate commitments.

Supporters say the gas field will help secure energy supplies and protect jobs. Critics argue it could increase carbon emissions and make it harder for the UK to meet its net-zero targets.

Quick Question

Do you think the UK should produce more of its own gas?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What do you think is more important?

A. Producing more UK energy and protecting jobs
B. Reducing carbon emissions and focusing on renewable energy

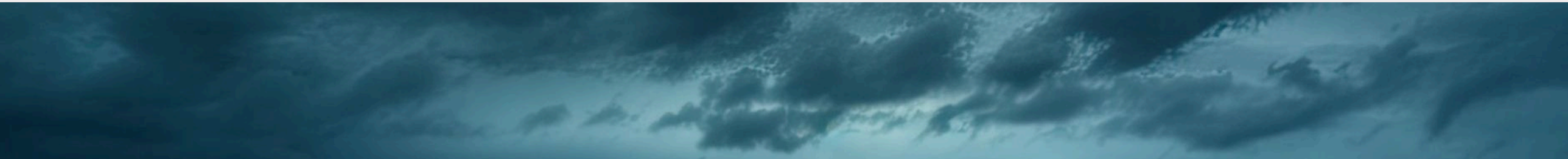
LOCAL NEWS

Breaching the closure order can result in a fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment.



A court order is now in place at the site. This means that entering the site is no longer simply a matter of civil trespass. Anyone found on the site, other than the owners or their authorised agents, is committing a criminal offence and may be arrested. This applies to everyone, including young people.

Storm Austen has been named by the Met Office as our first of Autumn with disruptive wind and rain for some from late Thursday and into Friday. If you could name a storm what would you call it?



GOOD NEWS

Stanford scientists discover a way to reverse coral bleaching at record speed

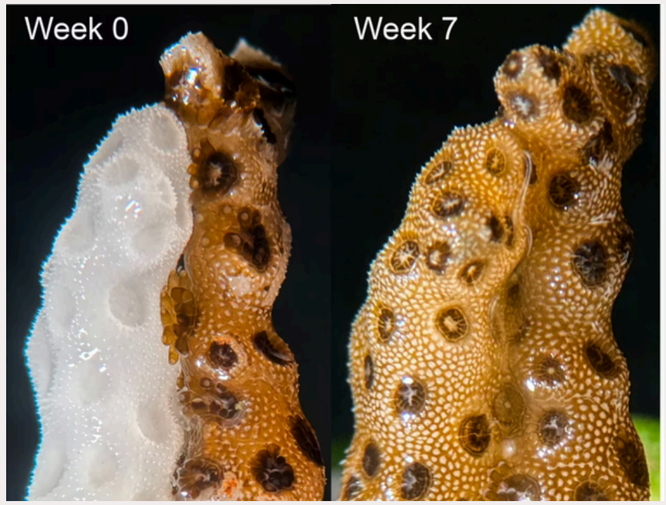


Bleached corals can fully recover within a few weeks through brief contact with healthy corals.

Coral bleaching occurs when warmer ocean temperatures cause corals to expel the beneficial algae that provide most of their energy, leaving them pale, weakened, and vulnerable to disease.

Normally, recovery can take months or even years if the coral survives at all.

The findings suggest a potential new technique for rapid coral restoration, which could become increasingly important as climate change causes more frequent and severe marine heat waves.



The wold's first hands-free touchpad



MouthPad is a custom-fit, hands-free touchpad that lets people control computers, tablets, and smartphones using tongue, head, and breath gestures.

The MouthPad is an assistive technology device created for people with physical disabilities, enabling hands-free control of digital devices through tongue, head, and breath gestures.

It connects wirelessly through standard pairing and works across major operating systems without needing special software.