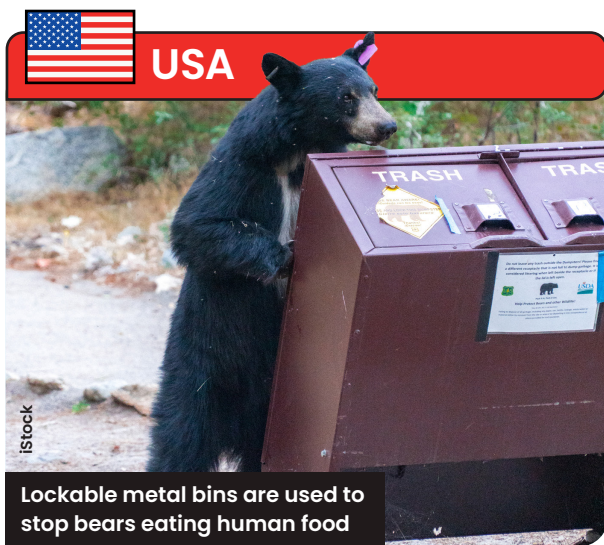




**USA**



Lockable metal bins are used to stop bears eating human food

## First fatal black bear attack in California history

California's Department of Fish and Wildlife says that a 71-year-old woman who was found dead in her home is the first person in the state's history to have been killed by a black bear. Patrice Miller died in November, but a medical report has just revealed that it was a bear that killed her. In areas that have bears, people are advised not to leave food or rubbish out, but officials say that Miller would put food out on the porch for her cats. The local sheriff said that they deal with calls about bears every week, but that the creatures are usually just a "nuisance" rather than a threat to life.

**GAZA**



Airstrikes were part of the raid on the Nuseirat area of Gaza

## Four Israeli hostages rescued

A raid by Israel's military has succeeded in rescuing four of the hostages that were captured in the attack on Israel in October that started the current war. A total of 251 hostages were taken by fighters from Hamas, the group that runs Gaza and is classed as a terrorist organisation by the UK and many other countries. More than 100 hostages were released in November as part of a ceasefire deal, but Israel says that more than 40 of the remaining hostages are thought to be dead. Last week's rescue mission led to the deaths of 210 Palestinians, Hamas said, although Israel said it was fewer than 100. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the war would only end when every hostage, alive or dead, is returned to Israel. Find out more at [first.news/IsraelGaza](https://www.first.news/IsraelGaza).

**IRELAND**

## Goat rescued from tower-top

You may know the story of Rapunzel, the golden-haired girl trapped at the top of a tower. Swap her with a goat, and you've got the story that was the talk of the town in Greencastle, Donegal, last week! The young animal, now named Ivy, was trapped for four days at the top of the 100ft-tall (30.5m) Northburgh Castle. Like the story of Rapunzel, it had a fairy-tale ending, as the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) got her down safely. The ISPCA's Kevin McGinley told the BBC: "When you get a good outcome and rescue an animal, there's no better feeling."



Ivy had a fractured leg

**CHINA**

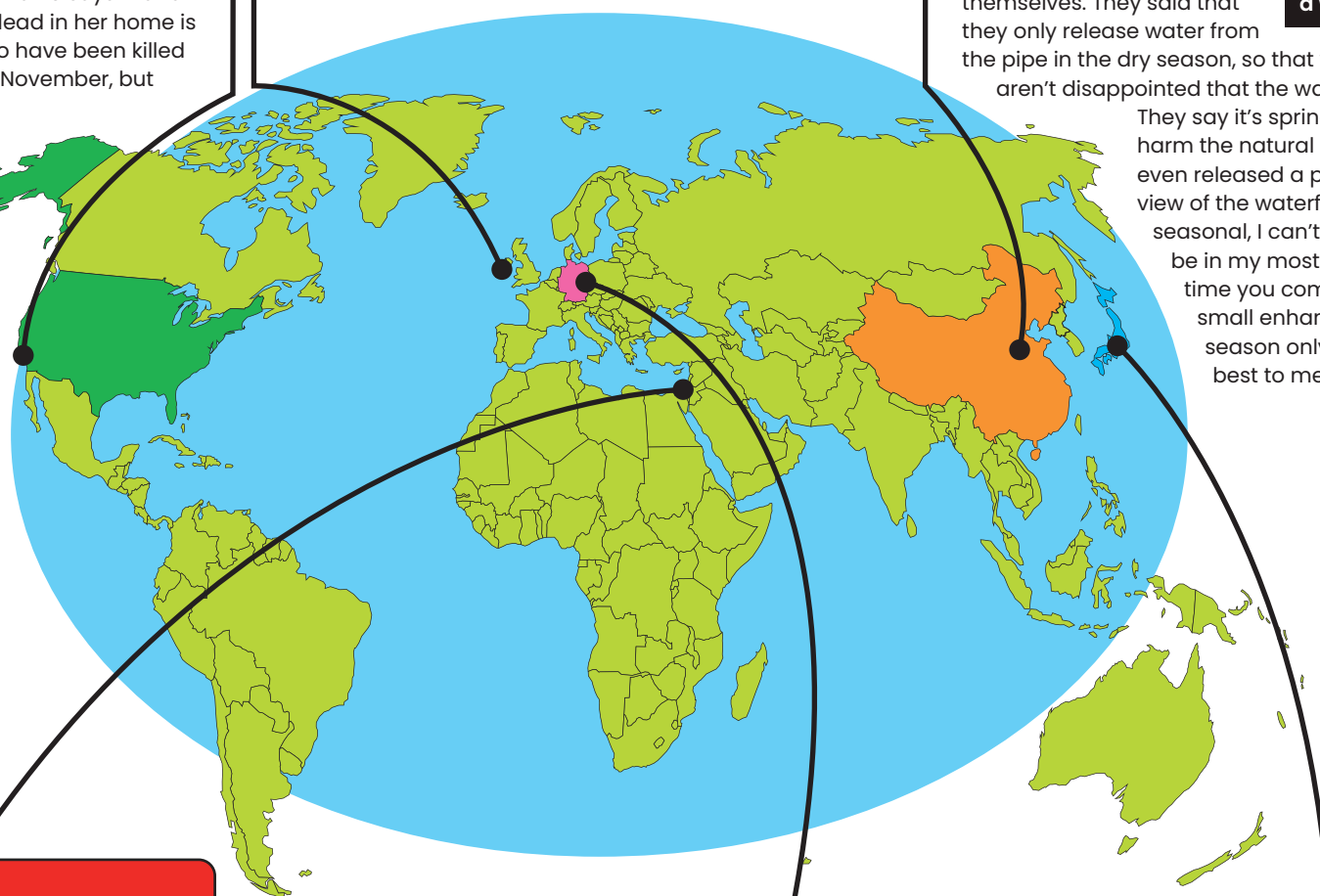
## Are these real falls... or are we real fools?

Yuntai Falls is the highest waterfall in China – but is it real? Well, not all of the time! A hiker recently sent his drone to the top of the 314m-high (1,030ft) vertical drop and was shocked to discover that the water was being pumped out of a pipe drilled into the top of the cliff. His video went viral on social media, which prompted officials at the Yuntai Mountain Geopark to explain themselves. They said that they only release water from the pipe in the dry season, so that visitors to the park aren't disappointed that the waterfall isn't flowing.



Is a fake waterfall still a waterfall?

They say it's spring water, so it doesn't harm the natural environment. They even released a post from the point of view of the waterfall, which read: "As I'm seasonal, I can't guarantee that I will be in my most beautiful form every time you come to see me. I made a small enhancement during the dry season only so I would look my best to meet my friends."



**GERMANY**

## Nudist group struggles for numbers at birthday party

The German Association for Free Body Culture (DFK) – a nudist group – has cancelled a celebration to mark its 75th birthday due to a lack of interest. Nudist clubs have existed in Germany for over a century. Around one in five Germans have been on a nudist holiday at some point in their lives, and it's not uncommon to spot someone naked in city parks on hot summer days. However, the DFK says that young people are starting to reject nakedness. Its president, Alfred Sigloch, blames social media sites. He says that they "promote a perfect body image that gives many young people unrealistic ideals and makes them uncomfortable about being naked". The DFK had 65,000 members for its 50th birthday in 1999, but now, that's almost halved to 34,000.



**JAPAN**



Japan's population fell by 848,659 last year

## Japan launches dating app to try to boost its child population

Japan's government will launch a new dating app this summer as it searches for ways to stop its population from plummeting. One official told the news agency AFP that they want to give single people a "gentle push to find [a partner]". Japan's birth rate has hit a record low for the eighth year running. Just 727,277 babies were born in 2023, while twice as many people – 1,575,936 – died. Marriages are also at a record low. The population is around 125 million, but is forecast to drop to 87m by 2070.