

COLOMBIA



WILD HIPPO CULL



EXPERTS have said that wild hippos in Colombia need to be **culled** as they're having a damaging effect on local wildlife and the environment.

A group of hippos were imported into the country for a criminal's private zoo decades ago, but some were released and their numbers have grown massively. Around 100 are concentrated around one of the country's main waterways, the River Magdalena.

Scientists fear that unless the population is reduced, the hippos will cause huge problems. They believe the non-native species could have an impact on the local **ecosystem**, affecting native species like the manatee and even altering the levels of chemicals found in rivers.

However, not everyone is for the cull, especially as hippos are considered a **vulnerable** species.

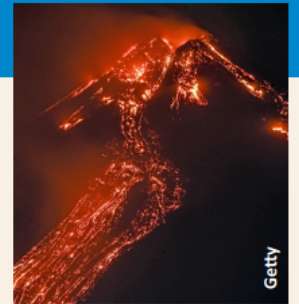
USA



Bear bum shock

A woman in Alaska got the fright of her life when she went to the loo in an outdoor toilet out in the **wilderness**. As Shannon Stevens sat down, something bit her bare bum. Her brother Erik came to investigate and was stunned by what he saw. He said: "I opened the toilet seat and there's a bear face just right there at the level of the toilet seat, just looking right back up through the hole, right at me!" The pair ran back to their yurt and Erik treated Shannon's sore bum with a first aid kit. Luckily, it wasn't a serious injury and Shannon was okay.

ITALY



Mount Etna erupts

Europe's most active **volcano**, Mount Etna, erupted a number of times throughout last week, spewing a fountain of lava and ash into the sky. Authorities said that they were monitoring the situation, but that they didn't think it posed any danger to nearby villages. The European Space Agency (ESA) used a satellite to watch the eruption and to measure the lava flows inside the volcano. They also used **atmospheric** sensors on satellites, which can identify the gases released by the **eruption** and look at the wider environmental impact.

ACROSS

- 2) Without protection; at risk of being harmed (adjective 10)
- 4) This type of sensor does its work in the layer of gases that surround planet Earth (adjective 11)
- 6) The explosion and discharge of lava from a volcano (noun 8)
- 7) Killed to control their numbers (past participle 6)

DOWN

- 1) A wildland, such as a forest, desert or other area of natural land that is not used by people (noun 10)
- 3) Any area where living creatures such as plants and animals interact with non-living things, such as soil and water (noun 9)
- 5) Damage to the body (noun 6)
- 8) A mountain or hill, with a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust (noun 7)

