



## Californian fires cover an area bigger than New York City

A very destructive wildfire tearing through the south of California has increased in size and now covers an area bigger than New York City. The Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties has consumed 230,000 acres (930 sq km) in the past week. Fanned by powerful winds, it has become the fifth largest wildfire in recorded state history after it grew by more than 50,000 acres in a day.

Residents in coastal beach communities have been ordered to leave for their own safety. "Now is the time to gather your family members, pets, irreplaceable and necessary items including prescriptions



*Parts of the fire picture in California.*

and documents in case you are ordered to evacuate," an alert from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said.

## Should energy drinks be banned in schools?



*Pictured: A typical selection of energy drinks.*

A teaching union is calling for schools to ban energy drinks from their premises.

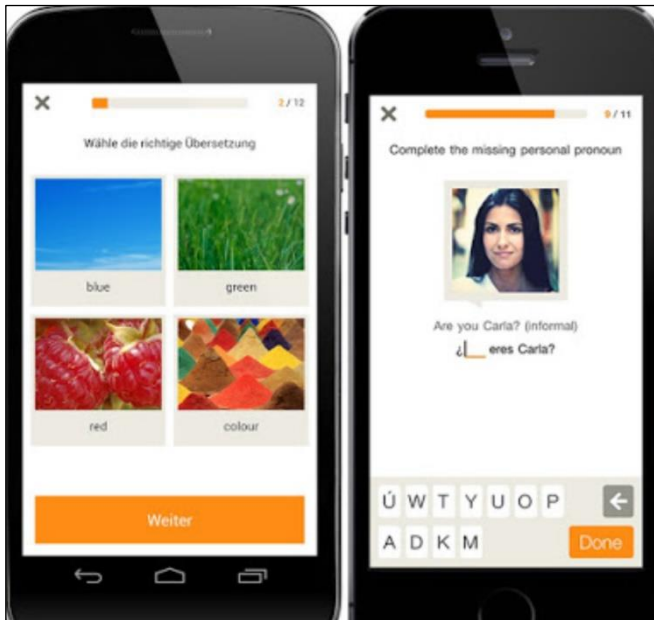
The union known as NASUWT is warning about caffeine levels in the drinks, which they believe can contribute to poor behaviour in schools and classrooms. It follows a report calling on the government to consider making the sale of the drinks illegal to under-16s.

But the British Soft Drinks Association says the drinks have been deemed safe. Darren Northcott, NASUWT national official for education, said: "Teachers have registered concerns with the NASUWT about the contribution of high energy drinks to poor pupil behaviour as a result of pupils consuming excessive quantities of these drinks."

*What do you think about energy drinks? Do you think they should be banned in schools? Let us know!*



## Learning a new language from an App!



Screenshots from the Babel App.

Lorenz Heine, wanted to learn Spanish just over ten years ago and his friend Thomas Holl wanted to help.

With not much free time or money to undertake formal training, Thomas thought that online courses would be readily available to help. Following an internet search, he realised there was very little available. He said, "I started a search and I couldn't find anything good,"

Soon Thomas and his friends realised that they were better off starting from scratch, and creating their own bespoke courses. Together they created Babel, a language learning website and app.

Babel now has one million paid members all over the world, and around 100,000 downloads a day. The name Babel was chosen because it is a reference to the biblical story of the Tower of Babel and how God created a multitude of languages. Babel is also German word that means to talk in a friendly way.

## Mount Hope is the UK's highest new peak!

Mount Hope, which is found in the part of the Antarctic claimed by the UK, was recently re-measured and found to tower above the previous title holder, Mount Jackson, by around 50m (160ft) meaning that Britain now has a new tallest mountain!

Hope is now at 3,239m (10,626ft); Jackson is 3,184m (10,446ft).

Map producers at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) were prompted to take another look at the mountains because of concerns for the safety of pilots flying across the Antarctic.



Mount Hope in the Antarctic.



**YOUR COMMENTS**

Email: [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)

or post to: Picture House, Hungate, Eavestone, North Yorks, HG4 3EX