

# FirstNews

## FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

TOP NEWS STORIES  
FOR THE WEEK  
FOR KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

28 JUNE – 4 JULY 2021

### A NEW US HOLIDAY



**US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has made the day that slavery was abolished in the US a national holiday.**

Known as Freedom Day, Liberation Day or Juneteenth, it's the first new holiday since Martin Luther King Day was designated in 1983.

WOW

**A DIAMOND discovered in Botswana could be the third largest in the world! The gem weighs 1,098 carats and could be worth tens of millions!**



### SMILE TO GO TO WORK



**EMPLOYEES at an office in Beijing, China, have to smile to be allowed into their office!**

An artificial intelligence (AI) camera outside Canon Information Technology's office requires workers to smile in order for the front doors to open.

A spokesperson for Canon China said it "created a positive and lively atmosphere." However, some have criticised the tech. One person on Chinese social media wrote: "So now the companies are not only manipulating our time, but also our emotions."

### TURNING PLASTIC INTO VANILLA

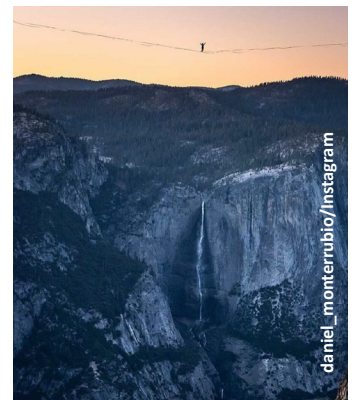


**SCIENTISTS are turning used plastic bottles into vanilla flavouring!**

Researchers from Scotland's University of Edinburgh have discovered a way to turn terephthalic acid (TA) from plastic drinking bottles into a chemical called vanillin. This chemical is used a lot in food and cosmetics, such as body lotion.

The discovery could encourage more people to recycle, as well as tackle the growing problem of global plastic pollution.

### HIGH WIRE RECORD



**A NEW world record has been set for the longest high-line.**

A single 855m line in Yosemite National Park was set up, stretching across a 487m drop. It took Moises Monterrubio, from San Francisco, USA, 37 minutes to walk the line.

The longest line previously walked in Yosemite had been 'just' 228m.



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