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**Everybody's Talking**

**Cold apartment:** No one would dispute that the weather in Singapore gets really hot, but few would say that nine air conditioners are necessary in a four-room apartment. That is how many of the units a man named Huang installed in his small flat. The apartment got so chilly that several neighbours complained, saying their units were damp and moldy. The inhabitant in the flat above, named Liu, had excessive condensation on his cold floors. Huang said he needed the cool air due to a health condition, but Lui's floor was often wet because of it. They compromised, with Huang agreeing to shorten how long he ran his air conditioners and to only use two at night.

**Lost, but found again:** Misplacing an item of clothing can be annoying. Did you leave it at a friend's or relative's house, or maybe in the bottom of a suitcase that you put away after a trip? Losing the blue-and-white dress that Judy Garland wore in the 1939 movie The Wizard of Oz must have been a whole other matter. In the 1970s, the dress was donated to the drama department at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. (U.S.). But soon after, no one could find it. During recent renovations, a drama department lecturer noticed a garbage bag atop the faculty mailboxes. Inside was a shoebox containing the missing dress.

**Bottle houses:** Robert Bezeau knows that plastic bottles are a huge threat to the environment. So he collected tens of thousands of these discarded items and used them to build a little community. Called Plastic Bottle Village, it is located in the province of Bocas del Toro in Panama. Originally from Canada, Bezeau did not complete the feat himself; he asked local folks to help. The structures are made by filling metal cages with bottles, and then attaching the cages together. One bottle building, the four-story Castle Inspiration, can be booked for overnight stays. The whole idea of the project is to reuse plastic to prevent it from ending up in a landfill.

**Slow but sure:** Australia holds an annual ultra-marathon during which competitors run from Sydney to Melbourne. At 875 kilometres (543.7 mi.) long and taking as long as five days to complete, that event is not for the faint of heart. Needless to say, competitors are usually young and in excellent physical condition. That is, except for the inaugural event in 1983, which was won by Cliff Young, a 61-year-old potato farmer. He completed the whole race wearing his work boots and overalls. His gait was a slow but sure shuffle, and he didn't stop. He died a hero in 2003 at age 81, and by then had raised money for charitable causes by participating in other endurance events.

**Quoteable Quotes**

"A problem is a chance for you to do your best." —*Duke Ellington*  
"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." —*Fred Rogers*

**What's Happening**

**Jan 1 ongoing - Friend Den** The Friend Den is a new program for kids in kindergarten to grade 3 with lessons on coping skills, empathy, and gratitude. This runs on Mondays from 3:15-4:30 at the Vegreville Family Resource Network. Registration is required call 780-632-2912

**Jun 2-4 - Vegreville Dash to Summer** Join the Vegreville Agricultural Society for an equine event weekend. APCCA chuckwagon and chariot races, horse show, bouncy castles, camping and more! Visit [vegag.ca](http://vegag.ca) for more info

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**Trivia**

1. What is the national flower of England?
2. Maasai Mara National Reserve is located in this country.
3. This telescope array first captured the black hole at the centre of our galaxy.
4. Who is the author of Bleak House?
5. In Canada, this canal runs between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)



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