

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 33

DAY: MONDAY

DATE: JULY 20, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

SUMMER



**MAKES THE YEAR
WORTHWHILE**

Welcome to Second Session 2026!

Did you know this is Walden's 67th summer? 6-7!

Our staff has been working hard for the last several weeks getting camp ready and refining their skills, and now they get to share them with YOU! We have plenty of fun activities you can sign up for at registration tomorrow, special days and evening programs planned, an all-camp trip to Mackinac Island, plenty of chicken nuggets, and a Pictured Rock that's already hidden (if you find it, you win a trip to Dairy Queen)! So put on that bug spray and sunscreen and get ready to dive into a summer of fun.

There's nothing to do in the city!

WHAT'S GOING ON TONIGHT?

One of the best parts of camp is going to activities you personally enjoy. Tomorrow during Registration, you'll get to choose which A/B activities you want to sign up for. Unlike first session, there will be one A/B session lasting all three weeks, which means campers will have more days to meet and learn new skills.

This evening, the area heads will introduce you to their areas of camp as you rotate in groups, and they'll explain some of the activities that are offered – everything from tubing to basketball to horseback riding to Walden Pond. By tomorrow morning, you'll get an A/B menu with the complete list of all the offerings as well as your official registration card. Registration will be in the mess hall.

This evening after rotating area presentations, there will also be a campfire!

All staff on today and tonight.
No off grounds.

SWIM CHECK

Your swim check results determine what you can do at the waterfront this summer. There are three basic levels (Bluegill, Walleye, and Muskie), and there are three additional levels you can achieve later (Shark, Dolphin, and Whale).

LEVEL	LENGTHS	WAT YOU CAN DO
Bluegill	0-6	Swimming in Bluegill Fishing with life jacket
Walleye	7-11	Swimming in Bluegill or Walleye Fishing with life jacket
Muskie	12	Any waterfront activities
Shark	40 at once	Any waterfront activities Skip swim check next summer
Dolphin	72 at once*	Any waterfront activities Skip swim check next summer
Whale	500 in total	Any waterfront activities Skip swim check next summer

* Must swim Shark first

ATTENTION RIDERS

We're looking forward to lots of fun times at the stables this summer. If you are one of our riders, a riding instructor will come around and talk to you before registration. Please make sure you know your assigned riding time before you register for activities tomorrow. See Karen Spreen if you have any questions.

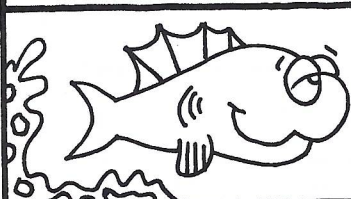
INFIRMARY REMINDERS

The infirmary staff would like to remind all campers about these important infirmary procedures:

- ★ All medication should have already been turned into the infirmary, but if you still have any, please bring it there. Medication is not allowed to be stored in cabins.
- ★ Meds will be distributed at your table by the CHO's.
- ★ If you take nighttime meds, we will deliver them to your evening activity or with your snack bags.
- ★ Sick call is every day right after lunch and right after dinner. For after-hours emergencies, find the CHO on call (listed on the infirmary door).
- ★ Please remember to wash your hands frequently to prevent spreading germs.

GENERAL WATERFRONT RULES

1. Only an Aquatic Supervisor may open the waterfront.
2. A certified lifeguard must also be on duty in order for any activities to occur.
3. All staff and campers must pass their swim check in order to participate in waterfront activities.
4. Campers who choose not to take the swim check may not register for any boating activities.
5. All campers will be assigned Buddy Numbers.
6. During a "general swim" (at V-Pack or Twilight, for instance) campers must pair up with a Buddy before going in the water and sign in and out (by Buddy Number) with the check-in guard.
7. The swim-area supervisor will call regular Buddy Checks.
8. Everyone must wear life jackets on *all boats at all times*.
9. The Waterfront Director has the final say on all decisions pertaining to the use or rules of the waterfront.



LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT SESSION!

WELCOME,
ERIN KOPPELMAN

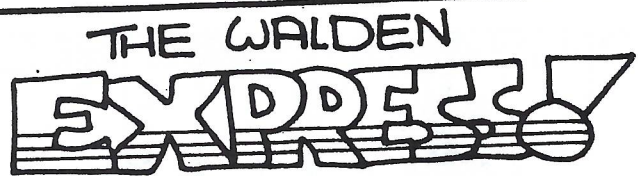
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
RORY BLANCK

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"WE GROW GREAT BY DREAMS."
~WOODROW WILSON

RANDOM BOX

HAPPY FOR SECOND SESSION



THE WALDEN EXPRESS! IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SEND MESSAGES TO OTHER PEOPLE IN CAMP. JUST WRITE YOUR MESSAGE ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND GIVE IT TO NEAL OR LEAVE IT IN THE POND BOX IN THE POND OFFICE OR ON NEAL'S DESK.

LETTER DAYS AT CAMP

Mondays and Thursdays are Letter Days. We encourage you to write a letter home the night before and bring it with you to breakfast. You can give it to a parent liaison in the mess hall or drop it in the white wooden mailbox next to the bell near the office.

"We write letters because our parents have been supportive of us to send us to camp, and it's a great way to tell them about our camping experience," James explains.

Since these letters are written and mailed on paper, the US Postal Service will not deliver them unless they are addressed correctly and include a stamp in the upper right corner.

DOES YOUR ENVELOPE LOOK LIKE THIS?

Your Name
Camp Walden
PO Box 604
Cheboygan, MI 49721

NAME (who are you sending to?)
Street Address
City, State ZIP CODE

Stamp in the upper right



Front

Back

RECYCLE YOUR POND

When you clean up after breakfast, please put any clean Walden Ponds in the "Old Ponds" box by the fireplace. Old issues will be kept in the box until it gets full, so you can check there if you miss an issue. Feel free to help yourself to as many back issues as you want.

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Andy silverman

QUOTE OF THE DAY

RANDOM BOX

LUNCH BOX

DINNER BOX

"WE GROW GREAT BY DREAMS."
~WOODROW WILSON

HAPPY FOR SECOND SESSION



SANDWICHES

SPAGHETTI

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 34

DAY: TUESDAY

DATE: JULY 21, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

GOLDEN DUSTPAN COMPETITION

**CABINS THAT SCORE HIGHEST FOR CLEAN-UP
WILL WIN THE GOLDEN DUSTPAN AWARD!**

Every morning after cabin clean-up, cabins will be rated on how well they were actually cleaned and will be given a score of 0-40 points.

Eight areas of your cabin will be inspected, and you will receive up to 5 points per area for a total of up to 40 points a day.

10-19 points – Single
20-29 points – Double
30-39 points – Triple
40 – Grand Slam

If you score less than a double, you will have to clean up again during rest period.

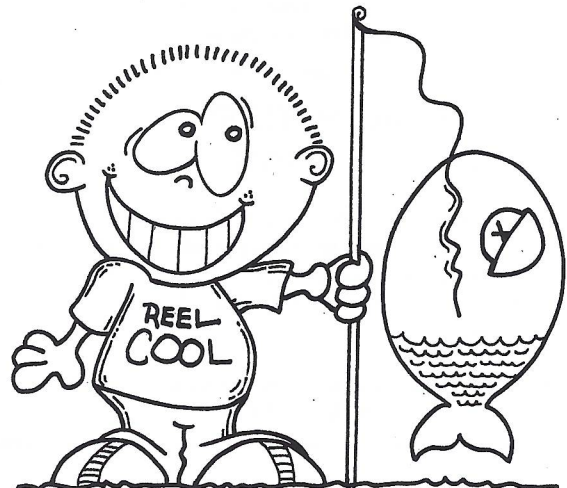
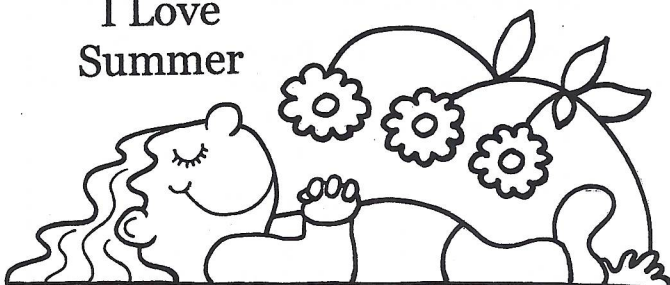
The areas that will be inspected are shelves, floors, trash, bathroom, beds, porch and grounds, clothesline, and lights.

Whichever cabin gets the highest score at the end of the session wins the Golden Dustpan award! There are separate winners for the Bee Side and the Gee Side.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER ONCE UPON A TIME?

Our second session drama production, *What Happened After Once Upon a Time*, is a fractured fairy tale. A substitute narrator is called in on short notice to present stories from a stack of fairy tales, and the main characters show up to interrupt and correct the newbie narrator's telling of their stories. If you'd like to be a part of this show, be sure to sign up today at registration.

I Love
Summer



REGISTRATION THIS MORNING

This morning all campers will sign up for the classes they want to take for the next two weeks. Each camper makes two schedules: one for A-Day and one for B-Day. Schedules alternate each day.

Units 1 and 2 will register first. Then Units 3 and 4 will register. Use your A/B menu to mark a first and second choice for each period. If you don't get your first choice for an activity because it's full, ask the counselor to put you on a waiting list so you can get in the class next time. Listen to the bells to find out when to come down to the mess hall.

Counselors, please check the sheets posted by the mess hall doors to see if you've been assigned to work at registration. If so, you should come down during clean-up to help set up. All counselors not assigned are to remain with their campers all morning.

Here are a few of the exciting activities you can sign up for:

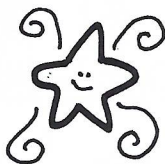
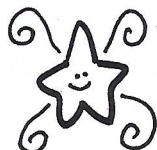
**Waterskiing * Archery * Tennis * Softball * Hammocks *
Weight Training * Lacrosse * Jewelry * Frisbee Golf *
Canoeing * Soccer * Riding * Digital Photo * Flag Football *
Animal Care * Outdoor Cooking * Fencing * Radio *
Pickleball * Sailing * Volleyball * Yoga * Ultimate Frisbee
* Basketball * Dance * Guitar * Ukulele * Jam Session *
Drama * Candles * Tubing * Farm and Garden * Fishing *
Shrinky-Dink * Gymnastics * Meditation ***
Walden Pond

Please see the official A/B Menus for a more complete list of offerings and listen to last minute announcements for changes.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following campers who won the Phantom contest in the winter editions of the Walden Pond (mailed home to campers during the school year). They each win a staff T-shirt or some other prize as determined by Scott or Liz.

**HARPER FANTICH
JULIA ZENDEL
JILLIAN LAZARUS
JOEY CAPLAN
JULIA PEARLMAN
LEO FANTICH**



If you are here at camp this session, please see Scott or Liz to claim your prize.

CHIPMUNK CAFÉ UP AND RUNNING

In case you haven't noticed, the Chipmunk Café is open outside the Pond office. Throughout the summer, Neal provides free food (dry corn) for the local chipmunks to munch on and store away for the winter. Yes, these are real live chipmunks! Drop by to watch, but please don't feed the chipmunks by hand.

If you see any chipmunks in your cabins or areas, tell them to come to the Chipmunk Café.

PLAY WITH THE ANIMALS

We have lots of animals to play with and help take care of at camp, both on our farm and at the nature center (animal care). Our ever-increasing farm, located beyond the B-Field, has chickens, peacocks, pigs, goats, and a lamb (and we might be getting another friend for the lamb as well as a baby bull!).

The lamb is named Maximus. The goats are Mary, Duke, and Johnny. The three little pigs are Carl, Maui, and Little Red Riding Hog.

In addition, there are kittens and bunnies that are available for you adopt and take home at the end of the summer with your parents' permission. There are three kittens on the farm and four at animal care, including Darlene, Apollo, and Ashley. Four kittens are still available to take home. All eight of our bunnies are looking for good homes. See John or an animal care staff member for more information about adopting. Even if you don't adopt a pet, you can still come and play with them at camp.

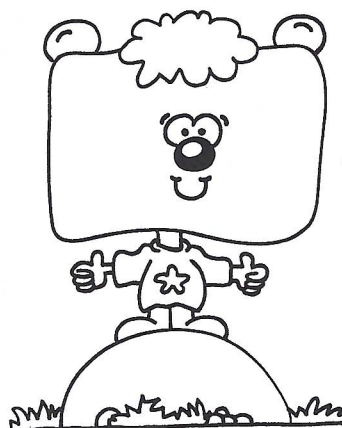
THE WALDEN EXPRESS!

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SIGN UP FOR WALDEN POND CLASS

Go around camp and gather news and Happy-Grams for the Pond, play games, write articles, draw cartoons, and have a lot of fun!

Walden Pond is offered 1A or 1B



I love Walden Pond class, because I get to walk around and find out what's happening around camp and help put things in the Pond. We also play fun games and get to draw cartoons.

The Walden Pond is



- ★ Spotlights
- ★ Autographs of the Day
- ★ Favorite meal dedications (with your name)

Come to the Pond office after breakfast!

NOTE: The items listed above fill up quickly. If you'd like to reserve a spot in a future issue of the Pond for your autograph, etc., make sure you do it within the next day or two.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BAILEY LEBER
SYLVIE STANTON



AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Rory Blanck

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"THE PAST DOES
NOT EQUAL THE
FUTURE."
~TONY ROBBINS

RANDOM BOX

Cucumbers, tomatoes,
oranges, bananas, and
pumpkins are all technically
berries.

LUNCH BOX

**BBQ CHICKEN
SLIDERS**
**WAFFLE
FRIES**

DINNER BOX

TACOS
REFRIED BEANS
QUESO
CHURROS

THE WALDEN POND



VOL. 67 NO. 35

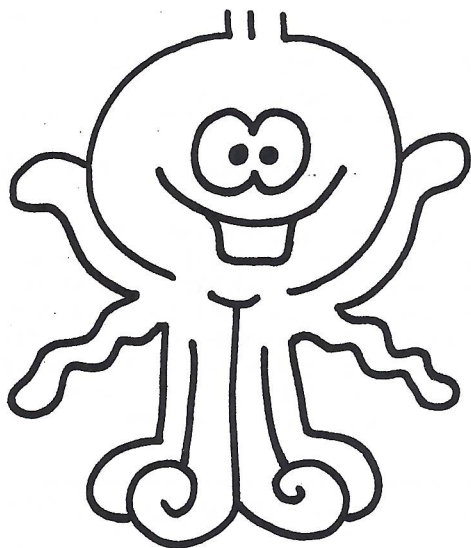
DAY: WEDNESDAY DATE: JULY 22, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

CAN YOU FIND THE OCTOPUS ROCK?



A rock with a picture of an octopus has been hidden in camp.

If you find it, your cabin will win a trip to Dairy Queen!

Every day a clue will appear in the Walden Pond.

If you put enough clues together, they will lead you to an area in camp.

Search around that area to find the rock!

To win you must be the first and only person to hand the rock to Neal Levin.

The fine print: The rock must be on camp property. The rock is not near the water. The stables, farm, gardens, deep woods, and waterfront are off limits. The rock is not in any cabin or building. You can be disqualified for searching off grounds, making fake rocks, trying to get clues ahead of time, or asking for special clues. No searching during Rest Period! The picture is painted with permanent markers and signed and dated on the back. It may be inside a small plastic sandwich bag and may be covered with natural elements such as sticks or leaves but is not underground. Groups consisting primarily of staff, CA's, or LIT's are not eligible. Only one cabin will be determined as a winner, and all members of that cabin will share the prize. The judge's decision is final. Enjoy your hunt!

CLUE #1: TREE BARK

CABIN PHOTOS TO BE TAKEN TODAY

Today we'll be taking "proof of life" photos. These are photos that will be posted online this week to show your parents that you're alive, you're awake, and you feel great! These photos may or may not appear in the yearbook. Official cabin photos for the yearbook are usually taken later, but Liz says *today's photos may actually be the official yearbook cabin photos for this session*. We'll have to wait and see, but present your best self just in case! Please listen to messages for times and places to meet.

A/B ACTIVITIES START TODAY

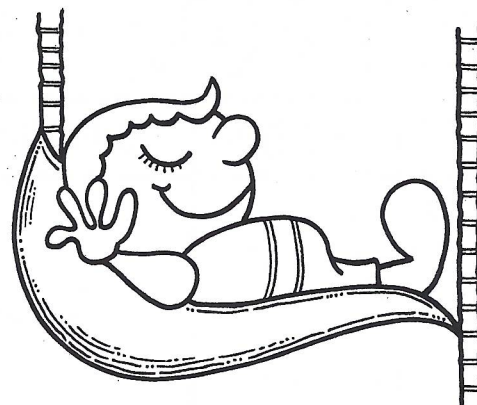
Today is the day! Official camp activities start this morning. Remember to go to the B-Day* activities you signed up for at Registration. Tomorrow you will go to the A-Day activities. If you don't know where your activity meets, see the instructor.

Attention Staff: Please check your teaching assignments posted in the Mess Hall. If you have questions about your assignment, see your area head.

* Why are we starting with a B-Day instead of an A-Day? Good question. Even Dear Ed doesn't know why we sometimes start with B-Days, and he's been here a long time.

TODAY IS NATIONAL HAMMOCK DAY

National Hammock Day celebrates everything related to relaxation, summer breezes and just 'hanging' out! Hammocks were not originally created for relaxation and enjoyment, however, but for protection from the elements and wild animals on the ground. The invention of hammocks can be traced back to the Central and South Americas at least 1,000 years ago. Now, hammocks have become a favorite part of leisure time, especially when used as a convenient and comfortable place for sleeping while hiking and camping or just hanging out in the meadow.



AVERY AND THE MISSING TOENAILCLIPPERS

By Jordan Craighead

Avery was a simple girl. To have an all-star, rockin' summer at Camp Walden, Avery really just needed two things: her group of her bestest friends forever and her custom, pink, monogrammed Special Nail Clippers. Since Avery was a girl, her toenails have always seemed to grow at an astonishing pace. They grow so fast that Avery cuts her toenails at least three times each day – five if her feet are particularly moist.

One day, Avery woke with a start. She reached into her secret hiding spot (under her pillow) to retrieve the Clippers, aiming to start the day off right. Alas, they were gone! In disbelief, Avery searched high and low around her cabin, but her Nail Clippers were nowhere to be found. Dismayed, Avery began to cry. Her crying woke up all her best friends, who promptly comforted her. As the girls started to get Avery to smile, they heard a loud chattering from the attic. The girls got their counselor to investigate and peered into the attic to discover a chipmunk with Avery's Special Nail Clippers sitting on top of a pile of loose toenail clippings!

Erika doesn't actually hate dogs.
She's just allergic to them.

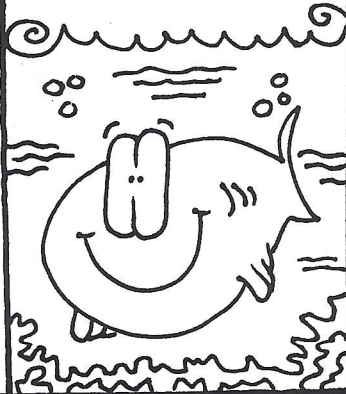
PEGGY'S SPORTS REPORT as of July 21

NFL

Players pushing for grass fields after new fields in World Cup stadiums in the US

Fun Fact

Deb in the office a LaFleur by marriage and therefore aunt to Matt LaFleur (HC Green Bay) and Mike LaFleur (HC Arizona Cardinals) ... but she likes the Lions!



IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM PEGGY

Peggy would like to remind everyone to not hang on the volleyball nets in the meadow!

TOMORROW IS A
LETTER DAY

www
Today is
Wear Walden
Wednesday

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"EVERYTHING
HAS BEAUTY, BUT
NOT EVERYONE
SEES IT."
CONFUCIUS

RANDOM BOX

Dogs have owners.
Cats have staff.

THE WALDEN EXPRESS!

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Typos are a way of life in the Walden Pond.

As you may have noticed by now, the Pond likes to provide occasional typos for your enjoyment. Feel free to take a few home with you and use them in your own writing if you desire. You can spot a typo if you notice weird spelling, punctuation, or occasional inaccurate facts. Always remember, typos can be your friend. All they want is a little understanding.

You'll also find some printos here too. Printos look just like typos but they're in handwritten words.

Whoever thought unplugging for the summer
could be so much fun?

Did somebody say there's a hidden rock?

Oh, yes, you probably read that on the front of this Pond. Or maybe you saw some posters hanging up around camp. There is indeed a Pictured Rock hidden somewhere in camp, and if your cabin finds it, you win a trip to Dairy Queen! But before you start asking Neal questions (which could actually get you disqualified), go back and read the really small print under the octopus picture to find out more information that may help you out. Then watch for a new clue every day in the Walden Pond.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LIAM FIENMAN
ELEANOR MOVEIX
MATTHEW ASHLEY

COUNSELORS:
SIGN UP FOR
YOUR
DAY
OFF!

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Ryland Kapiian

LUNCH BOX

DR. DAVE'S
GRILLED
CHEESE
ONION RINGS
TOMATO SOUP

DINNER BOX

TORTELLINI
WITH ALFREDO
OR RED SAUCE
SALAD BAR

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 36

DAY: THURSDAY

DATE: JULY 23, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

CAMP NEWS

A selection of things happening around camp for your reading enjoyment, as collected by the Walden Pond class

- The painting class learned about abstract art yesterday.
- G-11 saw yellow jackets flying into their porch.
- Bobby the rat did not come back yet. Ruby says last year he terrorized the girls' cabin.
- The UP Team is very excited about Capture-the-Camp, which is coming up on Saturday.
- Walden Idol is a week from tomorrow. Cabins will have time to practice their acts during evening program on Sunday.
- G-15 is the best cabin, according to Anna G. Love you all!!!
- Sophie has the best cabin ever! (It's G-37.)
- Fiona says G-11 is the best place to be!
- Riley Foon wants to inform everyone that cats always land on their feet and bunnies can hear from a mile away.

- G-8 is going to win the Golden Dustpan, according to Summer Barnett.
- G-37 is NOT winning the Golden Dustpan, according to Lila Turner.
- Ginny Loakes says G-17 is the best cabin ever!
- Kendall Chroman, Rory Blanck, and Nomi Rosen say G-13 is leaking.
- Charlie Flaharty and Isabel Rinsky were walking through the woods yesterday, and Charlie heard a squeak. They ran for their lives, and it turned out to be a bird.
- Anabelle Photenhauer hopes everyone is having a good A/B schedule.
- Anabelle also wants to remind everyone they can come swim at twilight for awards (Shark, Dolphin, etc.).
- Annabel Shapiro say fishing class was trying to catch a turtle.
- Lizzie Ramaeker wants to welcome all the new campers!
- Does anyone know what Andrew Marasco does at camp?
- Ari Kutinsky reports that the auditions for the play went so good. He can't wait to see how great this show is going to be.
- Sam Zelenock wants to personally welcome everyone to camp!

Cartoon by
Charlie Aermi-Flessner



ROSIE BARNETT:

Thank you for being there
for me and showing me
Walden.

Johannah Ceresmie

**ALON DOTAN AND
SUMMER BARNETT:**

I'm sooooo happy to be at
Camp Walden with you
again! I love you both so
much!

Rosie Barnett

**ZOE LEBENSON
AND KYLE MARTIN:**

So happy to be at camp
with you guys.

Audrey Edery

**EVERLY
WERTHEIMER:**

I am so happy to be at
camp with you.

Rudy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

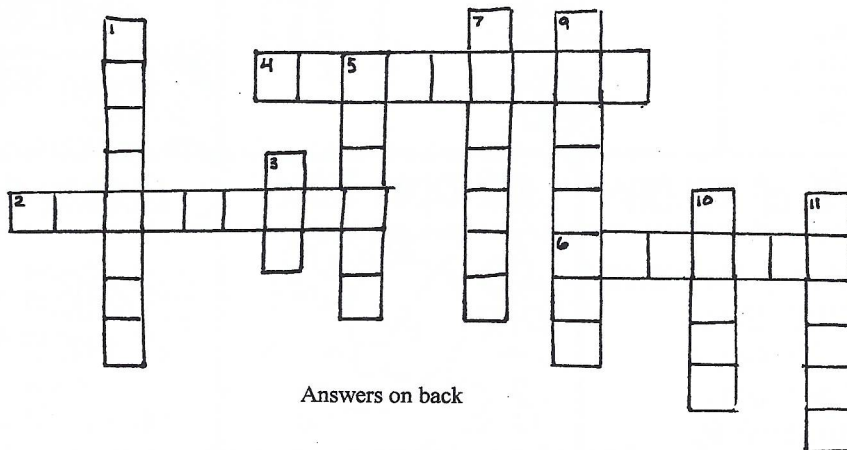
Created by Rachel Zhai (CHO)

ACROSS

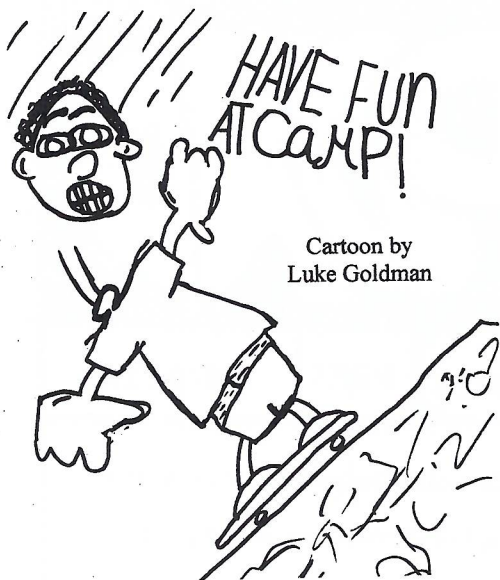
- JP's hometown
- Hickey's home state
- Last word of abbreviation "CHO"

DOWN

- Significant statues on the way to camp
- To leave camp, you need one of these
- Cheboygan ice cream spot
- Scott's major in college
- Mackinac restaurant associated with Roan
- Nursing home game with a twist
- Unit 4 looks great on this day



Answers on back



Cartoon by
Luke Goldman

TETHERBALL ALERT
If you know a tetherball is missing from any of the tetherball courts, please tell Cam, Ava, or Peggy. Or if a ball has fallen off or come untied, bring the ball to them. Let them know which pole needs work. Thanks!

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- G-12: We're going to win the Golden Dustpan! Harriet
- JAY: No recent time-outs. Good job! ☺
- G-14: Yu are awesome. Bex
- CAMP WALDEN: G-8 will win the golden Dustpan. Adley Solomon
- JOHANNAH CERESNIE: I am so excited to be at Walden together! Summer Barnett
- HALLIE: Stop sitting seeds at me. From ?
- G-10: You girls are rock stars. Thanks for being the best cabin. Anna K.
- JULES LEENHEER: Be careful playing soccer. ☺ Rachel Z.
- JULIA: Hola como estas Diego
- LIZZY: Hi!! Sam
- G-9: We are 100% the cleanest cabin. Audrey Edery
- MAYA CAPLAN: Love you, Maya. So happy to be with you. Joey Caplan
- G-7: I'm so happy to be with these counselors! London Wolf
- NINA SULLIVAN: Hi, Nina. From Natalia
- G-11: If I don't get me paycheck, I'm going on strike. Josie Plamondon
- MAYA AND JOEY CAPLAN: Have fun! Mom
- ROSEY AND SUMMER: Have a great time at Walden! Alon
- ISABEL AND CHARLIE: Have a good time at sleepaway camp Elle
- JACK: You're a great friend. Connor
- CONNOR: I know you like beans! Jack
- WESTON: Sleep good! Alon
- KAP: You're a good CA. Elle
- G-14: To the cutest, sweetest cabin. Love you guys lots! Martha Loveland
- OWEN LEWIS MCELROY: Hey, Goat. ☺ Alex Schwartz
- NATALIE WATSON: Hope you are having an awesome time. JoJo
- LUKE G.: Hey Luke, so nice to see you ... Ginny L.
- OAKLEY MOST: Hey, I love being with you at camp. Riley F.



WALDEN

A Haiku
by Rosie Barnett

Walden is the best.
I cannot wait to come back.
Let's go, Walden, yeah!

BIG SHOUT OUT

to Henry Sutherland
for helping hang
tetherballs at camp!
Thanks!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AVA
KOPPELMAN

ROBYN:

You are so very
appreciated! Camp
Walden is better
because of you!
Camp Walden

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS

- Two bears
- Van
- Scoops
- English
- Pink Pony
- Bingo
- Friday

DOWN

- Queretaro
- Wisconsin
- Officer

PEGGY'S SPORTS REPORT as of July 21

ALC Standings
Sox 53-47
Guardians 54-48
Twins 49-53
Tigers 42-54
Royals 42-60

ALW Standings
Tex 51-50
Sea 51-51
Hou 49-54
Ath 43-58
Laa 41-61



1. Tree bark
2. In nature
**PICTURED
ROCK
CLUES**

WHAT'S OPEN FOR TWILIGHT?

Check the sheet posted by the mess hall doors or office window.

TODAY IS A LAUNDRY DAY

All camper laundry goes out today, except for two-weekers.
Laundry will come back as completed (within a few days).

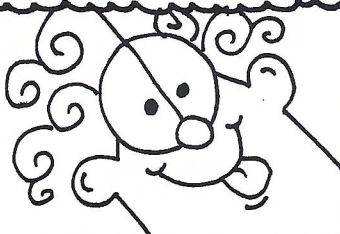
AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Curly Moore
Devon
Bil
the best
Billy Damm
Chrys
Jill
Berg

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"BEAUTY AWAKENS
THE SOUL
TO ACT."
~ DANTE
ALIGHIERI

RANDOM BOX



LUNCH BOX

MAC and
CHEESE
and
HOT DOGS

DINNER BOX

BURGER
SIDEWINDER FRIES
POP

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 37

DAY: FRIDAY

DATE: JULY 24, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

Portrait by Martin Beek



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO NATE HEILBRUNN

HE WENT TO CLOWN SCHOOL (YES, THERE REALLY IS SUCH A THING)

When Nate Heilbrunn's not on the waterfront, he spends a lot of time clowning around – literally! He even went to Clown School last semester. The Pond wanted to find out more.

POND: So you went to Clown School?

NATE: I did indeed go to Clown School. I had a free semester during college.

POND: What exactly is Clown School?

NATE: Clown School is understanding the whole gimmick, understanding the whole part, the way you dress, the way you act, different performances that you're able to do. Obviously, I wasn't there for very long, but it was really just like the introduction to clowning, the circus, the whole nine yards.

POND: What kinds of people would normally go there? People training to be circus clowns?

NATE: Well, yes, there's circus clowns like you see on the big stage, but there's also individual performers, you know, people that do at-home events, house parties, things like that. The more you study, just like anything else, the higher up you get.

POND: Why did you decide to do this?

NATE: You know, I just felt like I found a passion to try a new thing and I might as well go for it, see what happens. It's a really cool experience and not something that everybody gets to say that they did.

POND: So are you a certified clown now?

Continued on back

AMERICAN ROBINS AT CAMP WALDEN

By Josephine "JoJo" Watson and Amber Warnke

In addition to having a human Robyn at camp, Walden is also home to countless American robins, which are gray with bright orange bellies and yellow beaks. While most migrate in winter, some do not, and robins eat berries, insects, fruit, and earthworms.

The Shishalh tribe of British Columbia, Canada, have a story in which a group of men set out to find food during a cold winter. The firewatcher fell asleep while waiting for the men, and the fire began to die. A gray robin flew down and fanned the fire with his wings, saving the tribe from the freezing cold, but also burning his chest feathers as a bright orange, which still remain today.

PHANTOM RULES

Can you figure out who the Phantom is?

Listen for a Phantom clue on selected days during breakfast. Put the clues together to figure out a person at camp. The first cabin to turn in the correct answer wins a special prize from the kitchen! Only one guess per day.

Your guess must be written on paper (not a napkin) and include:

1. Your cabin number
2. Who you think the Phantom is
3. A reason for each clue given so far

Please hand your guess to Neal Levin. In case of a tie, the one who hands it in first wins.

NEWS FLASH!

Alys from the maintenance crew spotted a chipmunk without a tail by the trip shed area.

Together is my favorite place to be.



Continued from front

NATE: I don't know if I would call myself a certified clown, but I am definitely a clown in spirit. That is for sure.

POND: Do professional clowns have to go through this training? Do they earn a diploma?

NATE: Yes, there is a clown degree at the end of training that a lot the performers that you see in Ringling and places like that. They all go through it. It's a very strict protocol.

POND: So, if I wanted to apply to a circus as a clown, would I have to be qualified?

NATE: You'd have to get a very large pair of shoes and a big, shiny red nose. That's pretty much your entry ticket through the door.

POND: What if you wanted to promote yourself as an independent clown? Would you need a degree?

NATE: No. But just like anything else, the more certifications you have, the more validity you have to your act.

POND: What did you learn in Clown School?

NATE: Well, believe it or not, lacing up clown shoes is very, very difficult, considering your toes only reach about halfway up the shoe. My clown shoe size is 27. It's double your actual shoe size and then you add 5.

POND: What are some other things that the general public doesn't know about clowns?

NATE: I would say a lot of us are really introverted people. A lot of us don't act the same way in clown work as we do outside of it.

POND: Can you tell us a secret or a trick that you learned?

NATE: There's a trick where you pop flowers out of your hat or a rabbit or something like that. The actual trick to that is the rabbit sits on top of your head the whole time. So you'd better get real close and comfortable with the rabbit.

POND: What's the biggest misconception people have about clowns?

NATE: I would say the profession isn't as respected as it should be. You are performing and acting on high hours. Just like any other performer. I think it's really important to understand that these are real people too, and people that have passion, and have love for them. Yes, there's the whole idea that you laugh at them, but having respect for what they do and understanding their craft is really important to them. They care about it a lot.

POND: What kind of work can clowns do besides joining a circus?

NATE: Like I said, you can do the at-home stuff. There's plenty of shows that have intro acts. When you pair the ideology that you learn in Clown School with something like magic or comedy, you can come up with something special or something really, really unique.

POND: Do you plan to pursue this further?

NATE: I don't know. I'll always have it in my back pocket, so you never know. The time to be a clown could be at any moment.

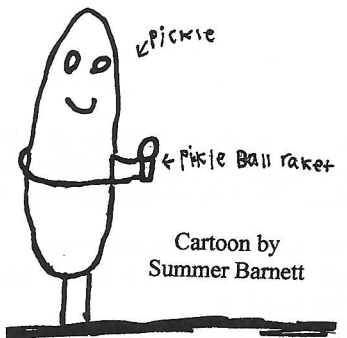
THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- XIMENA: You're the best chicken. Max
- CHARLIE FIELER: Please clean your area and bed. Avi Slatkin
- ZOE LEBER: See you tomorrow. Slay Queen!! Bailey
- B-11: You rock. Lucas
- ROGAN: 677777. Colin C.
- OFFICE CAMI: Good luck this weekend! You are the BEST!! Office Fer
- JP: Kachow. Office Fer
- WILL M.: Welcome to B-8! Kyle Cronan
- NEAL: More corn! Chippy
- HARRIET TOPPER: You're a great sister! Sadie Topper
- JP: King of Camp. Your Best Friend
- MASH: Glad you're so old and wise now! Bark
- LOLA HAFRON: Lola, she's the one!! Marco
- IVY FANTICH: How are you liking camp so far? Leo
- G-13: Our cabin is not clean! From ???
- KENDALL C.: Tell us the pool story! G-13
- LUKE G.: We want pepe. Walden
- RORY: Miss you. Ice bat
- ARIA: I think you are the sweetest sister ever. Eli
- ZACK: Thank you for helping us fish. Jamie, Lov, Isabel
- ADDIE J.: I love you. Thanks, Mommy. Liv
- EASTON: Thank you for helping with the zipline. Ricky
- LUCAS CARLILE: You're the real MVP. Marco Pasillas
- BRACOLLIE: Bracollie is so excited to see you!!!! Riley Foon
- BLAINE: 67 is not dead. From ?
- CAMP WALDEN: B-10 is the CLEANEST CABIN on camp!!! Max Sherman
- UP'S: Assemble. Max F.
- B-11: Have fun. Cyrus
- ARTS & CRAFTS: You are amazing! Erika

NEWS FLASH!

Kyle Cronan spotted a deer behind the archery targets during evening program on Wednesday. "5 whistles"

Dolphins have five finger bones, similar to humans, inside their fins.



AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Rosie Barnett

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon?

Great food, but no atmosphere!

PICTURED ROCK CLUES

1. Tree bark
2. In nature
3. Wash up

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"YOU CAN'T REALLY BE STRONG UNTIL YOU SEE A FUNNY SIDE TO THINGS." ~ KEN KESEY

RANDOM BOX

IN JAPAN, LETTING A SUMO WRESTLER MAKE YOUR BABY CRY IS CONSIDERED GOOD LUCK.

LUNCH BOX

BBQ BURGERS LEFTOVERS AND MORE LEFTOVERS

DINNER BOX

CHIPOTLE NIGHT
GUAC, RICE, BEEF AND ALL THE TOPPINGS

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 38

DAY: SATURDAY

DATE: JULY 25, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

JUST ADD WATER



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING IN YOUR BEDROOM AT HOME?

This survey was taken by the 1A Walden Pond class.

- BEN WEISS: My bed
- TOM FELTON: My heated blanket for UK winters
- LIAM FIENMAN: My pillow
- OFFICE CAMI: My closet
- DEVON GOODMAN: My leopard gecko cage
- MAYA CAPLAN: My two weighted blankets
- OFFICE FER: My nice blanket
- GINNY LOAKES: My Hollywood mirror (I miss it ☹)
- MATEO GONZALES: My energy drinks
- BILLY DAUM: Old fencing saber
- EMMA BROWN: My bed and rug on my floor
- ARIA LEFKOVITZ: My desk
- MILA ARCARO: My desk and mirror
- HALLIE MAUCH: My bed
- CAM KOCHIS: My comforter (My heater is also great)
- ROBYN SHAPIRO: My mattress
- ANGUS TWIDELL: Desk setup
- LUKE GOLDMAN: My Monster Can monsters
- JULIA RAYA-CORTES: Guitar
- KATE THUMMLER: A disco ball
- EMMY LINZ: My tortilla blanket and my cats
- MAX SHERMAN: My life-sized Batmobile
- RICHIE BERG: My pillow
- ADAM BERSHAD: My Lego Harry Potter set
- CHARLIE AERNI-FLESSNER: My painted cardboard goat
- JOHN NEWCOMER: A picture of camp Walden by Martin Beek

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR CAPTURE-THE-CAMP

Capture-the-Camp is an old-time favorite program, but if you've never played it before, you may not know how it works. So here's how:

Everyone is on either the Red team or the Yellow team, and the whole camp property is split down the middle: the Red side and the Yellow side (with some neutral territory in between). Each team has six "flags," which are cardboard cut-outs of the other team's color, that are hidden on their side. Team members have to sneak onto the opposite side, find their own hidden flags, and bring them back to their own side without having their belt pulled off. Whichever team gets the most of their team's flags back by the end of the program wins.

Listen to messages for more detailed instructions and schedules, as well as which areas of camp are in bounds.

SUMMER BARNETT:

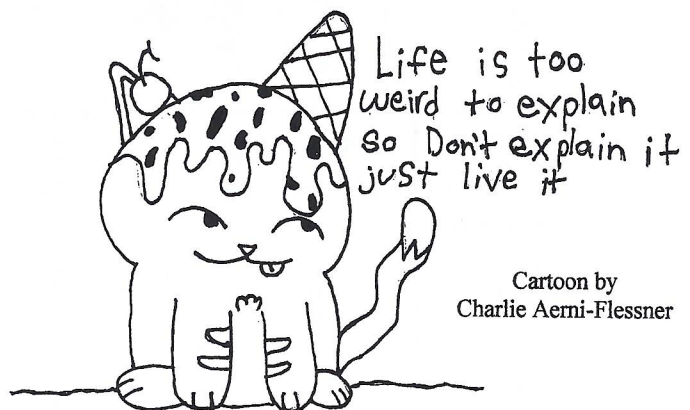
You are a great person and an amazing friend.
Elle Berman

G-3 COUNSELORS:

The best counselor is ???
You will never know

SUNFLOWER SEED ALERT

James wants to remind you that if you eat sunflower seeds in camp, "You can have sunflower seeds while you're walking between classes on the trail and on the porch of your cabin. No sunflower seeds in classes, on the deck, or in any indoor spaces."



Cartoon by
Charlie Aerni-Flessner

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

JAIME
ISHBIA

TONIGHT

FULL NAME: Olivia Arnkoff
HOMETOWN: Bloomfield Hills
CAREER CHOICE: Radiologist
LOVES TO EAT: Sour Skittles
HATES TO EAT: Asparagus
FAVORITE MOVIE: The Sandlot
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Summer House
FAVORITE CELEBRITY: Adam Sandler

SPOTLIGHT on...
OLIVIA
ARNKOFF

PHANTOM REMINDERS

Trying to figure out who the Phantom is? It can be tricky, and you're not going to get any extra clues by reading this. But here are a few things to keep in mind: The Phantom can be anyone in camp (including campers, staff, administrators, and official visitors). It could be you because you wouldn't even know unless someone guessed you. All the clues must fit together. Each cabin can make one guess per day. Happy guessing!

PICTURED ROCK CLUES

1. Tree bark
2. In nature
3. Wash up
4. Between A-field and lake

PEGGY'S SPORTS REPORT as of July 24

NBA
LeBron chooses the '76ers,
calls it his last decision

WNBA
Standings
1st MN 22-6
2nd GS 19-8
3rd LV 18-8
4th Dal 17-10

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- B-8: Why do you get up so early? Kyle Cronan
- G-SIDE: Keep up the good work keeping your cabins so clean! Leslee
- B-6 COUNSELORS: DO NOT sleep through breakfast again. Jack K.
- B-10 COUNSELORS: Wake me up for breakfast next time. I'm hungry!!! Andy S.
- B-8: Myles and I are the best counselors. James and Ethan
- CONNOR: I know you ate the worm. Jack
- JACK: I know you dream about cheese. Connor
- B-15: You cabin is messy. From ???
- CLARA KOESELER: Can I say it? Your friend
- FINN WAGMAN: Thanks for putting me in the Pond. Charlie Feiler
- LUKE GOLDMAN: Are you going to draw more great cartoons? Neal
- JEFFREY ROHR: Can I visit you at Northwestern? Riley
- WESTON FISHER: You are a great cousin. Elle Berman
- G-13: I love you guys!!! <3 Harper
- Ice Bat: Who are you? Rory
- ALVARO: Fart noise. From ?
- ANDREW: The sky is blue Your BFF
- BRYN R.: You are one cool girl @ SA
- ROGAN: G-7 is the best!!!! Weston Fisher
- CHARLIE FEILER: O.M.G. Please clean your bed. Anonymous (Ari Slatkin)
- STITCH AND SING: We have the best vibes. Remember to don't stop believing. Anna, Emmy, and Fiona
- WALDEN: The animals on the farm are awesome! Bex Weiss
- G-12: We are the best cabin. Harriet
- G-3: I love you all (20% of the time). Rogan

SOME OF THE HAPPY-GRAMS TURNED IN YESTERDAY
WILL BE IN TOMORROW'S POND.

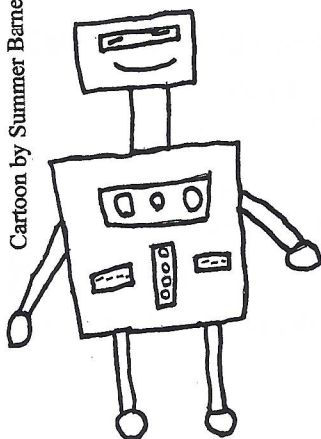
AUDREY EDERY:

I love having you
in my cabin.
Riley Foon and Kylie
Martin

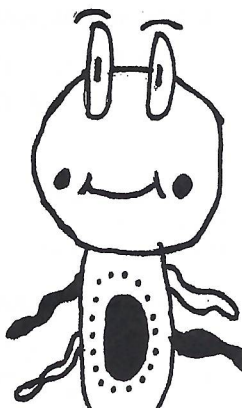
MARLOWE SPECTOR:

She finally learned how
to make a candy stripe.
Olivia Arnkoff

Cartoon by Summer Barnett



Cartoon by Rosie Barnett



FUN FACT

The local bike shop gave Walden 10 bike helmets!

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Sylvie Stanton

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"NOTHING IS BETTER
THAN THE
UNINTENDED
HUMOR OF REALITY."
~ STEVE ALLEN

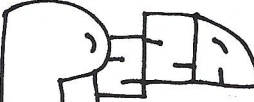
RANDOM BOX

There are roughly 1.4 billion
insects for every human on
the planet.

LUNCH BOX

MEATBALL
SUBS
CHIPS
SALAD BAR

DINNER BOX


PRETZELS
ICE CREAM

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 39

DAY: SUNDAY

DATE: JULY 26, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

DEAR ED...

Dear Ed, What was Long Lake named after? Is the lake related to me because my last name is Long? Evie Long

Dear Evie, Sorry, but no. It's called Long Lake just because it's long in length. There is no evidence that it was named after a person or a Native American word, unlike many other lakes in northern Michigan. And this may surprise you (or maybe not), but Michigan has at least 25 inland lakes officially named "Long Lake" and at least ten more that have "Long Lake" as part of their name. Ed

Dear Ed, Are lightning bugs magic? Maddie Hawk

Dear Maddie, Not really. Lightning bugs, also called fireflies, get their glow from a chemical reaction inside special light-producing organs in their abdomen. The insect combines a molecule called luciferin with oxygen, using an enzyme called luciferase, to produce light. Ed

Dear Ed, Where is the octopus rock? Charlie A.

Dear Charlie, You didn't think Ed was really going to tell you, did you? Well, here's the answer: It's somewhere in camp. Remember, if your cabin finds it, you'll get to go somewhere out of camp, specifically Dairy Queen. Ed

Dear Ed, Why do you put the rock in a plastic bag? Anonymous

Dear Anonymous, The Pictured Rock is in a small plastic sandwich bag (ziplock bag) to protect it and keep it clean. It's been hidden since June 10 of this year. Ed

Dear Ed, Why are Special Days always on Tuesdays and Saturdays? Harriet in G-12

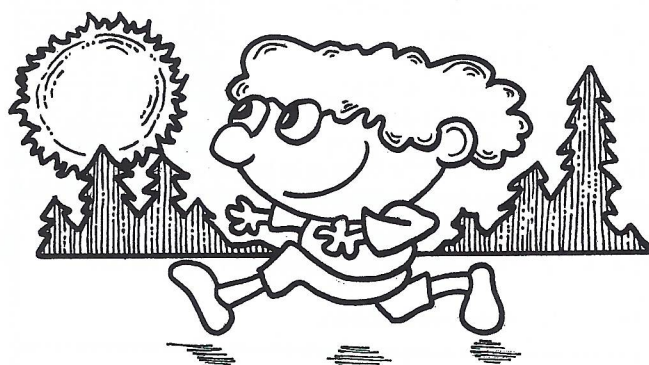
Dear Harriet in G-12, Special Days correspond to counselors' days off. Since about half the staff has a day off on those days, we can't run regular A/B activities. Instead we have special programs. A long time ago, Special Days were on Saturdays and Sundays, but we changed Sundays to Tuesdays to break them up so we could spread them out more. Ed

Dear Ed, How many chipmunks are there? Adley Solomon

Dear Adley, It's hard to keep track since they all look the same and they run around so quickly. I mean, who knows if the chipmunk eating at the Chipmunk Café is the evening is the same one that ate there in the morning or his cousin? In general, though, studies in northern Michigan have found chipmunk densities ranging from well under 1 to around 3 chipmunks per acre of good woodland, depending on the season, food availability, and habitat. Ed

Dear Ed, Why can't we sleep in every day and have breakfast whenever we want? Emma Ruiz

Dear Emma, Ed thinks you do get to sleep in every day, at least compared to school days when you wake up before 8:00 or 8:30, right? But if you slept in too late at camp, you'd miss all the fun morning activities, and you can't eat breakfast whenever you want because if you wait too long, you'd be eating lunch. Ed



Smart, Strong, and Unstoppable

WALDEN IDOL PREP

Do you know what tonight's evening program is? Of course you do, especially if you read the headline above. It's Walden Idol Prep.

But do you know what that means? Walden Idol is a special program based on the *American Idol* TV show. Each cabin will perform a segment of a famous song, acting it out like they're a band performing it live (only it will really be a recording). So you can dress up, jump around the stage, make up a dance, or lip sync the words. Pretend you're giving a concert! The show will be on Friday, but Walden Idol Prep (tonight's program) will give you time to practice with your cabin.

The theme and specific songs for each cabin will be revealed shortly, if not already. Listen to messages or see your unit programmer for more information.

CAMPERS RIDE IN GLASS BOTTOM BOAT

Eight campers got to ride in a glass bottom boat on Thursday, which let them see what happens directly underwear. No, it wasn't in Long Lake. It was in the Cheboygan River and Lake Huron on one of Peggy's Hikes and Trips Excursions. The cruise was through Nautical North Family Adventures, a local business which offers private charters, snorkeling, and shipwreck tours.

Yes, shipwreck tours! In fact, the campers actually saw three sunken shipwrecks in Lake Huron water that was only 15 feet deep. They also saw an abandoned lighthouse and an underwater skeleton. Three of the campers – Anna Cohen, Colin Carps, and Richard Hefner – even got to steer the boat themselves. The other campers were Ben Weiss, Wyatt Aaron, Gabrielle Eichenbaum, Cecelia Gasiorek, and Sadie Toper-Curtis. This was the first time Camp Walden has ever taken a group of campers on this trip.

CAMP GARDEN IS BLOOMING

The vegetables in the camp garden have been growing all summer, and they're finally producing food! "We have cucumbers, we have squash, we have some peas, and also potatoes, corn, and radishes," John tells us. "That one was a favorite. Some of the campers had radishes to eat for a snack. And there will be more delicacies available in the next week or so. Sometimes Tressa or Alys will take some vegetables home and make a dish and bring it in for campers to eat, showing how hard plants grow, and then we can take the bounty of it," John says. He also wants to remind you not to come by and pick them yourself. Please talk to either John Newcomer, Tom Felton, Tressa, or Alys if you'd like a taste.

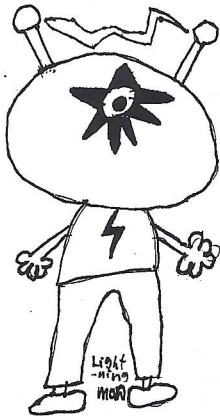
FULL NAME: Rose Rea Barnett
HOMETOWN: Beverly hills, Michigan
CAREER CHOICE: Teacher
FAVORITE ANIMAL: Dolphin
FAVORITE MAGAZINE: The Week Jr.
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Liv and Maddie
SPECIAL TALENT: Playing the piano
WOULD LOVE TO VISIT: The Galapagos Islands

SPOTLIGHT ON...
ROSIE BARNETT

"In the long term, the economy and the environment are the same thing. If it's unenvironmental, it is uneconomical. That is the rule of nature."

Mollie Beattie, American conservationist

Cartoon by Jonah Blanck



PEGGY'S SPORTS REPORT as of July 25

Flag Football
National flag football championship happening in Indianapolis, all age groups and genders, explosive growth in that sport! It will be in the 2028 LA Olympics

National Pop-a-Shot
Arcade basketball, invented in Peoria, Illinois in 1981
Qualifying matches just concluded
The National Championship is in Orlando in early August

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUBREY BALONICK
BROOKE BALONICK
MARIE STANTON

PICTURED ROCK CLUES

1. Tree bark
2. In nature
3. Wash up
4. Between A-field and lake
5. Between Rec hall and canoeing

TOMORROW IS A
LETTER DAY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"THE ABILITY TO
PLAY IS ESSENTIAL
TO BEING A
CREATIVE ARTIST."
COWDEWITT JONES

RANDOM BOX



THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- JOSIE: You shook my bed so hard the other night! Charlie
- CAMP: Fairy sparkle princess cabin won the house challenge. G-5
- ELLE BERMAN: Hi, Elle. Thanks for everything. Charlie F.
- ZOE: I hope you are in my cabin next year. Riley Foon
- CHARLIE FLAHARTY: Slay baby!!! Elle Berman
- KATE: You're the best counselor ever. Love you, Mama Duck. From Elle Berman
- CLARA: Shut out to you! Fiona VanOsdol
- G-37: I love you guys! From ???
- JOEY CAPLAN: Hope you're having fun!!! ☺ From ???
- UNIT 1: Hi, my little ducklings. Kate T.
- WERONCA G-10: Neigh neigh neigh. Amber
- G-17: Best cabin ever! Love you all! Maya and Sadie
- THE UP'S: Thanks for all you do! Anonymous
- KENDALL CHROMAN: Hey!!! From ?
- OWEN D.: You know who wrote this. The G.O.A.T. ☺

ADDIE J. AND GINNY L.:

You guys are the best co's
ever!
Lizzie Ramaeker

ALL STAFF:

Love watching you
do your thing!
Keep it up!
Amy

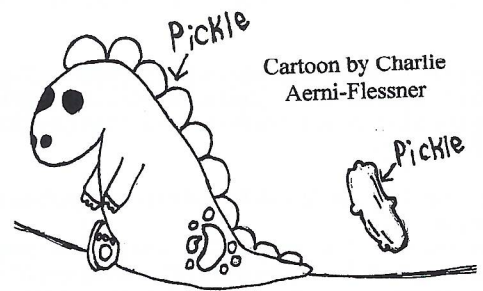
NEWS FLASH!

A fox was spotted on a
cabin porch!

The desert teaches more
about water than the ocean
does.

The best memories are made at camp.

IT'S
SUNDAY
REMEMBER
TO CHANGE
YOUR
LINENS



Cartoon by Charlie
Aerni-Flessner

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Charlie aerni-blessm

LUNCH BOX

SLOPPY
JOES
CHIPS
SALAD BAR

DINNER BOX

BAKED
CHICKEN
RICE
GREEN BEANS
ICE CREAM