

THE WALDEN POND

VOL.67 NO.46

DAY:SUNDAY

DATE:AUGUST 2, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

Here are the activities offered and where they will meet. *Please remember to go to the activities you already signed up for! This is not a drop-in period.* If you are unsure what you signed up for, see your unit programmer.

SHIFT 1

Class	Location
Bottle Flip	Deck
Croquet	LAX
Cup Stacking	Unit 4 benches
Taekwondo	Meadow
Fish n chips	Fishing dock
Poker Tournament	Mess Hall
Improv Games	Gymnastics
Line Dancing	Rec Hall
Cricket	Between Field of Dreams and second baseball field
Mini Messy Day	Between arena and archery
Gaelic Football	B-Field
Anything but clothes	Outside Art Barn
Farm Night	Farm
Cards, Euchre & Music	Mess Hall
3 vs 3 basketball	B-side basketball court
Outdoor Stage	Outdoor Stage
Bedazzling	A&C
Unit 2, 3, 4 Mac swim	Swimming area
Unit 1-2 campfire with Peggy	Peggy Pit

SHIFT 2

Class	Location
Foosball Tournament	Game Room
Sigma Face Class	P&C Benches
Goat Yoga	Farm
Balloon Archery	Archery
Rugby	B-Field
Mini Messy Day	Between arena and archery
Hair Beading & Braiding	Deck
Rounders	Field of Dreams
Football Tennis	Tennis Courts
Character Acting	Pit
Bellydance	Rec Hall
Bingo	Mess Hall
Sandcastle Building	Beach
Hockey	Arena
Nature trivia	Grass by farm
Stick pony	Stables
Unit 3-4 campfire with Peggy	Peggy Pit

Cartoon by Ximena Ramirez



Levi Dixon
Henry Walstrom
Charlie Baum
Leon Dotan
Anthony Fink
Asher Sammartin
Jack Waisanen
Jordy Dyke
Addison Mack
Charlie NemZin

Grey Heitkamp
Teddi Kelin
Hayden Hochberger
Taylor Casey
Charlotte Sandler
Edith Kravitz
Emily Pohl
Henni Hoff
Nina Burkiewicz

TONIGHT IS CAMP-O-RAMA

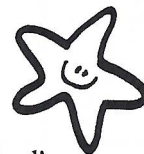
Tonight is Camp-O-Rama, when you get to go to the two special activities you choose. These are activities not normally offered in the A/B program or optional.

There will be two shifts during Twilight and evening program. Listen to messages for exact times.



WHAT'S COMING UP THIS WEEK

- ☉ TODAY: Camp-O-Rama after dinner
- ☉ MONDAY: Regular A-Day
- ☉ TUESDAY: All-camp trip to Mackinac Island!
- ☉ WEDNESDAY: WSL finals, Art show, Walden Under
- ☉ THURSDAY: WBA playoffs, Camp play, Burger Night
- ☉ FRIDAY: Packing, Hallowalden, Awards, slides, campfire
- ☉ SATURDAY: Going home



WILL YOUR CABIN WIN THE GOLDEN DUSTPAN?

SECRET TIPS REVEALED!

An anonymous source reveals these secret tips on how you might win the Golden Dustpan when cleaning your cabin in the morning:

- ☛ "Of course, each area needs to be clean. So, things like the floor needs to be swept, and things that shouldn't be on the floor, you can't have on the floor, like socks."
- ☛ "The bathroom should be clean. The countertop should be clean and empty, or things like a cup and a toothbrush should be on there neatly."
- ☛ "Clothes should be folded, not just hanging off the shelf. You lose points for that."
- ☛ "Clotheslines should be empty, preferably, but if there's stuff it, it needs to be on the clothesline. If there's clothes on the ground, you lose points for that."
- ☛ "Beds should be made. Covers should be tucked in neatly and straightened out. Usually the biggest offenders, when it comes to proper bed-making, seem to be the counseling staff, by the way, not the campers."
- ☛ "And let's not forget, the garbage can needs to be emptied."

Cartoon by Potato



BREAKING NEWS

Hikes and Trips class went to the Cheboygan Front Range Lighthouse, a restored 1880 lighthouse that once guided ships from Lake Huron into the Cheboygan River, for a tour the other day. Then they visited the Ottawa Art Park, a local park with artworks created by local community members and regional artists. After that, they hiked at Aloha State Park.

IT'S SUNDAY-
PLEASE CHANGE
YOUR
LINENS!

TOMORROW
IS A
LATER
DAY

Too Cool for
mule



Cartoon by Charlie Aerni-Flessner

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- MATEO: You're a potato. Drew
- JACK W.: I know you like baked beans. Logan
- MATEO: MATEO MATEO MATEO!!!! Jeffrey
- POTATO: You look like one. Luke
- DREW: Attack. Devon
- WALDEN: With gratitude, optimism is sustainable. Nolan W.
- G-2: Our cabin is cleaner than yours. 6-7. G-3
- OLIVER SIEGEL: You can get fudge at Mackinaw. Wes
- ALLY BERMAN: I love you so much and you are so sweet! Audrey
- SAMANTHA: Clean your area up in your cabin. Kendall
- VIVIAN: You are such a preppy queen. Bracelet friend
- BILLY: Hi! Cyrus
- JEFFREY JR.: Mr. Schu's Dare to Dream Jr. Adam M.
- MATTY D.: Write me a letter ☺ Angry lady
- LILA: California Now! Matty D.
- ANGUS: We're going to win the Golden Dustpan.

One of the best ways to keep from getting sick at camp is to wash your hands before meals.

S'MORES TRIVIA

1. "S'more" is short for "some more," as in "I want some more." By the 1960's, "some mores" was shortened to "s'mores."
2. Traditional s'mores consist of a sandwich made of graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows roasted over an open fire.
3. Roasting marshmallows was a popular activity going back to the 1890's.
4. It is estimated that 50 percent of the marshmallows sold in the summer are used for s'mores.
5. The first official s'mores recipe was published in a 1927 Girl Scout guidebook, but no one knows who actually invented it.
6. Using the classic Hershey's recipe for a s'more which uses only one marshmallow has 195 calories.
7. The world's largest s'more weighed 267 pounds and was made of 140 pounds of marshmallows, 90 pounds of chocolate, and 90 pounds of graham crackers. (Peggy points out that the math doesn't add up, but maybe some of the ingredients melted off.)

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Isabel Rinsky

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"LIGHT TOMORROW
WITH
TODAY!"
WELIZABETH
BARRETT
BROWNING

RANDOM BOX

RANDOM

LUNCH BOX

CHICKEN
SLIDERS
(BBQ OR PLAIN)
LEFTOVERS
FRIES

DINNER BOX

CHIPOTLE
NIGHT

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 47

DAY: MONDAY

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

Portrait by Martin Beck



INTERVIEW WITH RILEY BAKER

This is Riley Baker's third summer at Walden. The Pond interviewed this multi-talented person about some of her in-camp and out-of-camp interests and skills.

POND: Your job at camp this year, what is it?

RILEY: I am the head of Unit 4. I am on the Camper Care team, so it's all the social and emotional well-being of the campers.

POND: This is different than being a Unit Programmer, right?

RILEY: Yeah. The Unit Programmers work directly with Robyn, and they organize special days and evening programs, while I work more closely with Annie and the social workers to make sure to make everyone's happy and having a good time at camp.

POND: What other jobs have you had at camp during the last three years?

RILEY: Typically working in the theatre department, and so I've been assistant director, technical director, sound director, wherever they need me, and I'm also very fond of the art barn and am always in there. I've always had at least one archery period every year.

POND: What would be your ideal job at camp if you didn't do anything you mentioned?

RILEY: I have, for the past three years, really wanted to do sailing. It is my goal, if I come back here next year, to do sailing. I've gone on a joy ride once or twice in a sailboat, but I've never gotten to actually drive it, so that's my goal.

POND: You're from California, right?

RILEY: Yes, I am!

POND: Are there camps like this in California?

RILEY: Yeah, I actually grew up going to a summer camp called Camp Sherman. that was a Girl Scout camp. I went there for a few years when I was still in Girl Scouts. Then I went to [another camp] that was a similar size to this.

POND: How is the Girl Scouts camp different than this?

RILEY: Well, it was only girls that were in Girl Scouts, so it wasn't a co-ed camp, which obviously made the whole camp have a different vibe. And we had less activities, and the sessions that you signed up for were themed. So I did one year that was fantasy themed, and then I did another year that was like outdoor survival skills themed.

POND: So each session is themed. You mean like the whole summer?

RILEY: You would sign up for sessions that were either a week, two weeks, three weeks, or six weeks, and each session had a theme.

POND: What's one of the other differences between being in California and Michigan?

RILEY: Well, I live in the California desert out in the Mojave, close to Joshua Tree National Park. We don't have as much greenery, and all of our trees are palm trees, so they aren't even that green, but we have a lot of cacti. It's very different. It's beautiful. I live in a valley, so I'm surrounded by mountains. It's definitely the number one thing that I miss the most.

POND: What kind of stuff is there to do out in the desert?

RILEY: We have the highest number of golf courses per capita, so I grew up playing competitive golf for fourteen years. And that's pretty much our only greenery out there – golf courses. Otherwise, we have hiking, and every house has a swimming pool.

POND: Where do you get water for your golf courses and swimming pools in the middle of a desert?

RILEY: We are connected to an underground water system from, I want to say the Colorado River. We try to be as eco-friendly with it as we can.

POND: Do you study English literature, by any chance?

RILEY: Yeah, I'm currently majoring in English literature and Medieval studies, and so my plan is to get a doctorate in Medieval literature in some format. That's any piece of literature written in the Medieval period, actually written in Middle English. Some examples would be *Beowulf* or *The Divine Comedy* by Dante. I'm also a big Russian lit fan.

POND: Do you read those to your campers at night?

RILEY: No, my campers seem fairly uninterested, but I'm trying to convince them that they're fun, and I told them they can borrow the books whenever they want.

POND: What kind of experience do you have in theatre, apart from teaching it here?

RILEY: I'm getting my associates degree in theatre just for fun. I worked on a production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. We just perform at my local professional theater. For my college classes I get to take things like theatrical makeup and history of musical theatre and acting.

POND: What do you hope to pursue when you graduate?

RILEY: I plan on being a university professor. So, I will be in school for the next ten years or so, because I have to get a doctorate.

POND: I understand you also play twelve instruments.

Continued on back

Continued from front

RILEY: Bass guitar is my main instrument. I play rhythm guitar occasionally. I was in high school during Covid, and I had nothing better to do with my time, and my orchestra teacher just let me into the classroom to use whatever instruments I wanted. I can play guitar, mandolin, ukelele, violin, viola, cello, double bass, electric bass, harmonica, synthesizer, a lute, and keyboard.

POND: Impressive! If you wrote a play about this camp, what would it be called?

RILEY: I think I'd just have to go with *Walden Days*, *Walden Nights*.

POND: What would be the main plot that the show would be based around?

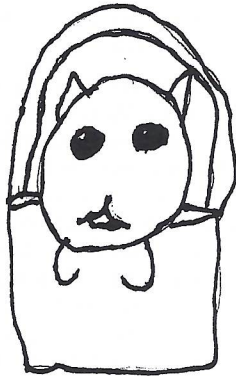
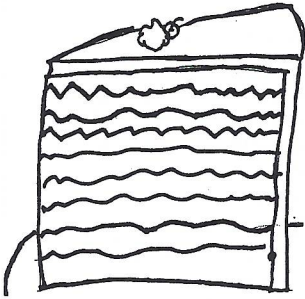
RILEY: I mean, my Unit 4 girls get up and play a lot of shenanigans, so I'd like to focus on the Unit 4 campers, because they're always on some bizarre quest.

ART SHOW COMING SOON

BRING US YOUR WORK

The art show is on Wednesday. If you have any projects you'd like to display, bring them to the barn by noon Wednesday at the latest (the sooner the better). You do not have to be in an art class. Anyone (campers or staff) can show off their work!

Cartoon by Summer Barnett



Cartoon by Jolo Watson

FULL NAME: Weston Fisher
HOMETOWN: Los Angeles
CAREER CHOICE: Skateboarder
FAVORITE MAGAZINE: Surfing
FAVORITE CLASS: Tech
FAVORITE MOVIE: Spiderman
PETS: Lizard, fish, and frog
LOVES TO HANG OUT: At the skate park

WESTON
FISHER
SPOTLIGHT
ON...

WELCOME
DOCTOR
ADRIENNE
BARNOSKY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
PAX
DEACON

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

NO HAPPY-GRAMS TODAY BECAUSE FIRST PERIOD WAS RAINED OUT YESTERDAY AND POND CLASS COULDN'T GO AROUND AND COLLECT MESSAGES. BUT HERE'S A JOKE INSTEAD: I WENT TO THE AQUARIUM THIS WEEKEND, BUT I DIDN'T STAY LONG. THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THAT PLACE. HA, HA. I'LL LET MYSELF OUT.

THERE ARE MORE TREES ON EARTH THAN STARS IN THE GALAXY

It's strange, it's true—and it's backed by science! According to a 2015 study led by researchers at Yale University, Earth is home to approximately 3 trillion trees. In contrast, estimates for the number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy range from 100 to 400 billion.

THE GREAT CRABAPPLE HEIST

By Rebecca Weiss

Did you ever notice that the pony Kevin went on a diet? How about I tell you about it?

One night, Kevin, Chuck, and Sonic escaped to the B-Field and found a few crabapple trees. Chuck and Sonic were smart and had only eaten a few. But Kevin had eaten all of the rest.

Now for the inside scoop from Chuck and Sonic:

CHUCK: Yes, Kevin was pretty dumb and ate so many crabapples.

R.W.: What gave you the thought to not eat as many as Kevin?

SONIC: Well, I was full from dinner.

CHUCK: And I love to be ridden, so I'm somewhat careful.

R.W.: Thank you, Chuck and Sonic, for answering the questions.

BE IN THE POND THIS HALLOWEEN

The Walden Pond is mailed to campers a few times during the school year. The first issue usually arrives around Halloween. If you would like to be in the Halloween Pond, come fill out a short survey sheet in the Pond office. See Neal if you have anything else you'd like to contribute.

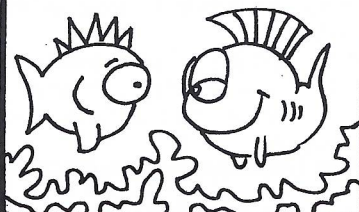
AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

CHARLIE FIAHARTY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"MAKE HAPPY THOSE
WHO ARE NEAR,
AND THOSE WHO
ARE FAR WILL COME."
— CHINESE
PROVERB

RANDOM BOX



LUNCH BOX

CHICKEN
NUGGETS
AND
CHIPS

DINNER BOX

BEEF
and
BROCCOLI
WITH RICE

THE MACKINAC ISLAND

GOODBYE, MINI-MINI CAMPERS!

HOPE YOU HAD FUN!

VOL. 67 NO. 48

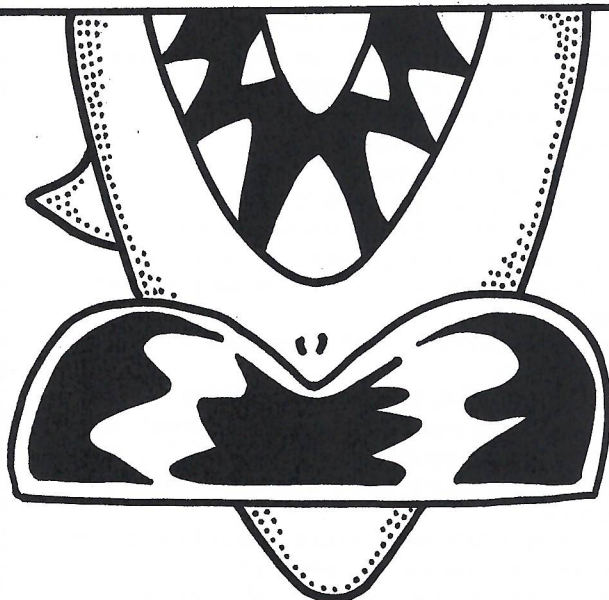
DAY: TUESDAY

DATE: AUGUST 4, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY



CONGRATULATIONS to the following people who swam their SHARKS AND DOLPHINS

New Sharks

Oliver Berk
Charlotte Duthie
Lila Turner
Teddy Robinson
Kevin Dawson
Matthew Fink
Weston Fisher
Annabelle Holmberg
Ema Inokaitis
Liv Kranitz
Chelsea Ojeiwa

New Dolphins

Wyatt Aaron
Charlie Aerni-Flessner
Ryland Kaplan
Matthew Klein
Gabi Schwartz

New Macs

Samuel Weber
Pierre-Henri Moueix
Henry Sutherland
Charlie Aerni-Flessner
Sydney Leber
Zachary Leber
Morgan Linden
Bryn Resnick

This list includes new swimmers as of 9:00 am on August 3.

To swim your Shark, you must swim 40 lengths. To swim your Dolphin, you must swim 72 lengths. (Remember you must swim your Shark before swimming your Dolphin.) To swim your Mackinac, you must swim 500 lengths. See a swimming instructor if you'd like to try.

IF YOU COULD

ASK YOUR PET

ANY QUESTION, WHAT WOULD YOU ASK IT?

- RYLAND KAPLAN: Have you been playing a lot?
- BEN KUTINSKY: Are you having fun in your life?
- ZOE FREIMUTH: Who's your fave in the family?
- TOM FELTON: Do you like me the best?
- GWEN ELKIN: Do you wanna go shopping?
- NOLAN WERNER: What we eating?
- NOAH BEHRENDT: Wass for lunch?
- AVA BROWN: What's your favorite color?
- SOPHIA ORMAN: Why can't you do a backflip?
- WYATT AARON: Do you like me?
- BEN KUTINSKY: How old do you think you are?
- CHARLIE HOOPER: What do you think your name is?
- GRACIE OJEIWA: Why do you love me?
- EMMA RUIZ: Can we have a movie night?
- MARIO SANCHEZ: Do you understand me?
- KRISHNA EGAN: Do you like your bed?
- LIAM FEINMAN: Are you happy?
- MAX SHERMAN: Do you like watching sports with me?
- DEVON GOODMAN: Why are you attacking the cat?
- LIZZIE RAMAEKER: Do you get bored at home?
- JOHN NEWCOMER: Can you talk?
- ZOE LEBENSON: Do you love me?
- VIVIAN ALBERTS: What's your favorite treat?
- NINA SUBRAMANIAN: Why do you bite your leash?
- OWEN LEWIS MCELROY: Just why?
- ALEX SCHWARTZ: Why do you act so crazy?
- MARLIE BRANDT: Why do you love babies?
- ABBIE ANIOLOWSKI: Why are you so ugly?
- VICKY HEFNER: Why do you bark so much?
- WES FISHER: Please play with me.
- CHARLIE AERNI-FLESSNER: Why do you bark at people walking by our house?
- MAKENZIE ROSS: Why don't you let people kiss you, but you let me kiss you?
- EVERLY BARRINS: Do you get bored of eating the same thing every day?
- NICOLE ZHOLOB: Why do you always run away from me, and why do you look like a rat when you're literally a rat?

WE'RE GOING TO MACKINAC!

Today the whole camp will be going to Mackinac Island to do fun stuff and buy fudge. Younger cabins will go at 10:00, and older campers will leave at 1:00. Listen to messages to find out which group your cabin is in and other important information.

END OF CAMP REMINDERS

With the end of the camp approaching, please keep these reminders in mind so things run smoothly:

- ✓ Remember to pick up all your personal items from areas (arts and crafts projects, wakeboards, guitars, riding/bike helmets, etc.) before camp ends.
- ✓ Remember to check the lost and found and clotheslines behind your cabin.
- ✓ Transportation lists will be distributed again so everyone can verify how they're going home.
- ✓ Staff who had lock boxes should return their combination locks.
- ✓ Any money or valuables you may have kept in the office will be redistributed on Friday.
- ✓ Packing doesn't begin until Friday.

FULL NAME: Summer Blake Barnett
HOMETOWN: Beverly Hills, Michigan
FAVORITE CLASS: Reading
FAVORITE BOOK: Wings of Fire
FAVORITE CANDY BAR: 100 Grand
FAVORITE SOFT DRINK: Lemonade
FAVORITE ANIMALS: Penguins and flamingos

SPOTLIGHT
SUMMER
BARNETT

ARTS AND CRAFTS

STAFF:
Thank you for all your hard work this summer. You are all the BEST! Love you all.
Erika

G-10:

I am excited to spend the last week with you!
Love you,
Julia RC

CAST OF THE PLAY:

You are all working so hard!! I'm so excited for everybody, to see you all shine on Thursday.
Jeffrey

Cotton candy was invented by a dentist.

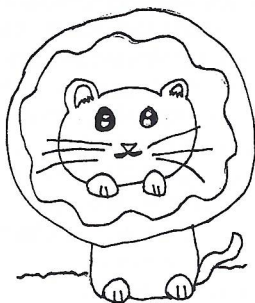
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HENRY OLSON

PEGGY'S SPORTS REPORT as of July 29

MLB
NYY acquire slugger Garcia from Nats
LAD "steal" Skubal from DET
CUBS land Gausman from Jays
White Sox trade for Mets reliever Brazoban

NFL
Clowney returns to roots and joins Texans



Cartoon by
Charlie Aerni-Flessner

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"COMMUNICATION WORKS FOR THOSE WHO WORK AT IT."
- JOHN POWELL

RANDOM BOX

There is no use going back looking for the lost opportunity. Someone else has found it.

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- MINI-MINI'S: I hope you like Walden. Cyrus
- JELLY BRUNSON: Congrats on the big win! Mini-mini staff
- MAX SCHOCH: Have fun at Mackinac, Big Dog. From ??
- JILLIAN RODNICK: I am excited to eat with you at Mackinaw! Gwen Elkin
- WESTON FISHER: I am so happy you're the Phantom! Leo
- MAX: Stop eating my die. Devon
- G-7: You are doing so much better cleaning the bathroom.
- JUDAH S.: You have to clean your shelves!! Sonic the Hedgehog
- G-3: Let's play more dice at rest period. Colin
- OWEN LEWIS MCELROY: I think I did it right. Genevieve
- SIMON: Send more Happy-Grams. From ??
- G-37: we need 3 more Grand Slams! Maya
- EVERYONE: Mackinac rules!
- B-8: Stop going in our cabin. B-7
- B-7: We will raid you guys! Avis in B-8
- SAMANTHA FINK: Clean your cabin area! Izzy
- ALON: Why do you always come to my cabin? Leon
- LEON: I can't say hi, you're my brother, and I love you!!!! Alon
- CAMP: B-10 eats food on the bathroom floor, it's so clean. Max Sherman
- LEVI S.: How's B-8 treating you? Kyle Cronan
- ERIN: I'm going to miss working with you so much. Lydia
- ASHLEY: Hi, from your favorite cousins!
- SEBASTIAN: I know you have two packs of Oreos in your bed. From ?
- ALL OF WALDEN: G-3 is the best cabin by far at this camp.
- WALDEN: G-3 needs a Grand Slam! G-3
- SEBASTIAN: I have the best sigma walk. Mateo G.
- B-13: B-11 is better. Charlie
- ASHLEY THE CAT: HICCUPS!!!! Charlie
- ASHLEY (UP): You're the best!! Secret Admirer
- GEORGE: Hi, George. You're the best counselor. Jose
- B-8: I love my cabin. Paxton Amster
- WALDEN: The animals at the farm are great!! Bex Weiss
- JUSTIN: Get to work and smile. Alys and Tressa
- JUDAH S.: I know your cabin (G-2). mom777
- OWEN LEWIS MCELROY: We both got it right © Marlo
- G-13: Stop clogging the sinks. Anonymous
- B-7: We are messy and crazy. From ???
- MARCO: He is the one. Anonymous
- KATE: We love you! G-7
- G-37: Stop yelling at me. Anonymous

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Jonah blanch

LUNCH BOX

HOT DOGS
CORN DOGS
MACKINACRONI
AND CHEESE

DINNER BOX

TACO
QUESO
CHURROS

THE WALDEN POND

TONIGHT IS WALDEN UNDER!

VOL. 67 NO. 49

DAY: WEDNESDAY DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026

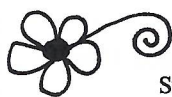
A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

ART SHOW TONIGHT

Immediately after dinner
Dessert will be served in the Art Barn



Tie Dye shirts
Pottery * Candles
Stitch & Sew Soft Sculptures
Drawing & Painting * More



If you have additional work you'd like to display, bring it to the art barn by lunch today, *even if you're not in an art class!*

Remember to pick up your projects after the show to take home.

DEARED

Dear Ed, Why didn't the Happy-Gram I wrote appear in the Pond? Wondering

Dear Wondering, That happens sometimes, for a number of reasons: there wasn't enough room, Ed couldn't read it, or it might be inappropriate. You can always turn it in again. And if you want to put a Happy-Gram in one of the winter issues, now is a good time to submit it. Ed

Dear Ed, Why do we have messages? Nina Subramanian

Dear Nina, So everyone at camp knows what's going on. Sure, the Pond does that, but messages are more urgent reminders. They used to be called "announcements," but people began singing the announcement song whenever anyone said "announcement," so they had to change it." Ed

Dear Ed, When will we be having the next turkey dinner and will we have stuffing? Boz

Dear Boz, Retcher says the next turkey dinner will be on Thanksgiving at the restaurant of your choice. It will probably come with stuffing, and green peppers are optional. Ed

Dear Ed, Who would win a fight? 100 average sized men or one silverback gorilla? Dhevan Nijhar

Dear Dhevan, One hundred men would win because there are just too many of them, and together they could overwhelm the gorilla once it gets tired. Ed

Dear Ed, How many meals are served at the Chipmunk Café daily? Are franchise opportunities available to open additional cafes? The Squirrels

Dear Squirrels, Chipmunks can get as many meals as they want. It's always open. If squirrels want to open their own café, they have to choose their own name and run it themselves. Sorry, Squirrels. Ed

Continued on back

REAL NEWS

- A new reality show, *The Golden Ticket*, is coming to Netflix in September. Contestants first secure a coveted Golden Ticket, then enter a **Wonka-inspired chocolate factory** where they compete in a series of strategic, physical, and social challenges for a life-changing grand prize.
- Dogs of all sizes recently took to the waves at the annual **World Dog Surfing Championships** near San Francisco. Wearing colorful gear and balancing on surfboards, the talented pups entertained spectators while showing off impressive surfing skills.
- A cat believed to be **the oldest in the world** has celebrated an incredible **31st birthday**. The remarkable feline has attracted attention from animal lovers everywhere, who are amazed by its long life and curious about the habits that may have helped it stay healthy for so many years.
- An old book that had been hidden inside a brick fireplace was **finally returned to a library** in Australia after about 150 years. The **late fee** would be about AU \$28,000 (around US \$19,500 today) if adjusted for inflation, but it was not charged.
- Scientists have identified a **previously unknown monkey** living in the rainforests of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. The monkey has bright orange lips, makes a croaking sound like a frog, and may already be endangered because of habitat loss.
- For the first time, researchers **attached cameras to whale sharks** and discovered that these gentle giants spend much more time feeding deep underwater than anyone realized. The footage is helping scientists understand how the world's largest fish finds enough food to survive.
- Fans can now watch *Billie Eilish – Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour (Live in 3D)*, a new Billie Eilish **concert film**, co-directed by **Billie Eilish** and filmmaker **James Cameron**, that features performances from her recent tour with immersive visuals and behind-the-scenes moments.
- *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* continues to be one of the **biggest movie hits of the summer**. Families and superhero fans are filling theaters, making it one of the year's most talked-about films.
- Bright colors, baggy jeans, parachute pants, long denim shorts, sporty sneakers, and accessories **inspired by the 1990's and early 2000's** are still popular with many teens. Fashion creators are mixing vintage looks with modern styles to create fun new outfits. Other reasons retro fashion is so popular are **thrifting** and expressing your own personality.

Continued from front

Dear Ed, Does the fox eat at the Chipmunk Café? The Squirrels
Dear Squirrels, No, the fox eats at the Fox and Hound, along with the dogs.
Ed

Dead Ed, Why has the kitchen stopped leaving milk and juice in the fridge after breakfast? Kyle Cronan
Dear Kyle, The kitchen says chipmunks get thirsty, but Ed suspects they really just forgot to put it there. Ed

Dear Ed, How old do you have to be to be a counselor? Easton Foon
Dear Easton, Counselors generally have to have a year of college first, although if they go through special training like completing the CA program, they can usually be hired right after high school. So you still have a few years to go. Ed

Dear Ed, Did you lose something? Come to the office! Office Cami and Fer

Dear Office Cami and Fer, Ed did not lose anything, but thanks for reminding campers that missing objects often end up at the office (as well as the lost and found). Please check both places before you go home. Ed

Dear Ed, What happened?! Max Levin
Dear Max, a funny thing. Ed



Walden days.

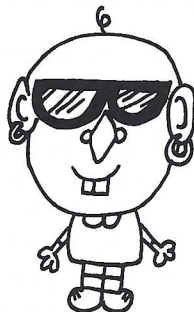
Walden nights.



There's nothing to do back in the city.

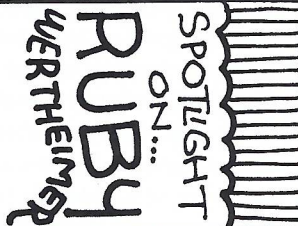
RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES

Don't throw away used batteries! Keep them out of the landfill by bringing them to the office to be recycled. There is also a recycling bin for paper.



Cartoon by
Charlie Aerni-Flessner

FULL NAME: Ruby Wertheimer
CAREER CHOICE: Dance teacher
FAVORITE CLASS: Art
HOBBY: Gymnastics
FAVORITE SONG: Stupid Song
FAVORITE SINGER: Olivia Rodrigo
JOB: Being a kid



GRACE F. AND DAISY N.:

I love being your co-councillors.
Going to miss you guys!
G-14 Martha L.



WWW
Today is
Wear Walden
Wednesday

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"BE HAPPY WITH
WHAT YOU HAVE
AND YOU WILL HAVE
PLENTY TO BE HAPPY
ABOUT."
IRISH SAYING

RANDOM BOX



THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- TERA AND BELLA: So happy to have you both as my co's. Ella
- NINA SUBRAMANIAN: Love you and have a good time. Isaac
- RORY: It's a dino-swear!!! From ???
- LEO: I am so proud of you. Ivy
- JILL R.: Spit? Blast DA music
- MAYA C.: I love you so much! Joey C.
- JULIA: Love you so so much! Bee-do-beep. Ashley
- LOLA: You are the best counselor ever. Come back next year. Ruby
- RUBY: You're an amazing dancer. Olivia
- AVI: Hi, Avi! Judah
- LILA: I love California! Matty
- MASHLEY: Hey, buddy! Joey Chuong
- MARIO SANCHEZ: What is a s'more? Joey
- G-7: Hope you win Phantom. ?
- KATE: Hi, Mama Duck. Penelope
- JENNA: Thanks for playing the Mickey Mouse song. Charlie Flaharty
- G-8: Love you guys! Izzy

LONG LAKE TRIVIA

Long Lake is a clear freshwater lake and is spring fed, so its water is more consistently filtered through the natural spring-feeding process than are waters that flow from one lake to another. It sits at an elevation of 663 feet. Although not definitive, the average depth of Long Lake is about 30 feet with a maximum depth of about 60 feet. Anglers enjoy a variety of species from Long Lake, including walleye, northern pike, bluegill, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, perch, yellow perch, sunfish, and rock bass. The fishing is great on this lake, and the state record in Michigan for biggest smallmouth bass caught occurred in Long Lake in 1906, with an impressive 27.3-inch and 9-pound 4-ounce smallmouth bass specimen.

CONGRATS

to the Hikes and Trips class that did 18,000 steps at Black Mountain Recreation Area by Twin Lakes!
You are all the best!
Heart, Euan, Amber, and Peggy

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Elan Fierman

LUNCH BOX

GRILLED CHEESE
TOMATO SOUP
LEFTOVERS
SALAD BAR

DINNER BOX

NOODLES
RED SAUCE
MEAT SAUCE
SALAD BAR

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 50 DAY: THURSDAY DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

NEAL

INTERVIEWS HIMSELF

NEAL: Is yellow your favorite color?

NEAL: No! My favorite color is blue.

NEAL: Then why do you always wear yellow shirts?

NEAL: In the summer, light colors (like yellow) help me stay cooler (temperature-wise). White gets dirty too easily. Now it's just become my thing.

NEAL: How many yellow shirts do you have at camp?

NEAL: Probably about 20 or 30. No, I don't wear the same shirt every day. I also wore orange and green shirts this summer.

NEAL: What do you do when you're not doing the Walden Pond?

NEAL: You mean during the year?

NEAL: Yes.

NEAL: Well, I do a few Walden Ponds during the year that we mail home to campers, but I also teach a few cartooning classes to kids and am a freelance children's writer.

NEAL: What's a freelance children's writer?

NEAL: I write stuff (mostly stories and poems) for children's magazines, anthologies, websites, and educational companies.

NEAL: What have you written recently?

NEAL: I have a short story coming out this summer in *Highlights*, which is a popular magazine for children in the United States. And this summer, I also have some poems published in a children's magazine in Australia and New Zealand and in a textbook in India, and I recently wrote a series of stories for school books in South Korea, for students learning English in Asia. I wrote all of these in English, of course.

NEAL: What about Great Britain?

NEAL: As a matter of fact, one of my poems is used in an anthology for students auditioning for The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. This is a specialist drama school in the UK and trains actors, directors, and other technical theatre professionals.

NEAL: Where can I find out more about your work?

NEAL: Check my website: www.NealLevin.com

NEAL: Are you really Dear Ed?

NEAL: Yes. "Dear Ed" is short for "Dear Editor," and since I am the editor of the Walden Pond, when you ask Dear Ed a question, you're really asking me.

NEAL: I'm asking you questions right now.

NEAL: Indeed you are. Except that last one was a statement, not a question.

NEAL: Okay, here's another question. How did the Chipmunk Café start?

NEAL: Years ago, a chipmunk would hop up onto my desk in the Pond office and dash around. I started leaving food for him on the desk. Then I thought it would be fun to leave food outside so he could share it with his friends and other people could watch them eating.

Continued on back



PLAYOFFS TONIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS



WHAT HAPPENED?



Did a funny thing happen?
No, a lot of funny things happened!
Or they will ... tonight in the play:

What Happened after Once Upon a Time



Continued from front

NEAL: How many different chipmunks come to the Café to eat?

NEAL: I usually see one at a time, and I don't know if it's always the same one or different ones take turns. Sometimes I do see two at once. But over the years, many different chipmunks have attended, because chipmunks only live about three years each.

NEAL: How many years have you been doing the Pond?

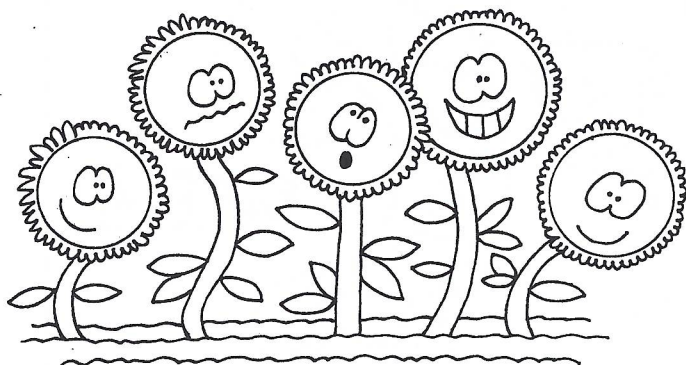
NEAL: Since my first summer at Walden, which was 1985. The Pond had been around even before that, but it only came out four times a summer. Each was a few pages. I started making the daily issues in 1986 or 87.

NEAL: Tell us one more interesting fact.

NEAL: My dad and Liz's dad were counselors at Camp Tanuga together before Liz's dad started Camp Walden.

NEAL: Anything else you'd like to say?

NEAL: That was a great interview, Neal. I couldn't have done it better myself.



"Discipline, consistency, and patience.
If you lack these, you won't grow."
James Clear, American author

FULL NAME: Ivy Fantich
HOMETOWN: Bloomfield Hills
FAVORITE CLASS: Lunch
FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza
WORST FOOD: Mold
FAVORITE ANIMAL: Inchworm
SPECIAL TALENT: Funniness

FANTICH
IVY
SPOTLIGHT
ON...

BE IN THE POND THIS HALLOWEEN

The Walden Pond is mailed to campers a few times during the school year. The first issue usually arrives around Halloween. If you would like to be in the Halloween Pond, come fill out a short survey sheet in the Pond office. See Neal if you have anything else you'd like to contribute.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"THE ONLY WAY TO ENTERTAIN SOME FOLKS IS TO LISTEN TO THEM."

~ KIN HUBBARD

RANDOM BOX

THE RANDOM BOX IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET.

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- G-11: Thanks for being an amazing cabin! Fiona V.
- G-13 TEAM 2: Good job! Team 3
- WALDEN: G-12 is the best cabin! Harriet
- G-10: Way to keep the aura high. AnnaG-8: Love y'all. Elle Berman
- G-11: I can't believe a bird moved into our birdhouse. Charlie Aerni-Flessner
- CALLUM PICKWELL: Come back to chemistry! Miss you! Amy
- WHITE CAR: There's a haunted stage. From ???
- G-10: Be nice to my sister. Ruby
- JAY: Final time out count: 6. ☺
- LIV: Hi! Pipi! From ???

BOX HOCKEY

Box Hockey is a fun activity for two people, and it's available on the playground. Here are the rules:

A wooden puck or rock starts at the spot on the center board. Campers kneel or stand on opposite sides of the floor with their short sticks, and do a "bully" – both touch stick to floor, then up to each other just over the puck, saying "1", repeat 2, 3. Then either camper can hit the puck toward the opponent's goal. Play up to best of 3, or 7 or 11. Decide rules ahead of time. Please leave the sticks and pucks in the box. Be safe. Have fun. GO PLAY!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ➔ ADAM GROSS

Good luck to the cast and crew of the play!
Robbie Mullin

LOST AND FOUND REMINDER

Please remember to check the Lost and Found box for missing articles of clothing, towels, or other items that may belong to you. The Lost and Found box is the big wooden chest in the middle of the main P&C benches.

AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

maleo Gansalee

LUNCH BOX

CHICKEN SLIDERS AND LEFTOVERS

DINNER BOX

PIZZA
SALAD BAR

THE WALDEN POND

VOL. 67 NO. 51

DAY: FRIDAY

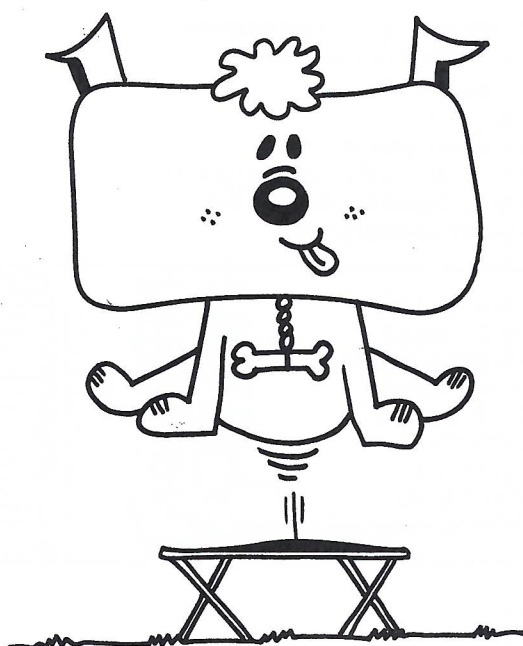
DATE: AUGUST 7, 2026

A-DAY

B-DAY

SPECIAL DAY

GOODBYE



We'll miss you! There's nothing to do back in the city, but have a great school year. See you next summer!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY

9:00	Breakfast
THEN	Packing and clean up
11:00	Staff pulled out if assigned to areas
12:30	Cabin inspections by administrators
12:45	Wash-up
1:00	Lunch
2:00	Move luggage
THEN	Huge cabin clean-up
3:00	Meadow party/general swim
4:30	Punch and Cookies/volleyball finals
5:00	Wash-up
5:45	Pictures in the meadow
6:00	Hallowalden
THEN	Awards show/slide show/campfire

PACKING NOTES

Today campers will be packing. Here are a few important things to keep in mind:

- Pack everything that belongs to you and only things that belong to you.
- Check under your bed, in the bathroom, in corners, attics, shelves, and clotheslines.
- Also check the lost and found box to see if anything there belongs to you.
- Wet/damp items should be put in a plastic bag before being packed.
- Items that no one claims should be brought to the office.
- Any items that belong to a camper that already went home should be brought to the office and tell the secretary who it belongs to so it can be shipped to them.
- Garbage should be thrown in the trash can, not left around in the cabin or outdoors.
- Move your luggage to the appropriate places when indicated. Luggage will be stored safely overnight.
- Cabins must be cleaned thoroughly. The more cleaning you do today, the less will have to be done by counselors tomorrow!
- Listen to announcements for other important information.

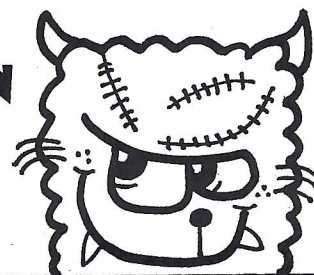
DO NOT PACK LIST

Please leave these items out when you pack to go home:

- Outfit to wear on Friday for activity classes
- Bathing suit and towel if you have water activities
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and all shower supplies
- Long pants, long sleeves, socks, and closed-toe shoes for campfire
- Clean underwear, socks, shirt, and pants/shorts to go home in on Saturday
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Empty laundry bag to pack these items in when you leave

Tonight is HALLOWALDEN

Come dressed up in your favorite costume and be ready for a feast!



IS MARK GOODINE MOVING TO HUNGARY?

**AND, IF SO, WILL HE KEEP
WORKING AT WALDEN?**

Mark Goodine has been flying to Hungary a lot lately, including a quick trip in the middle of Seminar Week this summer. "I usually go twice a year," he reveals. "This school year I ended up going three times."

"I lived there for a year in 2019-2020. I taught English to little Hungarian children, and so I've gone back to visit them, the teachers I worked with, my friends that I made over there ... This year I went there to go to the graduation ceremony for my former second graders who are now graduating eighth grade."

Mark normally teaches fifth grade in Ohio, but this is his final year before he retires. "Then I plan on moving back to Hungary after camp next summer and continue teaching over there for a few more years and keep coming to camp."

Mark got his official Hungarian citizenship eleven years ago, which he was able to do because his great-grandparents were Hungarian, so he is now both a US and a Hungarian citizen. He is in the process of becoming a Canadian citizen too.

JEMMA & SAMANTHA:

Thanks for choreographing
that amazing dance.
From ???

EVELYN O.:

You are an awesome sauce
sister (sometimes).
S.O.

UP'S:

Loved working with you
this summer.
Robyn

RIDING STAFF:

Thank you for all your hard
work this summer! Riding
Island isn't a vacation spot,
but it is fun. Aloha, Karen
and Abi

TO ALL OUR RIDERS:

Wish we could give you all
awards. You all made our
time at the barn so much fun
this session. We love how
hard you tried, how much
you improved and how kind
you were to the horses!
Happy trails and hope to
see you out at Riding Island
next summer.
The Riding Staff

**PLEASE RETURN ANY CLIPBOARDS
TO THE POND OFFICE**
*so campers can gather more news
next summer!*

THE WALDEN EXPRESS

- MIA: You're so kind and loving. Gracie
- G-8: You are the best cabin ever! From ???
- OAKLEY MOST: See you at lunch. Love, Riley
- G-7: You are kind. Maxine
- G-11: You are sweet. Nina S.
- G-14: I'm going to miss you guys! Daisy N.
- MARLOWE: Kiah! Joliet amazing perfume. Olivia
- G-12: I'm gonna miss you guys. Come back next year, pleeease! Rosie
- WALDEN STAFF: Thank you for all you do. So excited for next year! Rosie Barnett
- JULIA: We will miss not having you as our UP. G-10
- LOLA, EVA, AND SAM: You are the best counselors. Ruby Wertheimer
- G-13: I will miss you guys. Noa and Samantha
- ROBBIE: Thanks for the summer! Erika
- G-3: See you next year. Wes
- WALDEN: Bye! G-3
- EVERYONE: Have a great year! Sandy
- GLUE GANG: I love you and I will miss you. Mario
- B-10: We will win the Golden Dustpan! B-8
- UP'S: Love you all so much! Cami S.

FULL NAME: Madison Miller
CAREER CHOICE: Teacher
FAVORITE SINGER: Justin Bieber
FAVORITE CLASS: Reading
FAVORITE MOVIE: Hoppers
FAVORITE FOOD: Biscuit
FAVORITE ANIMAL: Otter
FAVORITE SPORT: Soccer
MOST PROUD OF: Scoring a goal in soccer

**MADISON
MILLER**
SPOTLIGHT
ON...

WHAT A SUMMER!



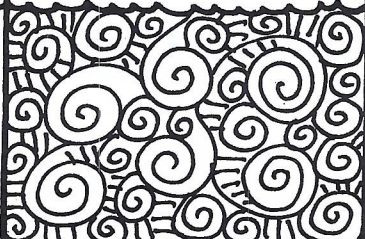
AUTOGRAPH OF THE DAY

Ricky Hefner

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"THE FUTURE COMES
ONE DAY AT A
TIME."
- DEAN
ACHESON

RANDOM BOX



LUNCH BOX

BAKED
ZITI
BISCUITS
SALAD BAR

DINNER BOX

BURGERS
FRIES
* POP *
STRAWBERRY POKE CAKE