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CAMP CEDAR RIDGE DISPATCH: DISCOVER THE GOOD

A Season of Roots and Rising

We have completed our fifth summer. That is a real milestone.

Our theme for this fifth year is **Rooted and Rising** - reflecting both the roots that made Camp Cedar Ridge possible and the new growth that continues to emerge.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us: the former owners and employees of this property and everyone who has contributed to our growth since the purchase of the property in 2022.

This summer marked the completion of our five-year collaboration with former owner Larry Steele, which allowed the Larry Steele Basketball Camp to continue at Camp Cedar Ridge. With the conclusion of that agreement comes the end of Larry's extraordinary 35 years of service to youth through the program. I am deeply grateful that we had the opportunity to become part of that legacy and to help support five more years of a program that has touched so many young lives.

We are grateful to Larry for his vision and his investment in this place over so many years.

Without him, there would be no us. Thank you, Larry.

We also acknowledge our roots in Centers for Spiritual Living, which owns the property that Camp Cedar Ridge leases. It was the vision and commitment of CSL - and the generosity of its many supporters and donors - that made our existence possible.

No CSL, no CCR. Our gratitude overflows.

And while our roots run deep, our work and our vision are also **rising.**

Throughout this issue of the *Dispatch*, you will read about many of our projects and activities. Within them, I hope you will see our desire to **Discover the Good - and spread it**.

Where can we find the Good?

I hear it in the excitement of children learning to swim.

I hear it in the voices of a couple telling us their wedding was "everything they hoped for."

I hear it when a guest who is both vegan and gluten-free says, "I haven't been able to eat a cinnamon roll in years. Thank you for that."

And I hear it in countless other moments, large and small, all across Camp Cedar Ridge and throughout our community.

Some of the work I am proudest of began simply because we noticed something our community needed and asked, **What can we do?**

That question has helped give rise to the **Warm Up Round Up**, working to make sure people in Vernonia have access to warm clothing in the winter; **ThanksRidging**, our free community Thanksgiving dinner; **Vernonia's Cradle**, a community baby shower; our **Community FREEdge**; and **Laundry Love**, providing free laundry service twice each month to neighbors who need it.

These projects - and others - did not begin because we decided they were things an organization like ours *should* do. They grew from paying attention to our community and responding to what was actually needed.

That, too, is part of **Rising**: remaining open to the unfolding of the future and willing to respond when the next opportunity to serve reveals itself.

"*Good and more Good is mine, an ever-increasing Good is mine. There is no limit to the Good that is mine. Everywhere I go, I see Good. I feel It, I experience It. Good crowds Itself against me, flows through me, expresses Itself in me, and multiplies Itself around me.*"
– Ernest Holmes
Living the Science of Mind

We see Good. We experience Good. We know Good.

We Discover the Good.

So many people contribute - and have contributed - to our work: founders, donors, board members, clients,

volunteers, vendors, community partners and friends. But my deepest gratitude is for the staff of Camp Cedar Ridge.

Our small crew of full-time staff and our army of part-time and seasonal employees work together to provide the radical hospitality that is both our goal and our standard. I am continually amazed by their dedication and commitment to our mission.

To the more than 200 people who have worked at Camp Cedar Ridge since 2022, I offer a deep bow of recognition and gratitude.

You make the magic happen.

In May 2027, Camp Cedar Ridge will celebrate five years. We are planning a **Fifth Anniversary Celebration, May 21-23, 2027,** with opportunities to join us for the full weekend or for the day on Saturday.

I hope you will come celebrate with us - the Good that has unfolded, the Good that is unfolding, and the Good still waiting to emerge.

Let's Discover the Good and spread it - together.

With love, **Kasey**



Dr. Kasey Wilson
Executive Director

News from Camp Cedar Ridge



Rio Davenport, Aquatics manager (wearing sunglasses, center) celebrates end of summer with swim lesson participants.



The new Picnic Pavilion fence adds a sense of comfort and safety to the concrete pad.

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Swim Season Wraps Up with a Splash: Celebrating Our 2026 Swimmers

This summer, nearly 50 kids took to the pool through our community swim lesson program, now in its fifth season. Guided by certified water safety instructors, swimmers of all ages and skill levels built new skills lesson by lesson in a safe, supportive environment. On August 13, families, friends, and neighbors gathered poolside for our End-of-Season Swim Party to celebrate everything these kids accomplished. Summer at the pool is about more than learning strokes. It's about growing confidence, practicing perseverance, developing water-safety skills, and experiencing the joy of discovering, "I can do this!" As the only large pool in the Vernonia area, CCR is proud to offer this program to local families and to watch that confidence grow year after year.

Congratulations to our 2026 swimmers! A heartfelt thank you to Rio Davenport, Aquatics Program Manager, and to all the instructors, staff, and families who made another great summer at the pool possible.

A Finishing Touch for the Picnic Pavilion

Since its debut last summer, the 40' x 70' concrete pad beside the Picnic Pavilion has quickly become one of the most-loved spaces at Camp. It has hosted band rehearsals, family gatherings, games, and celebrations, and it's rare to walk by without finding it full of activity. To complete the space, we've added a new fence around the patio. It adds a sense of comfort and enclosure, and gives groups of all ages the freedom to gather, play, and move about with ease.

Fiber Internet Arrives at Camp

We love opportunities to unplug at Camp—but when we need to connect, we can now do it much more reliably! Under the direction of Jason Coleman, Special Projects Director, satellite internet has been replaced by fiber optic service. The addition of fiber internet strengthens CCR's ability to support year-round operations, retreats, meetings, registrations, communications, and the technology needs of the organizations and guests we serve. It may be happening behind the scenes, but it is an important investment in Camp Cedar Ridge's future.

Best Wishes, Luke!

As we close out the season, we say a heartfelt goodbye to **Luke Simmons**, one of Camp Cedar Ridge's longest-serving seasonal team members. Luke started working at camp our first year and spent five summers helping wherever he was needed, from Maintenance to Vernonia Village and beyond. Dependable, hardworking, and genuinely kind, Luke has made a lasting impression on staff and especially on the kids in Vernonia Village, who absolutely adored him. We're grateful for everything he has given to camp and excited to see where his next chapter takes him.



Staff gathered for a fond farewell to Luke Simmons, center.

Proceeds from the Annual Vernonia Turkey Trot Truly Makes a Difference

Last year's inaugural Vernonia "Great Awake" Turkey Trot 5K did more than bring neighbors, families, runners, and walkers together for a fun Thanksgiving morning around Vernonia Lake. Proceeds from the event benefited both the **Vernonia Logger Track Program** and **Vernonia Village Youth & Family Enrichment Program**, helping create new opportunities for local young people.

The Track Program used its share of the proceeds to purchase much-needed equipment for the high jump program. At the time, no one knew just how close to home the impact would hit. Both Elam Cieloha, Vernonia Village and Special Events crew member, and Brody Campo, grandson of longtime Camp Cedar Ridge Food Service team member Elana Brasure, competed in the High Jump event. With the improved equipment supporting his training, Brody went on to represent Vernonia at Regionals and earned an impressive fourth-place finish at the State meet.

That's what makes the Turkey Trot more than just a 5K. A morning spent walking or running with friends can turn into equipment, opportunities, and support for young people right here in Vernonia. **Be sure to register to walk/run/trot in this year's Turkey Trot here: https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/trot/ .**



Elam Cieloha competes in the State Championships. Photo by Jaime Webster Photography.

Thank You, Larry Steele

This summer marked the final **Larry Steele Basketball Camp**, which has been hosted here at Camp Cedar Ridge for the last five years. Larry gave 35 extraordinary years of service to youth through the program. We are grateful to Larry for his vision and his investment in this place over so many years.





Brody Campo, grandson of Food Service crew member, Elana Brasure, took fourth place in the State meet.

Inaugural New Thought Family Day

Inaugural New Thought Family Day: A New Tradition Begins

New Thought is a spiritual movement centered on the idea that our thoughts, beliefs, and connection to Spirit can shape how we experience and respond to life. Centers for Spiritual Living (CSL), which owns Camp Cedar Ridge, is part of the New Thought tradition.

New Thought Family Day was created to bring together people of all ages from across that wider spiritual community for a day of connection, play, reflection, and belonging. Held on Sunday, August 9, the event invited families and individuals to experience Camp in a relaxed, welcoming way.

Guests enjoyed picnics or a BBQ chicken lunch, splashed in the pool, raced down the 300-foot Slip 'N Slide, played Bingo, painted faces and rocks, and simply spent time getting to know one another.

Guests rode by hayride while hand pan music drifted through the trees, then entered the labyrinth in small groups. As they walked the labyrinth, participants were offered a moment of spiritual support and reflection.

Throughout the afternoon, young adults from Portland CSL PDX Gen also helped lead intergenerational conversations about community, connection, and creating a world that works for everyone.

The event was made possible by a broad team of volunteers, staff, young adult leaders, ministers, practitioners, and community partners. Nearly every area of Camp Cedar Ridge contributed in some way, from food and set-up to activities, check-in, and programming.

By the end of the day, guests had played, talked, reflected, and connected together—and there was a strong sense that a new tradition had begun.

Save the Date: The 2nd Annual New Thought Family Day will be held Saturday, May 22, 2027, from 2:00–5:00 PM as part of **Camp Cedar Ridge's 5th Anniversary Weekend.** We hope you'll join us for another afternoon of connection, community, and fun.



Solé Davis, CCR Summer Intern walks the reclaimed labyrinth. Photo by Austin Perkins.



Diego Reyes calls the numbers as Bingo—and plenty of prizes—adds to the afternoon fun. Photo by Austin Perkins.

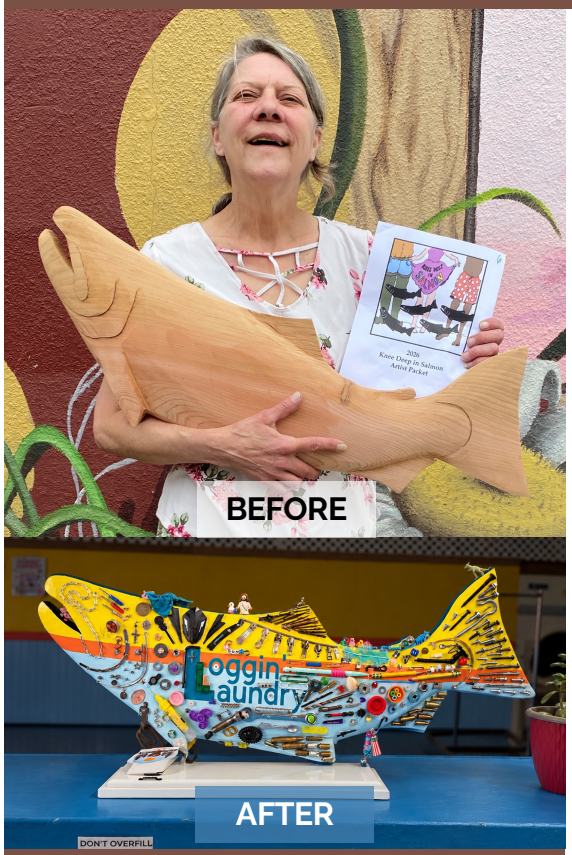


Guests move through the labyrinth during a contemplative experience. Photo by Austin Perkins.



Laura Garner gives a guest a colorful and inspired face-painting design. Photo by Austin Perkins.

Vernonia Happenings



Candace Wayne, Loggin' Laundry manager and artist, poses with the salmon canvas, "Before." LoLa 's final design, "After."

SOLD! To Camp Cedar Ridge!

Every year, two months before Vernonia's annual Salmon Festival, local artists receive a 30-inch carved cedar salmon to transform into one-of-a-kind works of art for the ***Knee Deep in Salmon*** art exhibition. The finished pieces are signed, displayed around Vernonia during the month of September, and then auctioned at the festival, which was held on October 3. The proceeds support the Vernonia Salmon Festival and projects of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council.

This year, Candace Wayne, manager of Loggin' Laundry, gave her salmon, "LoLa" (as in LOggin' LAundry), a distinctly laundromat-inspired makeover, decorating it with bits and bobs found in the laundromat dryers. The result is a playful, creative, and perfectly local piece that turns Vernonia's everyday odds and ends into unique, fun art.

Of course, Camp Cedar Ridge could not let this unique treasure be auctioned off to just anyone! The bidding was fierce, but we prevailed! Be sure to stop by Loggin' Laundry and check out LoLa for yourself! You may never look at your dryer the same way again!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As cooler weather sets in, Loggin' Laundry continues to be more than a place to do laundry. It is also a community hub where neighbors can give what they have and take what they need.

- **Community FREEdge**: Donate or pick up food from the refrigerator/freezer and community shelf.
- **Warm Up Round Up Blanket Drive**: Drop new or gently used blankets in the blue bins at Loggin' Laundry. We'll wash and dry them, then put them out for anyone who needs one.

Warm clothing is part of the effort, too. Through the seasonal clothing drive, community members pick up coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and other winter gear at **Bargains on Bridge**, Just let them know, "It's on Camp Cedar Ridge."







Look for flyers around town to donate to and participate in these community programs

Upcoming Vernonia Events

Mark Your Calendars for Exciting Events in October and November!

Come and hang out with familiar faces and make new friends at the community events!

- **Vernonia's Cradle Community Baby Shower,** Saturday, October 24, 1:30–3:30 p.m. at The Grange. Expecting parents and families with children under 24 months are invited for food and cake, community resources, games, gifts, a photo booth, and a Donation Swap & Shop—all free! Please RSVP at https://CampCedarRidgeOR.org/cradle/ so that we can have a special gift for you!
- **Monster Mash,** Saturday, October 31, 4:00–7:00 p.m. at Loggin' Laundry. Costumes, treats, games, crafts, music, and plenty of Halloween silliness take over Bridge Street. Vernonia Village students can also choose a special prize from the Cauldron of Surprises.
- **Vernonia's 2nd Annual "Great Awake" Turkey Trot**, Thanksgiving morning, November 26. Start your holiday with a 5K fun run/walk around Vernonia Lake while helping raise funds for the Vernonia High School track program and Vernonia Village Youth & Family Enrichment Program.
- **ThanksRidging Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner,** Thursday, November 26, 1:00–3:00 p.m. at Camp Cedar Ridge. After the Turkey Trot—or after a nice leisurely morning—come share a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings with friends and neighbors. No cooking required!

Mark the dates, bring a friend or the whole family, and come be part of the fun. We look forward to seeing you here!









Last year's Turkey Trot raised almost $1000, which was split between Vernonia Village and the Vernonia High School Track Team. Pictured are: Dee Barklow, Immediate Past Director, Vernonia Village; Kasey Wilson, Camp Cedar Ridge; Jim Helmen, Immediate Past Superintendent; and John Roady, Track Coach with Vernonia Loggers Athletics.

HERE ARE 5 GREAT REASONS TO VISIT
CAMP CEDAR RIDGE
VERNONIA, OR

ThanksRidging

FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

THURSDAY NOV 26 1:00-3:00 PM

CampCedarRidgeOR.org/thanksgiving

New Thought New Year 2021 at Camp Cedar Ridge

Rest, reflect, and welcome the New Year with frolicking, friendship, and food

Dec. 29, 2026 - Jan. 2, 2027

CampCedarRidgeOR.org/ny2027/

STEPPING INTO STILLNESS

A Silent Retreat

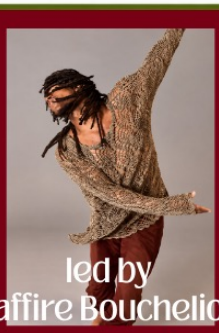
Join us for a weekend of peaceful nourishment for body and soul

FRIDAY, JAN. 29 - SUNDAY JAN. 31, 2027

Moving to the Rhythm of Now

Friday - Sunday
April 9-11, 2027

Step out of habit and into presence through dance, rhythm, sound, and embodied awareness



led by Saffire Bouchelion

Camp Cedar Ridge 5th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND Celebration

MAY 21 - 23, 2027

Join us as we celebrate five years of camp, community, and memories

Centers for Spiritual Living 100 YEARS

Remember, Renew, Reimagine