

# Community

## Senior News

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Do you feel any different? Does the town look any different now that it is 2002?

I have pondered one thing. This space is for Senior news. I know I write what goes on "at" the center, but if any of you Seniors out there have something to say for the benefit of seniors, please contact me, even if you have moved out of town and want to say "hello."

At the end of 2001, news shows had been mentioning phone and TV scams again, and not all stations run them during the news. So, teach yourself how to say "No" and hang up on that voice on the phone. File "13" any and all "come-ons" to spend your money for nothing stuff you get in the mail. One, in particular, hit a mad button on me. (Send \$19.98 to get information on how you can "get" a grant for FREE money) When the cou-

ple was finally reached and questioned, they were doing nothing wrong. Just making millions off the plain folks that needed money to survive. Don't bite!

Good news from Columbia County Council of Seniors in St. Helens. ColCo is not sinking or going out of business, nor is SNAPP. The State says they have proved we are solid, but troubled yet, and they are willing to help us help ourselves out of the pit we fell into.

We are back to lunches five days a week. Maybe a few kinks to work out yet, but come back, visit, eat lunch and see what's new in the thrift store. It looks strange with all of the holiday glitter packed away, but the fire is warm and the coffee and tea are hot.

Oh yes, 2002 dues are due. Drop in and ask Willie if you owe. \$10.00 for first timers and those under 70. Give us your birthday and get on the Birthday Senior Calendar.

Are you aware of the fact we have more crutches, canes and walkers than we need? You may need one for future use. Come talk to Willie.

December wind took off our sunroof (plastic tarp) from the back porch area. We are looking for a few strong men or boys with a heart and some lumber, bolts, nails and a hammer to share their talent for building. See Willie if you know who can help us.

The Golden Oldies are getting better and larger in number every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Five Area luncheon is in St. Helens on January 28.

"Senior" Games hope to be back in full swing by January 17. Any senior is welcome.

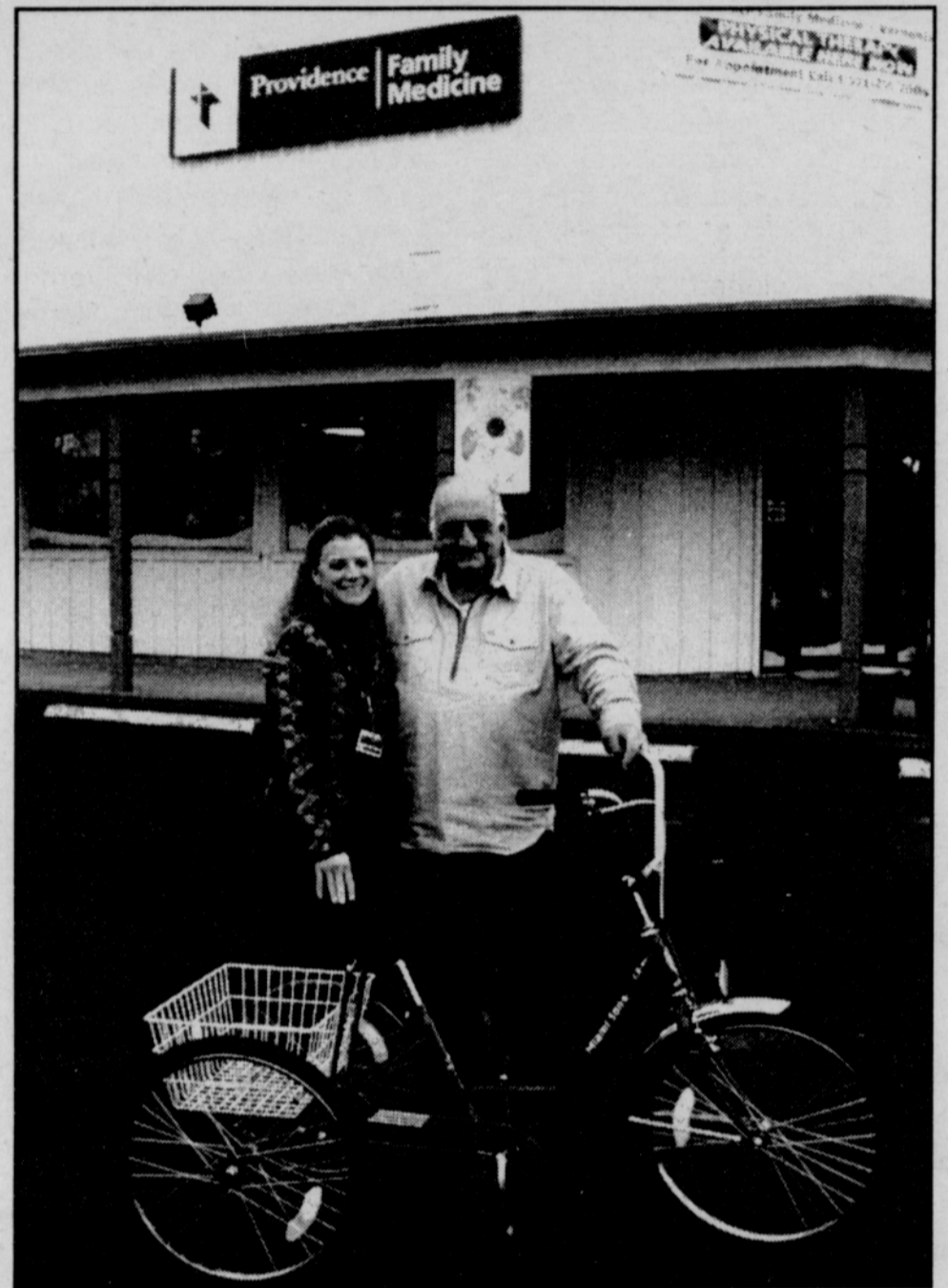
I heard and saw that Santa had delivered a 3-wheeled tricycle to Bill Yeo just after Christmas so he could, once again, go around the lake and get to town easier.

Flash! I killed my first mosquito on January 5 at 10:00 a.m. Can Spring be far behind?

Happy Birthday to all you Januarians.

### INFORMATION NUMBERS

COLCO Transportation  
 ..... 429-4304  
 Senior Advocate.. 429-9112  
 Senior Center..... 429-3912



It was "pay back time" for Bill Yeo, but not in a negative way. Sue East, shown above with Yeo, and other staff members at Providence Family Medicine-Vernonia, spearheaded a drive to provide the tricycle and make it a little easier for him to get around on his job as caretaker at Vernonia Lake. Priscilla Lewis, director of PS&D Clinics, clinic manager Michael Moore, East and other staff members obviously were persuasive enough to get the job done. In addition to being a friendly face at the lake, Yeo often donates his skills as an auctioneer to help local organizations, and is a volunteer in many local endeavors.

## ColCo buses will continue operations

Columbia County Council of Senior Citizens Inc. is going forward in delivering transportation services via ColCo Transportation to residents of Columbia County.

"Contrary to the rumor mill, ColCo Transportation is functioning as usual and not out of business," said Merri Reamer, Executive Director of CCCSC Inc. "We continue to provide transportation services to sen-

ior citizens, disabled persons, children and the general public Monday through Friday, via pre-scheduled appointments, medical route requests, and coordinating with the fixed route bus that goes to Portland twice a day," Reamer added.

A consultant from Ride Connection in Portland will be assist CCCSC in re-defining route schedules throughout the county. "We will receive in-kind consultation that we plan to utilize later this month in order to optimize services," Reamer stated. "Some routes and schedules may change a little, so we suggest that customers

call 503-366-1582 to gather correct information.

"We are a 'work in progress' and schedules may change some in order to best meet the needs of our customers," Reamer added.

ColCo Transportation has been operating in Columbia County for the past thirty years and will continue to provide transportation services to county residents. "Call us with your questions and concerns," Reamer urged. ColCo Transportation can be reached at 503-366-1582 and the Columbia County Council of Senior Citizens Inc. at 503-397-4000.

### NOTICE

The INDEPENDENT is published on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Four months of each year, there are five Wednesdays, but the publishing schedule is not changed.

There are five Wednesdays this month, so there will three weeks between this January 16 issue and the issue of February 6. Deadline for submission of materials for the Feb. 6 issue will be February 1.



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