# The Center of It All | October 2025





### Programs:

Title III-C (Congregate Meals)
Title III-B (Activities)
Title III-E (Family Caregiver)
WyHS (Wyoming Home Services)

### Vision:

To enrich the lives of individuals aged 60 and older by providing community services and resources to maintain their dignity and independence.

### Mission:

To assist individuals aged 60 and older in Natrona County by providing or accessing community services and resources to maintain their dignity and independence using qualified and trained staff to help them meet their nutritional, educational, social, emotional, financial, and recreational needs.

# PROUD PARTNER OF **FOOD \* BANK**

OF WYOMING"



"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear, and the blind can see." Mark Twain.

# WHO'S WHO AROUND THE CENTER

Executive Director—Rachel Brown

**Board of Directors** 

Bob CarpenterPresidentGracie BeckerVice PresidentKim LatkaTreasurerKate MaxwellSecretary

**Members** 

Gloría Fuhrer Debera Siems Susan Burk Lorí Spearman Bob Lemmon Ron Strang

Zulima Lopez

Locations

**CASPER (MAIN)** 

1831 East 4th St (307) 265-4678

**MILLS** 

401 Wasatch (307) 237-1317

**EVANSVILLE** 

71 Curtis St (307) 315-6719

Connect with us:

www.casperseniorcenter.com

Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/casperseniorcenter

**City Council Liaison** 

Michael Bond

In-Home

Community Programs Director—Lacey Kidman Access Care Coordinator—Christine Coffey

**Housekeepers:** 

Sarah George, Jazzmín Kidman, Jessica Massey

Shauna Dellinger, Blaize Favre

CNA—Caitlan Knotts

**Administration** 

Human Resources/Bookkeeper—Rae Appel Volunteer/Activities Coordinator—Kim Perez

Receptionist/Data Entry—Virlie Heyer

**Nutrition** 

**Dietary Director**—*Kimberly Cooper* 

Head Cook—Johnna Moore

**Kitchen Staff:** 

Makayla Archambault, Quinton Easley,

Craig Kwedor, Dusty Plummer,

Azarian Tanksley, Zach Focht, CJ Oryall

Déjà Brew Barista Volunteers:

Monday—Nancy
Tuesday—Linda

 $Wednesday-\mathcal{H}annah$ 

Thursday—*Kathy* Friday—*Maddy* 

**Dining Room Volunteers:** 

Jimmy Ernie Michelle Jim

Jancy Masayo

Luba Deb

**Puzzles:** 

Ruth

**Crafts:** 

Редду

**Deals on Wheels:** 

Peggy and Buck

Library:

Jackie Bev

Board of Director meeting Schedule: Fourth Monday of each month at 3:00pm Meetings are open to the public. All members are encouraged to attend!

# From the Desk of the Director:

### **HELLO FALL!**

We had a fabulous September! A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the outreach BBQs in Mills and Evansville. Both events had great attendance, and it was wonderful to see so many community members coming together.

We are also seeing more and more seniors utilizing our food pantry—held Tuesdays from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. at the Main Center in Casper and Thursdays 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. at the Mills Center. A heartfelt thank you to the Food Bank of Wyoming for making this possible! Looking ahead, October is shaping up to be just as exciting:

Oktoberfest - Thursday, October 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy music, food, and plenty of fun!

Nutrition Education Series – Monday, October 6th at Noon. Join us to learn more about healthy eating and wellness.

Single Senior Social - Friday, October 25th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A wonderful chance to meet new friends and enjoy time together.

We can't wait to see you at these events and share another great month together!

Please remember when inclement weather starts here in Wyoming, which could be any time, the Senior Center follows Natrona County School District. When the schools are closed due to bad weather, then the Senior Centers are closed as well.

Warm Regards, Rachel Brown

rachelh@casperseniorcenter.com or 307-265-4678





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# **HELPING HANDS**

ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY CENTRAL WYOMING SENIOR SERVICES AKA OUR SENIOR CENTER WYOMING HOME SERVICES & NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM are programs that provide assistance to individuals in their home.

### **Services include:**

- **₽** Housekeeping
- **№** Personal care
- **Respite and care coordination**

Any questions? Come see Lacey or Christine!
Or give us a call at (307) 265-4678

### **Central Wyoming Senior Services**

### Mission Statement

Our mission is assist individuals aged 60 and older in Natrona County by providing or accessing community services and resources to maintain their dignity and independence using qualified and trained staff to help them meet their nutritional, educational, social, emotional, financial, and recreational needs.

### Our Vision

To enrich the lives of individuals age 60 and older by providing community services and resources to maintain their

### DIGNITY and

### INDEPENDENCE.

The personal mission of our Center's Director and Staff is to make every member feel welcome, wanted, included, and loved every time they come through our doors.

New Member Coffee 2nd Tuesday each Month 10AM in Déjà Brew NEXT DATE: October 14th

**Meal Prices:** 

The suggested donation for a single senior (60+) meal is \$6.00. We offer 10 and 20 count punch tickets including one bonus meal with every 20 punch ticket donation.

Remember that our guests under the age of 60 need to purchase a single meal ticket at the reception desk for \$9.00. (When you invite a non-senior guest, please stop by the front desk to purchase their meal ticket)

Thank you for your support of our meal program!

**Meal Times:** 

Casper: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Evansville & Mills Noon—1:00PM **Reservations Required at the Mills** and Evansville Sites

Answer to Sept. Trivia—

O: What is September known as in the Old English calendar?

O: What does the word "September" originate from?

September (from Latin septem, "seven") or mensis September was originally the seventh of ten months on the ancient Roman calendar that began with March (mensis Martius, "Mars' month"). It had 29 days. After the reforms that resulted in a

12-month year, September became the ninth month, but retained its name.

Try to find this image: Hidden Twice

Don't Forget to look for Kim's famous typo(s)

Please turn this into the front office if you are 60 or older with an Oct. birthday to receive a lunch ticket. (Name Birthdate:

If you would like to have your b'day or anniversary published in the newsletter for the month of either, sign up with the office!



Sept. Hidden images





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Each office is independently owned and operated

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- In Home Assistance
- Prescription Expense Help
- And much more!

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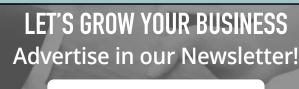
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# Gifts & Memorials

Note: This is a list for Gifts or Memorials given between August 22nd—September 23rd, 2025 If donations were made between those dates and you were not recognized, please see the front office.

### What Your Memorial Does

The Board of Directors has directed Memorial Gifts be spent only on items of lasting value, not general operations. When we last expanded the Center, we used memorial gifts to match One Cent and other county money. Just note on your check that the gift is a memorial and the name of the person you wish to be remembered.

### Gifts

Sandy Koenig
Reveille Rotary Club
Ila Johnstone
Steven Monteleone
Janet Hilde
Robert/Mary Tobin
Frank Stofflet
Ronald/Evelyn Gernaat
Gloria Herzog
Anonymous Donor(s)

### **Memorials**

**Susan Tupper** Joyce Coleman

Mike Price
Sally Lindahl
Wayne Clements

### Dave Gossin

Mary Moler Beverly Loftin Sandra Leotta Sally Lindahl Wayne Clements

### A Special Thanks to Dedicated Volunteers

This month I would like to celebrate and thank the many hands that go into making our new food distribution possible. We have to give Cody Foster the first big Thank You!!! He spent several hours and used his own tools and years of experience to replace the deck of the flatbed trailer we use to pick up and transport the food from the Food Bank of Wyoming. Please tell Cody thank you! His hard work has made it possible to get 3 full pallets of food on the trailer. Next, a huge shout out to Home Depot for donating plywood!! Ron Strang used his magic to make that donation possible. Next, the volunteers that come to help unload the trailer, Alex from Hilltop Bank, Jimmy, Gary, Jim K, and Clint. Thank you strong men for lifting and loading! Jacque, Jean, Grace, Jim, Jackie, Bev, Michelle, and Pernishia (plus anyone I may have forgotten) for sorting, setting up and distributing the food! Ensuring that produce is fresh and ready for use is very time consuming. We truly appreciate the hard work these Volunteers put in. I would also like to Thank Jim Kofakis for the daily help with many of our functions and events! Jim recently moved back to Casper and hit the ground running! Jim is always willing to help. Thank you, Jim, for all you do. We would also like to take this time to thank all of our sponsors that made the Mills and Evansville Outreach/Open House events: Shepherd of the Valley provided the hamburgers and hot dogs, Meals On Wheels provided the buns, Edgewood brought the delicious watermelon slices, Sandra Skinner for the desserts and cookies, and last but definitely not least, FOOD BANK OF WYOMING for the generous pantry food that we were able to distribute at both events.

We desperately need volunteers to help us with the senior food pantry. If you are available Mondays from 2pm til 3pm or Tuesdays 8:30 til? Please come in and let Kim know when you are able to help us out!

Volunteer Meeting

October 13th at 10am in the Conference Room

We cannot stress enough how much we depend on volunteers. YOU keep the Senior Center running and allow us to continue providing vital services to members and our community!

Volunteer opportunities
Food pantries in Mills,
Evansville, and Casper.
Please see Kim Perez in
the office or call 307-265-4678

# New, Fun, Upcoming Events:

SINGLE SENIORS SOCIAL!!! This all started from a crazy idea I had to have sort of an organized "meet and greet". My thoughts are to help other single senior members to come together and (hopefully) find other single seniors with similar interests and hobbies to do things together. I know I don't like to go to a restaurant alone and I'm sure there are others that would like to have somebody to have a weekly dinner "date" or go to the movies with. There is also a more serious side to my idea... as winter approaches, we tend to isolate and stay indoors where it's warm. That is just not the best thing for our social lives or mental health and wellbeing. Having a reason to get up and get dressed and ready for the day is great! But I also hope that with our singles coming together, we will develop a sort of "buddy system" where we check on each other. Sometimes a simple phone call or text message can make all the difference in the world—to brighten someone's day, remind them of upcoming events, or possibly to help out in a medical Emergency; in any case, remind them they are NOT alone. Our first Single Senior Social is scheduled for Oct. 25th with potluck meal beginning at 3pm—there is a dance that starts at 5pm with the option to stay in the activity room and play charades or just visit with new friends!



### **Kimberly Weikum**

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### **Local help with your Medicare** questions.



Sandra Skinner Licensed Sales Agent sandra.skinner17@outlook.com myuhcagent.com/sandra-skinner



UnitedHealthcare

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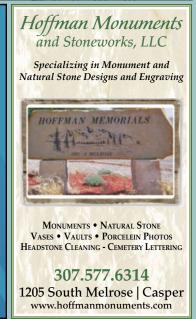
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# OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

1st-Jackpot Bingo-Dining Room-1:30pm-4:00pm

1st-Cribbage-Déjà Brew-11:00am

3rd-OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION-Dining Room-11am-1:00pm COSTUME CONTEST

3rd-Friday Feature-Library-1:30pm

2nd, 3rd, & 4th-Deals on Wheels-Déjà Brew-10:30am-1:30pm

7th-Wellness Clinic-Dining Room-10:00am

7th-Senior Food Distribution-Dining Room (Main) 10a-12:30pm

8th-Jackpot Bingo-Dining Room-1:30pm-4:00pm

8th-Cribbage-Déjà Brew-11:00am

8th-BUNCO-Déjà Brew-9:00am

9th-Casper College Tech Assist-Déjà Brew-1:00pm-3:00pm

10th-Friday Feature-Library-1:30pm

11th-Saturday Dance-Dining Room/Dance Floor-6:00pm

14th-Wellness Clinic-Dining Room-10:00am

14th-Senior Food Distribution-Dining Room (Main) 10a-12:30pm

15th-Jackpot Bingo-Dining Room-1:30pm-4:00pm

15th-Cribbage-Déjà Brew-11:00am

17th-Friday Feature-Library-1:30pm

21st-Wellness Clinic-Dining Room-10:00am

21st-Senior Food Distribtution-Dining Room (Main) 10a-12:30pm

22nd-Jackpot Bingo-Dining Room-1:30pm-4:00pm

22nd-Cribbage-Déjà Brew-11:00am

23rd-Steve Wagner Spooktacular Pool Tournament-9:00am

24th-Friday Feature-Library-1:30pm

28th-Wellness Clinic-Dining Room-10:00am

28th-Senior Food Distribution-Dining Room (Main) 10a-12:30pm

29th-Jackpot Bingo-Dining Room-1:30pm-4:00pm

29th-Cribbage-Déjà Brew-11:00am

31st-Halloween Costume Party-Dining Room-11:00am-1:00pm

31st-Friday Feature-Library-1:30pm

# All activities are subject to change

Dest Dressed Humter Costume Contest

Judged by an actual Came Warden

1st Prize is <u>Dinner for 2</u>!

When: October 15th at the Main Center in the Dining Room

# October 2025 Meal Calendar

Chilogenfest 4 ratwurst with Kraut OR Runza Perman, Potato Salad	age	аде	- Lunch
Bratwurst with Kraut OR Runza German Potato Salad Beans & Cabbage Apple Cake			
2 Beef Chow Mein Brown Rice Wheat Biscuit Oriental Vegetables Kimchi Cucumbers	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Fresh Vegetables Cole Slaw Cherry Jello	Creamy Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Fresh Vegetables Cole Slaw Cherry Jello Stuffed Peppers Baked Yams Green Beans Tossed Salad Sunflower Bread Butterscotch Pudding	Creamy Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Fresh Vegetables Cole Slaw Cherry Jello Stuffed Peppers Baked Yams Green Beans Tossed Salad Sunflower Bread Butterscotch Pudding 23 Beef Stew Steamed Cabbage Cornbread Green Salad Green Salad
nato	h	Day s s ns dwich	
BBQ Pork Sandwich Lettuce & Sliced Ton Sweet Potato Tots Creamy Coleslaw Orange Jello Whip	8National Pierogi Day Taco Salad Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese, & Onions Rice & Black Beans Pepper Slaw Baked Apples Mexican Brownie	8National Pierogi Taco Salad Lettuce, Tomatoes Cheese, & Onions Rice & Black Bea Pepper Slaw Baked Apples Mexican Brownie 15 Hearty Veg Soup Turkey Salad San On Wheat Fresh Veggies Sliced Peaches	8National Pierogi Day Taco Salad Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese, & Onions Rice & Black Beans Rice & Black Beans Repper Slaw Baked Apples Mexican Brownie 15 Hearty Veg Soup Turkey Salad Sandwic On Wheat Fresh Veggies Sliced Peaches Pumpkin Bar 22 Teriyaki Chicken White Rice Sesame Green Beans Asian Slaw Almond Cookie
	7 Tator Tot Casserole Broccoli Tomato Basil Salad Honey Wheat Roll Fresh Grapes	Tator Tot Casserole Broccoli Tomato Basil Salad Honey Wheat Roll Fresh Grapes  Ham & Beans Sliced Carrots Creamy Veggie Slaw Corn Bread Peach Crisp	Tator Tot Casserole Broccoli Tomato Basil Salad Honey Wheat Roll Fresh Grapes Ham & Beans Sliced Carrots Creamy Veggie Slaw Corn Bread Peach Crisp BLT Wrap Pasta Vegetable Salad Stuffed Celery Mandarin Oranges Blueberry Dump Cake
	6 Pork Stroganoff Green Beans Dill Cucumbers Rye Roll Peach Snack Cake	6 Pork Stroganoff Green Beans Dill Cucumbers Rye Roll Peach Snack Cake Oven Fried Chicken Tossed Salad Boston Brown Bread Tropical Fruit	rrs hick y y y
MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE	sast		Breaded Chck'n Breast PRice Pilaf Glazed Carrots DR Russian Salad Wheat Roll Cherry Pie Cherry Pie Mashed Potatoes Sweet Corn WW Roll Creamy California Salad Troffee Cake Roast Pork Soven Brown Potatoes B Cauliflower with Peas Cottage Cheese Salad Cottage Cheese Salad Mheat Biscuit Troffee Descriptions of the Cottage Cheese Salad Cottage Cheese Cottage Cheese Salad Cottage Cheese Chee

# Not Sure Which Vaccines You Need This Fall? We've got dirty details for you...

As flu season approaches, many adults find themselves asking the same question: Which vaccines do I actually need? If you're feeling unsure, you're not alone. In fact, only about 15% of people over 50 are up to date on recommended vaccines. One major reason: Confusion about what vaccines are needed – and when. Skipping recommended vaccinations can make you vulnerable to serious illness, especially as respiratory viruses like flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 begin to circulate more widely. The good news is you don't have to figure it out alone. Your local pharmacist is a trusted, accessible resource who can help you understand your options and create a personalized plan to protect your health.

### What you need to know about respiratory viruses

As temperatures drop, circulation of respiratory illnesses like the flu, RSV, and pneumonia (pneumococcal) tend to rise. These viruses aren't just seasonal nuisances; they can be serious for older adults, especially those living with chronic conditions. According to the CDC, during the 2023-24 flu season there were more than 330,000 adults aged 50 and older who were hospitalized, and nearly 25,000 lost their lives due to flu-related complications. RSV also remains a major concern, sending an estimated 110,000 to 180,000 older adults ages 50 and older to the hospital each year. And while COVID-19 circulates year-round, its impact intensifies for those with underlying health issues

### Which vaccines should be considered this season?

Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to protect yourself from serious respiratory illnesses. To stay protected, several vaccines may be recommended to reduce your risk:

<u>Flu</u>: Recommended annually for everyone six months and older, ideally by the end of October.

**RSV**: Advised for adults 75+, and for those 50-74 with certain chronic conditions.

**COVID-19**: Updated vaccines are approved for adults 65+, and certain individuals at higher risk.

**Pneumococcal**: Recommended for adults 50+, and others with specific health risks.

It's also important to stay current on routine vaccines. For adults over 50, that includes the shingles vaccine, which requires two doses spaced a few months apart. Shingles can strike without warning and lead to serious complications, but the vaccine offers strong protection. If you haven't gotten yours yet, now is a great time to talk to your pharmacist. The CDC notes that it's safe to receive more than one vaccination at the same time. That means you can save time while staying up to date with your recommended vaccines.





### **Senior Classifieds**



FOR SALE

Services

**GIVE AWAY** 

LOOKING FOR

If you are looking for an item to purchase, or sell, place your ad here. If you are looking for some help with a project or yard work, maintenance and repairs, look here first! Contact Kim P. in the office to place an ad. All ads must be submitted before the 20th of each month to be in the next newsletter.

WINTERIZATION, Home Maintenance and Handyman Services, Drain clean outs, repairs, etc: Call Will 307-267-7634

Yard work and painting—call Jim 307-377-3725

Rides, Food pick-up, errands, Call or text David 307-267-4445

3 Wheel bicycle with basket for sale, \$200.00 Kim P in the office for info









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# FRIDAY FEATURE MOVIE SCHEDULE October 3rd-MULTIPLICTY

Burdened with too much to do and too little time, *Doug Kinney resorts to cloning himself* to meet both his career and family obligations.

# October 10th—FRANKENSTEIN The Original—in black in white!!!!

### October 17th- THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Come join The Addams Family for the most hilarious scarefest of this season or any other! When long-lost Uncle Fester (Christopher Lloyd) reappears after twenty-five years in the Bermuda Triangle, Gomez (Raul Julia) and Morticia (Anjelica Huston) plan a celebration to wake the dead. But Wednesday (Christina Ricci) barely has time to warm up her electric chair before Thing points out Fester's uncommonly "normal" behavior. Could this Fester be a fake, part of an evil scheme to raid the Addams fortune?

### October 24th – <u>BEETLEJUICE</u>

This 1988 campy, surreal, horror-comedy tells the story of a couple who turn to a spirit to drive away new owners.

### October 31st- HOCUS POCUS

Conjured up by some unsuspecting pranksters, a tricky trio of 300-year-old witches set out to cast a spell on the town to reclaim their youth. But first, they must get their act together and outwit three kids and a talking cat.

# Seniors Giving to Seniors

You may have noticed the Christmas Tree that magically appeared in the lobby this August. Well, we aren't trying to hurry the season, we are just starting our giving mission a little early. Many of us are very privileged and blessed. That is not the case for some of our less fortunate members who may be struggling to pay unexpected expenses. Some need an appliance replacement, or require some type of repair, or just need a new coat or pair of shoes to make it through the winter. The angels are on the tree! Thank you to the Mills Senior Center members (Bea)who crocheted the angels for the Angel Giving Tree.

We have set the tree up for our members (and community) to extend a helping hand, as you are able. Cards on the tree will contain a suggestion for a gift card that can help an anonymous member with a desperate need.

We are currently only accepting gift cards for distribution to applicants

### THANK YOU, DONORS & SUPPORTERS!





United Way of Natrona County





### New news for Seniors

Recent Medicare news highlights a new CMS demonstration model to be tested in six states starting in 2026, a new Medicare Part D base beneficiary premium of \$38.99 for 2026, continued growth in Medicare Advantage enrollment (over half of beneficiaries in 2025), and new quality ratings for hospitals like Mayo Clinic. Also in the news are legal penalties, such as a \$290 million fine for CVS Caremark in a Medicare fraud case, and recent announcements from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).









DANIELS FUND





# **ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS 60 AND OLDER\***

Key: AR=Activity Room | CNF=Conference Room | DR-Dining Room | DF=Dance Floor

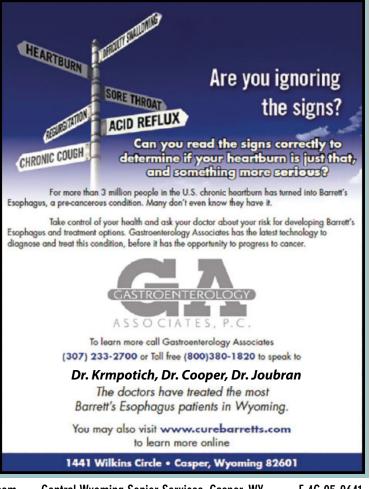
Activity	Day(s)	Time(s)	
Senior Food Distribution	Tuesday	10:00AM—1:00PM (DR)	
Afternoon Tai Chi	Tuesday/Thursday	3:00PM—4:00PM (AR)	
Beginner Line Dancing	Tuesday	10:00AM—11:00AM (DF)	
Bingo! (\$0.50/card)	Thursday	12:30PM—2:00PM (CNF)	
Mills Senior Food Distribution	Thursday	11-12:30 Mills Center	
Bridge	Wednesday/Friday	12:00PM&12:30PM—4PM (DR/CNF)	
Canasta	Friday	12:00PM—4:00PM (DR)	
Chair Exercise	Mon/Wed/Fri	9:45AM—11:00AM (DF)	
Chair Yoga	Tues/Thurs	9:15AM—9:45AM (AR)	
Clogging	Monday (Joyce) Thursday (Lori)	10:30AM—11:45AM (AR) 10:30AM—11:30AM (DF)	
Craft Class	Thursday	10:00AM—12:00PM (AR)	
Cribbage	Tuesday	10:00AM—11:30AM (AR)	
Featured Movie Matinee	Friday	1:30PM (Library)	
Good Book Study	Monday	1PM—3PM (AR)	
JACKPOT BINGO! Open to the public. \$0.25/card/game	Wednesday	1:30PM—4:00PM (DR)	
Line Dancing	Tuesday	10:00AM—11:00AM (DF)	
Low Vision Support Group	2nd Monday	10:00AM—12:00PM (CNF)	
Mexican Train Dominoes	Sun/Mon/Thurs	1:00PM—?4PM? (DR)	
Pinochle	Thurs/Fri	12:30PM—4:00PM (DR)	
Poker	Mon/Wed/Fri	1:00PM—4:00PM (DR)	
Sew Crazy Sewing Club	3rd Tuesday	1:00PM—2:30PM (AR)	
VA Caregiver ( <i>Please call)</i>	2nd Tuesday	11:00AM—12:00PM (CNF)	
Wellness Clinic	Tues (Main) Thurs (Sites)	10:00AM—2:00PM(DR) 12P—1P (Sites)	
WY Dementia Care Support	1st/3rd Thursday	10:00AM—11:00AM (CNF)	

# Casper Senior Center Wish list

We would like to enhance our current programs and have more events... However we need a little help to make that happen. If you have any of the items on our wish list, please let Kim P or Rachel know. Thank you for your help!

- 1. Wheelchair accessible van or bus for senior adventures.
- 2. Cargo/box truck to transport food for senior food distribution.
- 3. Storage unit or shed to store senior food distribution supplies
- 4. TV wall mount for 70" TV
- 5. Book cases for Evansville Senior Center
- 6. Adult size inflatable costumes for a future (surprise) event.
- 7. Popcorn and salted butter for Friday Features
- 8. \$10.00 gift cards to local businesses for prizes
- 9. Strong volunteers to help load and unload food for senior food distributions





### You Can't Dance with a Smart Phone

By Dave Barry

Gen Z doesn't dance. This isn't just my opinion. This is a scientific fact based on a rigorous study I have conducted between visits to the bar at a wide variety of wedding receptions. Here's what I've observed: Once the traditional first dance has been dispensed with, the band or DI starts playing music intended to lure people onto the dance floor, usually an up-tempo rocker. For a few moments, the floor is empty. Then one brave pioneer couple will make their way out there. It's almost always an older couple. In fact, often it consists of me and my wife. Soon we're joined on the floor by other older couples. Before long the dance floor is full, and almost everyone on it is either receiving, or will soon be receiving, Social Security benefits. Meanwhile at the young-person tables, Gen Zers will occasionally glance up from their phones and look at us dancers with an expression of wonderment. But it's not an admiring wonderment. It's more like, "I wonder what in the world those old people think they're doing." I'll tell you what we think we're doing: the twist. Or maybe the mashed potato. Or the slop, the Watusi, the frug, the pony, the swim, the hully gully, even possibly the jitterbug. Or, most likely, we're doing some random, mutant, freeform mixture of all these and other dances from the distant past. Call it the Boomer Gyration. We're not all graceful; we don't always look pretty out there. Some of us look ridiculous. But we don't care what we look like: We're having fun. We're having way more fun than the phone brigade. We like to dance because we always danced, as did the generations before us. We grew up going to school dances, sometimes even actual sock hops. Every party we went to was a dance party, usually in somebody's basement or rec room, the music supplied by a low-fi record player, its fat spindle stacked with scratched-up 45-rpm records plopping down one on top of the other. Dancing was the social activity for us. It was the main way girls and boys interacted. You either danced or you stood on the sideline wishing you were dancing. Every guy my age can remember the mixture of hope and terror you felt when you finally worked up the courage to leave the sideline and cross the gym floor—a distance that felt like several miles—and walk up to a group of giggling girls, and ask one of them to dance, knowing that if she said no, he would have no option but to immediately leave the gym and hurl himself in front of a moving bus. But if the girl said yes—she usually said yes, thank God—the two of you would move out onto the floor. And even if you were doing some truly ridiculous dance—even if you were doing the monkey—there was still something romantic about it because it was just you and her. And then maybe, if you were lucky, a slow-dance record would plop down on the spindle, and the two of you would move closer and embrace, maybe a little awkwardly, but still...Was there anything better than that? No, there was not. Which is why my generation still loves to dance. Somehow we failed to pass this love along to succeeding generations. I asked my daughter about this, and she confirmed that Gen Zers don't really dance, at least not as couples. Sometimes, when they hear a song they like, they'll all jump up and down as a big, bouncy, group-dancing mass. Which is fun, I'm sure, but it's not the same as dancing as a couple, which can be fun and intimate and goofy and romantic all at the same time. So here's my message to Gen Z: Next time you're at a wedding reception, pick a partner and join us gyrating boomers on the dance floor. Don't worry about your dancing prowess: You can't possibly look any sillier than we do. And you just might discover that it's actually fun.

It may be so much fun that you'll want to make a video of yourself, for TikTok. Don't, OK? Just dance.