

The Community Page



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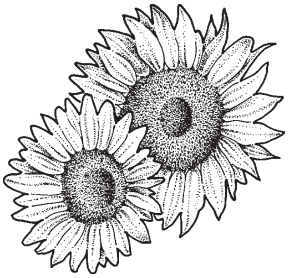
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The Swingin Seniors plays every Tuesday morning at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community. Members of Swingin Seniors band are Burt Baskall (left) of Sharon Springs on bass guitar, Bob Zweygardt of St. Francis on back-up guitar, Gertie Zweygardt of St. Francis on the piano and Carroll Reed of Seibert on lead guitar.

Photos by Jordie Mann/The Goodland Star-News

Come listen, dance and tap your feet on Tuesday mornings

by Jordie Mann

Did you know that you can go to a local spot, listen to a live band play the oldies as well as a polka and dance a jig? You can! Every Tuesday morning for an hour at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community from 10 to 11 a.m.. The "Swingin Seniors" comes to play for anyone willing to listen and dance!

According to the administrator Donna Swager, "The public is always welcome as long as they are willing to dance, or clap or tap their feet!" They come every week and are made up of a group of seniors who live all over the area. The leader of the group is Edith Reed who lives in Seibert, Colo., with her husband Carroll. Reed said she started the band in 1972. She explained that the band travels all over both Colorado and Kansas to put a smile on peoples' faces. They play weddings and summer events as well as regularly play at senior centers in both Burlington and Goodland.

"We play in Burlington at three different places every Friday and we're here in Goodland every Tuesday," said Reed. She went on to explain the band plays at The Legacy, The West Home and Grace Manor on Fridays and Wheatridge Acres in Goodland on Tuesdays. They will also be playing at the prison in Burlington later this month. Every one is welcome; especially if they're willing to get up and dance, said Reed. She goes on to explain "The residents love to get up and dance and we need folks who want to come, listen and dance."

When describing the group of players, Reed explains that when most people retire all they want to do is sit on the couch and rest. She is so thankful that this bunch of people love to play as much as they do and are willing to make the effort to get to the functions and events. This group of people have been together for the last 13 years even though they live between both states. They just meet at the function, set up and begin

playing for anyone who wants to listen.

The band is made up of Carroll Reed who offers lead vocals and lead guitar, Burt Baskall of Sharon Springs following up on the bass guitar, Bob and Gertie Zweygardt of St. Francis with Gertie on the piano and vocals and Bob on the back-up guitar and Edith Reed on the drums when the occasion fits. In the homes she is the lead dancer and encourages people to come in and dance. Edith explained they don't usually use the drums in the homes because it is too loud. She also plays the spoons on occasion! "When we're all together, we have 10 people in the band" Reed said.

When asked what the group charges to play, Edith explains that they are available for donations. They don't usually receive any money from the homes but will accept gas money if offered. Reed is quick to add, "We do it from our hearts because we love the old people. Music brings back so many memories for them".



Edith Reed, lead dance promoter, visits with Anne Ford while dancing to one of the popular hits that "The Swingin Seniors" play every Tuesday at Wheat Ridge Acres Helen McDaniel (Back left) and Vera Beneta look on.



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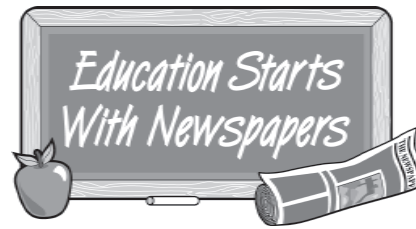


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