

## this issue

- P.1 Casper Mountain's Braille Trail Anniversary
- P.2 Canine Companions / Canine Alert
- P.2 iCanConnect
- P.3 ADA 35th Anniversary
- P.3 Wyoming Independent Living Anniversary
- P.4 Regional Self Advocacy Conference



## Casper Mountain's Braille Trail *Celebrates 50 Years*

Five decades ago the Casper Mountain Lions Club built Wyoming's first trail designed for people with visual impairments. Since then, the Lee McCune Braille Trail on Casper Mountain has provided outdoor experiences connecting people with nature while serving as a lasting symbol of community compassion and innovative thinking.

To celebrate this milestone, Lions Club members invite everyone to join them on Casper Mountain for a free special outdoor event with presentations and Braille Trail guided tours on Saturday, July 19, 4-6:30 p.m. The 50th anniversary celebration will begin at the Casper Mountain Trails Center with a special presentation and speakers 4-4:30. A complimentary shuttle service will assist visitors from the Center to the Braille Trail for guided trail tours 4:30-6:30 highlighting the trail's historical significance and recent improvements. People will experience firsthand how the trail's design makes outdoor recreation accessible to all.

Open seasonally, the Lee McCune Braille Trail offers a short scenic hike with limited public parking off Strube Loop. People attending the July 19 celebration are asked to park at the newly-built Casper Mountain Trail Center (former site of the Nordic Center) on Casper Mountain.

The accessible Braille Trail is delineated with ropes and signage written in Braille and print. More than just a path through the forest, it embodies the community's commitment to ensuring everyone can experience the beauty of Casper Mountain. While designed for those who are blind or visually impaired, the trail is open seasonally to everyone.

Built by the Casper Mountain Lions Club and the field science students of Casper in 1975, the trail stands as a testament to the vision of the late Ed Strube, whose dedication to accessibility and inclusion was instrumental in creating Wyoming's first trail for the blind. Lions members will honor Strube's enduring legacy during the 50th

## LIVE From New York...

### It's Canine Companions!

Canine Companions was referenced in a hilarious, satirical sketch "Service Dogs," on Saturday Night Live (SNL) Episode 19 of their 50<sup>th</sup> season, which aired on May 10, 2025. Walton Goggins, best known for his roles in "White Lotus" and "Fallout," hosted the sketch featuring SNL cast members, Heidi Gardner and Bowen Yang, along with Michael Longfellow and Jane Wickline, who played service dog trainers. Canine actors played Canine Companions service dogs as they sat through their very first bad play – and they weren't shy about letting the actors know their feelings!

In the real world, Canine Companions volunteer puppy raisers, tasked with preparing puppies for a career as service dogs, often take them to the theater. It's a great opportunity to expose them to new environments, large crowds, and a wide range of sights, sounds, and smells.

Canine Companions is a national organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs at no charge to the recipient. Founded in 1975, Canine Companions has provided over 7,700 service dogs to people with disabilities. They have six regional training centers and service people throughout the U.S.

Service dogs are incredible working dogs who help people with disabilities to live more independently. They are trained to complete a variety of tasks – like picking up a dropped cell phone at the park or handing a credit card to the cashier at the grocery store. Some service dogs can even wake up a person from a nightmare caused by post-traumatic stress disorder; others can alert a person who's deaf when the doorbell rings.

To view the SNL sketch and a video of Canine Companions dogs viewing the sketch, visit <https://canine.org/live-from-new-york-its-canine-companions>.

Source: <https://canine.org/>

## CanineAlert

### Assisting Veterans with PTSD



Canine Companions introduced their groundbreaking CanineAlert Device, a patented wearable technology designed to provide essential support. Developed in-house, this innovative technology represents a significant advancement in assisting people with disabilities.



The CanineAlert System monitors the wearer's heart rate, leveraging cutting-edge technology to wirelessly communicate with the dog's collar device with the help of an app. Upon detecting irregularities in the wearer's heart rate, the device triggers a gentle vibration, prompting the service dog to intervene; the service dog is trained to perform a specific task, based on the needs of the wearer, for example to awaken them from a nightmare and aid in their recovery.



CanineAlert is currently in the early rollout stage within the Canine Companions service dog program for veterans with PTSD. The program is expected to be fully active for PTSD clients nationwide by the end of 2025 or early 2026.



Source: <https://canine.org/service-dogs/our-dogs/caninealert/>

## iCanConnect



Wyoming's iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to income eligible people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. This program will distribute communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

Individuals who have combined vision and hearing loss, may be eligible for this program that provides equipment to allow you to use the phone, e-mail, access the internet, or use other communications technology.



Applications are available at  
[www.uwyo.edu/wind/wydeafblind/index.html](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/wydeafblind/index.html).

For more information, contact Terri Wofford:  
email: [twofford@uwyo.edu](mailto:twofford@uwyo.edu)  
phone: 307-766-2932  
WIND TTY: 307-766-2720



**The Americans with Disabilities Act** (ADA) was signed into law 35 years ago on July 26, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush. This historic civil rights law protects the rights of people with disabilities by prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of this law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

Source: <https://adaanniversary.org/>

**The ADA National Network** is a free resource that provides information, guidance, and training on how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to support the mission of the ADA to “assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.”

Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), the network consists of 10 Regional ADA Centers located throughout the United States and an ADA Knowledge Translation Center (ADAKTC).

Each Regional ADA Center focuses on its region’s unique needs. The regional focus is critical to ensuring that ADA national Network services meet the needs of a diversity of populations and stakeholders throughout the country.

To learn more about the ADA National Network visit <https://adata.org/>.

Source: <https://adata.org/national-network>

## Wyoming Independent Living

*Celebrates*

**40 Years of Service and  
the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA**

Visitors are welcome  
at the following locations  
from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm:

WIL is hosting  
open houses  
in July.

**July 8**

Sheridan  
882 Lincoln Drive

Meet staff,  
tour the offices,  
and enjoy BBQ!

**July 10**

Gillette  
405 W Boxelder Road

**July 15**

Laramie  
1050 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

**July 17**

Cheyenne  
1609 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street

**July 29**

Casper  
305 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street

For more  
information  
contact WIL at  
307-266-6956.

## Regional Self Advocacy Conference

*The World Needs Who You Were Meant To Be*  
October 3-5, 2025; Omaha, NE

Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) is a bi-annual conference for people with disabilities that brings together self-advocates with disabilities from around the Midwest to exchange ideas and learn from each other about advocacy.

The conference will begin Friday evening and end early Sunday afternoon. This year's conference will be located at Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown Old Market in Omaha, Nebraska. The registration fee is \$125 and includes conference materials, presentations and activities, evening events, and Saturday lunch and dinner.

Visit the conference website at <https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/education/ce/soar.html> or contact Michelle Jarman, Executive Director at the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, at [mjarman@uwyo.org](mailto:mjarman@uwyo.org) or 307-766-5060 for more information.

Source: <https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/education/ce/soar.html>  
<https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/community-living/index.html>

Scholarship applications for two self-advocates from Wyoming to attend with their support staff will be available soon at <https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/community-living/index/html>.

Presentation proposals may be submitted before June 30, 2025. Visit <https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/education/ce/soar.html> for more information on submission guidelines.



### MISSION STATEMENT

To establish, expand, protect, and enforce the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities through administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies.

## CASPER MOUNTAIN'S BRAILLE TRAIL

Continued from Page 1

anniversary celebration. Speakers on July 19 who will present a short history include Maria Katherman and Lion Bryon Lussier. Katherman, an assistant with field science instructors Ed Strube and Dana Van Burgh, worked with Strube on the trail's planning and design. Lussier, a longtime Casper Mountain Lion's Club member, was involved in the original Braille Trail construction.

The Casper Mountain Lions Club will station its members along the trail to provide information about the trail's history, highlight recent improvements such as new walking bridges, and answer questions about ongoing accessibility initiatives in the area.

Source: <https://k2radio.com/casper-mountains-braille-trail-marks-a-milestone-anniversary/>

### CONTACT US

Protection & Advocacy  
System, Inc.

7344 Stockman Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

307.632.3496 voice or relay  
800.624.7648 clients only  
307.638.0815 fax

[www.wypanda.com](http://www.wypanda.com)