



Martinsburg, WV



32°F

[Extended Forecast](#)
[Find Another Location](#)

Data provided by The Weather Channel ©

[Election Results](#) | [Weather](#) | [Staff Contacts](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Submit News](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Create an Account](#) | [Home](#)
Member Login: Email: Password: [GO](#)Search: Local News Classified EZToUseBigBook Web [GO](#)
[News](#) | [Election Results](#) | [Business](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Living](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [CU Galleries](#)


Seniors go virtual bowling

Nintendo Wii proves popular at Jefferson senior center

By Naomi Smoot / Journal Staff Writer

POSTED: November 19, 2008

[Save](#) | [Print](#) | [Email](#) | [Read comments](#) | [Post a comment](#)

News

[Local News](#)
[Election Results](#)
[Business](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Local Columns](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)
[Journal Junction](#)
[Weather](#)
[Top 10 news stories of 2007](#)
[Submit Your News](#)

News Elsewhere

[W.Va. News](#)
[National News](#)
[International News](#)

Sports

[Local Sports](#)
[Sports Columns](#)
[W.Va. Sports](#)
[National Sports](#)
[Submit Sports](#)

Living

Weekender

Real Estate

Special Sections

[Spring Menu Guide](#)
[All About Health](#)
[Sunday Value Pack](#)
[Tri-State Tourism Guide](#)
[PINK](#)
[Election 2008](#)

Classifieds

[Local Classifieds](#)
[Jobs](#)
[WV Classifieds](#)
[National Classifieds](#)
[Submit Your Classified](#)

Community information

CU Galleries

Online Extras

Contact Us

[Staff Contacts](#)
[How to subscribe](#)
[Terms of Service](#)

Affiliated Sites

RANSON - Joan Andrews stood with her arm extended, her legs positioned just so and her face filled with concentration.

It was the stance of a hardcore bowler, only there was no bowling ball in sight, and she was miles away from the nearest alley. Andrews, 79, was enjoying the game just the same.

She stood several yards away from a large television set at the Jefferson County Senior Center on Tuesday. In her hand, she held a small white Nintendo Wii controller where a bowling ball normally would have been.

Andrews pulled her arm back, then forward, just like she had in her earlier years when she had gone bowling at the lanes. She and her friends watched the screen, where a bowling ball glided toward a set of pins.

"Ahhh," she said. "That's a bad shot."

She tried again, and the pins came tumbling down, securing a spare for Andrews and her teammate.

"That's what I meant to do," she said.

Andrews had a record to maintain after all, having bowled the highest Wii score thus far among the seniors who visit the center. The record now stands near 168 for a game, she said.

But others who took a turn at the interactive video game system - which is wildly popular among teens and young adults - were less experienced with the device.

Anna Rose Anderson, 83, had never played with a Wii before Tuesday morning, she said. And until recently, she added, when she heard her great grandchildren talk about the game system, she thought they meant that they had to use the restroom.

"I have to keep up with the great grandkids. They play Wii," the former English teacher said.

Within a matter of minutes she had scored a strike.

"I don't believe it!" her teammate Pat Thompson cheered as the pins fell over.

For a moment, as the four women stood in front of the television and shouted in delight, it sounded almost like a real bowling alley.

"We have a ball," Thompson, 67, said a few moments later. "You know when we do good because we scream."

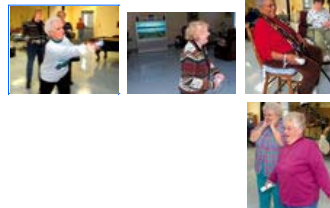
Thompson said she, Andrews and fellow Wii bowler Jane Lees, 71, have been playing the game regularly at the Senior Center for about a year now. She said that when they started, the trio didn't know one another very well. Now, they've become good friends.

Still, she said she hasn't shared her newfound gaming skills with her family. When asked if she had told her own grandchildren that she played, she said, "Oh, they don't even know."

"My 10-year-old would beat me," Thompson said after a bit more thought.

Andrews hasn't played with her great-grandchildren either, although she said she doubts they would be surprised if they found out how much she enjoys the game.

Article Photos



Joan Andrews, 79, shows good form Tuesday when bowling on the Wii. The frequent bowler enjoys playing Nintendo's interactive game in the Jefferson County Senior Center in Ranson. (Journal photo by Martin B. Cherry)



Want to get more savings than you put into the piggy?

CLICK HERE

Mini Football



- [The Inter Mountain Graffiti](#)
- [WV Web](#)
- [EZ To Use Big Book](#)
- [The Shepherdstown Chronicle](#)
- [Seven Springs Mountain Resort](#)
- [Seven Springs Resort Realty](#)

Blogs



"They know I like bowling," she said.

And the ladies said the game system is a nice alternative to lugging around a bowling ball, which many said they have not done in years.

"It's so much more fun, and easier than regular bowling," Lees said.

The center's activities director, Chasidy Cosel, said the center has had the game system for about a year, but that interest has picked up in it since this summer.

"It's something easy, and it keeps them moving," she said.

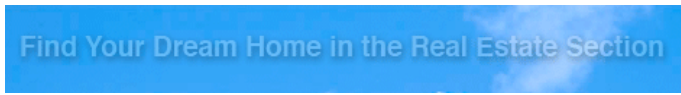
Cosel said she plans to start holding Wii tournaments at the center beginning next month.

Anderson might be on the list of contenders who sign up.

"When are you doing this again?" she asked. "This is fun."

- Staff writer Naomi Smoot can be reached at (304) 725-6581 or nsmoot@journal-news.net

[Subscribe to Journal News](#)



Member Comments

View Comments: | **1-3** | [Post a comment](#)

notawvgirl

11-19-08 8:57 AM [»Report Abuse](#) This is so great! Seniors need the exercise to stay mobile & the Wii is a great alternative to field trips and less stress on their bodies. Enjoy as much as my family has!

BeamerGirl

11-19-08 7:49 AM [»Report Abuse](#) When your elderly loved one is depressed due to less mobility and a decreased social circle, finding excitement and activity through something like Wii is GREAT!

WVDragonlady

11-19-08 5:54 AM [»Report Abuse](#) I'm sorry, but with elders having to cut back on their meds and food banks desperate for supplies, wasting money on a Wii is just plain dumb.

You must first login before you can comment.

Existing Member Login

Not a Member? [Create a Member Account](#)

***Your email address:**

***Password:** [Forgot Password?](#)

Remember my email address.

[1 flat stomach rule: obey](#)

I cut out 2 lbs of stomach fat per week by obeying this 1 old rule.

[BowlersParadise.com](#)

Official Online Retailer of the PBA LOW PRICE Guarantee. Since 1990.

- [News](#)
- [Election Results](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [CU Galleries](#)

The Journal
 207 W. King Street,
 P.O. Box 807
 Martinsburg, WV 25402-0807
 304-263-8931

© 2008 . All rights reserved. | [Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#)