

2021 Awards of Excellence Nominees

As nominated by the Chamber's Board of Directors



Community Champion Award

This award honors a Chamber member individual, business or organization that has made a significant impact in Sheridan County. Understanding that a community thrives when those in it invest and contribute to its success, the nominees demonstrate vision, ambition and drive to address needs in the community and strive for the betterment of the local area.

Kristen Czaban:

Kristen Czaban serves as the publisher of The Sheridan Press. At a time when both printed materials and media in general are often considered outdated or sensational, Kristen has been innovative in keeping The Sheridan Press relevant, truthful and a primary source of community news. Her commitment to the sustainability of The Sheridan Press is commendable. She genuinely cares for this community and her team, and looks for ways to increase relevancy, reach and impact and has pushed inclusion, positivity and community during a time that many consider divisive, negative and insular. Kristen has pushed The Sheridan Press to not only participate in more community events but also create and sponsor community activities that promote positive recognition of the talent in our community such as the FAB Women's Conference and 20 Under 40. Kristen also started the Wyoming Mystix Fastpitch Softball program for Sheridan and Johnson counties. The program teaches young women the sport of softball as well as promoting teamwork, confidence and a strong work ethic. She also serves on the board of the Center for A Vital Community at Sheridan College and most recently facilitated one of the CVC's study circles.

John Dick:

John has played multiple roles in his business and volunteer endeavors that model his commitment to economic development and innovation in business development. He sits on multiple nonprofit boards including the Center for A Vital Community at Sheridan College, SAGE Community Arts and the Sheridan Public Arts Council. He continually supports and encourages those around him to succeed in their business ventures whether they are a personal friend or business-related contact. He applies creativity and thoughtful business practices in all he does. John was the first director of the Wyoming Technology Business Center (now Impact 307) and built credibility and trust to get this entity off the ground in Sheridan. He then transitioned into commercial lending where he goes above and beyond to support businesses in their growth and success. John not only is a proponent for the arts community, but also an educator in showing the connection and impact that the arts have on our local economy.

Legacy Pregnancy Center:

Legacy is a faith-based, non-profit organization that remains fully sustained year after year without government assistance. The team at Legacy exists to embrace, encourage and empower women and men facing unplanned pregnancies. They offer evidence-based education to help their clients make informed decisions about their pregnancy. All of Legacy's services are free and assist individuals and families who may otherwise lack support. Services include pregnancy testing, STD testing, ultrasounds and Earn While You Learn programs for individuals and families. They also assist young women in finding scholarships and adoptive services. From its humble beginnings on Thurmond Street in 2008, Legacy has grown to a beautiful and thriving location on Coffeen Avenue, after improvements and an addition that broke ground in 2012. Legacy has been a shining example and inspiration to other pregnancy centers in the region and has helped mentor other leaders and organizations to improve their services, offerings and culture.

Provision Fund:

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Above all else, the Provision Fund has created a community-wide discussion on philanthropy and what we can do as community members to positively impact our future in Sheridan County. The Provision Fund encourages its "stewards" to distribute the funds across multiple organizations that focus their initiatives of Elderly and Senior Care Services, Early Childhood Education and Parks and Recreation. The The Fund believes a culture of giving is vital to every healthy community, and with its equal-giving model, Provision enables everyone to experience the benefits of generosity and strategically solve local issues in real time. Everything the Fund supports will have immediate local impact across our whole community and will also create a foundation for lasting benefits for ourselves, our families and our region that will be felt long into the future. Projects and organizations who have received funds include CHAPS, Joey's Flyfishing Foundation, Sheridan County Soccer Association, WyldFlower Learning Community Inc., Sheridan Community Land Trust, Sheridan Recreation District, Tongue River Valley Community Center and Wyo Kidz Childcare.

Sheridan County YMCA:

The Sheridan County YMCA has bounced back from a difficult 2020 to provide a stable, reliable place for the community to gather for healthy, family-oriented activities such as their world class swimming facility, youth summer camps and community wellness challenges. Anyone can participate in these activities without a membership. The YMCA provides family nights, with extra safety precautions, and other family activities to encourage healthy interactions and fun at a time that is challenging for everyone. Many parents of young children depend on events like these to offer children a care-free, playful setting that is appropriate for the whole family. Despite current conditions, the YMCA continues to seek funding to fulfill their vision and expansion and to provide a location and services accessible to the entire community, regardless of financial challenges. This expansion focuses on providing expanded child and after school care for children and youth, extended health and well being offerings in an easily accessible area, additional offerings for their arts and Big Horn programming and infrastructure improvements for Camp Roberts.

Strength of Sheridan Award

This award honors a Chamber member business or organization that has a distinguished tenure of 20 or more years in the community. This business or organization demonstrates consistent service, continually invests in the community, meets challenges with innovative solutions and demonstrates sustained quality performance.

Centennial Theatre:

It's been a rough time for movie theaters, but Centennial Theatre has weathered the pandemic storm. Centennial Theatre is a family corporation serving Sheridan for two generations since 1955. Their mission has always been to furnish the best in Motion Picture entertainment to the residents of Sheridan. They began in the Orpheum Theatre next to the Elks Lodge in 1955. In 1960, they purchased the Skyline Drive In, which remained in business until 2004, and took over operations of the WYO Theater from Fox-Intermountain. With that lease, they had to close the Orpheum. In 1976, they remodeled the old Safeway store on Alger to be the Centennial Twin Theatre, and then in 1982, closed their operation at the WYO Theater. In 1989 they added two screens, 1994 another, and again added a screen in 2005 along with converting the other theaters to stadium seating. They also converted their 35mm film projectors to digital projection. Recently, Centennial introduced the "Orpheum Luxury Experience" which includes full electric recliners, extended leg room, reserved seating and immersive sound and picture. Centennial Theatre is constantly trying to show the newest and most popular films while still remaining one of the best values to watch and enjoy movies.

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Cowboy State Bank:

Cowboy State Bank is nearing its 100th anniversary in 2022 and is the oldest chartered bank in Sheridan County. Ranchester State Bank was founded in 1912 by Clyde C. Trader from Mountain Park, Colorado, who believed that Ranchester would be a good place to start a small country bank. The doors opened on May 22, 1912, in a small room in front of the Nevees building in Ranchester. From there, the bank continued to prosper and grow over the years. A new bank building was constructed in Ranchester in 1977-78. The bank was sold to First National Bankshares of Sheridan in 1985 and sold again in 1989. A group of investors then purchased the bank in April 2000 and changed the name to Cowboy State Bank in 2001. That same year, the bank opened its branch in Sheridan. Many of Cowboy State Bank's 18 employees have been there for over 10 years. They pride themselves in being a community bank that operates with honesty and integrity. They sponsor and support many community events and organizations including the Chamber, Sheridan WYO Rodeo, Sheridan College Rodeo, Rotary, Tongue River Valley Community Center, school district events, the Library, Boy Scouts, 4-H Livestock Auction and the Keystone Awards and are a food drop-off location for The Community Cupboard. They also offer free document shredding for their customers. In a day and age when technology is taking over, they strive to maintain a small-town culture where they know their customers by name. They provide a friendly atmosphere while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

D.A. Davidson & Co.:

D.A. Davidson & Co. has been in Sheridan since 1998 and has consistently invested time and resources back into this community. D.A. Davidson provides an education program that prepares youth to compete and thrive in this economy and to promote financial literacy. They assist youth and adults in achieving life-long financial self-sufficiency and also support public and private entities whose mission is to enrich and support this community. Their goals are to expand the overall economics, the quality of life and create and maintain meaningful employment opportunities for this community. They also value and support institutions that enrich the lives of this community through the presentation of art that connects the community in positive ways. D.A. Davidson has long been committed to actively improving the world. The principles of generosity, caring and providing opportunities for others are ingrained in their company culture and the Sheridan branch supports the WYO Theater, Sheridan County 4-H, Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation, The Food Group and the Chamber.

Morton Buildings:

Morton Buildings first started working in the Sheridan area in the early 1970's, and in the early 1990's, established an office in Sheridan while helping to build the Polo Ranch. Morton Buildings is currently building a new facility in Sheridan to help provide more services to the Sheridan area. Morton provides a wide range of buildings for a variety of uses: Residential, equestrian, commercial, municipal and churches. With the large influx of people moving into the Sheridan area, Morton Buildings has been helping people develop their properties. Morton provides a great final product, and they employ a number of people in construction, sales, manufacturing and corporate administration. They also hire a vast array of sub-contractors from the local area and provide work for local electricians, project managers and concrete and garage door companies. Over the last year with the increase in building material pricing, Morton has tried to shield their customer base from the full impact of the significant price hikes. Morton continues to support the local community by sponsoring local events, fundraisers and non-profit organizations such as Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue, CHAPS, Antelope Butte, Sheridan County Rodeo and the Big Horn Homebuilders Association's Home and Garden Show.

Tom Balding Bits & Spurs:

The staff at Tom Balding Bits & Spurs consistently delivers exceptional customer service and innovation. They have shown positive growth, practice exemplary business conduct and strive to create a positive working environment for their staff. Tom Balding Bits & Spurs gives a percentage of revenue each year to the nonprofits in our community. The staff is able to participate in selecting these non-profit organizations the business is supporting. Tom Balding Bits & Spurs

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has been serving the Sheridan community since 1984. They manufacture bits, spurs and jewelry, and owner and founder Tom Balding is passionate about creating the very highest quality bits and spurs while also providing a great place for employees to work. Over the years, the business has expanded through the internet, social media and word of mouth, and now Tom Balding Bits and Spurs serves markets worldwide. In the industry, they are considered to be the leading edge of design, manufacturing and quality, all produced entirely in Sheridan, Wyoming. Tom Balding employs half a dozen dedicated employees and enjoys giving back to the community through fundraising and charity events.

Business Person of the Year Award

This award honors a Chamber member business person who shows outstanding business acumen and strong leadership in business and community efforts. This person is a champion for economic development, strives to exceed customer expectations, delivers industry leading standards of service and quality and exhibits innovation in business development.

Brandy Campbell (Cherry Creek Mortgage):

Brandy Campbell opened the Cherry Creek Mortgage office in Sheridan in 2020 and has seen great success. Formerly a mortgage loan officer at First Federal Bank & Trust, Brandy's experience in the mortgage industry allows her to put customers' needs first and provide the best service possible.

Brandy has been a consummate volunteer in our community for decades. She has served on the Chamber Ambassadors' Committee, is a member of Sheridan Rotary Club, donates time to Big Horn High School Alumni activities, as well as Realtor fundraisers, the Kalif Shrine and more. She also serves as a voting judge and is a member of the Sheridan WYO Rodeo board, coordinating the Boot Kick Off with the Chamber Ambassadors and the Sheridan WYO Rodeo Parade. Brandy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Wyoming.

J.T. & Elizabeth Craft (Ebia Hearing & Sound):

J.T. and Elizabeth Craft are passionate about hearing healthcare services. They've poured their heart and soul into making sure their business, Ebia Hearing & Sound, LLC, provides compassionate, cutting-edge hearing and sound technology – including hearing evaluation, hearing aid service/repair and custom earmolds. Many lives have been improved due to the services J.T. and Elizabeth provide. Ebia Hearing was founded in Sheridan in 1990 by Elizabeth's parents, Walter and Debbie. Elizabeth and J.T. joined the business in 2011 and 2013, respectively. In 2019, Ebia Hearing Instruments was rebranded to Ebia Hearing & Sound, to encompass the new sound consultation services now being offered. J.T. and Elizabeth continue to grow the business and recently expanded to a new location at 1273 Coffeen Avenue. The couple also give back to the community by sharing their time, money and musical talents at local events, religious services and fundraisers.

Lisa Stutzman (Active Balance Physical Therapy):

Lisa Stutzman started Active Balance Physical Therapy six years ago in Dayton, where she partnered with the Tongue River Valley Community Center to provide a greatly needed service to the community. Her location in Dayton helps the Sheridan County economy and gives individuals in the Tongue River Valley the ability to get physical therapy services close to home. Over the last several years Lisa has grown her business, and this year she has expanded by purchasing a building in Dayton to renovate to provide additional services to the community. Lisa is creating jobs in the community, adding a receptionist and looking to hire another physical therapist. With 25 years of experience, Lisa provides a hands-on service that takes a big picture approach on how to get patients back to their normal routines. She provides one-on-one care, utilizing manual therapy with skilled routine techniques. Excellent customer service and a vast knowledge base have been the building blocks of her business success. Lisa and her business participate in local events and fundraisers

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and are continually supporting the local community. She volunteers her time to help educate by participating in Community Talks and lends her time and skill set at local schools.

Niki Warnke (Roosters):

Relocating is hard for a business, but Niki Warnke, owner of Roosters, aced it this year. Making its first appearance on Main Street, Roosters officially moved in early June 2021 into the old Sheridan Stationery Books and Gallery building at 206 N. Main St. Originally owned by Michelle Halseide and purchased by Niki in 2015, Roosters has served the Sheridan community for more than 20 years. A true example of being authentic and selling what matters, Niki provides a great example of how to merchandise, create customer loyalty and provide a unique shopping experience. In the new location, Niki hopes to add to the store's customer base, become a part of a rich history in downtown Sheridan and enjoy the fun parts of retail, such as 3rd Thursday and the annual Christmas Stroll celebrations. Niki also has plans to grow the business digitally with a new website.

Joe Wright (Kennon):

CEO at Kennon, Joe Wright oversees the company's operations and is responsible for its culture and financial performance. He has been an integral part of establishing a safe, productive and communicative atmosphere at Kennon. A strong believer in Open Book Management, Joe values a transparent culture within the organization. He is an industrial engineer by training, however, he has also held several management positions in both in large and small businesses. Joe obtained his Professional Engineering license in 2008 and joined the Kennon team in 2010 after a 13-year career with UPS. After working as an engineer and executive vice president, Joe was named Kennon's Chief Executive Officer in 2015. Joe has been incredibly involved in the execution of the (NextGen) New West Manufacturing group and has positively impacted the network of manufacturers in Sheridan and Johnson County. He played a significant role in the relationship with the Wyoming Business Council and SEEDA, resulting in a new state-of-the-art facility for Kennon in the High-Tech Business Park. Joe serves on the Sheridan Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, is a co-chair of the New West Manufacturing Partnership and is active in the local Rotary Club. He is also a member of the Vistage CEO Network and currently enrolled in Stanford University's Executive Leadership Program.

Business of the Year Award

This award honors a Chamber member business that positively impacts the economic health of the Sheridan area through exceptional business practices, customer service and innovation. This business shows steady growth and consistent strong performance, excels in community relations, practices exemplary business conduct, responds positively to adversity and shows proven business achievement.

Chase Brothers, LLC:

Chase Brothers, LLC, opened their doors in 2010. They have steadily grown over the past decade, but since 2020 have expanded to add five new team members, bringing their total to eight. Chase Brothers specializes in ranch and agricultural properties because it's what they love, and it shows. They also have a high level of knowledge, expertise and professionalism which is essential in dealing with multimillion dollar transactions. Chase Brothers and its owners, John and Galen Chase, have built a great reputation in our community and in the real estate sector. They stay connected to the people and businesses they assist, building meaningful relationships with their clients in what are often very emotional decisions. With a focus on youth and ag, they are members, board members or sponsors of several organizations including the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, Wyoming Farm

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Bureau, Big Horn Equestrian Center, Goose Creek Polo Cup, 4-H livestock auctions, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Volunteers of America, Sheridan Ice and the Wyoming L.E.A.D program.

Gateway Mortgage:

Gateway Mortgage has made a great impact in the Sheridan community in a short time since they opened their doors in 2021. In addition to the seven staff members in Sheridan, Gateway has opened offices in Buffalo and Casper. The Gateway management and staff have intentionally made positive impacts to the community. Gateway has made contributions to the community through sponsored pumpkin patch visits for kids, a booth at 3rd Thursdays and weekly donut delivery to businesses across the community. In a town filled with existing mortgage companies, the employees of Gateway have quickly made an impact with the real estate and title companies, as well as deep relationships with customers throughout the community and the state. They prioritize their customers' needs and go above and beyond to provide excellent support and attention to the mortgage lending needs of the community. The services offered at Gateway are competitive and include special rates and products for veterans. The Gateway team exemplifies quality service and positive energy and has created a friendly, can-do atmosphere within the business.

Greensky Commercial Cleaning:

Established in 2017, Greensky Commercial Cleaning is a locally owned and operated business, and its owners have been members of the Sheridan community for more than 30 years. Greensky Commercial Cleaning has stepped in to fill a need in the community by providing high quality office, workplace and restaurant cleaning services in Sheridan and the surrounding area. The staff at Greensky have more than eight years of professional cleaning experience and take pride in what they do -- quality work that is affordable, consistent and reliable. According to their clients, they are friendly, professional and do a great job keeping businesses clean. Greensky is responsive in meeting customers' needs and have gone above and beyond to promote employee safety during the pandemic. Greensky is providing great customer service in an industry that is more important now than ever before – and they take that responsibility seriously. In 2020, Greensky expanded and opened a new office location on North Main Street in Sheridan.

L&H Industrial:

L&H Industrial is a leader in the manufacturing industry with locations in several communities across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Chile. Their Sheridan facility offers two unique processes not offered in any of their other locations - cylinder repair and chroming and induction hardening. L&H only performs these processes in the Sheridan branch which make the Sheridan facility an essential portion of their overall business. The custom hydraulic cylinder and rod repair market is very important to businesses that rely on equipment to produce their product and a reliable source for these services is crucial to the continued success of many businesses. The 33,000 square-foot facility in Sheridan supplies a niche market that is crucial to the ability of heavy construction, mining, road construction and development work to be successful and on time. Without the chroming facility, many employers within the area would have significant delays to their business. L&H provides services that many local employers need in order to run their business and keep people employed. The induction hardening process is also a key service that businesses rely on to keep their heavy equipment fleets operating. L&H is dedicated to the local community and participates in and donates to local events such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Manufacturing Day, Habitat for Humanity, Sheridan High School graduation and the Sheridan Youth Livestock sale.

Midas Tire & Auto:

Matt Lube and the Midas team are very dedicated to the Sheridan County community. Recently they expanded their team to be able to work on almost any vehicle brand and type, including delivery trucks, mid-sized motorhomes and sprinter vans. Their team takes great pride in being a one-stop shop for vehicles and customers, focusing on what the

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customer needs, not what they can sell them. Because they are able to schedule most any sized job within one to two days' notice, dealerships often will refer customers to Midas when they don't have an immediate opening. The Midas team remained solid through the ongoing pandemic and was able to leverage their Essential Worker status to remain open and serve customers, investing in sanitizing spray equipment for the showroom and vehicles. Proudly, they did not lay anyone off during the initial months of the pandemic and took the opportunity during those slower months to give back to the community by providing a delivery service for food and other necessary items for The Hub on Smith, grocery store customers and high-risk patients. Midas also has expanded their hours of operation to better serve visitors and weekend travelers and added a shuttle service and loaner cars to make unplanned vehicle repairs easier for customers.