

# Local historians claim State Historical Society honors

BY CHRISTINA SCHMIDT  
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SHERIDAN — Local Sheridan historians and educators reaped several awards at the recent Wyoming State Historical Society Annual Meeting held in Saratoga Sept. 21-23.

Awards in several categories were given for programs or publications produced during the 2011 calendar year. Awards are given to either individuals or organizations that create exceptional work related to Wyoming history.

"It has to be something that is either new or a different viewpoint of something in Wyoming history," said Judy Musgrave, who recently retired after six years as chairwoman of the awards committee.

Sheridan award winners included Sam Western, Judy Slack, Sharie Prout, Nathan Doerr, Helen Laumann and Leon Washut (shared with Karen Ballek Morse of Colorado Springs, Colo.).

In addition to individual awards, the Sheridan County Historical Society won outstanding chapter for the second year in a row, for work on the booklet "Crazy Horse, Crook and the Battle on Rosebud Creek." The award comes with \$750 that the chapter will put towards publication costs for the booklet. The booklet will accompany the exhibit of the same name

at the Sheridan County Museum, which is the only comprehensive exhibit about the Rosebud Battle.

The Sheridan County Museum won a first place award in the Junior Activities category for their summer program "Young Archeologists Investigate Plains Indian Shelters" which allowed 12 students hands-on experience with archeological concepts.

Musgrave said Sheridan's outstanding showing at the awards ceremony is not unusual.

"Sheridan usually does well," she said. "That's about average, maybe even under average. We do very well in the awards."

"As chairwoman I had to collect all the nominations from around the state and we had over 100 this year," Musgrave explained, about how winners are determined. "I distribute them out to my committee (four statewide) and we review them for two months. Then we get together in Casper and compare our notes."

Nominations of individuals or organizations are submitted throughout the year. Nominees do not have to reside in Wyoming, but must have written about or created a project related to Wyoming history. Categories include programs, activities for children, publications, videos, calendars, websites and more.

## Local Wyoming State Historical Society award winners

### Honorable Mention

Sam Western for the publication "Solace in Numbers: The biography of Edward A. Whitney" and "The History of Whitney Benefits"

### Honorable Mention

Judy Slack for the publication "Images of America: Big Horn City"

### First Place

Nathan Doerr for the Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum newsletter "The Log"

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Nathan Doerr and Helen Laumann for the pamphlet "Twenty Years of Timbermen: The Story of the Tongue \River Tie Flume"

### First Place

Sheridan County Museum for the summer program "Young Archeologists Investigate Plains Indian Shelters", for grades 3-5

### First Place

Sharie Prout, curator at Trails End Museum, for "Hands-on History", for grades 6-8

### First Place

Leon Washut and Karen Ballek Morse for the family history project "The Waszuts of Fibaczka"

### First Place

Sheridan County Historical Society chapter award for the exhibit companion booklet "Crazy Horse, Crook and the Battle on Rosebud Creek"

"We rely on chapters and members to nominate people and the Sheridan County Historical Society is really, really good about monitoring what goes on in the Sheridan area in terms of preserving Wyoming history," said Linda Fabian, executive secretary for WSHS.

"I think there is so much quality work being done out there," she added. "People are writing books, they are publishing oral

histories, they are writing family histories, writing poems that are related to Wyoming history and heritage tourism is a really big deal."

The Wyoming State Historical Society has 21 chapters and about 2,000 members around the state.

The Sheridan County Historical Society is the largest chapter in the state with close to 300 members.