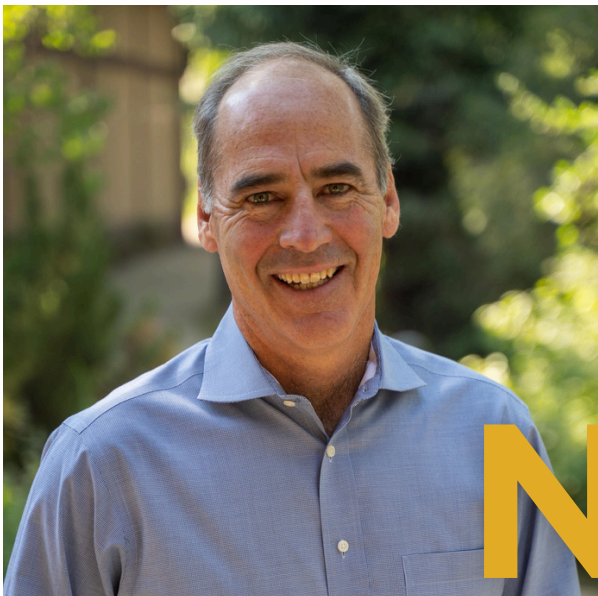




2026

Navigator Awards



About the Navigator Awards

HONORING THE LEADERS WHO MOVE OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD

For nearly three decades, the Steamboat Springs Chamber's Navigator Awards have recognized the individuals and businesses that help shape the future of the Yampa Valley.

These awards honor those who demonstrate exceptional leadership, community involvement, and commitment to economic development, making Routt County a thriving place to live, work, and do business.

2026 Award Categories

- **Business of the Year:** Recognizes a Chamber member business that demonstrates outstanding business practices, community engagement, and a commitment to excellence and growth.
- **Business Leader of the Year:** Honors an individual who exemplifies visionary leadership, inspires others, and positively impacts both their organization and the broader business community.
- **Nonprofit Leader of the Year:** Celebrates an exceptional nonprofit professional whose leadership and dedication advance the mission of their organization and enrich the lives of those they serve.
- **Young Professional of the Year:** This award recognizes a young leader who is making a meaningful impact through professional achievement, civic engagement, and innovation.

Congratulations to all of our 2026 honorees, and thank you for your commitment to the Yampa Valley's bright future.



A man and a woman are standing outdoors in front of a mountain range. The man, on the right, is bald with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. The woman, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a red velvet button-down shirt. They are both smiling. The background shows a valley with green trees and yellow wildflowers, with rugged mountains in the distance under a cloudy sky.

iFurnish

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Since opening their Steamboat Springs showroom in March 2022, iFurnish has been proud to be part of the Yampa Valley community. As a local, family-owned business with locations in Steamboat Springs, Frisco, and Kremmling, owners Tony and Kelly Pestello believe successful businesses have a responsibility to give back. Each year, iFurnish dedicates time and resources to more than 75 organizations, focusing their charitable giving on health and human services, veterans, youth team sports, childhood education, and animal welfare in the communities they serve.

iFurnish offers stylish, affordable furniture and home décor for every budget and lifestyle, serving residents, second homeowners, real estate professionals, builders, developers, and everyone in between. Every customer also has complimentary access to their in-house interior design team, making it easy to create spaces that are both beautiful and functional.

At iFurnish, shopping local means investing in the community. Supporting local businesses helps strengthen the local economy and allows businesses like iFurnish to continue giving back through sponsorships, events, and community partnerships. They're proud to serve the Yampa Valley and look forward to being part of the community for many years to come.





Scott Yeates

BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Inspired by travel, adventure, and sharing a great whiskey with friends, Scott Yeates founded Mythology Distillery in 2018. Eight years later, Mythology has been recognized as one of Colorado's top distilleries multiple times, with its whiskey and gin earning more than 60 national and international awards.

Today, Mythology spirits are poured at more than 500 restaurants and bars across Colorado, sold at retailers statewide, and shipped to customers in 42 states. After relocating the company to Steamboat Springs, Scott's vision has been to create more than a distillery — he's building a place where friends, community, and visitors gather over great cocktails.

He recently expanded that vision with a tasting room in Breckenridge. Away from work, Scott enjoys skiing, mountain biking, camping, traveling, and live music with his wife, Lauren, and their dog, Whiskey. He also serves on the Yampa Valley Housing Authority Board.



A close-up portrait of Tim Wohlgenant, a middle-aged man with thinning grey hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

Tim Wohlgenant

NONPROFIT LEADER OF THE YEAR

Throughout his career, Tim Wohlgenant has helped advance solutions to community challenges by bringing together diverse stakeholders to address shared goals. Since 2020, Tim has served as President and CEO of the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, which works to enhance quality of life in Northwest Colorado through philanthropy, nonprofit support, and community collaboration.

Prior to joining YVCF, Tim served as Colorado State Director and Chief Operating Officer for The Trust for Public Land, helping protect parks, open spaces, and natural areas across the country. Tim's introduction to the creativity and collaborative nature of the Yampa Valley came in the early 2000's when he worked with the Emerald Mountain Partnership to protect Emerald Mountain.

In addition to his work with YVCF, Tim serves on the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Board, the Routt County Economic Development Partnership Board, the Climate Action Plan Collaborative Board, and as a team member of Routt County Search and Rescue.

Tim and his wife, Annie, spend their free time trail running, mountain biking, river rafting, backcountry skiing, and traveling. As often as possible, they reel in their two adult daughters to share in their adventures.



Meg Franges

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Meg Franges serves as the Executive Director of First Impressions of Routt County, where she leads countywide efforts to strengthen early childhood education, support families, and ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Her work brings together local government, businesses, nonprofits, educators, and families to tackle some of the community's biggest challenges, including child care access, workforce development, and kindergarten readiness. She recently helped launch Routt Thrive by 5, a collaborative initiative focused on building long-term solutions for working families.

Outside the office, Meg's favorite role is being mom to Bella and Kai. Whether they're skiing in the winter, camping in the summer, or spending Friday nights at the rodeo, her family keeps her grounded and reminds her why building a family-friendly community matters. She hopes her work helps ensure today's young families can continue calling Routt County home for generations to come.





2026

20
under
40

About 20 Under 40

CELEBRATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN THE YAMPA VALLEY

20 Under 40 recognizes outstanding young professionals who are making a meaningful impact across the Yampa Valley through their leadership, innovation, service, and professional achievements. These emerging leaders represent a wide range of industries and organizations, and share a common commitment to strengthening our community and shaping its future.

New this year, the Steamboat Springs Chamber is thrilled to combine the Navigator Awards and 20 Under 40, presented by Alpine Bank. Open to all community members, 20 Under 40 is now an official Navigator Awards category.

Chosen by a community selection committee, these individuals not only excel in their careers but also give back through volunteerism, civic engagement, mentorship, and community involvement. The Yampa Valley's future depends on passionate young people who are willing to lead, collaborate, and invest in the place they call home. The 20 Under 40 honorees embody these qualities and serve as an inspiration to the next generation of professionals and community leaders.

Congratulations to the 2026 20 Under 40 honorees. Your passion, leadership, and commitment to our community are helping build a stronger and brighter future for the Yampa Valley.



Alice Butler

DISCOVERY LEARNING
CENTER

Alice is the Lead Preschool Teacher at Discovery Learning Center and earned the First Impressions Distinguished Teacher Award in 2025. She is a participant in Steamboat Dance Theatre, winning Dancer of the Year in 2025, The Cycle Effect Mujeres y Pedales group, and she loves her role as a non-profit board member for BookTrails.

You can even catch her instructing log rolling at the Old Town Hot Springs pool from time to time. A 2026 graduate of Leadership Steamboat, Alice takes full advantage of the outdoor activities here and looks forward to any opportunity to dress in costume or wear glitter.



Katie Berning

FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

Katie Berning lives in Hayden with her partner Nikolas and Baja rescue pup, Enzo. Through work at Friends of the Yampa, she aims to increase access to and celebrate the Yampa.

Whether it's planning the Yampa River Festival or engaging campers at our Youth River Camp, Katie hopes to inspire people to be stewards of the river. She carries that passion into her volunteerism with The Cycle Effect, Hayden Parks and Recreation, and as a co-planner for the Ride the Cog event in Hayden. Katie's passion is to help people feel like they belong outdoors and feel inspired to protect it.

Matt Stonehill

**SINGLETRACK
ACCOUNTING, STONEHILL**

Matt Stonehill is a CPA, Certified Financial Planner, and owner of two local accounting firms, SingleTrack Accounting and Stonehill.

In 2024, Matt left his partnership at a regional accounting firm to purchase Steamboat-based SingleTrack Accounting. Since taking ownership, he has rebranded, grown the firm, expanded its services, and launched a second boutique accounting practice, Stonehill.

Matt is equally committed to strengthening the Routt County community through his service as Treasurer of the board of Better Tomorrow. His leadership combines entrepreneurial vision, financial expertise, and a genuine commitment to helping local businesses and nonprofits build a stronger, more resilient future.



Kaylee Tully

**STEAMBOAT SOTHEY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY**

Kaylee Tully is a real estate broker with the Vanatta Group at Steamboat Sotheby's, Steamboat's top-producing small real estate team. Beyond her career, she is passionate about advocating for children in the community as a CASA volunteer, where she has served for four years and was recently recognized by the State of Colorado as Volunteer of the Month.

She choreographed and performed in the annual Dancing With the Steamboat Stars fundraiser benefiting CASA, is a longtime member and choreographer with Steamboat Dance Theatre, and serves as Treasurer of the Sunlight HOA.

A devoted mom of two, Kaylee is committed to being a light in the community and making Steamboat an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.



Pamela Nebel

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ROUTT COUNTY

Pamela Nebel is the Program Coordinator for First Impressions of Routt County, where she works with preschool programs, teachers, and families to keep the county's early childhood system running smoothly. Outside of work, she coaches Mujeres y Pedales, The Cycle Effect's women's mountain biking program, helping riders build skill and confidence on the trail. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Latinx Alliance, advocating for Latinx representation in leadership across Northwest Colorado.

At the heart of it all, Pamela believes in people's capacity to grow — and works to make sure everyone feels valued and empowered to reach their potential.



Cecilia Morter

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CHAMBER

Cecilia serves as Director of Business Development & Programs at the Steamboat Springs Chamber, overseeing all member and community events, plus workforce retention and attraction programs. She oversees membership and helps lead the Chamber Foundation.

Beyond the Chamber, Cecilia is part-owner and treasurer of Steelhead LLC, a Hayden-based steel fabrication business with five full-time employees. Raising two kids in Oak Creek keeps her rooted in the community. She serves as a founding board member of the South Routt Housing Authority, sits on the First Impressions Early Childhood Council, serves the Soroco Parent Teacher Organization, and is an advisor for the UCCS Women in Leadership Program.

Michael Fitz

ROUTT COUNTY

Michael Fitz's role is to implement the County's 2022 Master Plan through zoning and subdivision regulations in the Unified Development Code. He specializes in urban issues and has taken on the role of coordinating with municipalities in aligning and streamlining codes in furtherance of the Master Plan, particularly housing policy. Michael helped write the 2022 County Master Plan and 2024 UDC.

He is a passionate manufactured home advocate and bicycle enthusiast, enjoys record collecting, DIY projects, and volunteering for RCR Bike Match. Michael's vision is to facilitate the viability of new, publicly-owned manufactured home neighborhoods in Routt County.



Keriann Beadnell

STEAMBOAT SKI RESORT

In her professional role, Keriann Beadnell helps produce large-scale public events and partnership activations such as Steamboat's 4th of July Bash, Cowboy Downhill, and the free concert series in Steamboat Square.

She is an active member of the Employee Engagement Committee that helps make the resort a fun and inclusive place for employees and guests. Keriann recently served on the Steamboat Springs Young Professionals Network board for four years, including a term as Vice Chair and then Chair of the committee. Her personal passions include running, hiking, spending time with family, and enjoying everything that the wonderful community has to offer.

Reed Weatherholtz

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Reed Weatherholtz works with a small team to develop, promote, and deliver meaningful programs for middle and high school students throughout Routt County. His mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Reed makes learning fun through exciting activities and memorable field trips. Outside of The Club, Reed coaches with Whiteout Volleyball, where he strives to help athletes grow both on and off the court. He is passionate about supporting youth and is always looking for new opportunities to make a positive impact in the community.



Lauren Alkire

YAMPA VALLEY AUTISM PROGRAM

Living in Steamboat has taught Lauren Alkire the importance of community, and she feels lucky to have so many fulfilling opportunities here — especially ones that allow me to give back to this place she loves so much. Lauren primarily works at Yampa Valley Autism Program as our Work Readiness Program manager and has found a passion working alongside our neurodiverse community.

She helps neurodivergent teens and young adults build vocational skills and connect them with meaningful jobs in our community. Lauren believes everyone deserves the opportunity to contribute, belong, and build a happy life in this special place.

Samuel Hahn

HAHNS PEAK/BEARS EARS DISTRICT OF ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

Alongside two foresters and one forestry technician, Samuel Hahn manages the forest health projects, timber harvesting, and NEPA project planning for the western half of the Routt National Forest. Samuel also leads a formal partnership with the Western Resilience Center that emphasizes pinecone collection and silviculture data collection. This agreement has helped Samuel's team reforest hundreds of acres in recent burn scars with native tree seedlings.

Outside of work, he serves on the South Routt Libraries board, creating inclusive spaces for the community and its visitors, which promote rural literacy and limited social services in Oak Creek and Yampa.



Nia Tyson

NIA'S BABYSITTING

Nia Tyson is the founder of Nia's Babysitting, providing reliable, experienced childcare to families and visitors throughout the Yampa Valley. The company was awarded 2nd Best Women-Owned Business in the 2025 Best of the Boat. Nia partners with the city to offer childcare during City Council meetings, making civic participation more accessible for local parents, and offers discounted pricing to support local families.

Her passion for community runs deep, rooted in her work with CMC's Student Success Center, where she helps fellow students navigate their future endeavors. Her vision is a stronger Steamboat community where every family has access to quality, trustworthy childcare, whenever they need it most.



Emily Osterman

BOOKTRAILS

For the past 15 years, Emily Osterman has served as the founder and executive director of BookTrails, a nonprofit that inspires children to discover the joy of reading and the outdoors through immersive literacy and nature programs.

She is passionate about ensuring every child has access to books, adventure, and a sense of belonging. Outside of work, Emily volunteers as a youth soccer coach, serves on local nonprofit committees, and enjoys rafting, skiing, camping, and traveling with her husband, two sons, and golden retriever. She is grateful to call the Yampa Valley home and is committed to helping the next generation develop a lifelong love of reading, the outdoors, and their community.



Brandon Marr

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES STEAMBOAT

A longtime Steamboat resident, Brandon Marr is passionate about building a stronger, connected community. Through his leadership at Holiday Inn Express Steamboat and previously at Holiday Inn, he championed partnerships supporting nonprofits, community events, and organizations, including the Botanic Park, Chamber events, and Tour de Steamboat. Brandon serves on the Chamber Board and Lodging Committee and, as a Leadership graduate, helped launch the Keep Bears Wild rebrand.

Outside of work, you'll find Brandon fishing the Yampa, biking the Core Trail, or spending time with his wife and daughter at locally owned restaurants, enjoying the community he proudly calls home.



Jacqui Hahn

**STRAWBERRY PARK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jacqui Hahn is dedicated to supporting her students both inside and outside the classroom by creating opportunities for connection, belonging, and service. She hosts a weekly recess club where students gather to connect and build relationships in a welcoming environment.

Through partnerships with Yampatika, Tread of Pioneers, and LiftUp, she brings hands-on lessons about local history and the environment into her classroom while fostering civic responsibility. She helped lead a fourth-grade Ski-a-thon benefiting local families. Passionate about swimming, hiking, and environmental stewardship, Jacqui volunteers annually at WRC's ReTree events and the Girls on the Run 5K.



Stosh Kopczynski

**CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS,
PARKS AND RECREATION**

Stosh Kopczynski is a Parks Foreman for the City of Steamboat Springs Parks & Recreation department, overseeing the care and maintenance of the Howelsen Park Complex and various parks along the Yampa River. With ten years of experience maintaining parks, he has always cared deeply about community and the important part that public spaces play in creating a rich and connected community.

While at work, Stosh can be found inspecting playgrounds, maintaining and repairing irrigation systems, and performing turf cultural practices, all to provide exceptional spaces to recreate in, compete on, and congregate around. In his free time, Stosh enjoys foraging mushrooms with his wife, fly fishing on his favorite rivers and streams, and competing in adult league hockey.



Hannah Erhart

HANNAH THE BIRTH COACH, ACES HIGH WASTE AND RECYCLING

Hannah Erhart is a registered nurse, founder of Hannah the Birth Coach, LLC, and co-owner of Aces High. Through Hannah the Birth Coach, she empowers growing families with evidence-based childbirth education, prenatal coaching, and compassionate support, helping parents approach birth and postpartum with confidence and informed decision-making.

She also serves as the school nurse at Steamboat Montessori. As a business owner, Hannah is committed to strengthening her local community through reliable service and relationship-focused leadership. She is passionate about serving others and creating a lasting, positive impact both personally and professionally.



Alexis Saltrese

THE COMMON BAR

Alexis Saltrese is the general manager, event coordinator, and newly part-owner at The Common Bar. The Common Bar has enabled Alexis to host events that celebrate the community, raise awareness, and support local organizations. She has worked with groups such as Reaching Everyone Preventing Suicide, Queer Futures, Routt County Riders, LiftUp, Bit of Sunshine, Steamboat Dance Theatre, Friends of the Yampa, Yampa Valley Pride, CASA, and Routt County Humane Society.

While she finds joy in the day-to-day bar operations, she loves that her role brings people together in such a special community, which has been truly rewarding.

Cody Mertens

CHRISTY SPORTS

Cody Mertens is the store manager of Christy Sports Central Park, with 15 years of ski industry experience. He serves as a resource and mentor for the “ski bums” who have worked in his shops over the years. Cody’s passion is convincing new generations of shop kids that they have a place in the future of the ski industry.

He also participates in river cleanups, United Way work days, and the SOROCO and STARS ski programs. Cody is a passionate cyclist in all its forms and has helped in the construction of the Bear River Bike Park and plenty of single track around town.



Abbey Foriger

THE FORAGED VOICE

As a vocal professional and business owner of The Foraged Voice studio, the Chair of the Yampa Valley Players, a Board member of Yampa Valley Pride, and the Co-founder of their Rocky Horror Shadow Cast "The Tiny Fools," the SSHS Drama Director, a hospice volunteer, and a Yule Log co-finder, Abbey Foriger is a recognizable member in many facets of the community.

She fervently believes community theater will save the world through learned skills such as empathy, cooperation, adaptation, improvisation, communal joy, and working towards a shared vision. She looks forward to continuing her journey in the arts here in the Valley and contributing to the ethos of "Kindness Floats the Boat."



THANK YOU SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Alpine Bank

SPEAKER SPONSORS:



PLATINUM SPONSORS:



SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

