

**WHITNEY BENEFITS
NEWS RELEASE**

COPY

Sam Scott, **Whitney Benefits Trustee** announces the purchase acquisitions of 19 commercial and residential properties totaling nearly 7 acres in an area located east of Scott-Broadway and in close proximity to East Grinnell Street in Sheridan, Wyoming. Whitney is a private, non-profit educational foundation located in Sheridan, Wyoming. Whitney was created under the Last Will and Testament of Edward A. Whitney, a Sheridan County resident, who passed away in 1917.

Whitney has purchased and started development planning of properties for future recreational and educational resources for the community members of Sheridan. With the recent purchase of the 30,000 square foot RENEW Building, now named the "Whitney Community Vocational Center", Whitney Benefits plans for an "Even Start" preschool program that will be coordinated with the Sheridan County School Districts 1, 2 and 3. Whitney Benefits is working in coordination with the Sheridan Educational Foundation in housing local non-profit community service providers to assist with the maximization of their resources to work in a collaborative manner. Whitney Benefits anticipates that the properties will be developed for future educational programming, recreational programming needs with the Sheridan County YMCA, and possibly a Community Center. **Whitney Benefits Trustee Sam Scott** stated, "Mr. Whitney had a vision for this community and often purchased and developed properties for community and business use in his day. Not unlike then, Whitney Benefits is pleased to be an integral part of Sheridan's business community with the purchase and development of these properties". Whitney Benefits believes that they should invest in the local community economy and believes that real estate assets present an equitable investment opportunity.

Whitney Benefits is also pleased to announce that they have retained the professional community planning services of Johnnie Knapp of TSP to assist in the assessment, analysis and future development of these properties in a collaborative manner for the community. **YMCA Director Jay McGinnis** stated, "Whitney has a long history of doing its good work in the community. We look forward to their thoughts and actions relating to the development of this area".

The Whitney Trustees believe that they can best fulfill Mr. Whitney's intent by developing life-long educational and vocational opportunities and interests so that the residents can continue their contributions to our communities and county.