



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: May 5, 2009

Contact: Sharon Nichols (307) 261-6508

Release Number: 09-22

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/wy>

**Thomas Lavin and Sandra Lavin
Lavin Tile and Stone, Inc.
Region VIII Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business
of the Year 2009**

Casper – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named Thomas Lavin and Sandra Lavin, owners of Lavin Tile and Stone, Inc., the Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year 2009 award. Mr. and Mrs. Lavin went on to win the Region VIII award which covers the states of Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. These awards will be presented to them on June 8, 2009 at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper. Steven Despain, District Director of the Wyoming Small Business Administration, will be presenting these prestigious awards. Thomas Lavin and Sandra Lavin were nominated by Leonard Holler, Regional Director of the Wyoming Small Business Development Center.

This award is given to individuals who own and operate or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business that demonstrates a substantiated history as an established business. Other evaluation criteria includes evidence of success as measured by sales and profits, growth in number of employees, demonstrate potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth, and voluntary efforts to strengthen family-owned businesses within the community.

The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Lavin Tile and Stone, Inc. was founded in 1962 by Tom Lavin's parents, Conrad and Patricia Lavin. In 1976 Tom started working for the company full-time and bought a 25% interest in 1978. Tom learned the trade from his father and Sandy works in the office and is a significant part of the management team. In 1997 and 1998 the Lavins took the NxLevel Entrepreneurial class from the Wyoming Small Business Development Center. They used their business plan, prepared during the class, to finance the buy-out of his father and mother, purchase property and move their business twice. They also purchased systems to recycle their waste water, filter their air/dust particle emissions and virtually eliminated waste by-products from their operations. The company grew from 4 employees in 1998 to 15 full-time employees currently and sometimes has up to 25 employees during peak construction season. Tom and Sandy have seven family members working for the business and have another generation on the way.

For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov/wy.

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