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STEWART NAMED “OUTSTANDING YOUNG EXECUTIVE”
Cross County EDC leader part of publication’s 2009 class of honorees

WYNNE – Aaron Stewart, executive director of the Cross County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp., was recently selected as one of Northeast Arkansas’ “Outstanding Young Executives” by Jonesboro-based *Northeast Arkansas Business Today*.

“NEABT selected 25 people for the OYE Class of 2009 from a large number of nominations submitted from throughout the region,” said Paul Holmes, editor of the bimonthly publication. “One thing that is a hallmark of OYE nominees is that they share the characteristics of a strong work ethic, outstanding reputation and commitment to their professions and their communities.”

Stewart became Cross County’s lead economic development and chamber official in June 2007. Prior to arriving in Northeast Arkansas, Stewart was a business development project manager for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC). He has additional experience at the local level in Clark County. There he was instrumental in helping the county pass its first-ever economic development funding measure in 2007.

“I am honored to be named as one of Northeast Arkansas’ Outstanding Young Executives,” said Stewart. “Looking at this year’s class, I am privileged to share the honor with 24 other very deserving young professionals. I want to thank those who nominated me for such an award and *NEA Business Today* for selecting me for the distinction.”

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Stewart and all of the 2009 OYE class members were recognized in the Jan. 5 – 18, 2009 edition of the Northeast Arkansas business publication. They will all be individually profiled in alphabetical order throughout the year in *NEABT*, with Stewart's profile likely to occur in the fall. Holmes added that this year's class, the fifth in the history of the publication, continues a strong list of honorees.

"OYE nominees pursue a wide range of professions and represent communities from throughout Northeast Arkansas," he said. "NEABT sought nominations of people who display high-caliber and creative leadership and who help drive the growth of the organization or department they lead.

"The Class of 2009 illustrates the wealth and diversity of talent present among the young business and professional leaders of the region," he added. "This year's class includes virtually every field of endeavors. Among the goals of the Outstanding Young Executive recognition program is to identify people under 40 who are the current and emerging leaders of their communities and their professions and to tell the readers of this publication what makes these individuals special."

Through his economic development work at both the local and state levels, Stewart has assisted in the creation of more than 1,100 new jobs in Arkansas, which will provide in excess of \$33 million in new payroll and more than \$690 million in new capital investments.

Stewart, his wife Faith, their son Jackson and daughter Mary Ashton live in Wynne. The family attends the Wynne Baptist Church. He is also a member of the Wynne Rotary Club and Cross County Farm Bureau locally, as well as many state, regional and national economic development organizations.

Northeast Arkansas Business Today is in the midst of its fifth year of publication. It is the creation of Cal-Mor Publishing, a Harpole Phillips Company in Jonesboro. Gary Harpole and Phil Phillips serve as publishers with Holmes as its editor since its inception.