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# Partnership Progress

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

## First act booked for SpringFest 2009



**Nationally acclaimed band with local ties, Thompson Ward Band named as Friday night entertainer for this year's festival.**

"An inspired mix of country, rock, soul and Mississippi roots, mark the fruits of their labor as the duo's [Thompson Ward Band's] new album promises to introduce the world to their unique style of music they've dubbed. PORCH FUNK". Visit them at [www.thompsonward.com](http://www.thompsonward.com) or on MySpace.

Sources: [www.thompsonward.com](http://www.thompsonward.com).

**Check out  
Batesville  
SpringFest  
on MySpace  
& Facebook!**

As always, you can count on the carnival, good eats, Kids Korner, the 5K and more!

## Sponsor Spotlight



Williams Wealth Management is an independent, wealth management practice that has served clients in Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas since 1997. They have a client philosophy based on a successful, fully-documented and passionately deployed service model. One feature of the model, WealthVision, has the capability to create each client a secure, unique and customizable personal website with the ability to update itself with financial information from virtually any source available on the internet in addition to their direct holdings managed by the professionals at Williams Wealth Management. In addition, the client is able to digitally store documents such as wills, photographs, personal papers and virtually any scan-able document for access anywhere in the world via the web.

Having a sister tax practice, Williams, Pitts & Beard, CPAs PLLC, the combination of firms offers clients a single vantage point for tax preparation, complex tax planning, comprehensive financial planning, estate planning and investment management as well as referring to and working with attorneys providing advice and preparation of legal matters.

Williams Wealth Management has historically focused its client development efforts on organic growth from personal referrals of current clients and by leveraging the

client base of the CPA firm. It is the commitment of WWM to provide clients with a uniquely personal and financially beneficial relationship that affords them the confidence that their financial affairs are in good order and responsibly managed.

Danny L. Williams, Wealth Advisor, is the founder of Williams Wealth Management and sole practitioner to Williams, Pitts & Beard, PLLC. He has worked in public accounting since 1969 with the exception of 2 ½ years when he served as CFO for a savings and loan company and national construction company.

W. Lynn Freeman, Certified Financial Planner, served as a Private Chief Financial Officer for two family business operations in Memphis for more than 25 years. He most recently worked for Merrill Lynch where he specialized in corporate retirement plans (401k) and personal wealth management for individuals.

Although the home office is located in Hernando, Williams Wealth Management invites you to stop into their Batesville office located at 695 Shamrock Drive (inside Smith-Phillips Building). For more information about these services, call 662.561.0755 or visit them at [www.williamswealthmgmt.com](http://www.williamswealthmgmt.com).

# From the Director's Chair by Sonny Simmons

No one is exempt from the unprecedented negative economic times we are facing. No time in the history of our nation have we seen such demanding challenges in the way we do business. Yet, Panola County through this period of time has thus far seen only limited negative impact compared to other communities throughout our state. It's true we have lost tax revenues and we have seen our local governments forced to cut budgets, but comparatively speaking, we are not doing that bad.



**Framed Picture Enterprises is one of Panola County's recent industry expansions.**

We have lost only a limited number of jobs, and with the recent expansions of three of our existing industries, we have actually seen a net increase in jobs. That does not mean we don't have to continue to

work harder than ever to limit this impact on our community. In my opinion, this tough challenge will not end anytime soon. It will demand that we all work together to make sure we weather the storm and come out ready to face the opportunities that will follow.

We at the Panola Partnership pledge to you, our readers that we will do everything we can to encourage new investment and help to create new jobs within Panola County. We invite you to contact us at anytime so we can provide you with assistance and the resources you need to be successful in your business.

## Legislative Open House successful thanks to wonderful sponsors

- |                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Agri Packaging & Logistics, Inc.  | Guaranty Bank & Trust Company            | Renasant Bank  |
| Air Evac Lifeteam                 | Heafner Motors, Inc./Hallmark Ford, LLC  | Sardis Chamber of Commerce                                 |
| AT&T                              | Imerys/KT Clay                           | Sardis Community Nursing Home                              |
| Bailey & Womble                   | Insituform Technologies, Inc.            | Smith, Phillips, Mitchell, Scott & Nowak, Attorneys at Law |
| Buchart Horn/Basco Associates     | Kelly Law Firm                           | Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association             |
| Cable One                         | LMT Trucking Co., Inc.                   | Treasurer Loans of Batesville, Inc.                        |
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| First Security Bank               | Panola Paper Co., Inc.                   |  |
| Golden Living Center-Batesville   | The Panolian                             |  |
| Graves Oil Company                | Pointer Insurance Agency, Inc.           |  |

## Monthly After-Hours Business Mixers

Our November mixer was held at Smokin' M Catfish in Sardis on November 18th. We had a great crowd of members, friends and local elected officials join us for some great food and fellowship. Door prizes were offered by First Security Bank, Mona Pittman at Kelly Law Firm and Smokin' M Catfish.

In December, our office held our annual Christmas Open House. Court Street Catering, Tango's BBQ, and Sarahome prepared appetizers, lunch & homemade cheesecakes for our many guests.

February's mixer was hosted by Chili's Bar & Grill as they celebrated their one-year anniversary of the Batesville restaurant. Guests sampled their delicious party platters, mingled with fellow members and took home some great door prizes from Blossoms, Chili's and Tractor Supply.

We're looking forward to our other upcoming mixers for 2009. ACI will showcase their new addition during the March mixer, and Williams Wealth Management invites everyone to come out to their Batesville location for the April mixer.

We encourage ALL our members and friends to join us on the third Tuesday of each month for our After-Hours Business Mixers.

If you are interested in hosting an upcoming mixer or donating a door prize, please contact Gloria Westbrook at 662.563.3126 or by email at [gloriawestbrook@cablone.net](mailto:gloriawestbrook@cablone.net).

**For information about our Sponsor Spotlight, contact Meredith Fleming at [meredithfleming@cablone.net](mailto:meredithfleming@cablone.net), or check our website at [www.panolacounty.com](http://www.panolacounty.com)**

## Existing industry quarterly meeting successful



**Speakers Chandler Russ of MDA & Joe Geddie of NMIDA pose after the meeting with CEO, Sonny Simmons.**

Panola County industry leaders had a chance to speak with state and regional representatives about their concerns with the economy and the current legislative session.

Chandler Russ of Mississippi Development Authority and Joe Geddie of North Mississippi Industrial Development Association were on hand February 11 for our quarterly Existing Industry gathering.

Mr. Russ and Mr. Geddie fielded questions from Johnny Miller of Thermos and Alderwoman Bobbie Jean Ponders concerning recent industry consolidation and closings in the regional area, as well as the rising costs of energy.

Ashanti Hoskins of the WIN Job Center, Dwayne Casey of Northwest Community College, and Mitzi Woods of the Delta Workforce Initiative were on hand to cover topics concerning on-the-job training and funding available to our industries for many aspects of workforce training and development.

The Partnership plans to host these meetings on a quarterly basis. If you have a specific topic that you would like to have covered, please contact our office. We will do our best to address your concerns.



## **Panola Partnership, Inc.**

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**Progress. Pride. Panola.**

The Panola Partnership, Inc. is organized to encourage, foster and stimulate the growth of commerce; to advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of Panola County, Mississippi and its municipalities; to promote, advance and stimulate, civic, business, commercial, industrial, educational and agricultural interests and general welfare in Panola County, Mississippi and its municipalities.

We can assist you with community resources, tourism information, relocation assistance, special events promotion, business referrals, and so much more. We even have a notary public at no charge for our members.

**Call or come by and see us today!**

# New Members and Coming Events

## Welcome to our New Members

**Better Business Bureau of MS**  
P.O. Box 3302  
Ridgeland, MS 39158  
601.856.9357

**Julie Appleton & Rebecca Reed**  
Guaranty Bank & Trust  
470 Highway 6 East  
P.O. Box 1624  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.578.0009

**Gorilla Games**  
684 Highway 6 East, Suite 1  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.267.1072

Sara Dell Ball  
**Sarahome**  
118 Church Street  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.563.3549

**Williams Wealth Management**  
695 Shamrock Drive  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.561.0755

## Individual Members

**Mr. Lexie Cobb**  
**Mr. Bob Kent**

## Coming Events

March 17: Mixer @ ACI 5-7p.m.

April 4: Sardis Springfest (Rain date:  
April 11)

April 5: Panola County Miss  
Hospitality Contest

April 16: Panola Partnership's  
Annual Meeting @ Batesville Civic  
Center

April 21: Mixer @ Williams Wealth  
Management 5-7p.m.

May 15-16: Batesville SpringFest

May 16: SpringFest 5K presented by  
Panola Co. Humane Society