



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Arthur State Bank Exceeds \$500 Million in Assets

Union, SC - Arthur State Bank has grown to \$513 million in total assets. The bank had \$424 million in assets one year ago, which is an increase of 20% this year. After tax income was up 17% over the same time period. "We are very pleased with the growth we have experienced," said President and CEO, J. Carlisle Oxner, III. Mr. Oxner attributed the success "to having experienced people, providing the best products and services available. We are focused on both our customers needs and expanding our market area across the state. We are looking forward to 2006."

Arthur State Bank has about 200 employees and is looking to expand to other market areas. Four additional branches are scheduled to open in Columbia and Lexington by June 2006. "We hope to bring our great tradition of hometown banking to many new areas in South Carolina," stated Mr. Oxner.

Arthur State Bank is a full-service community bank providing various deposit accounts including: free personal checking, business checking, certificate's of deposit, IRA's, health savings accounts and personal saving accounts. Other services include consumer, commercial and mortgage loans along with free online and telephone banking services. The bank also operates a Trust Department that continues to expand its services.

Arthur State Bank is privately owned and headquartered at 100 East Main Street in Union, SC. The bank was founded in 1933 by General Harry Arthur and now operates 17 offices in SC including: Chesnee, Clinton, Columbia, Greenville, Rock Hill, Roebuck, Spartanburg, Union and Woodruff. A Loan Production office was recently opened in Myrtle Beach.

Arthur State Bank is a member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender.

For more information, please visit our website www.arthurstatebank.com or contact Daniel O. Cook, Jr. at 864-466-4504 / dcook@arthurstatebank.com.