

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Southern Independent Bank Breaks Ground For New Andalusia Office.



*Directors, officers and guest present at the SIB Andalusia ground breaking ceremony included: from left: Butch Youmans, Brett Ballard, Norman Hobson, Andalusia Mayor Jerry Andrews, SIB CEO Buddy Wilkes, Chairman of the Board Johnny Jackson, Micah Garner, Wesley Laird, Dr. Bill Tillman, General Contractor Sandy Hammer, John Adams, Charley Cope, Dr. Steve Boothe, Carolyn Graham and Steve Sexton.*

ANDALUSIA – Southern Independent Bank officers, directors and guests gathered on Monday, December 3 to celebrate the independent bank’s first anniversary of service in appropriate fashion: breaking ground on the bank’s new Andalusia Office.

Construction of the traditional designed building will begin immediately, according to Southern Independent Bank Chairman Johnny Jackson. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2008, and will run concurrent with the construction of the bank’s Opp Office at 503 North Main Street. Jackson, along with SIB President and Chief Executive Officer Guy “Buddy” Wilkes and Senior Vice Presidents Micah Garner and Brett

Ballard, said that Hammer, LGC, of Samson had been named general contractor for both the Andalusia and Opp projects. The architect for the projects is PHJ, Montgomery.

“In naming our general contractor, we are especially pleased to know that Hammer LGC will utilize local subcontractors for virtually all aspects of construction,” Wilkes explained. “It was important to each of us, as true community bankers in Andalusia and Opp, to hire local craftsmen whose abilities will be utilized in the construction of these attractive buildings.”

Jackson detailed the architectural plans in noting that the new Andalusia Office will feature four drive-in banking lanes, along with a dedicated drive-up ATM on the opposite end of the facility. The interior will provide spacious and comfortable accommodations for banking transactions along with private offices for loan and administrative personnel. The handicapped-accessible office will also have a Night Depository for easy access of its customers.

Garner, who in his role as Senior Vice President in Andalusia also serves as the bank’s Chief Lending Officer, noted that the bank’s rapid growth reflect “a style of banking that has been welcomed by business owners and families throughout the area.”

“We have accomplished a significant number of things from temporary quarters over our first year,” he explained. “So you can only imagine the enthusiasm we’re enjoying today, knowing that in the coming months we will have an exceptional facility from which to serve our customers. For those who have discovered Southern Independent Bank to be their bank of choice, their experience will only get better.”

Wilkes said that the bank’s customers will be kept apprised of construction progress throughout 2008, “but the building will largely speak for itself as it goes up. We hope our friends and neighbors throughout the community keep an eye on its progress up to completion.”



*Architect's rendering of the new Southern Independent Bank Office, under construction at 1417 Dr. MLK Parkway, Andalusia*