

Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First South Bank Announces New Branch Opening

Washington, North Carolina –

First South Bank is pleased to announce the opening of its new “Biggs Park” branch located at 3000 North Elm Street, Lumberton, North Carolina.

The branch opened for business on November 8th and is the Bank’s second office in Lumberton and Robeson County. The Biggs Park branch is a full service branch that includes an ATM, drive thru window and a commercial night depository.

“The Biggs Park branch is conveniently located, offers a wide variety of financial products and services and has an experienced staff to serve our customers,” said First South Bank President Tom Vann. “This branch is a direct response to the bank’s growing Lumberton and Robeson County markets and the needs of our customers.”

Mike Hardin, First South Bank’s Lumberton City Executive, said the branch would provide a range of consumer banking products and financial services including loans, mortgages, deposit products and business accounts and services. Hardin said he was excited about the new office and the service it will allow the bank to provide to its Lumberton customer base.

“We believe this new office is a display of our total commitment to the city of Lumberton and to Robeson County,” said Hardin, who is also a Senior Vice President of First South Bank. “We hope this new location will allow us to continue to provide the high level of service that our customers have come to expect from First South Bank.”

Ann Chaney will serve as the branch manager of the Biggs Park office. Shelia Humphrey will be the branch’s loan officer and Beck Odum will serve as the retail sales associate of the Biggs Park location. The telephone number to the Biggs Park branch is (910) 608-5031. First South Bank will celebrate the opening of the new office with a Grand Opening Ceremony on November 27.

First South Bank has been serving the citizens of eastern North Carolina since 1902 and offers a variety of financial products and services. The bank operates through its corporate office located in Washington, NC with 20 full-service branch offices located in eastern and southeastern North Carolina. At September 30, 2001, First South Bank had assets of \$541 million.