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## **Magnolia State Bank sets record growth with over \$200 million in assets**

Bay Springs – Magnolia State Bank announced the first quarter of 2008 has so far been its strongest ever performance and growth period, highlighted by record-setting total assets in excess of \$200 million.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Brown, said the new milestone is a reflection of the bank's continuing commitment to the communities in which it operates. "We're very proud of the areas we serve," said Brown. "We know that being involved is a key element to a community's growth and success, and we know that's what drives our success, too."

The bank chartered in 1975 with one location in Bay Springs, currently its main office. Later, it expanded to Heidelberg in Jasper County with a branch and then to Taylorsville in Smith County. The bank opened another location in Laurel in July of 2005 and total assets grew from more than \$154 million to nearly \$162 million by the end of 2006. In 2007 Magnolia State Bank opened a new, but temporary location in Petal with plans to build a permanent facility on the Evelyn Gandy Parkway. Total assets grew again with Petal's addition to more than \$180 million by the end of 2007. And, in early 2008 total assets grew to a record milestone of over \$200 million, reflecting an astounding 33 percent growth in only a few years and a 10 percent increase alone since the beginning of the year.

"When we opened in Laurel and had the kind of success we had there, we knew we were onto something," Brown said. "People want a bank they know and can trust. Here, they can speak personally with their favorite loan officer or transact business with a friendly teller who is likely to remember their name. It's personable banking, the way banking used to be before big banking came into the picture. But, we've always been personable to our customers – they are our friends and neighbors, too!"

A combination of financial strength and outstanding service continues to bring Magnolia State Bank superior marks from bank rating services. The bank's performance continues to draw praise from independent industry analysts such as Bauer Financial, Inc. Magnolia State Bank has earned Bauer's highest five-star rating in every period analyzed by the firm since its charter – earning the coveted EXCEPTIONAL rating and representing the very best in community banking. "We are just pleased to report that 2007 was another excellent year of growth and 2008 looks very promising for us, too." Brown said, "Our total assets reached a new high of over \$200 million and we're excited about that!" The bank's equity capital level - a key measure of financial stability and performance – far exceeds required standards and continues to build.

To demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the community, Magnolia State Bank continues to contribute to various community projects and educational scholarships. And, over the years, it has met a variety of other community needs including donating two buildings in Bay Springs for a library and a community affairs center. The bank also founded the Magnolia State Hope Fund to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Magnolia State Bank is headquartered in Bay Springs and employs over 60 people. The bank is a full-service bank with the latest in banking technologies including internet banking and has provided low cost financial products since 1975. An independent community bank, it is federally insured by the FDIC. Visit the web site at [www.themagnoliastatebank.com](http://www.themagnoliastatebank.com) or call 601-764-BANK(2265).