



news

CONTACT:

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DUBUQUE BANK AND TRUST TO PURCHASE LIBERTY BANK BRANCHES

Dubuque, Iowa. – Dubuque Bank and Trust Company announced today that it has entered into a definitive purchase and assumption agreement to acquire three retail banking offices of Liberty Bank, FSB located in Dubuque, Iowa and East Dubuque, Illinois. The purchase price was not disclosed. The transaction is subject to approvals by bank regulatory authorities, and is expected to close during the third quarter of 2012. Liberty Bank has deposits in the three branch locations totaling approximately \$55 million at March 31, 2012. Additionally, loans approximating \$10 million will be acquired as part of the agreement.

"We warmly welcome the Dubuque-area customers of Liberty Bank as valued customers of DB&T," said Douglas J. Horstmann, president and chief executive officer of Dubuque Bank and Trust Company. "Like Liberty Bank, DB&T is a community bank that provides superior customer service, true relationship banking, high levels of responsiveness and convenience."

Customers of both banks should continue to bank as they normally do at their existing branches until DB&T can complete the conversion of all deposit and certain loan accounts, which should take place in July of 2012. Following the conversion, customers of both banks will enjoy the added convenience of both banks' locations.

The three branches of Liberty Bank included in the purchase are located at 2045 Holliday Drive in Dubuque, 2201 Jackson Street in Dubuque and 261 Sinsinawa Avenue in East Dubuque, Illinois.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity to provide business and personal banking services to our new customers from Liberty Bank. We also look forward to offering our Wealth Management, Investment Services and Cash Management solutions. Our new customers will continue to be served by the same familiar and friendly people who have served them in the past," Horstmann said.

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Customers with questions about today's announcement can call Kevin Ciesielski of DB&T at 563-589-2162 or Liberty Bank at 563-587-9000 or 815-747-3117.

About Dubuque Bank and Trust Company

Dubuque Bank and Trust Company (DB&T), a subsidiary of Heartland Financial USA, Inc., (NASDAQ: HTLF), is a community bank with assets of more than \$1.4 billion serving customers in the Tri-State region of Dubuque County in northeast Iowa, portions of Grant County in southwest Wisconsin and Jo Daviess County in northwest Illinois. The bank operates eight branch offices, all located in Dubuque County. DB&T is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and an Equal Housing Lender. Learn more at www.dubuquebank.com.

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