## COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORP

Form 10-Q
November 14, 2008

UNITED STATES<br>SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q
QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR $15(\mathrm{~d})$ OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2008
Commission File No. OOO-29640

COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)


449 HIGHWAY 123 BYPASS
SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29678

(864) 886-0206
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or $15(\mathrm{~d})$ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes [ X ] No [ ]
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer [ ] Accelerated filer [ ]
Non-accelerated filer [ ] Smaller reporting company [X]
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes [ ] No [X]
Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date: Common Stock, no par or stated value, 3,394,873 Shares Outstanding on November 1, 2008

COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION<br>FORM 10-Q<br>Index

| PART I - | FINANCIAL INFORMATION |
| :---: | :---: |
| Item 1. | Financial Statements |
|  | Consolidated Balance Sheets |
|  | Consolidated Statements of Income. |
|  | Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity |
|  | Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows . |
|  | Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements |
| Item 2. | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Oper |
| Item 3. | Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk. |
| Item 4T. | Controls and Procedures |
| PART II - | OTHER INFORMATION |
| Item 6. | Exhibits |
| SIGNATURE |  |

2

PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. - Financial Statements

COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION
Consolidated Balance Sheets

Assets

Cash and due from banks
Interest bearing balances due from banks
Federal funds sold

Cash and cash equivalents
Securities available-for-sale

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Securities held-to-maturity (fair value $\$ 12,382$ for 2008 and $\$ 5,625$ for 2007)Other investmentsLoansAllowance for loan losses
Loans - net
Premises and equipment - net
Accrued interest receivable
Bank-owned life insurance
Other assets
Total assets
Liabilities
Deposits
Deposits
Noninterest bearingInterest bearing
Total deposits
Short-term borrowings
Long-term debt
Accrued interest payable
Other liabilities
Total liabilities
Shareholders' equityCommon stock - no par value; $10,000,000$ shares authorized; issued andoutstanding - 3,394,873 for 2008 and 3,324,105 for 2007
Additional paid-in capital
Retained earnings
Accumulated other comprehensive income
Total shareholders' equity
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity
See accompanying notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements

Interest income
Loans, including fees ..... \$ 4,647
Interest bearing balances due from banks ..... 10
Securities
Taxable ..... 1,275
Tax-exempt ..... 209
Other investments ..... 14
Federal funds sold ..... 81
Total interest income ..... 6,236
Interest expense
Time deposits $\$ 100 \mathrm{M}$ and over ..... 1, 021
Other deposits ..... 1,885
Short-term borrowings ..... 8
Long-term debt ..... 92
Total interest expense ..... 3,006
Net interest income ..... 3,230
Provision for loan losses ..... 965
Net interest income after provision ..... 2,265
Other income
Service charges on deposit accounts ..... 374
ATM interchange and other fees ..... 142
Net losses on sales of securities available-for-sale ..... (3)
Credit life insurance commissions ..... 5
Increase in value of bank-owned life insurance ..... 94
Other income ..... 22
Total other income ..... 634
Other expenses
Salaries and employee benefits ..... 1,073
Net occupancy expense ..... 135
Furniture and equipment expense ..... 110
Amortization of computer software ..... 85
ATM interchange and related expenses ..... 96
Directors' fees ..... 20
Other expense ..... 419

Per share*
Net income ..... $\$ 0.21$
Net income, assuming dilution ..... 0.20

[^0]See accompanying notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

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COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity
```

    (Unaudited)
    | Common Stock |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ------------ | Additional |  |
| Number of |  | Paid-in |
| Shares | Amount | Capital |
| ------ | ------ | ------- |
|  |  | (Dollars in |


Comprehensive income:
Net income
Unrealized holding gains and losses
on available-for-sale securities arising
during the period, net of
income taxes of \$207
Total other comprehensive income
Total comprehensive income
Exercise of employee stock options
14,63683
Balance, September 30, 2007 ...................................
2,973,194
\$ 593
Balance, January 1, 2008 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3, 324, 105 $\$ 35,009$ \$
Comprehensive income:
Net income
Unrealized holding gains and (losses)
on available-for-sale securities arising
during the period, net of

Reclassification adjustment for losses (gains)
realized in income, net of income taxes
of $\$ 1$
Total other comprehensive income (loss) .........
Total comprehensive income


See accompanying notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

5

COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

## Operating activities

## Net income

Adjustments to reconcile net income to net
cash provided by operating activities
Provision for loan losses
Depreciation
Amortization of net loan (fees) and costs
Securities accretion and premium amortization
Net loss on sales of securities available-for-sale
Loss on sale of foreclosed assets
Increase in value of bank-owned life insurance Increase in interest receivable (Decrease) increase in interest payable Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses and other assets Increase in other accrued expenses

Net cash provided by operating activities

## Investing activities

Purchases of available-for-sale securities
Purchases of securities held-to-maturity
Maturities, calls and paydowns of securities available-for-sale
Maturities, calls and paydowns of securities held-to-maturity
Proceeds of sales of securities available-for-sale
Purchases of other investments
Proceeds from sales of other investments
Net increase in loans made to customers...
Purchases of premises and equipment
Proceeds of sale of foreclosed assetsProceeds of sale of real estate held for saleInvestment in bank-owned life insurance
Net cash used by investing activities
Financing activities
Net decrease in demand deposits, interest
bearing transaction accounts and savings accounts
Net increase in certificates of deposit and other
time deposits
Net increase (decrease) in short-term borrowingsProceeds from issuing long-term debtRepayments of long-term debtExercise of employee stock options
Net cash provided by financing activities
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning
Cash and cash equivalents, ending
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information Cash paid during the year for:InterestIncome taxes
Noncash investing and financing activities:
Other comprehensive income
See accompanying notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

## COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements
Accounting Policies - A summary of significant accounting policies is included in Community First Bancorporation's (the "Company") Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain amounts in the 2007 financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. Such reclassifications had no effect on net income or retained earnings for any period.

Management Opinion - In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of Community First Bancorporation reflect all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the results of the periods presented. Such adjustments were of a normal, recurring nature.

Nonperforming Loans - As of September 30, 2008, there were $\$ 4,725,000$ in nonaccrual loans.

Earnings Per Share - Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing net income applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing
applicable net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding and any dilutive potential common shares and dilutive stock options. It is assumed that all dilutive stock options are exercised at the beginning of each period and that the proceeds are used to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at the average market price during the period. All 2007 per share information has been retroactively adjusted to give effect to a $10 \%$ stock dividend effective December 20, 2007. Net income per share and net income per share, assuming dilution, were computed as follows:


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valuing its liabilities, and expands disclosures about instruments measured at fair value. The following is a summary of the measurement attributes applicable to financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

Description
September 30, 2008
Fair Value Mea

Quoted Prices
in Active
Markets for Identical

Assets
(Level 1)

Securities available-for-sale ......................................

Pricing for the Company's securities available-for-sale is obtained from an independent third-party that uses a process that may incorporate current market prices, benchmark yields, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers, other reference data and industry and economic events that a market participant would be expected to use in valuing the securities. Not all of the inputs listed apply to each individual security at each measurement date. The independent third party assigns specific securities into an "asset class" for the purpose of assigning the applicable level of the fair value hierarchy used to value the securities. The techniques used after adoption of SFAS No. 157 are consistent with the methods used previously.

In February 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board Staff issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 157-2 ("FSP 157-2") which delays for one year the effective date of the application of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 "Fair Value Measurements" ("SFAS No. 157") to nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually). In accordance with FSP 157-2, the Company has only partially applied SFAS No. 157. There are currently no major categories of assets or liabilities disclosed at fair value in the financial statements for which the Company has not applied the provisions of SFAS No. 157.

No cumulative effect adjustments were required upon initial application of SFAS No. 157. Available-for-sale securities continue to be measured at fair value with unrealized gains and losses, net of income taxes, recorded in other comprehensive income.

The Security and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") Office of the Chief Accountant and the staff of the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued press release 2008-234 on September 30, 2008 ("Press Release") to provide clarifications on fair value accounting. The Press Release includes guidance on the use of management's internal assumptions and the use of "market" quotes. The Press Release also reiterates the factors included in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin Topic 5M which should be considered when determining other-than-temporary impairment; i.e., the length of time and extent to which the market value has been less than cost, financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and the intent and ability of the holder to retain its

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investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value.

On October 10, 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position SFAS 157-3 "Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active". This FSP clarifies the application of SFAS No. 157 "Fair Value Measurements" in a market that is not active and provides an example to illustrate key considerations in determining the fair value of a financial instrument when the market for that asset is not active. The FSP is effective upon issuance, including prior periods for which financial statements have not been issued. For the Company, this FSP is effective for the quarter ended September 30, 2008.

The Company considered the guidance in the Press Release and in FSP SFAS 157-3 when conducting its review of other-than-temporary impairment as of September 30, 2008 and determined that it did not result in a change to its impairment estimation techniques.

New Accounting Pronouncements - In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. 140-3, "Accounting for Transfers of Financial Assets and Repurchase Financing Transactions" ("FSP 140-3"). This FSP provides guidance on accounting for a transfer of a financial asset and the transferor's repurchase financing of the asset. This FSP presumes that an initial transfer of a financial asset and a
repurchase financing are considered part of the same arrangement (linked transaction) under SFAS No. 140. However, if certain criteria are met, the initial transfer and repurchase financing are not evaluated as a linked transaction and are evaluated separately under Statement 140. FSP 140-3 will be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years and earlier application is not permitted. Accordingly, this FSP is effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the impact, if any, that the adoption of FSP 140-3 will have on its financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

In May, 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard ("SFAS") No. 162, "The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles," ("SFAS No. 162"). SFAS No. 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements of nongovernmental entities that are presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States (the GAAP hierarchy). SFAS No. 162 is effective November 15, 2008. The FASB has stated that it does not expect SFAS No. 162 will result in a change in current practice. The application of SFAS No. 162 will have no effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In June, 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. EITF 03-6-1, "Determining Whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions are Participating Securities," ("FSP EITF 03-6-1"). The Staff Position provides that unvested share-based payment awards that contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents are participating securities and must be included in the earnings per share computation. FSP EITF 03-6-1 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim periods within those years. All prior-period earnings per share data presented must be adjusted retrospectively. Early application is not permitted. The adoption of this Staff Position will have no effect on the company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

FSP SFAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4, "Disclosures about Credit Derivatives and Certain Guarantees: An Amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 and FASB Interpretation No. 45; and Clarification of the Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 161," ("FSP SFAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4") was issued September 2008, effective for reporting periods (annual or interim) ending after November 15, 2008. FSP SFAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4 amends SFAS 133 to require a seller of credit derivatives to disclose the nature of the credit derivative, the maximum potential amount of future payments, fair value of the derivative, and the nature of any recourse provisions. Disclosures must be made for entire hybrid instruments that have embedded credit derivatives.

The staff position also amends FIN 45 to require disclosure of the current status of the payment/performance risk of the credit derivative guarantee. If an entity utilizes internal groupings as a basis for the risk, how the groupings are determined must be disclosed as well as how the risk is managed.

The staff position than the effective initial adoption, periods.

FSP SFAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4 clarifies the effective date of SFAS 161 such that required disclosures should be provided for any reporting period (annual or quarterly interim) beginning after November 15, 2008. The adoption of this Staff Position will have no material effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Other accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the FASB or other standards-setting bodies are not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the securities laws. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements. In order to comply with the terms of the safe harbor, the Company notes that a variety of factors could cause the Company's actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in the Company's forwarding-looking statements.

All statements that are not historical facts are statements that could be "forward-looking statements." You can identify these forward-looking statements through the use of words such as "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "expect," "anticipate," "assume," "indicate," "contemplate," "seek," "plan," "predict," "target," "potential," "believe," "intend," "estimate," "project," "continue," or other similar words. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the Company's future business prospects, revenues, working capital, liquidity, capital needs, interest costs, income, business operations and proposed services.

These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about the banking industry, management's beliefs, and assumptions made by management. Such information includes, without limitation, discussions as to estimates, expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies, and objectives concerning future financial and operating performance. These

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statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:
 entirety by this cautionary notice. The Company has no obligation, and does not undertake, to update, revise or correct any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this report. The Company has expressed its expectations, beliefs and projections in good faith and believes they have a reasonable basis. However, there is no assurance that these expectations, beliefs or projections will result or be achieved or accomplished.

Item 2. - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Changes in Financial Condition
The Company has been affected by the recent events in the financial and credit markets primarily in the following ways: depositors who previously left
funds in excess of federal deposit insurance limits in a single bank have been less prone to do so; and pricing anomalies have arisen in the securities marketplace and, we believe, have provided opportunities for those with sufficient financial mettle to realize outsized returns stemming from the pessimism of others. We experienced both deposit inflows and outflows due to customers seeking to maximize deposit insurance coverage for their accounts. Because there are other larger banks in our market area, we were a net recipient of funds from this source. In early October 2008 the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") temporarily increased deposit insurance coverage to $\$ 250,000$ per account. The temporary increase is currently set to expire on December 31, 2009. The Company expects that its expenses for deposit insurance coverage will increase significantly during the period of higher deposit insurance limits. The unwillingness or inability of others to lend to those we believe to be creditworthy allowed us to increase loans during the 2008 third quarter while adhering to our normal, conservative underwriting standards. We repositioned our portfolio of available-for-sale investment securities to capture higher yields that were available primarily on mortgage-backed securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

Furthermore, we eliminated from our portfolio any adjustable rate mortgage-backed securities. At the end of the third quarter of 2008 , the yield of the Company's mortgage-backed securities investments was 4.71\%, compared with $4.49 \%$ as of June 30, 2008 and 4.07\% as of December 31, 2007.

Nonaccrual and past due loans increased by $\$ 2,853,000$, or $151.8 \%$, during the third quarter of 2008. Approximately $\$ 3,093,000$ of the $\$ 3,493,000$ newly added to the nonaccrual category during the third quarter of 2008 were loans secured by real estate with approximately $\$ 1,523,000$ representing construction and development loans. Of the total $\$ 4,725,000$ in nonaccrual loans as of September 30, 2008, approximately $\$ 2,083,000$ were construction and development loans. Real estate activity in the Company's market area recently has begun to exhibit the weaknesses that have plagued other markets for more than a year. These developments have resulted in the higher amounts of distressed assets reflected above.

During the first nine months of 2008 , loans increased by $\$ 22,944,000$, or $9.4 \%$, securities available-for-sale increased by $\$ 11,498,000$, or $11.6 \%$ and securities held-to-maturity increased by $\$ 6,644,000$. Federal funds sold decreased by $\$ 4,149,000$, or $17.1 \%$. Interest bearing deposits increased by $\$ 27,314,000$, or $8.7 \%$. Approximately $\$ 22,646,000$ of that increase was in the form of certificates of deposits of $\$ 100,000$ or more. Also during the period, short-term borrowings increased by $\$ 1,500,000$ and long-term debt increased by $\$ 5,000,000$.

The Company believes that its liquidity position continues to provide it with sufficient flexibility to fund loan requests or make investments in securities at attractive yields, and to meet normal demands for deposit withdrawals by its customers. Management also believes that the current balance sheet position maintains the Company's exposures to changes in interest rates at acceptable levels.

Results of Operations

Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

The Company recorded consolidated net income of $\$ 709,000$ or $\$ .21$ per

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share for the third quarter of 2008 compared with net income of $\$ 771,000$ and earnings per share of $\$ .24$ for the third quarter of 2007 . Net income per share, assuming dilution was $\$ .20$ for the 2008 quarter and $\$ .21$ for the 2007 period. Net income per share amounts for 2007 have been retroactively adjusted to reflect a ten percent stock dividend effective December 20, 2007.

Interest income for the third quarter of 2008 increased by $\$ 255,000$ over the same period of 2007 due to higher rates earned on taxable investment securities and, to a lesser degree, an increase in the average amount of such instruments held. Interest expenses for the third quarter of 2008 were $\$ 361,000$ lower than for the same prior year period due to lower rates paid. During the 2008 three month period, depositors were extremely concerned about maximizing the deposit insurance coverage for their funds. As a result, diversification of those funds among federally-insured financial institutions to ensure safety of principal was more important than the interest return that could be realized from investing those funds.

The Company increased the provision for loan losses to $\$ 965,000$ for the third quarter of 2008 from $\$ 150,000$ for the same period of 2007 . Factors that management considered when determining the amount to be provided for loan losses included higher volumes of nonaccrual and past due loans, increased charge-offs taken during the quarter, signs of deterioration in the local economy, especially conditions in the local real estate markets, and recent disruption of the flow of and sharply higher prices charged for automotive fuels resulting from the effects of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on the Gulf Coast refineries that supply fuel to the Company's market area.

For the Three Months Ended September 30
Interest income . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

2008

| \$6,236 | \$5,981 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 3,006 | 3,367 |
| 3,230 | 2,614 |
| 965 | 150 |
| 634 | 583 |
| 1,938 | 1,901 |
| 252 | 375 |
| \$ 709 | \$ 771 |

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

The Company recorded consolidated net income of $\$ 2,514,000$ or $\$ .74$ per share for the first nine months of 2008 compared with net income of $\$ 2,667,000$ and earnings per share of $\$ .82$ for the same period of 2007 . Net income per share, assuming dilution was $\$ .71$ for the 2008 nine months and $\$ .77$ for the same period of 2007 . Net income per share amounts for 2007 have been retroactively adjusted to reflect a ten percent stock dividend effective December 20, 2007.

Increases in interest income and net interest income for the 2008 nine
month period reflect primarily the effects of growth of earning assets and higher rates earned on taxable securities. Interest expense for the 2008 nine month period is not much changed from the prior year amount as the effects of increased amounts of deposits and borrowed funds were offset by reductions in the rates paid for deposits and borrowings due to the factors stated previously.

Noninterest income for the 2008 nine month period was $\$ 297,000$ more than for the same period of 2007 primarily due to the recognition of increases in the value of life insurance assets totaling $\$ 280,000$.

Salaries and employee benefits for the 2008 nine month period were $\$ 374,000$ more than for the same prior year period primarily due to higher amounts of deferred compensation expenses. Increases in other categories of other expenses reflect higher volumes of transactions, increased numbers of accounts, and higher depreciation and other expenses associated with the Company's banking offices.

| For the Nine Months Ended September 30, | 2008 | 2007 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Interest income | \$18,629 | \$17,462 |
| Interest expense | 9,741 | 9,777 |
| Net interest income | 8,888 | 7,685 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,375 | 270 |
| Noninterest income | 1,868 | 1,571 |
| Noninterest expenses | 5,830 | 5,077 |
| Income tax expense | 1,037 | 1,242 |
| Net income | \$ 2,514 | \$ 2,667 |

Net Interest Income

Net interest income, the principal source of the Company's earnings, was higher in both the 2008 three month and nine month periods. During much of the third quarter of 2008, financial and credit markets nationwide have been stressed. The deterioration of real estate markets that began in other areas of the country more than one year ago is now evident within the Company's market.

Primarily because of constrained demand, some developers and builders are finding it difficult or impossible to satisfy their obligations except by surrendering the properties that were pledged to secure their loans either voluntarily or involuntarily through foreclosure. As a consequence, property values have fallen due to conditions such as oversupply of unsold housing units and physical deterioration of those units during prolonged sales periods, or because some homes and, indeed entire development projects, may be only partially completed when the builders and developers are overwhelmed by negative events and simply walk away, leaving completion of the project in the hands of lenders.

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Furthermore, the recent reluctance of large financial institutions to lend either to long-standing customers or even to other financial institutions is beginning to be exhibited at the community bank level. This reluctance stems from the recent failures of several banks and other financial institutions and reflects an aversion to the liquidity risk that a lending institution would encounter if a counterparty, including another financial institution, was unable to repay borrowed funds as agreed.

As a consequence of these events, the level of uncertainty in any financing transaction increased dramatically during the 2008 third quarter. Attempts by government agencies to intervene initially were largely ineffective to alleviate fears or provide needed liquidity and order to the credit markets. Interest rates in this environment have been, and are expected to continue to be, very volatile. The structure of interest rates will probably continue to be erratic and depart from historic relationships. For the foreseeable future, management believes that short-term market interest rates, especially rates related to most of its funding sources, will fluctuate significantly. However, because depositors are currently more concerned with safety of principal than return on investment, deposit costs are not expected to change significantly in the near future. If the Company obtains additional funding from non-deposit sources, the costs of such borrowing would be expected to be more closely correlated to fluctuations in the broader credit markets.

In a further effort to encourage inter-bank lending and to reduce the effect that the failure of a financial institution might have on the viability of other financial institutions and other market participants, on October 14, 2008, the FDIC initiated coverage of newly issued senior unsecured debt (including federal funds purchased), subject to certain limits, of FDIC-insured depository institutions, U.S. bank holding companies, including financial holding companies, and certain U.S. savings and loan holding companies and began to provide a temporary and unlimited guarantee of funds in non-interest bearing transaction accounts at FDIC-insured institutions under a newly created Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. Coverage under this program was provided without cost for the first thirty days of coverage. Institutions have the option to continue coverage after the initial period and be assessed fees for such coverage by the FDIC, or may opt out of one or both components of the program. The FDIC will maintain on its website a list of eligible institutions that choose to opt out of either component after the initial coverage period ends. Management expects that it will elect to continue coverage under both components of this program.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

For the third quarter of 2008, net interest income totaled $\$ 3,230,000$, an increase of $\$ 616,000$ over the $\$ 2,614,000$ for the same period of 2007 . The Company's interest rate spread for the third quarter of 2008 was $2.68 \%$, an increase of 53 basis points over the $2.15 \%$ interest rate spread for the third quarter of 2007. Net yield on earning assets for the 2008 third quarter was $3.18 \%$, an increase of 27 basis points over the 2007 third quarter net yield of $2.91 \%$. The yield on taxable investment securities for the third quarter of 2008 was $4.98 \%$ compared with $4.16 \%$ for the same period of 2007 . As discussed previously, the Company acted during the third quarter of 2008 to revamp its portfolio of mortgage-backed securities. The average amount of taxable securities in the 2008 period was $\$ 8,802,000$ more than in the 2007 period. Consequently, income on such securities in the 2008 period was $\$ 300,000$ more than in the 2007 period. The average amount of the Company's loan category for the third quarter of 2008 was $13.6 \%$ more than for the third quarter of 2007 , but the interest rates associated with those loans in the 2008 period were 91 basis points lower than in the 2007 period. The Company adjusted for approximately $\$ 90,000$ of accrued interest on loans included in nonaccrual loans for the first time during the third quarter of 2008 . As a result, interest income on loans was
only $\$ 15,000$ higher in the 2008 three month period.
Rates paid for interest bearing liabilities were significantly reduced from the prior year level. Rates paid for all types of deposits fell dramatically and rates paid for borrowings fell more modestly. Average amounts of time deposits outstanding for the 2008 period increased by $\$ 43,575,000$, or $20.2 \%$, over the amount for the 2007 period.

Average Balances, Yi Three Months Ended

Interest

Average Balances

Income/
Expense
Yields/
Rates (1)
(Dollars in th

Assets


Liabilities and shareholders' equity
Interest bearing deposits

| Interest bearing transaction | \$56,370 | \$ 250 | 1.76\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Savings | 18,700 | 46 | $0.98 \%$ |
| Time deposits \$100M and over | 113,755 | 1,021 | 3.57\% |
| Other time deposits | 145,886 | 1,589 | 4.33\% |
| Total interest bearing deposits ............ | 334,711 | 2,906 | $3.45 \%$ |
| term borrowings | 1,500 | 8 | 2.12\% |
| erm debt | 9,500 | 92 | 3.85\% |
| Total interest bearing |  |  |  |
| liabilities ........ | 345,711 | 3,006 | 3.46\% |


| Noninterest bearing demand deposits | 41,637 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Other liabilities | 2,907 |  |  |
| Shareholders' equity | 40,025 |  |  |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' |  |  |  |
| Interest rate spread |  |  | $2.68 \%$ |
| Net interest income and net yield on earning assets ......... |  | \$ 3,230 | $3.18 \%$ |
| Interest free funds supporting earning assets | \$58,659 |  |  |

(1) Yields and rates are annualized
(2) Yields on tax exempt instruments have not been adjusted to a tax-equivalent basis.
(3) Nonaccrual loans are included in the average loan balances and income on such loans is recognized on a cash basis.
(4) Includes immaterial amounts of loan fees.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007 and 2006

For the first nine months of 2008, net interest income totaled $\$ 8,888,000$, an increase of $\$ 1,203,000$, or $15.7 \%$, over the $\$ 7,685,000$ amount for the same period of 2007 . The Company's interest rate spread for the 2008 nine month period was $2.41 \%$, an increase of 28 basis points over the $2.13 \%$ spread for the 2007 period. The yield on interest earning assets decreased to $6.17 \%$ for the 2008 period, compared with $6.54 \%$ for the 2007 period, due to lower rates earned on loans and federal funds sold. A significant portion of the Company's loans are variable rate instruments that are repriced in response to changes in the "prime rate." Actions taken by the Federal Reserve in the third quarter of 2008 generally were intended to reduce market rates of interest. Those efforts were only partially successful due to the increased influence on interest rates of other uncertainties that were evident.

Rates paid for interest bearing liabilities during the 2008 nine month period were 65 basis points lower than for the 2007 period. Rates paid for time deposits $\$ 100,000$ and over were 73 basis points lower during the 2008 period than in the 2007 period and rates paid for other time deposits decreased by 33 basis points compared with the same 2007 period. The average amounts of time deposits outstanding during the 2008 period were $\$ 46,525,000$, or $22.6 \%$, more than in the 2007 period. Rates paid for interest bearing transaction accounts for the 2008 nine month period were 126 basis points less than for the same period of 2007 and the average amount of such accounts in the 2008 period was only $\$ 729,000$, or $1.3 \%$, more than for the 2007 period.

The Company continues to pursue a strategy to increase its market share in its local market areas in Anderson and Oconee Counties of South Carolina. Oconee County is served from four offices, which are located in Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster. The Anderson County market is served from three offices in Anderson and Williamston, including an office on Highway 81 in Anderson County opened early in the fourth quarter of 2007 .
Average
Balances

Average Balances Nine Months End

Interest
Income/ Yields/
Expense Rates (1)
(Dollars in
Assets

| Interest-bearing balances due from banks | \$ 1,251 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Securities |  |
| Taxable | 95,782 |
| Tax exempt (2) | 20,683 |
| Total investment securities | 116,465 |
| Other investments | 997 |
| Federal funds sold | 28,624 |
| Loans (2) (3) (4) | 255,866 |
| Total interest earning assets | 403,203 |
| Cash and due from banks | 7,916 |
| Allowance for loan losses | $(2,725)$ |
| Valuation allowance - Available-forsale securities .............. | 347 |
| Premises and equipment | 8,812 |
| Other assets | 12,355 |
| Total assets. | \$ 429,908 |

Liabilities and shareholders' equity
Interest bearing deposits

Savings
\$58, 022
28,523
Time deposits $\$ 100 \mathrm{M}$ and over
Other time deposits
108,347

Total interest bearing deposits

338,773
Short-term borrowings
504
Long-term debt
6,321

Total interest bearing liabilities

345,598
Noninterest bearing demand deposits
40,910
Other liabilities 3,787
Shareholders' equity
39,613

Total liabilities and shareholders' equity \$ 429,908

Interest rate spread =========

Net interest income and net yield on earning assets $\$ 57,605$

| 843 | $1.94 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: |
| 323 | $1.51 \%$ |
| 3,231 | $3.98 \%$ |
| 5,157 | $4.79 \%$ |
| ------ |  |
| 9,554 | $3.77 \%$ |
| 8 | $2.12 \%$ |
| 179 | $3.78 \%$ |
| ------ |  |
| 9,741 | $3.76 \%$ |

9,741
$3.76 \%$
$2.41 \%$
$\$ 8,888$
$2.94 \%$
(1) Yields and rates are annualized
(2) Yields on tax exempt instruments have not been adjusted to a tax-equivalent basis.
(3) Nonaccrual loans are included in the average loan balances and income on such loans is recognized on a cash basis.
(4) Includes immaterial amounts of loan fees.

16

Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses was $\$ 965,000$ for the third quarter of 2008 compared with $\$ 150,000$ for the third quarter of 2007 . For the first nine months of 2008, the provision for loan losses was $\$ 1,375,000$, compared with $\$ 270,000$ for the first nine months of 2007 . At September 30, 2008, the allowance for loan losses was 1.31\% of loans, compared with 1.05\% at December 31, 2007. The increase in the provision and allowance was made as a result of significant increases in the amounts of nonaccrual and potential problem loans, increased net charge-offs, higher volumes of loans and heightened concerns about the ability of customers to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans due to weaknesses in the broader economic situation.

For the first nine months of 2008, net charge-offs totaled $\$ 446,000$, compared with $\$ 141,000$ in net charge offs during the same period of 2007 . As of September 30, 2008, nonaccrual loans totaled $\$ 4,725,000$. As of September 30, 2007, there were $\$ 481,000$ in nonaccrual loans and no loans 90 days or more past due and still accruing interest. The activity in the allowance for loan losses is summarized in the table below:
Nine Months
Ended
September 30,
2008
----
(Doll




Allowance as a percentage of loans outstanding


========


Potential problem loans include loans, other than non-performing loans, that management has identified as having possible credit problems sufficient to cast doubt upon the abilities of the borrowers to comply with the current repayment terms. Such loans are assigned to one of several risk-rating grades depending on factors such as past due status, collateral values, and other factors affecting the customers' ability to repay. As of September 30, 2008, approximately $75 \%$ of the Company's potential problem loans were included in the Company's least severe risk-rating grade. Approximately $90 \%$ of potential problem loans were secured by real estate. Management expects that further deterioration of economic conditions within the Company's market areas is likely in the short-term, especially with respect to real estate related activities and real property values. Consequently, it is expected that increased provisions for loan losses will be needed in the future.

## Noninterest Income

Noninterest income totaled $\$ 634,000$ for the third quarter of 2008, compared with $\$ 583,000$ for the 2007 quarter. Service charges on deposit accounts in the 2008 quarter were $\$ 374,000$ representing a decrease of $\$ 20,000$ from the prior year period. Increases in the value of bank-owned life insurance during the third quarter of 2008 totaled $\$ 94,000$ compared with $\$ 33,000$ during the same period of 2007. Sales of securities in the 2008 third quarter were undertaken to take advantage of attractive yields for fixed rate mortgage backed securities and to eliminate adjustable rate mortgage backed securities from the Company's portfolio. Those sales resulted in net losses of $\$ 3,000$. There were no sales of securities in the 2007 period.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, noninterest income
totaled $\$ 1,868,000$, compared with $\$ 1,571,000$ for the same period of 2007 . Service charges on deposit accounts in the 2008 period were $\$ 1,109,000$ representing an increase of $\$ 38,000$ from the prior year period's $\$ 1,071,000$. During the 2008 and 2007 nine month periods, increases in the value of life insurance assets totaling $\$ 280,000$ and $\$ 33,000$ were recognized, respectively.

Noninterest Expenses

Noninterest expenses totaled $\$ 1,938,000$ for the third quarter of 2008 compared with $\$ 1,901,000$ for the same period of 2007 , representing an increase of $\$ 37,000$ or $1.9 \%$. Salaries and employee benefits decreased by $\$ 57,000$, or $5.0 \%$, to $1,073,000$ due to lower rates paid for employee life and disability insurance coverage.

Occupancy and furniture and equipment expenses for the third quarter of 2008 increased by $\$ 18,000$ compared with 2007 primarily due to higher depreciation and operating costs of the Company's offices. Higher expenses were incurred in 2008 for stationery, postage, supplies and promotional expenses resulting from the opening of the new corporate offices and additional banking offices and increased numbers of deposit accounts. The cost of deposit insurance
was $\$ 58,000$ for the third quarter of 2008 , compared with $\$ 10,000$ for the third quarter of 2007. Further increases in these expenses are expected to occur due to costs expected to be incurred to continue coverage of certain debt and non-interest bearing transaction accounts under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, salaries and employee benefits increased by $\$ 374,000$, or $13.2 \%$, over the amount for 2007 . The increase in salaries and benefits for 2008 is attributable to an increase in the number of employees for the new Seneca and Anderson offices, and normal salary increases. Net occupancy and furniture and equipment expenses increased by an aggregate of $\$ 101,000$, or $15.8 \%$, due to expansion of the Company's network of banking offices and higher costs of utilities, maintenance, and other recurring expenses.

Liquidity
Liquidity is the ability to meet current and future obligations through the liquidation or maturity of existing assets or the acquisition of additional liabilities. The Company manages both assets and liabilities to achieve appropriate levels of liquidity. Cash and short-term investments are the Company's primary sources of asset liquidity. These funds provide a cushion against short-term fluctuations in cash flow from both deposits and loans. Securities available-for-sale are the Company's principal source of secondary asset liquidity. However, the availability of this source is influenced by market conditions. Individual and commercial deposits are the Company's primary source of funds for credit activities. The Company has approximately $\$ 20,000,000$ of credit availability under its FHLB lines of credit and additional amounts are available under federal funds purchased facilities. Provided the Company continues to participate in the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, any newly issued senior unsecured debt issued before July 1, 2009 would be fully guaranteed by the FDIC until its maturity not later than June 30, 2012. Management believes that continuing to participate in that program would significantly increase the Company's ability to secure financing as needed up to the limits imposed by the program.

$$
\text { As of September } 30,2008 \text {, the ratio of loans to total deposits was }
$$

69.6\%, compared with 68.6\% as of December 31, 2007. Deposits as of September 30, 2008 were $\$ 383,722,000$, an increase of $\$ 27,855,000$ or $7.8 \%$ over the amount as of December 31, 2007. Management believes that the Company's liquidity sources are adequate to meet its operating needs.

Capital Resources

The Company's capital base increased by $\$ 2,880,000$ since December 31, 2007 as the result of net income of $\$ 2,514,000$ for the first nine months of 2008, $\$ 365,000$ from the exercise of employee stock options, plus a $\$ 1,000$ change in unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities, net of deferred income tax effects.

The Company and its banking subsidiary (the "Bank") are subject to regulatory risk-based capital adequacy standards. Under these standards, bank holding companies and banks are required to maintain certain minimum ratios of capital to risk-weighted assets and average total assets. Under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (FDICIA), federal bank regulatory authorities are required to implement prescribed "prompt corrective actions" upon the deterioration of the capital position of a bank. If the capital position of an affected institution were to fall below certain levels, increasingly stringent regulatory corrective actions are mandated.

The September 30,2008 risk based capital ratios for the Company and the Bank are presented in the following table, compared with the "well capitalized" and minimum ratios under the regulatory definitions and guidelines:

|  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tier 1 | Capital | Leverage |
| Community First Bancorporation | 13.8\% | 15.0\% | 9.5\% |
| Community First Bank | 13.1\% | $14.3 \%$ | 9.0\% |
| Minimum "well-capitalized" requirement | 6. $0 \%$ | $10.0 \%$ | 6. 0 \% |
| Minimum requirement | 4.0\% | 8.0\% | 5.0\% |

Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements

In the normal course of business, the Bank is party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk including commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. Such instruments have elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the balance sheet. The exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other parties to the financial instruments for commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual notional amount of those instruments. Generally, the same credit policies used for on-balance-sheet instruments, such as loans, are used in extending loan commitments and standby letters of credit.

Following are the off-balance-sheet financial instruments whose contract amounts represent credit risk:

> September 30,2008
> (Dollars in thousands)

Loan commitments .................... $\$ 43,081$
Standby letters of credit ........... 889

Loan commitments involve agreements to lend to a customer as long as

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there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and some involve payment of a fee. Many of the commitments are expected to expire without being fully drawn; therefore, the total amount of loan commitments does not necessarily represent future cash requirements. Each customer's creditworthiness is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if any, upon extension of credit is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral held varies but may include commercial and residential real properties, accounts receivable, inventory and equipment.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. The credit risk involved in issuing standby letters of credit is the same as that involved in making loan commitments to customers. Many letters of credit will expire without being drawn upon and do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The Bank receives fees for loan commitments and standby letters of credit. The amount of such fees was not material for either the nine months or three months ended September 30, 2008.

As described under "Liquidity," management believes that its various sources of liquidity provide the resources necessary for the Bank to fund the loan commitments and to perform under standby letters of credit, if the need arises. Neither the Company nor the Bank are involved in other off-balance sheet contractual relationships or transactions that could result in liquidity needs or other commitments or significantly impact earnings.

Item 3. - Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company's exposure to market risk is primarily related to the risk of loss from adverse changes in market prices and rates. This risk arises principally from interest rate risk inherent in the Company's lending, deposit gathering and borrowing activities. Management actively monitors and manages its interest rate risk exposure. Although the Company manages other risks, such as credit quality and liquidity risk in the normal course of business, management considers interest rate risk to be its most significant market risk and this risk could potentially have the largest material effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations. Other types of market risk, such as commodity price risk and foreign currency exchange risk, do not arise in the normal course of the Company's community banking operations.

The Company uses a simulation model to assist in achieving consistent growth in net interest income while managing interest rate risk. As of September 30 2008, the model indicates that net interest income would increase $\$ 103,000$ and net income would increase $\$ 64,000$ in the next twelve months if interest rates rose by 100 basis points. Conversely, net interest income would decrease $\$ 52,000$ and net income would decrease $\$ 32,000$ in the next twelve months if interest rates declined by 100 basis points. In the current interest rate environment, it appears unlikely that there will be any large changes in interest rates in the immediate future. The prospective effects of hypothetical interest rate changes are based on a number of assumptions, including the relative levels of market interest rates and prepayment assumptions affecting loans, and should not be relied on as indicative of actual future results. The prospective effects also do not contemplate potential actions that the Company, its customers and the issuers of its investment securities could undertake in response to changes in interest rates.

As of September 30, 2008, there was no significant change from the interest rate sensitivity analysis for the various changes in interest rates
calculated as of December 31, 2007. The foregoing disclosures related to the Company's market risk should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in the 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 4T. - Controls and Procedures

Based on the evaluation required by 17 C.F.R. Section $240.13 a-15(\mathrm{~b})$ or $240.15 d-15(b)$ of the issuer's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in 17 C.F.R. Sections 240.13a-15(e) and 240.15d-15(e)), the issuer's chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded such controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report, were effective.

There has been no change in the company's internal control over financial reporting during the most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following are additional risk factors for the Company, to be read in conjunction with Item 1A, "Risk Factors - Risks Related to Our Industry" in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

1. There can be no assurance that recent government actions will help stabilize the U.S. financial system.

In response to the financial crises affecting the banking system and financial markets and going concern threats to investment banks and other financial institutions, various branches and agencies of the U.S. government have put in place laws, regulations and programs to address capital and liquidity issues in the banking system. There can be no assurance, however, as to the actual impact that such laws, regulations and programs will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility, liquidity and confidence issues and limited credit availability currently being experienced. The failure of such laws, regulations and programs to help stabilize the financial markets and a continuation or worsening of current financial market conditions could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, access to credit or the trading price of our common stock.

## 2. Current levels of market volatility are unprecedented.

Although many markets have been experiencing volatility and disruption for months, in the past few weeks, the volatility and disruption of financial and credit markets has reached unprecedented levels for recent times. In some cases, the markets have produced downward pressure on stock prices and credit availability for certain issuers without regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength. If current levels of market disruption and volatility continue or worsen, there can be no assurance that we will not experience an adverse effect, which may be material, on our ability to access capital and on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
3. The soundness of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

Financial services institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty, or other relationships. We have exposure to many
different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers, dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, and government sponsored enterprises. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or other obligation due us. There is no assurance that any such losses would not materially and adversely affect our results of operations or earnings.
4. Current market developments may adversely affect our industry, business and results of operations.

Dramatic declines in the housing market during the prior year, with falling home prices and increasing foreclosures and unemployment, have resulted in significant write-downs of asset values by financial institutions, including government-sponsored entities and major commercial and investment banks. These write-downs, initially of mortgage-backed securities but spreading to credit default swaps and other derivative securities have caused many financial institutions to seek additional capital, to merge with larger and stronger institutions and, in some cases, to fail. Reflecting concern about the stability of the financial markets generally and the strength of counterparties, many lenders and institutional investors have reduced, and in some cases, ceased to provide funding to borrowers, including other financial institutions. The resulting lack of available credit, lack of confidence in the financial sector, increased volatility in the financial markets and reduced business activity
could materially and adversely, directly or indirectly, affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Item 6. - Exhibits

Exhibits
31. Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications
32. Certifications Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

## SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

## COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION

November 14, 2008

Date
/s/ Frederick D. Shepherd, Jr.
Frederick D. Shepherd, Jr., Chief Executive

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# Officer and Chief Financial Officer 

23

## EXHIBIT INDEX

31. Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications<br>32. Certifications Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350


[^0]:    * Per share information has been retroactively adjusted to reflect a $10 \%$ stock dividend effective December 20, 2007.

