

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Information

On January 12, 2006 Heartland Financial USA, Inc. (the "Company") announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Bank of the Southwest, a financial institution providing retail and commercial banking services with offices in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

- (a) Financial Statements of Business Acquired.

None.

- (b) Pro Forma Financial Information.

None.

- (c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated January 12, 2006.

SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA, INC.

Date: January 12, 2006

By:

/s/ John K. Schmidt

John K. Schmidt

Executive Vice President, COO and CFO