

SCBT FINANCIAL CORP
Form 424B3
October 26, 2012

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Annex A](#)

[Annex G](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-184197**

Proxy Statement

Prospectus

MERGER PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Shareholder:

On August 7, 2012, The Savannah Bancorp, Inc., or SAVB, and SCBT Financial Corporation, or SCBT, entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (which we refer to as the merger agreement) under which SAVB will merge with and into SCBT, with SCBT continuing as the surviving corporation. Immediately following the completion of the merger, The Savannah Bank, N.A. and Bryan Bank & Trust, each a wholly owned bank subsidiary of SAVB, will merge with and into SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary, with SCBT's bank subsidiary continuing as the surviving bank (we refer to these bank mergers collectively as the bank mergers).

In the merger, each share of SAVB common stock will be converted into 0.2503 shares of SCBT common stock. Each outstanding option to purchase shares of SAVB common stock will vest in full and, if not exercised prior to closing, will be converted into the right of the holder to receive cash in an amount equal to the product of (A) the excess, if any, of the closing price per share of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the effective time of the merger over the per-share exercise price of such option, and (B) the number of shares of SAVB common stock subject to such option, less any required income or employment tax withholding. Each outstanding share of SAVB restricted common stock will vest in full and will be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration less applicable withholding taxes. The maximum number of shares of SCBT common stock to be delivered to holders of shares of SAVB common stock upon completion of the merger is approximately 1,836,751 shares, based on the number of shares of SAVB common stock outstanding as of October 24, 2012 and assuming full exercise of all outstanding and unexercised stock options.

SAVB and SCBT will each hold a special meeting of its respective shareholders in connection with the merger. SAVB shareholders will be asked to approve (i) the proposal to approve the merger agreement, (ii) the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement and (iii) the proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB. SCBT shareholders will be asked to vote on a proposal to approve the issuance of shares of SCBT common stock to SAVB shareholders in connection with the merger (which we refer to as the stock issuance) and will also be asked to approve the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the approval of the stock issuance.

The special meeting of SAVB shareholders will be held on November 30, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia at 9:00 a.m. local time. The special meeting of SCBT shareholders will be held on November 30, 2012 at SCBT's headquarters in the Habersham Conference Room on the third floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina, at 10:00 a.m. local time.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

The market value of the merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of SCBT common stock and will not be known at the time SAVB shareholders vote on the merger. SCBT common stock is currently quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SCBT." On October 24, 2012, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the closing share price of SCBT common stock was \$39.38 per share as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. **We urge you to obtain current market quotations for SCBT and SAVB.**

The merger is intended to be treated as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and holders of SAVB common stock are not

Table of Contents

expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of SAVB common stock for shares of SCBT common stock in the merger, except with respect to any cash received in lieu of fractional shares of SCBT common stock.

Your vote is important. We cannot complete the merger unless SAVB's shareholders approve the merger agreement and SCBT's shareholders approve the stock issuance. In order for the merger to be approved, (1) at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement must be voted in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement, and (2) at least a majority of SCBT's common stock entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy at the SCBT special meeting must be voted in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance. **Regardless of whether or not you plan to attend your special meeting, please take the time to vote your shares in accordance with the instructions contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.**

SAVB's board of directors has determined that the merger agreement and transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, are in the best interests of SAVB and its shareholders, has unanimously approved the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SAVB shareholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement, "FOR" the proposal to adjourn the SAVB special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement and "FOR" the proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB.

SCBT's board of directors has determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger and the stock issuance, are advisable and in the best interests of SCBT and its shareholders, has unanimously approved the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SCBT shareholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the stock issuance and "FOR" the proposal to adjourn the SCBT special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the special meetings, the merger, the documents related to the merger and other related matters. Please carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including "Risk Factors," beginning on page 31, for a discussion of the risks relating to the proposed merger. You also can obtain information about SCBT from documents that it has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

If you have any questions concerning the merger, SAVB shareholders should please contact Michael W. Harden, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, 25 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 at (912) 629-6500, and SCBT shareholders should please contact Renee R. Brooks, Corporate Secretary, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 at (800) 277-2175. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Robert R. Hill Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
SCBT Financial Corporation

John C. Helmken II
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, nor any state securities commission or any other bank regulatory agency has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued in the merger or determined if this joint proxy statement/prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities to be issued in the merger are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of either SCBT or SAVB, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus is October 26, 2012, and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to the shareholders of SCBT and SAVB on or about October 29, 2012.

Table of Contents

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the Shareholders of SCBT Financial Corporation:

SCBT Financial Corporation will hold a special meeting of shareholders at 10:00 a.m. local time, on November 30, 2012, at its headquarters, in the Habersham Conference Room on the third floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to issue shares of SCBT common stock to SAVB shareholders in connection with the merger;

a proposal to adjourn the SCBT special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance.

We have fixed the close of business on October 24, 2012 as the record date for the special meeting. Only SCBT common shareholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the SCBT special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the SCBT special meeting. The approval of the stock issuance proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the SCBT common stock represented in person or by proxy at the SCBT special meeting, assuming a quorum is present.

SCBT's board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement, has determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger and the stock issuance, are advisable and in the best interests of SCBT and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that SCBT shareholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve of the stock issuance and "FOR" the proposal to adjourn the SCBT special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance.

Your vote is very important. We cannot complete the merger unless SCBT's common shareholders approve the stock issuance.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the SCBT special meeting, please vote as soon as possible. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record of SCBT, please complete, sign, date and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the record holder.

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the special meeting, the merger, the documents related to the merger and other related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated in the joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference, and its appendices carefully and in their entirety. If you have any questions concerning the merger or the joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SCBT common stock, please contact Renee R. Brooks, Corporate Secretary, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, at (800) 277-2175.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

Renee R. Brooks
Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the Shareholders of The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.:

The Savannah Bancorp, Inc. will hold a special meeting of shareholders at 9:00 a.m. local time, on November 30, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of August 7, 2012, by and between SCBT Financial Corporation and The Savannah Bancorp, Inc., pursuant to which SAVB will merge with and into SCBT Financial Corporation as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus;

a proposal to adjourn the SAVB special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement; and

a proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB.

We have fixed the close of business on October 24, 2012 as the record date for the SAVB special meeting. Only SAVB common shareholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the SAVB special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the SAVB special meeting. In order for the merger to be approved, at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement must be voted in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

Your vote is very important. We cannot complete the merger unless SAVB's common shareholders approve the merger agreement.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the SAVB special meeting, please vote as soon as possible. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record, please complete, sign, date and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the record holder.

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the special meeting, the merger, the documents related to the merger and other related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated in the joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference, and its appendices carefully and in their entirety. If you have any questions concerning the merger or the joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SAVB common stock, please contact Corporate Secretary, 25 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401, at (912) 629-6500.

SAVB's board of directors has unanimously approved the merger and the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SAVB shareholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement, "FOR" the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement and "FOR" the proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

James W. Royal, Sr.
Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about SCBT Financial Corporation from documents filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, that are not included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You can obtain any of the documents filed with or furnished to the SEC by SCBT, as well as any documents filed with or furnished to the SEC by SAVB, at no cost from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also request copies of these documents, including documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, at no cost by contacting the appropriate company at the following address:

SCBT Financial Corporation
520 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Attention: Secretary
Telephone: (800) 277-2175

The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.
P.O. Box 188
Savannah, Georgia 31402
Attention: Secretary
Telephone: (912) 629-6500

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. To obtain timely delivery of these documents, you must request them no later than five business days before the date of your special meeting. This means that SCBT shareholders requesting documents must do so by November 23, 2012, in order to receive them before the SCBT special meeting, and SAVB shareholders requesting documents must do so by November 23, 2012, in order to receive them before the SAVB special meeting.

In addition, if you are a SAVB shareholder and have questions about the merger or the SAVB special meeting, need additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need to obtain proxy cards or other information related to the proxy solicitation, you may contact Michael W. Harden, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, at the following address and telephone number:

25 Bull Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 629-6500

If you are a SCBT shareholder and have questions about the stock issuance or the SCBT special meeting, need additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need to obtain proxy cards or other information related to the proxy solicitation, you may contact Renee R. Brooks, Corporate Secretary, at the following address and telephone number:

520 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(800) 277-2175

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. This document is dated October 26, 2012, and you should assume that the information in this document is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this document is accurate as of the date of such document. Neither the mailing of this document to SAVB shareholders or SCBT shareholders nor the issuance by SCBT of shares of SCBT common stock in connection with the merger will create any implication to the contrary.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Except where the context otherwise indicates, information contained in this document regarding SAVB has been provided by SAVB and information contained in this document regarding SCBT has been provided by SCBT.

See "Where You Can Find More Information" for more details.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE SCBT AND SAVB SPECIAL MEETINGS SUMMARY</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF SCBT</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF SAVB</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>THE SAVB SPECIAL MEETING</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Date, Time and Place of Meeting</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Matters to Be Considered</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Record Date and Quorum</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Vote Required; Treatment of Abstentions and Failure to Vote</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Shares Held by Officers and Directors</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Voting of Proxies; Incomplete Proxies</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Shares Held in Street Name; Broker Non-Votes</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Shares Held in 401(k) Plan</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a SAVB Shareholder's Vote</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Attending the Meeting</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Assistance</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>THE SCBT SPECIAL MEETING</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Date, Time and Place of Meeting</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Matters to Be Considered</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Record Date and Quorum</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Vote Required; Treatment of Abstentions and Failure to Vote</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Shares Held by Officers and Directors</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Voting of Proxies; Incomplete Proxies</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Shares Held in Street Name; Broker Non-Votes</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a SCBT Shareholder's Vote</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Attending the Meeting</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Assistance</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT SCBT</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT SAVB</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>THE MERGER</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Terms of the Merger</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Background of the Merger</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>SAVB's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors</u>	<u>75</u>

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Opinion of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.</u>	<u>79</u>
<u>Opinion of FIG Partners, LLC</u>	<u>92</u>
<u>SCBT's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger</u>	<u>97</u>
<u>Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on the Compensation Proposal</u>	<u>104</u>
<u>Public Trading Markets</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>SCBT's Dividend Policy</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Dissenters' Rights in the Merger</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Litigation Relating to the Merger</u>	<u>108</u>
<u>THE MERGER AGREEMENT</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Structure of the Merger</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Treatment of SAVB Stock Options and Other Equity-Based Awards</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Closing and Effective Time of the Merger</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates</u>	<u>111</u>
<u>Representations and Warranties</u>	<u>111</u>
<u>Covenants and Agreements</u>	<u>114</u>
<u>SAVB Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors</u>	<u>119</u>
<u>SCBT Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors</u>	<u>119</u>
<u>Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers</u>	<u>119</u>
<u>Conditions to Complete the Merger</u>	<u>121</u>
<u>Termination of the Merger Agreement</u>	<u>122</u>
<u>Effect of Termination</u>	<u>123</u>
<u>Termination Fee</u>	<u>123</u>
<u>Expenses and Fees</u>	<u>124</u>
<u>Amendment, Waiver and Extension of the Merger Agreement</u>	<u>124</u>
<u>Voting Agreements</u>	<u>124</u>
<u>Advisory Board Member Agreements</u>	<u>125</u>
<u>ACCOUNTING TREATMENT</u>	<u>126</u>
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER</u>	<u>126</u>
<u>Tax Consequences of the Merger Generally</u>	<u>127</u>
<u>Information Reporting and Backup Withholding</u>	<u>128</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF SCBT</u>	<u>129</u>
<u>COMPARISON OF SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS</u>	<u>131</u>
<u>COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICES AND DIVIDENDS</u>	<u>140</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF SAVB</u>	<u>141</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF SCBT</u>	<u>143</u>
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS OF SAVB AS OF AND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012</u>	<u>145</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>178</u>
<u>EXPERTS</u>	<u>178</u>

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>178</u>
<u>DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	<u>178</u>
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>ANNEX A: AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER</u>	<u>A-1</u>
<u>ANNEX B: OPINION OF SUNTRUST ROBINSON HUMPHREYS, INC.</u>	<u>B-1</u>
<u>ANNEX C: OPINION OF FIG PARTNERS, LLC</u>	<u>C-1</u>
<u>ANNEX D: FORM OF VOTING AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT</u>	<u>D-1</u>
<u>ANNEX E: FORM OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER AGREEMENT</u>	<u>E-1</u>
<u>ANNEX F: CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION</u>	<u>F-1</u>
<u>ANNEX G: INDEX TO SAVB FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	<u>G-1</u>

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE SCBT AND SAVB SPECIAL MEETINGS

The following are some questions that you may have about the merger and the SCBT or SAVB special meeting, and brief answers to those questions. We urge you to read carefully the remainder of this joint proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section does not provide all of the information that might be important to you with respect to the merger and the SCBT or SAVB special meeting. Additional important information is also contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to "SCBT" refer to SCBT Financial Corporation, a South Carolina corporation, and its affiliates. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to "SAVB" refer to The Savannah Bancorp, Inc., a Georgia corporation, and its affiliates.

Q:
Why am I receiving this joint proxy statement/prospectus?

A:
SCBT has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of August 7, 2012 (which we refer to as the "merger agreement") with SAVB. Under the merger agreement, SAVB will be merged with and into SCBT, with SCBT continuing as the surviving company. Immediately following the merger, The Savannah Bank, N.A. and Bryan Bank & Trust, each a wholly owned bank subsidiary of SAVB, will merge with and into SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary, with SCBT's bank subsidiary continuing as the surviving bank (we refer to these bank mergers collectively as the "bank mergers"). A copy of the merger agreement is included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A.

The merger cannot be completed unless, among other things:

a majority of SCBT's common stock entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy at the SCBT special meeting are voted in favor of the proposal to approve the issuance of shares of SCBT common stock to SAVB shareholders in connection with the merger (which we refer to as the "stock issuance"); and

a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement are voted in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

In addition, SCBT is soliciting proxies from its shareholders with respect to one additional proposal; completion of the merger is not conditioned upon receipt of this approval:

a proposal to adjourn the SCBT special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance if there are insufficient votes at the time of such adjournment to approve such proposal (which we refer to as the "SCBT adjournment proposal").

Furthermore, SAVB is soliciting proxies from its shareholders with respect to two additional proposals; completion of the merger is not conditioned upon receipt of these approvals:

a proposal to adjourn the SAVB special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement if there are insufficient votes at the time of such adjournment to approve such proposal (which we refer to as the "SAVB adjournment proposal"); and

a proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to agreements or arrangements with SAVB (which we refer to as the "compensation proposal").

Table of Contents

Each of SCBT and SAVB will hold separate special meetings to obtain these approvals (which we refer to as the "SCBT special meeting" and the "SAVB special meeting," respectively). This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the merger and the other proposals being voted on at the special meetings, and you should read it carefully. It is a joint proxy statement because both the SCBT and SAVB boards of directors are soliciting proxies from their respective shareholders. It is a prospectus because SCBT will issue shares of SCBT common stock to holders of SAVB common stock in connection with the merger. The enclosed materials allow you to have your shares voted by proxy without attending your respective meeting. Your vote is important. We encourage you to submit your proxy as soon as possible.

Q: What will I receive in the merger?

A: *SCBT shareholders:* If the merger is completed, SCBT shareholders will not receive any merger consideration and will continue to hold the shares of SCBT common stock that they currently hold. Following the merger, shares of SCBT common stock will continue to be traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SCBT."

SAVB shareholders: If the merger is completed, you will receive 0.2503 of a share of SCBT common stock, which we refer to as the exchange ratio, for each share of SAVB common stock that you hold immediately prior to the merger. SCBT will not issue any fractional shares of SCBT common stock in the merger. SAVB shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fractional share of SCBT common stock upon the completion of the merger will instead receive an amount in cash based on the average price per share of SCBT common stock for the 10 trading days immediately preceding (but not including) the day on which the merger is completed, which we refer to as the SCBT closing share value.

Q: Will the value of the merger consideration change between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the time the merger is completed?

A: The value of the merger consideration may fluctuate between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the completion of the merger based upon the market value for SCBT common stock. In the merger, SAVB shareholders will receive a fraction of a share of SCBT common stock for each share of SAVB common stock they hold. Any fluctuation in the market price of SCBT common stock after the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus will change the value of the shares of SCBT common stock that SAVB shareholders will receive.

Q: How does SAVB's board of directors recommend that I vote at the special meeting?

A: SAVB's board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement, "FOR" the SAVB adjournment proposal and "FOR" the compensation proposal.

Q: When and where are the special meetings?

A: The SCBT special meeting will be held at SCBT's headquarters in the Habersham Conference Room on the third floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. local time.

The SAVB special meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia, on November 30, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. local time.

Table of Contents

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After you have carefully read this joint proxy statement/prospectus and have decided how you wish to vote your shares, please vote your shares promptly so that your shares are represented and voted at the special meeting. If you hold your shares in your name as a shareholder of record, you must complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope as soon as possible. If you hold your shares in "street name" through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker how to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank or broker. "Street name" shareholders who wish to vote in person at the special meeting will need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds their shares.

Q: What constitutes a quorum for the SCBT special meeting?

A: The presence at the SCBT special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be included in determining the number of shares present at the meeting for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

Q: What constitutes a quorum for the SAVB special meeting?

A: The presence at the SAVB special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SAVB common stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be included in determining the number of shares present at the meeting for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

Q: What is the vote required to approve each proposal?

A: *SCBT special meeting:* Approval of each of the stock issuance and adjournment proposals requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy at the SCBT special meeting, assuming a quorum is present.

SAVB special meeting: Approval of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shareholders of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement as of the close of business on October 24, 2012, the record date for the special meeting. If you (i) fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting, (ii) mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy or (iii) fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the proposal to approve the merger agreement, it will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal. Approval of the SAVB adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of SAVB common stock represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon. Approval of the compensation proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of SAVB's common stock represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon.

Q: What impact will my vote have on the amounts that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger?

A: Certain of SAVB's executive officers are entitled, pursuant to the terms of their existing compensation arrangements with SAVB, to receive certain payments in connection with the merger. If the merger is completed, SAVB is contractually obligated to make these payments to these executives. Accordingly, even if the SAVB shareholders vote not to approve these payments, the compensation will be payable, subject only to the terms and conditions of the arrangements. SAVB is seeking your approval of these payments, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, in order to

Table of Contents

comply with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and related SEC rules. Pursuant to applicable SEC rules, the payments that may be paid or become payable pursuant to the new employment agreements by and between each of Mr. Helmken, Mr. Keith, Mr. Harden and Mr. Hayes and SCBT (as each is described later in this joint proxy statement/prospectus) are not subject to this advisory vote.

Q: Why is my vote important?

A: If you do not submit a proxy or vote in person, it may be more difficult for SCBT or SAVB to obtain the necessary quorum to hold their special meetings. In addition, if you are a SAVB shareholder, your failure to submit a proxy or vote in person, or failure to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, or abstention will have the same effect as a vote against approval of the merger agreement. The merger agreement must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement. SAVB's board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

Q: If my shares of common stock are held in "street name" by my bank or broker, will my bank or broker automatically vote my shares for me?

A: No. Your bank or broker cannot vote your shares without instructions from you. You should instruct your bank or broker how to vote your shares in accordance with the instructions provided to you. Please check the voting form used by your bank or broker.

Q: What if I abstain from voting or fail to instruct my bank or broker?

A: *SCBT shareholders:* If you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the stock issuance proposal or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal. If you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SCBT special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the stock issuance proposal or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have no effect on the proposal.

SAVB shareholders: If you (i) fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting, (ii) mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy or (iii) fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the proposal to approve the merger agreement, it will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal. If you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have no effect on such proposals. If you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" such proposals.

Q: How do I vote if I own shares through the SAVB stock fund of the SAVB 401(k) Plan?

A: If you own shares through the SAVB stock fund of The Savannah Bancorp, Inc. Employee Savings & Profit Sharing Plan (which we refer to in this proxy statement as the "SAVB 401(k) Plan"), the proxy card includes the shares you hold in the SAVB 401(k) Plan as well as the shares you hold outside of the SAVB 401(k) Plan. You are considered a shareholder of record and must complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope as soon as possible.

Q: Can I attend the special meeting and vote my shares in person?

A: Yes. All shareholders of SCBT and SAVB, including shareholders of record and shareholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers, nominees or any other holder of record, are invited to

Table of Contents

attend their respective special meetings. Holders of record of SCBT and SAVB common stock can vote in person at the SCBT special meeting and SAVB special meeting, respectively. If you are not a shareholder of record, you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meetings. If you plan to attend your special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership. In addition, you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you in order to be admitted. SCBT and SAVB reserve the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership or without proper photo identification. The use of cameras, sound recording equipment, communications devices or any similar equipment during the SCBT or SAVB special meeting is prohibited without SCBT's or SAVB's express written consent, respectively.

Q:
Can I change my vote?

A:
SCBT shareholders: Yes. If you are a holder of record of SCBT common stock, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to SCBT's corporate secretary or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting. Attendance at the special meeting will not automatically revoke your proxy. A revocation or later-dated proxy received by SCBT after the vote will not affect the vote. SCBT's corporate secretary's mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, SCBT Financial Corporation, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. If you hold your shares in "street name" through a bank or broker, you should contact your bank or broker to revoke your proxy.

SAVB shareholders: Yes. If you are a holder of record of SAVB common stock, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to SAVB's corporate secretary or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting. Attendance at the special meeting will not automatically revoke your proxy. A revocation or later-dated proxy received by SAVB after the vote will not affect the vote. SAVB's corporate secretary's mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, The Savannah Bancorp, Inc., P.O. Box 188, Savannah, Georgia 31402. If you hold your shares in "street name" through a bank or broker, you should contact your bank or broker to revoke your proxy.

Q:
Will SCBT be required to submit the proposal to approve the stock issuance to its shareholders even if SCBT's board of directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation?

A:
Yes. Unless the merger agreement is terminated before the SCBT special meeting, SCBT is required to submit the proposal to approve the stock issuance to its shareholders even if SCBT's board of directors has withdrawn or modified its recommendation.

Q:
Will SAVB be required to submit the proposal to approve the merger agreement to its shareholders even if SAVB's board of directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation?

A:
Yes. Unless the merger agreement is terminated before the SAVB special meeting, SAVB is required to submit the proposal to approve the merger agreement to its shareholders even if SAVB's board of directors has withdrawn or modified its recommendation.

Q:
What are the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to SAVB shareholders?

A:
The merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, and holders of SAVB

Table of Contents

common stock are not expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of SAVB common stock for shares of SCBT common stock in the merger, except with respect to any cash received instead of fractional shares of SCBT common stock.

For further information, see "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger."

The U.S. federal income tax consequences described above may not apply to all holders of SAVB common stock. Your tax consequences will depend on your individual situation. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to consult your independent tax advisor for a full understanding of the particular tax consequences of the merger to you.

Q: Are SAVB shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

A: No. Under Section 14-2-1302(c) of the Georgia Business Corporation Code, as amended (the "GBCC"), there is no right of dissent in favor of the holders of shares listed on a national securities exchange that are required, under a plan of merger, to accept, in exchange for their shares, only shares of the surviving corporation that are listed on a national securities exchange. For further information, see "The Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Merger."

Q: If I am a SAVB shareholder, should I send in my SAVB stock certificates now?

A: No. Please do not send in your SAVB stock certificates with your proxy. After the merger, an exchange agent designated by SCBT will send you instructions for exchanging SAVB stock certificates for the merger consideration. See "The Merger Agreement Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates."

Q: What should I do if I hold my shares of SAVB common stock in book-entry form?

A: You are not required to take any specific actions if your shares of SAVB common stock are held in book-entry form. After the completion of the merger, shares of SAVB common stock held in book-entry form automatically will be exchanged for the merger consideration, including shares of SCBT common stock in book-entry form and any cash to be paid in exchange for fractional shares in the merger.

Q: Whom may I contact if I cannot locate my SAVB stock certificate(s)?

A: If you are unable to locate your original SAVB stock certificate(s), you should contact Registrar and Transfer Company, Attn: Lost Certificate Department at 10 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016, or at (800) 368-5948.

Q: When do you expect to complete the merger?

A: SCBT and SAVB expect to complete the merger in the fourth quarter of 2012. However, neither SCBT nor SAVB can assure you when or if the merger will occur. SCBT and SAVB must first obtain the approval of SCBT shareholders for the stock issuance and SAVB shareholders for the merger, respectively, as well as the necessary regulatory approvals.

Q: Whom should I call with questions?

A: *SCBT shareholders:* If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SCBT common stock, please contact: Renee R. Brooks, Corporate Secretary, 520 Gervais Street, South Carolina 29201, at (800) 277-2175.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

SAVB shareholders: If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SAVB common stock, please contact: Michael W. Harden, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, 25 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401, at (912) 629-6500.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this joint proxy statement/prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We urge you to read carefully the entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the appendices, and the other documents to which we refer in order to fully understand the merger. See "Where You Can Find More Information." Each item in this summary refers to the page of this joint proxy statement/prospectus on which that subject is discussed in more detail.

In the Merger, SAVB Shareholders Will Receive Shares of SCBT Common Stock (page 71)

If the merger is completed, SAVB shareholders will receive 0.2503 shares of SCBT common stock for each share of SAVB common stock they hold immediately prior to the merger. SCBT will not issue any fractional shares of SCBT common stock in the merger. SAVB shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of SCBT common stock upon the completion of the merger will instead receive, for the fraction of a share, an amount in cash based on the SCBT closing share value. *For example, if you hold 100 shares of SAVB common stock, you will receive 25 shares of SCBT common stock and a cash payment instead of the 0.03 shares of SCBT common stock that you otherwise would have received (100 shares × 0.2503 = 25.03 shares).*

The merger agreement governs the merger. The merger agreement is included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A. All descriptions in this summary and elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus of the terms and conditions of the merger are qualified by reference to the merger agreement. Please read the merger agreement carefully for a more complete understanding of the merger.

SCBT's Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that SCBT Shareholders Vote "FOR" the Approval of the Stock Issuance (page 119)

SCBT's board of directors has determined that the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the issuance of SCBT common stock, are advisable and in the best interests of SCBT and its shareholders and has unanimously approved the merger and the merger agreement, including the stock issuance. SCBT's board of directors unanimously recommends that SCBT shareholders vote "FOR" the approval of the stock issuance. For the factors considered by SCBT's board of directors in reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, see "The Merger SCBT's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors."

SAVB's Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that SAVB Shareholders Vote "FOR" the Approval of the Merger Agreement (page 119)

SAVB's board of directors has determined that the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are advisable and in the best interests of SAVB and its shareholders and has unanimously approved the merger and the merger agreement. SAVB's board of directors unanimously recommends that SAVB shareholders vote "FOR" the approval of the merger agreement. For the factors considered by SAVB's board of directors in reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, see "The Merger SAVB's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors."

SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and FIG Partners, LLC Have Each Provided an Opinion to SAVB's Board of Directors Regarding the Merger Consideration (pages 79 and 92 and Annex B and Annex C)

On August 7, 2012, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and FIG Partners, LLC each rendered its oral opinion to the SAVB board of directors, subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of such date

Table of Contents

and based upon and subject to the assumptions, procedures, considerations, qualifications and limitations set forth in the written opinion, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of shares of SAVB common stock. The full text of each of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey's and FIG Partners' opinions, dated August 7, 2012, are attached as Annex B and Annex C, respectively, to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You should read each opinion in its entirety for a discussion of the assumptions made, procedures followed, factors considered and limitations upon the review undertaken by each of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey and FIG Partners in rendering its opinion.

For further information, see "The Merger Opinion of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc." and "The Merger Opinion of FIG Partners, LLC."

What Holders of SAVB Stock Options and Other Equity-Based Awards Will Receive (page 109)

Options. Prior to the effective time, each outstanding option (other than those outstanding under the SAVB ESPP) will be fully vested (with unvested options conditionally vesting, subject to the consummation of the merger) and exercisable. Each SAVB stock option that is not exercised prior to the effective time will be converted into a right to receive the product of (i) the excess, if any, of (A) the closing price per share of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the effective time over (B) the per-share exercise price of such SAVB stock option and (ii) the number of shares of SAVB common stock subject to such SAVB stock option. In the event that the product obtained by the prior sentence is zero or a negative number, then the SAVB stock option will be cancelled for no consideration.

Restricted Stock. As of the effective time, each SAVB restricted share will vest in full, become free of all restrictions and the holder of such SAVB restricted share will receive the merger consideration in exchange for each SAVB restricted share.

SAVB Employee Stock Purchase Plan. All options (which we refer to as SAVB ESPP Options) outstanding under the SAVB Employee Stock Purchase Plan (which we refer to as the SAVB ESPP) on November 15, 2012, will be automatically exercised on such date and the shares of SAVB common stock issued pursuant to the exercise of such SAVB ESPP Options will receive the merger consideration. Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, (i) no new offer period commenced under the SAVB ESPP after August 7, 2012, (ii) participants were prohibited from altering their payroll deduction from those in effect as of August 7, 2012 (other than to discontinue participation in the SAVB ESPP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the SAVB ESPP), and (iii) the amount of the accumulated contributions of each participant under the SAVB ESPP as of immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, will, to the extent not used to purchase shares of SAVB common stock in accordance with the terms and conditions of the SAVB ESPP, be refunded to such participant as promptly as practicable following the effective time of the merger (without interest). The SAVB ESPP will be terminated on November 15, 2012.

Deferred Stock Plan. All amounts held in participant accounts and denominated in SAVB common stock under the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan (which we refer to as SAVB Deferred Stock Units) will be converted into rights with respect to a number of shares of SCBT common stock that is equal to the number of SAVB Deferred Stock Units immediately prior to the effective time of the merger multiplied by the exchange ratio (rounded to the nearest whole share) (which as-converted SAVB Deferred Stock Units we refer to as the SCBT Deferred Stock Units), and otherwise on the same terms and conditions (including applicable deferral provisions) as applied to such SAVB Deferred Stock Units immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. The obligations in respect of the SAVB Deferred Stock Units (as converted into SCBT Deferred Stock Units), will be payable or distributable in accordance with the terms of the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan. As of the effective time, SCBT will assume the obligations and succeed to the rights of SAVB under the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan with respect to the SAVB Deferred Stock Units (as converted into SCBT Deferred Stock Units).

Table of Contents

SCBT Will Hold its Special Meeting on November 30, 2012 (page 39)

The special meeting of SCBT shareholders will be held on November 30, 2012, at 10:00 am local time, at SCBT's headquarters in the Habersham Conference Room on the third floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina. At the special meeting, SCBT shareholders will be asked to:

approve the stock issuance in connection with the merger; and

approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance.

Only holders of record at the close of business on October 24, 2012 will be entitled to vote at the special meeting. Each share of SCBT common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal to be considered at the SCBT special meeting. As of the record date, there were 15,123,734 shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. As of the record date, the directors and executive officers of SCBT and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately 768,847 shares of SCBT common stock representing approximately 5.1% of the shares of SCBT common stock outstanding on that date, and held options to purchase 175,707 shares of SCBT common stock and 125,940 shares underlying restricted stock awards. As of the record date, SAVB and its subsidiaries did not hold any shares of SCBT common stock (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent), and its directors and executive officers or their affiliates did not hold any shares of SCBT common stock.

To approve the stock issuance or the SCBT adjournment proposal, a majority of the shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting must be voted in favor of approving the proposal. If you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the stock issuance or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. However, if you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SCBT special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the stock issuance proposal or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have no effect on the proposal.

SAVB Will Hold its Special Meeting on November 30, 2012 (page 35)

The special meeting of SAVB shareholders will be held on November 30, 2012, at 9:00 am local time, at the Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia. At the special meeting, SAVB shareholders will be asked to:

approve the merger agreement;

approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve of the merger agreement; and

approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB.

Only holders of record at the close of business on October 24, 2012 will be entitled to vote at the special meeting. Each share of SAVB common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal to be considered at the SAVB special meeting. As of the record date, there were 7,199,237 shares of SAVB common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Each of the directors of SAVB and certain executive officers and shareholders of SAVB have entered into a voting agreement with SCBT, pursuant to which they have agreed, solely in their capacity as SAVB shareholders, to vote all of their shares of SAVB common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting. As of the record date, SAVB directors, executive officers and shareholders who are parties to the voting agreements owned and were entitled to vote an aggregate of approximately 1,492,745 shares of SAVB common stock, which represents approximately 20.73% of the shares of SAVB common stock outstanding on that date. As of the record date, the directors and executive officers of SAVB and their affiliates

Table of Contents

beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately 1,343,640 shares of SAVB common stock representing approximately 18.66% of the shares of SAVB common stock outstanding on that date, and held options to purchase 68,229 shares of SAVB common stock and 796 shares underlying restricted stock awards. As of the record date, SCBT and its subsidiaries did not hold any shares of SAVB common stock (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent), and its directors and executive officers or their affiliates did not hold any shares of SAVB common stock.

To approve the merger agreement, at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement must be voted in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement. Your failure to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting, failure to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, or abstention with respect to the proposal to approve the merger agreement will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

To approve the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, a majority of the shares of SAVB common stock represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote thereon at the special meeting must be voted in favor of such proposals. Therefore, if you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against approval of such proposals. However, if you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have no effect on such proposals.

The Merger Is Intended to Be Tax-Free to Holders of SAVB Common Stock as to the Shares of SCBT Common Stock They Receive (page 126)

The merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, and it is a condition to the respective obligations of SCBT and SAVB to complete the merger that each of SCBT and SAVB receives a legal opinion to that effect. Accordingly, the merger generally will be tax-free to a holder of SAVB common stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes as to the shares of SCBT common stock he or she receives in the merger, except for any gain or loss that may result from the receipt of cash instead of fractional shares of SCBT common stock that such holder of SAVB common stock would otherwise be entitled to receive.

For further information, see "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger."

The U.S. federal income tax consequences described above may not apply to all holders of SAVB common stock. Your tax consequences will depend on your individual situation. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to consult your independent tax advisor for a full understanding of the particular tax consequences of the merger to you.

SAVB's Officers and Directors Have Financial Interests in the Merger that Differ from Your Interests (page 97)

SAVB shareholders should be aware that some of SAVB's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger and have arrangements that are different from, or in addition to, those of SAVB shareholders generally. These interests and arrangements may create potential conflicts of interest. SAVB's board of directors was aware of these interests and considered these interests, among other matters, when making its decision to approve the merger agreement, and in recommending that SAVB shareholders vote in favor of approving the merger agreement.

These interests include:

Each SAVB option, whether vested or unvested, will become exercisable for a specified period prior to the closing date and, to the extent not exercised prior to the closing date, will be cashed

Table of Contents

out for the spread between the closing price per share immediately prior to the effective time and the per-share exercise price of such stock option.

Each outstanding share of SAVB restricted stock will vest at the effective time and be converted into the merger consideration.

In connection with entering into the merger agreement (or shortly thereafter), Messrs. Helmken, Harden, Keith and Hayes entered into employment agreements with SCBT that become effective upon the closing of the merger and provide for severance upon a termination of employment.

Mr. Stramm previously entered into a change in control agreement with SAVB that provides for severance upon a termination of employment for any reason during the one-year period immediately following a change in control.

Each SAVB director will participate on an advisory board of SCBT following the closing of the merger and will receive compensation for three years that is consistent with the board retainer the SAVB directors currently receive with respect to services provided to the SAVB board of directors.

For a more complete description of these interests, see "The Merger Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger" and "The Merger Agreement Treatment of SAVB Stock Options and Other Equity-Based Awards."

SAVB Shareholders Will NOT Be Entitled to Assert Dissenters' Rights (page 105)

Under Georgia law, which is the law under which SAVB is incorporated, there is no right of dissent in favor of the holders of shares listed on a national securities "exchange" that are required, under a plan of merger, to accept, in exchange for their shares, only shares of the surviving corporation that are listed on a national securities exchange. The procedures to be followed by dissenting shareholders are described below in "The Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Merger."

Conditions That Must Be Satisfied or Waived for the Merger to Occur (page 121)

Currently, SAVB and SCBT expect to complete the merger in the fourth quarter of 2012. As more fully described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and in the merger agreement, the completion of the merger depends on a number of conditions being satisfied or, where legally permissible, waived. These conditions include, among others, approval of the merger agreement by SAVB shareholders, approval of the stock issuance by SCBT's shareholders, the receipt of certain required regulatory approvals and the receipt of legal opinions by each company regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the merger.

Neither SAVB nor SCBT can be certain when, or if, the conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived, or that the merger will be completed.

Termination of the Merger Agreement (page 122)

The merger agreement can be terminated at any time prior to completion of the merger by mutual consent, or by either party in the following circumstances:

the merger has not been completed by May 7, 2013 (we refer to this date as the end date), if the failure to complete the merger by that date is not caused by the terminating party's breach of the merger agreement;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

any required regulatory approval has been denied by the relevant regulatory authority and this denial has become final and non-appealable, or a regulatory authority has issued a final, non-appealable injunction permanently enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the completion of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; or

Table of Contents

there is a breach by the other party that would cause the failure of the closing conditions described above, and the breach is not cured prior to the earlier of May 7, 2013 and 30 business days following written notice of the breach.

In addition, SCBT may terminate the merger agreement in the following circumstances:

SAVB's board of directors fails to recommend to the SAVB shareholders that they approve the merger agreement or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SCBT;

SAVB's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its non-solicitation obligations described below in "The Merger Agreement Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" or its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings and acquisition proposals described below in "The Merger Agreement SAVB Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors";

SAVB's board of directors approves, recommends or endorses, or proposes or resolves to approve, recommend or endorse, an alternative transaction or acquisition proposal, as described below in "The Merger Agreement SAVB Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors"; or

SAVB shareholders do not approve the merger agreement and the transactions it contemplates at the special meeting or adjournment thereof.

In addition, SAVB may terminate the merger agreement in the following circumstances:

SCBT's board of directors fails to recommend to the SCBT shareholders that they approve the stock issuance or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SAVB;

SCBT's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings and acquisition proposals described below in "The Merger Agreement SCBT Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors"; or

SCBT's shareholders do not approve the stock issuance at the special meeting or adjournment thereof.

Termination Fee (page 123)

If the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, including circumstances involving a change in recommendation by SAVB's board of directors, SAVB may be required to pay SCBT a termination fee of \$2.6 million. The termination fee could discourage other companies from seeking to acquire or merge with SAVB. If the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, including circumstances involving a change in recommendation by SCBT's board of directors, SCBT may be required to pay SAVB a termination fee of \$2.6 million.

Georgia Advisory Board (page 118)

SCBT agreed to establish an advisory board consisting of the current directors of SAVB, together with any additional individuals appointed by SCBT in its sole discretion, to monitor the performance and operations of the surviving corporation of the merger in the Savannah, Georgia area. The advisory board will exist for a minimum of three years following the completion of the merger and the compensation provided to members of the advisory board for their service during this period will be consistent with the compensation provided to directors of SAVB as of

the date of the merger agreement. In connection with their service on the advisory board, each member will enter into an advisory board member agreement.

Table of Contents

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger (page 106)

Both SAVB and SCBT have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals required or advisable to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. These approvals include approvals from, among others: the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, or Georgia DBF, and the South Carolina State Board of Financial Institutions, or South Carolina State Board. SCBT and SAVB have filed, or are in the process of filing, applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

Although neither SAVB nor SCBT knows of any reason why it cannot obtain these regulatory approvals in a timely manner, SAVB and SCBT cannot be certain when or if they will be obtained.

Litigation Related to the Merger (page 108)

Certain litigation is pending in connection with the merger. See "The Merger Litigation Relating to the Merger" on page 108.

The Rights of SAVB Shareholders Will Change as a Result of the Merger (page 131)

The rights of SAVB shareholders will change as a result of the merger due to differences in SCBT's and SAVB's governing documents. The rights of SAVB shareholders are governed by Georgia law and by SAVB's articles of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date (which we refer to as SAVB's articles of incorporation and bylaws, respectively). Upon the completion of the merger, the rights of SAVB shareholders will be governed by South Carolina law and SCBT's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

See "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights" for a description of the material differences in shareholder rights under each of the SCBT and SAVB governing documents.

Information About the Companies (pages 43 and 45)

SCBT Financial Corporation

SCBT is a bank holding company, or BHC, incorporated under South Carolina law in 1985. Until February of 2004, SCBT was named "First National Corporation." SCBT currently holds all of the stock of its subsidiary, SCBT a South Carolina banking corporation (which we refer to as SCBT Bank). SCBT Bank opened for business in 1934 and converted from a national bank charter to a South Carolina state bank charter effective as of July 1, 2012, changing its name from "SCBT, N.A." to "SCBT." SCBT Bank operates as South Carolina Bank and Trust, North Carolina Bank and Trust, and Community Bank and Trust. SCBT coordinates the financial resources of the consolidated enterprise and thereby maintains financial, operational and administrative systems that allow centralized evaluation of subsidiary operations and coordination of selected policies and activities. SCBT's operating revenues and net income are derived primarily from cash dividends received from SCBT. At June 30, 2012, SCBT had consolidated total assets of approximately \$4.37 billion, gross loans of approximately \$3.04 billion and total deposits of approximately \$3.66 billion.

The principal executive offices of SCBT are located at 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and its telephone number is (800) 277-2175. SCBT's website can be accessed at <http://www.scbtonline.com>. Information contained in SCBT's website does not constitute part of, and is not incorporated into, this joint proxy statement/prospectus. SCBT common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SCBT."

Additional information about SCBT and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Table of Contents

The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.

SAVB was incorporated as a Georgia business corporation on October 5, 1989, for the purpose of becoming a bank holding company. SAVB became a bank holding company within the meaning of the Federal Bank Holding Company Act and the Georgia Bank Holding Company Act on August 22, 1990 upon the acquisition of 100 percent of the common stock of The Savannah Bank, National Association, which we refer to as The Savannah Bank. The Savannah Bank received its charter from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and opened for business on August 22, 1990. In December 1998, SAVB consummated a plan of merger to exchange shares of its stock for shares of Bryan Bancorp of Georgia, Inc., which we refer to as Bryan, the bank holding company for Bryan Bank & Trust, which we refer to as Bryan Bank, and Bryan was merged into SAVB and Bryan Bank became a wholly-owned subsidiary of SAVB. Bryan Bank received its charter from the Georgia DBF in December 1989. Effective September 30, 2009, SAVB merged the charter of Harbourside Community Bank, a federal stock savings bank, which we refer to as Harbourside, into The Savannah Bank, and the two Harbourside branches are now The Savannah Bank branches. SAVB acquired all of the net assets of Minis & Co., Inc., which we refer to as Minis, as of August 31, 2007 and incorporated such net assets into a new, wholly-owned subsidiary of SAVB, which continued to operate under the name of Minis & Co., Inc. Minis is a registered investment advisor based in Savannah, Georgia, offering a full line of investment management services. On September 30, 2008, SAVB formed a new subsidiary, SAVB Holdings, LLC, which we refer to as SAVB Holdings, to hold previously identified problem loans (including problem and nonperforming loans) and foreclosed real estate primarily from Harbourside. The Savannah Bank, Bryan Bank, Minis and SAVB Holdings are currently the four operating subsidiaries of SAVB.

As of June 30, 2012, The Savannah Bank had nine full service offices and one stand-alone automated teller machine, total assets of \$703 million, total loans of \$544 million, total deposits of \$609 million, total shareholders' equity of \$66.4 million and net income of \$230,000 for the six month period then ended. As of June 30, 2012, Bryan Bank had two full service offices, total assets of \$234 million, total loans of \$176 million, total deposits of \$210 million, total shareholders' equity of \$20.7 million and a net income of \$5,000 for the six month period then ended. Minis had approximately \$443.5 million in assets under management at June 30, 2012.

The principal executive offices of SAVB are located at 25 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401, and its telephone number is (912) 629-6500. SAVB's website can be accessed at <http://www.savb.com>. Information contained in SAVB's website does not constitute part of, and is not incorporated into, this joint proxy statement/prospectus. SAVB common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "SAVB."

Risk Factors (page 31)

You should consider all the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus in deciding how to vote for the proposals presented in the joint proxy statement/prospectus. In particular, you should consider the factors under "Risk Factors."

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF SCBT

The following table summarizes financial results achieved by SCBT for the periods and at the dates indicated and should be read in conjunction with SCBT's consolidated financial statements and the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in reports that SCBT has previously filed with the SEC. The results of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the full year or any other interim period. SCBT management prepared the unaudited consolidated information as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 on the same basis as it prepared SCBT's audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. In the opinion of SCBT management, this unaudited consolidated information reflects all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of this data for those dates. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

	As of or for the Six Months Ended June 30,		As of or for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands, except per share data)						
Summarized Income Statement Data:							
Interest income	\$ 87,690	\$ 82,586	\$ 171,718	\$ 155,354	\$ 141,798	\$ 156,075	\$ 149,199
Interest expense	6,118	11,739	20,266	32,737	37,208	60,298	68,522
Net interest income	81,572	70,847	151,452	122,617	104,590	95,777	80,677
Provision for loan losses	7,365	14,856	30,236	54,282	26,712	10,736	4,384
Noninterest income	21,217	24,665	55,119	137,735	26,246	19,049	27,359
Noninterest expenses	72,727	69,272	142,978	125,242	83,646	79,796	71,402
Net income before provision for income taxes	22,697	11,384	33,357	80,828	20,478	24,294	32,250
Provision for income taxes	7,638	3,950	10,762	28,946	6,883	8,509	10,685
Net income	15,059	7,434	22,595	51,882	13,595	15,785	21,565
Preferred stock dividends					1,115		
Accretion on preferred stock discount					3,559		
Net income attributable to common shares	\$ 15,059	\$ 7,434	\$ 22,595	\$ 51,882	\$ 8,921	\$ 15,785	\$ 21,565
Per Common Share Data:							
Earnings (loss) per share Basic	\$ 1.06	\$ 0.55	\$ 1.65	\$ 4.11	\$ 0.74	\$ 1.53	\$ 2.33
Earnings (loss) per share Diluted	\$ 1.05	\$ 0.55	\$ 1.63	\$ 4.08	\$ 0.74	\$ 1.52	\$ 2.32
Book value at end of period	\$ 28.17	\$ 26.53	\$ 27.19	\$ 25.79	\$ 22.20	\$ 21.77	\$ 21.17
Cash dividends declared	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.68
Weighted-Average Number of Common Shares:							
Basic	14,260	13,500	13,677	12,618	12,061	10,301	9,275
Diluted	14,334	13,582	13,751	12,720	12,109	10,394	9,305
Average Balance Sheet Data:							
Total assets	\$ 4,126,914	\$ 3,866,509	\$ 3,904,363	\$ 3,617,590	\$ 2,813,926	\$ 2,725,955	\$ 2,272,413
Total borrowings	\$ 46,342	\$ 47,459	\$ 47,239	\$ 81,822	\$ 150,446	\$ 168,645	\$ 109,566
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 399,664	\$ 358,111	\$ 370,112	\$ 335,853	\$ 291,590	\$ 225,484	\$ 173,679

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF SAVB**

Set forth below is certain consolidated financial data of SAVB as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 through December 31, 2011 and as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011. The results of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the full year or any other interim period. SAVB management prepared the unaudited consolidated information as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 on the same basis as it prepared SAVB's audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. In the opinion of SAVB management, this unaudited consolidated information reflects all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of this data for those dates. You should read this information in conjunction with SAVB's consolidated financial statements and related notes for the year ended December 31, 2011 and SAVB's unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes for the six months ended June 30, 2012, which are included in this document and from which this information is derived.

	As of or for the Six Months Ended June 30,		As of or for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
(in thousands, except per share data)							
Summarized Income Statement Data:							
Interest income	\$ 20,508	\$ 23,089	\$ 45,063	\$ 47,929	\$ 50,563	\$ 56,682	\$ 63,258
Interest expense	3,503	5,210	9,488	14,362	18,258	24,439	30,282
Net interest income	17,005	17,879	35,575	33,567	32,305	32,243	32,976
Provision for loan losses	7,280	10,660	20,035	21,020	13,065	6,000	4,675
Noninterest income	3,062	3,332	6,646	7,311	8,822	7,675	4,753
Noninterest expenses	14,087	13,222	26,253	26,977	26,978	24,742	21,183
Net income (loss) before provision for income taxes	(1,300)	(2,671)	(4,067)	(7,119)	1,084	9,176	11,871
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(685)	(1,305)	(1,895)	(3,130)	155	3,170	4,235
Net income (loss) attributable to common shares	\$ (615)	\$ (1,366)	\$ (2,172)	\$ (3,989)	\$ 929	\$ 6,006	\$ 7,636
Per Common Share Data:							
Earnings (loss) per share Basic	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.19)	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.60)	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.31
Earnings (loss) per share Diluted	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.19)	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.60)	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.29
Book value at end of period	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.83	\$ 11.69	\$ 11.92	\$ 13.32	\$ 13.64	\$ 12.88
Cash dividends declared	\$	\$	\$	\$ 0.020	\$ 0.185	\$ 0.500	\$ 0.480
Weighted-Average Number of Common Shares:							
Basic	7,199	7,199	7,199	6,625	5,933	5,930	5,850
Diluted	7,199	7,199	7,199	6,625	5,936	5,947	5,922
Average Balance Sheet Data:							
Total assets	\$ 965,091	\$ 1,036,194	\$ 1,012,451	\$ 1,078,464	\$ 1,018,470	\$ 960,260	\$ 869,026
Total borrowings	\$ 49,233	\$ 50,025	\$ 51,609	\$ 62,140	\$ 71,967	\$ 88,553	\$ 70,939
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 84,615	\$ 86,722	\$ 86,695	\$ 84,319	\$ 79,804	\$ 78,998	\$ 71,516

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are based on the separate historical financial statements of SCBT and SAVB after giving effect to the merger and the issuance of SCBT common stock in connection therewith, and the assumptions and adjustments described in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2012 is presented as if the merger with SAVB had occurred on June 30, 2012. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated income statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the six months ended June 30, 2012 are presented as if the merger had occurred on January 1, 2011. The historical consolidated financial information has been adjusted to reflect factually supportable items that are directly attributable to the merger and, with respect to the income statements only, expected to have a continuing impact on consolidated results of operations.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial information has been prepared using the acquisition method of accounting for business combinations under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. SCBT is the acquirer for accounting purposes. SCBT has not had sufficient time to completely evaluate the significant identifiable long-lived tangible and identifiable intangible assets of SAVB. Accordingly, the unaudited pro forma adjustments, including the allocations of the purchase price, are preliminary and have been made solely for the purpose of providing unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial information. Certain reclassifications have been made to the historical financial statements of SAVB to conform to the presentation in SCBT's financial statements.

A final determination of the acquisition consideration and fair values of SAVB's assets and liabilities, which cannot be made prior to the completion of the merger, will be based on the actual net tangible and intangible assets of SAVB that exist as of the date of completion of the transaction. Consequently, amounts preliminarily allocated to goodwill and identifiable intangibles could change significantly from those allocations used in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements presented below and could result in a material change in amortization of acquired intangible assets.

In connection with the plan to integrate the operations of SCBT and SAVB following the completion of the merger, SCBT anticipates that nonrecurring charges, such as costs associated with systems implementation, severance, and other costs related to exit or disposal activities, could be incurred. SCBT is not able to determine the timing, nature and amount of these charges as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. However, these charges could affect the results of operations of SCBT and SAVB, as well as those of the combined company following the completion of the merger, in the period in which they are recorded. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements do not include the effects of the costs associated with any restructuring or integration activities resulting from the transaction, as they are nonrecurring in nature and not factually supportable at the time that the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements were prepared. Additionally, the unaudited pro forma adjustments do not give effect to any nonrecurring or unusual restructuring charges that may be incurred as a result of the integration of the two companies or any anticipated disposition of assets that may result from such integration. Transaction-related expenses estimated at \$10.1 million are not included in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated income statements.

The actual amounts recorded as of the completion of the merger may differ materially from the information presented in these unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements as a result of:

changes in the trading price for SCBT's common stock;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

net cash used or generated in SAVB's operations between the signing of the merger agreement and completion of the merger;

the timing of the completion of the merger;

other changes in SAVB's net assets that occur prior to the completion of the merger, which could cause material differences in the information presented below; and

changes in the financial results of the combined company, which could change the future discounted cash flow projections.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are provided for informational purposes only. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are not necessarily, and should not be assumed to be, an indication of the results that would have been achieved had the transaction been completed as of the dates indicated or that may be achieved in the future. The preparation of the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements and related adjustments required management to make certain assumptions and estimates. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements should be read together with:

the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements;

SCBT's separate audited historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, included in SCBT's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;

SAVB's separate audited historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus beginning on page G-1;

SCBT's separate unaudited historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes as of and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 included in SCBT's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012;

SAVB's separate unaudited historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes as of and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012, included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus beginning on page G-1; and

other information pertaining to SCBT and SAVB contained in or, with respect to SCBT, incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of SCBT" and "Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of SAVB" included elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2012 presents the consolidated financial position giving pro forma effect to the following transactions as if they had occurred as of June 30, 2012:

the completion of SCBT's acquisition of SAVB, including the issuance of 1,801,969 shares (based upon the number of shares outstanding of SAVB's common stock as of June 30, 2012 and an exchange ratio of 0.2503 shares of SCBT for one SAVB share) of SCBT's common stock;

the redemption of SCBT's Federal Reserve stock in early July 2012 with the conversion from a national chartered financial institution to a non-member state chartered financial institution;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

the payment of \$4.9 million in transaction related costs that were accrued on the SAVB closing balance sheet, including professional fees and asset sale termination payment;

Table of Contents

the repayment of all FHLB advances, including any repayment fee and accrued interest, totaling approximately \$13.8 million; and

the repayment of the outstanding note payable and any unpaid and accrued interest to Lewis Broadcasting Corporation totaling approximately \$7.8 million.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated income statement for the six months ended June 30, 2012 presents the consolidated results of operations giving pro forma effect to the completion of SCBT's investment in Peoples Bancorporation, Inc., which we refer to as Peoples, and the related redemption of its TARP preferred stock that occurred at the time of the investment, as if it had occurred as of January 1, 2012.

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2012

(Dollars in thousands, except par value)

	SCBTFC 6/30/2012 (as reported)	6/30/2012 (as reported)	The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.		Pro Forma 6/30/2012 Combined
			Purchase Accounting Adjustments	Proforma Adjustments	Proforma SAVB
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents:					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 140,855	\$ 14,438	\$	\$ (19,652)(n)(o)(p)	\$ (5,214) \$ 135,641
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	2,294	84,063			84,063 86,357
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	166,770	340			340 167,110
Total cash and cash equivalents	309,919	98,841		(19,652)	79,189 389,108
Investment securities:					
Securities held to maturity	16,567				16,567
Securities available for sale, at fair value	478,472	86,665	(1,000)(a)		85,665 564,137
Other investments	16,099			(7,028)(n)	(7,028) 9,071
Total investment securities	511,138	86,665	(1,000)	(7,028)	78,637 589,775
Loans held for sale	42,525				42,525
Loans:					
Acquired	560,058	725,345	(76,331)(b)		649,014 1,209,072
Less allowance for acquired loan losses	(35,813)	(22,776)	22,776(b)		(35,813)
Non-acquired	2,481,251				2,481,251
Less allowance for non-acquired loan losses	(47,269)				(47,269)
Loans, net	2,958,227	702,569	(53,555)		649,014 3,607,241
FDIC receivable for loss share agreements	200,569				200,569
Other real estate owned	84,409	16,335	(5,340)(c)		10,995 95,404
Premises and equipment, net	106,458	14,058	(3,000)(d)		11,058 117,516
Goodwill	66,542	2,506	31,728(e)		34,234 100,776
Bank-owned life insurance	35,543	6,612			6,612 42,155
Other intangible assets	13,429	944	6,760(f)(g)		7,704 21,133
Deferred tax asset	16,700	11,723	24,704(h)		36,427 53,127
Other assets	27,810	11,968			11,968 39,778
Total assets	\$ 4,373,269	\$ 952,221	\$ 297	\$ (26,680)	\$ 925,838 \$ 5,299,107
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY					
Deposits:					
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 806,235	\$ 128,010	\$	\$	\$ 128,010 \$ 934,245
Interest-bearing	2,854,737	689,956	4,139(i)		694,095 3,548,832
Total deposits	3,660,972	817,966	4,139		822,105 4,483,077
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	220,264	15,405			15,405 235,669
Other borrowings	46,105	31,307	833(j)	(21,830)(o)	10,310 56,415
Other liabilities	21,022	3,829	5,392(k)	(2,460)(p)(r)	4,371 25,393
Total liabilities	3,948,363	868,507	10,364	(26,680)	852,191 4,800,554

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Shareholders' equity:						
Preferred stock \$.01 par value; authorized 10,000,000 shares; no shares issued and outstanding						
Common stock	37,715	7,201	(7,201)(l)	4,505(q)	4,505	42,220
Surplus	262,647	48,671	24,976(m)	(4,505)(q)	69,142	331,789
Retained earnings (deficit)	126,304	26,488	(26,488)(l)	(2,390)(r)		126,304
Treasury stock, at cost		(1)	1		(0)	(0)
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss)	(1,760)	1,355	(1,355)(l)			(1,760)
Total shareholders' equity	424,906	83,714	(10,067)		73,647	498,553
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 4,373,269	\$ 952,221	\$ 297	\$ (26,680)	\$ 925,838	\$ 5,299,107

Purchase Accounting Adjustments:

- (a) Adjustment reflects marking the investment portfolio to fair value as of the acquisition date.
- (b) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments based on the Company's initial evaluation of the acquired loan portfolio, and the reversal of SAVB's ALLL.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

- (c) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments to OREO based on the Company's initial evaluation of the acquired OREO portfolio.
- (d) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments to acquired premises (land) based on the Company's initial evaluation as of the acquisition date.
- (e) Adjustment reflects the goodwill generated as a result of the fair value of liabilities assumed exceeding the fair value of assets acquired.
- (f) Adjustment reflects the initial estimate of the core deposit intangible of \$6.5 million on the acquired core deposit accounts.
- (g) Adjustment reflects the incremental intangible related to the client list of Minis & Company (the RIA) of \$1.2 million.
- (h) Adjustment reflects the recording of the deferred tax asset generated by the net fair market value adjustments (rate = 35.8%).
- (i) Adjustment arises since the rates on interest-bearing deposits are higher than rates available on similar deposits as of the acquisition date.
- (j) Adjustment reflects the estimated prepayment fee on FHLB advances that will be paid off at closing.
- (k) Adjustment reflects known SAVB transaction costs including professional, proxy related, change in control, and asset sale termination fee.
- (l) Adjustment reflects the reversal of Savannah Bancorp's June 30, 2012 retained earnings, common stock and AOCI.
- (m) Adjustment reflects the net impact of the purchase accounting adjustments.

Proforma Adjustments:

- (n) Adjustment reflects the redemption of Federal Reserve Stock (\$7.0 million) owned by SCBT due to the change from a national bank charter to state-chartered bank.
- (o) Adjustment for the repayment of SAVB's FHLB advances (\$14.0 million) and note payable to Lewis Broadcasting (\$7.8 million).
- (p) Adjustment for payment of termination fee related to asset sale and other professional fees owed at closing.
- (q) Adjustment reflects the difference in par value of common stock from \$1.00 at SAVB to \$2.50 at SCBT.
- (r) Adjustment reflects estimated direct transaction costs of \$2.4 million of SCBT.

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE
SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	SCBTFC 6/30/2012 (as reported)	Peoples Bancorporation, Inc. Period from 1/1/2012 to 4/24/2012	Adjustments	The Savannah Bancorp, Inc. 6/30/2012 (as reported)	Proforma Adjustments	SAVB Proforma	Proforma 6/30/2012 Combined
Interest income:							
Loans, including fees	\$ 81,898	\$ 4,854	\$ 1,232(a)	\$ 19,332	\$ 306(k)	\$ 19,638	\$ 107,622
Investment securities:							
Taxable	4,906	809		907		907	6,622
Tax-exempt	395	1,298		120		120	1,813
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	491	7		149		149	647
Total interest income	87,690	6,968	1,232	20,508	306	20,814	116,704
Interest expense:							
Deposits	4,766	1,160	(485)(b)	2,834	(1,335)(l)	1,499	6,940
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	236	16		350	(331)(m)	19	271
Other borrowings	1,116			319	(157)(n)	162	1,278
Total interest expense	6,118	1,176	(485)	3,503	(1,823)	1,680	8,489
Net interest income	81,572	5,792	1,717	17,005	2,129	19,134	108,215
Provision for loan losses	7,365	210	(c)	7,280	(o)	7,280	14,855
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	74,207	5,582	1,717	9,725	2,129	11,854	93,360
Noninterest income:							
Gains on acquisitions							
Service charges on deposit accounts	11,333	431		696		696	12,460
Bankcard services income	6,938	321					7,259
Trust and investment services income	3,039			1,347		1,347	4,386
Mortgage banking income	4,792	238		102		102	5,132
Securities gains, net	61	1,092		23		23	1,176
Amortization of FDIC indemnification asset	(7,603)						(7,603)
Other	2,657	874		894		894	4,425
Total noninterest income	21,217	2,956		3,062		3,062	27,235
Noninterest expense:							
Salaries and employee benefits	36,310	2,603	15(d)	5,925		5,925	44,853
Net occupancy expense	4,726	341	5(e)	1,731		1,731	6,803
OREO expense and loan related	4,831	346	(f)	2,739	(p)	2,739	7,916
Information services expense	5,370	97		954		954	6,421
Furniture and equipment expense	4,610	387					4,997
FDIC assessment and other regulatory charges	2,110	251		747		747	3,108
Advertising and marketing	1,310	116					1,426
Amortization of intangibles	1,040		95(g)	112	384(q)	496	1,631
Professional fees	1,365	256					1,621
Merger-related expense	2,094	254			(r)		2,348
Other	8,961	1,560		1,879		1,879	12,400

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Total noninterest expense	72,727	6,211	115	14,087	384	14,471	93,524
---------------------------	--------	-------	-----	--------	-----	--------	--------

Earnings:

Income before provision for income taxes	22,697	2,327	1,603	(1,300)	1,745	445	27,072
Provision for income taxes	7,638	170	545(h)	(685)	593(s)	(92)	8,261

Net income	15,059	2,157	1,058	(615)	1,152	537	18,811
-------------------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	--------

Preferred stock dividends		245	(245)(i)				
Accretion on preferred stock discount		43	(43)(i)				

Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 15,059	\$ 1,869	\$ 1,346	\$ (615)	\$ 1,152	\$ 537	\$ 18,811
--	-----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	--------	-----------

Earnings per common share:							
Basic	\$ 1.06						\$ 1.10

Diluted	1.05						1.10
---------	------	--	--	--	--	--	------

Dividends per common share	\$ 0.34						\$ 0.34
----------------------------	---------	--	--	--	--	--	---------

Weighted-average common shares outstanding:

Basic	14,260	7,022	992(j)	7,199	1,802(t)		17,054
Diluted	14,334	7,033	994(j)	7,199	1,802(t)		17,130

Peoples adjustments:

(a) Adjusted loan interest income for purchased loans using level yield methodology over the estimated lives of the acquired loan portfolios.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

- (b) Adjustment reflects the amortization of CD premium on sum-of-year-digits methodology.
- (c) With acquired loans recorded at fair value, the Company would expect to significantly reduce the provision for loan losses from Peoples, however no adjustment to the historic amount of Peoples provision for loan losses is reflected in these pro formas.
- (d) Adjustment reflects the amortization of the intangible created by noncompete agreement over 2-year period.
- (e) Adjustment reflects incremental depreciation expense of assets acquired and marked up to fair value.
- (f) OREO and other foreclosed assets written down and the related carrying cost are included, and due to the recording of these assets at fair value, the company would forecast significantly lower expense for this line item; however, no adjustment has been made for the historic amounts of Peoples.
- (g) Adjustment reflects the annual amortization of intangibles SL over 10 years for core deposit intangible.
- (h) Adjustment reflects effective income tax rate of 34.00%.
- (i) Adjustment reflects the reversal of preferred dividend and related accretion since preferred stock assumed redeemed at January 1, 2012.
- (j) Adjustment reflects exchange ratio of 0.1413 times weighted average shares outstanding of Peoples.

SAVB Pro forma adjustments:

- (k) Adjusted loan interest income for purchased loans using level yield methodology over the estimated lives of the acquired loan portfolios.
- (l) Adjustment reflects the amortization of CD premium on sum of the years digit methodology.
- (m) Adjustment reflects reduction in interest expense with the repayment of note payable to Lewis Broadcasting at 12/31/2011.
- (n) Adjustment reflects the reduction in interest expense for the repayment of FHLB advances at 12/31/2011.
- (o) With acquired loans recorded at fair value, the Company would expect to significantly reduce the provision for loan losses from SAVB; however, no adjustment to the historic amount of SAVB provision for loan losses is reflected in these pro formas.
- (p) OREO and other foreclosed assets written down and the related carrying cost are included, and due to the recording of these assets at fair value, the company would forecast significantly lower expense for this line item; however, no adjustment has been made for the historic amounts of SAVB.
- (q) Adjustment reflects the annual amortization of intangibles SL over 10 years for both CDI and the client list intangible.
- (r) The Company expects to incur significant merger charges related to contract cancellations, severance, change in control and other merger related charges; however, these are not reflected in these pro forma income statements.
- (s) Adjustment reflects effective income tax rate of 34.00%.
- (t) Adjustment reflects exchange ratio of 0.2503 times weighted average shares outstanding of SAVB.

The following table presents the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated income statement for the year ended December 31, 2011 giving pro forma effect to the following transactions as if they had occurred as of January 1, 2011:

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

full year impact of Peoples' income statement, including pro forma amortization and accretion of purchase accounting adjustments on loans, deposits, and intangible assets;

the redemption of Peoples' TARP preferred stock;

the issuance of additional SCBT common stock applying the 0.1413 exchange ratio to the weighted-average shares outstanding of Peoples shares in determining EPS;

full year impact of SAVB's income statement, including pro forma amortization and accretion of purchase accounting adjustments on loans, deposits, other borrowings, and intangible assets; and

the issuance of additional SCBT common stock applying the 0.2503 exchange ratio to the weighted-average shares outstanding of SAVB shares in determining EPS.

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	SCBTFC 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Peoples Bancorporation, Inc. 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Pro forma Adjustments	Peoples Pro forma	Pro Forma 12/31/2011 Combined	The Savannah Bancorp, Inc. 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Pro forma Adjustments	SAVB Pro forma	Pro Forma 12/31/2011 Combined
Interest income:									
Loans, including fees	\$ 162,205	\$ 18,508	\$ 3,911(a)	\$ 22,419	\$ 184,624	\$ 41,935	\$ 612(l)	\$ 42,547	\$ 227,171
Investment securities:									
Taxable	7,641	3,999		3,999	11,640	2,663		2,663	14,303
Tax-exempt	854	2,387		2,387	3,241	257		257	3,498
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	1,018	23		23	1,041	208		208	1,249
Total interest income	171,718	24,917	3,911	28,828	200,546	45,063	612	45,675	246,221
Interest expense:									
Deposits	17,557	5,265	(1,190)(b)	4,075	21,632	8,016	(2,670)(m)	5,346	26,978
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	527	75		75	602	821	(762)(n)	59	661
Other borrowings	2,182	1		1	2,183	651	(348)(o)	303	2,486
Total interest expense	20,266	5,341	(1,190)	4,151	24,417	9,488	(3,780)	5,708	30,125
Net interest income	151,452	19,576	5,101	24,677	176,129	35,575	4,392	39,967	216,096
Provision for loan losses	30,236	3,103		(e) 3,103	33,339	20,035		(p) 20,035	53,374
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	121,216	16,473	5,101	21,574	142,790	15,540	4,392	19,932	162,722
Noninterest income:									
Gains on acquisitions	16,529				16,529				16,529
Service charges on deposit accounts	22,654	1,371		1,371	24,025	1,458		1,458	25,483
Bankcard services income	11,721	107		107	11,828				11,828
Trust and investment services income	5,464	226		226	5,690	2,646		2,646	8,336
Mortgage banking income	6,271	517		517	6,788	183		183	6,971
Securities gains, net	323	330		330	653	763		763	1,416
Net impairment losses recognized in earnings	(115)				(115)	(1)		(1)	(116)
Amortization of FDIC indemnification asset	(10,135)				(10,135)				(10,135)
Other	2,407	1,657		1,657	4,064	1,597		1,597	5,661
Total noninterest income	55,119	4,208		4,208	59,327	6,646		6,646	65,973
Noninterest expense:									
Salaries and employee benefits	68,937	7,964	45(d)	8,009	76,946	11,282		11,282	88,228
Net occupancy expense	9,674	1,929	15(e)	1,944	11,618	3,683		3,683	15,301
OREO expense and loan related	14,354	2,777	(f)	2,777	17,131	4,179	(q)	4,179	21,310
Information services expense	10,512	205		205	10,717	1,708		1,708	12,425
Furniture and equipment expense	8,476				8,476				8,476
FDIC assessment and other regulatory charges	4,573	1,182		1,182	5,755	1,303		1,303	7,058
Advertising and marketing	2,729	237		237	2,966				2,966
Amortization of intangibles	1,991		284(g)	284	2,275	224	768(r)	992	3,267
Professional fees	1,473	503		503	1,976				1,976
Merger-related expense	3,198		(h)		3,198		(s)		3,198

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Other	17,061	2,640		2,640	19,701	3,874		3,874	23,575
Total noninterest expense	142,978	17,437	344	17,781	160,759	26,253	768	27,021	187,780

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
(Continued)

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	SCBTFC 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Peoples Bancorporation, Inc. 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Pro form Adjustments	Peoples Pro form	Pro Forma 12/31/2011 Combined	The Savannah Bancorp, Inc. 12/31/2011 (as reported)	Pro form Adjustments	SAVB Pro form	Pro Forma 12/31/2011 Combined
Earnings:									
Income before provision for income taxes	33,357	3,244	4,758	8,002	41,359	(4,067)	3,624	(443)	40,916
Provision for income taxes	10,762	301	1,618(i)	1,919	12,681	(1,895)	1,232(t)	(663)	12,018
Net income	22,595	2,943	3,140	6,083	28,678	(2,172)	2,392	220	28,898
Preferred stock dividends		690	(690)(j)						
Accretion on preferred stock discount		134	(134)(j)						
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 22,595	\$ 2,119	\$ 3,964	\$ 6,083	\$ 28,678	\$ (2,172)	\$ 2,392	\$ 220	\$ 28,898
Earnings per common share:									
Basic	\$ 1.65				\$ 1.79				\$ 1.75
Diluted	1.63				1.78				1.75
Dividends per common share	\$ 0.68				\$ 0.68				\$ 0.68
Weighted-average common shares outstanding:									
Basic	13,677	7,007		990(k)	14,667	7,199		1,802(u)	16,469
Diluted	13,751	7,047		996(k)	14,747	7,199		1,802(u)	16,549

Peoples Pro forma adjustments:

- (a) Adjusted loan interest income for purchased loans using level yield methodology over the estimated lives of the acquired loan portfolios.
- (b) Adjustment reflects the amortization of CD premium on SYD methodology.
- (c) With acquired loans recorded at fair value, the Company would expect to significantly reduce the provision for loan losses from Peoples, however no adjustment to the historic amount of Peoples provision for loan losses is reflected in these pro formas.
- (d) Adjustment reflects the amortization of the intangible created by noncompete agreement over 2-year period.
- (e) Adjustment reflects incremental depreciation expense of assets acquired and marked to fair value.
- (f) OREO and other foreclosed assets written down and the related carrying cost are included, and due to the recording of these assets at fair value, the company would forecast significantly lower expense for this line item; however, no adjustment has been made for the historical amounts of Peoples.
- (g) Adjustment reflects the annual amortization of intangibles SL over 10 years for CDI.
- (h)

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

The company expects to incur merger charges including contract cancellations, severance, conversion related cost and other merger-related charges; however, these have not been included in this pro forma income statement.

- (i) Adjustment reflects effective income tax rate of 34.00%.
- (j) Adjustment reflects the reversal of preferred dividend and related accretion since preferred stock assumed redeemed at January 1, 2011.
- (k) Adjustment reflects exchange ratio of 0.1413 times weighted average shares outstanding of Peoples.

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

**PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
(Continued)**

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

SAVB Pro forma adjustments:

- (l) Adjusted loan interest income for purchased loans using level yield methodology over the estimated lives of the acquired loan portfolios.
- (m) Adjustment reflects the amortization of CD premium using a sum-of-the-years digit methodology.
- (n) Adjustment reflects reduction in interest expense with the repayment of note payable to Lewis Broadcasting at January 1, 2011.
- (o) Adjustment reflects the reduction in interest expense for the repayment of FHLB advances at January 1, 2011.
- (p) With acquired loans recorded at fair value, the Company would expect to significantly reduce the provision for loan losses from SAVB; however, no adjustment to the historic amount of SAVB provision for loan losses is reflected in these pro formas.
- (q) OREO and other foreclosed asset write down and the related carrying cost are included in this line item, and due to the recording of these assets at fair value, the company would forecast significantly lower expense for this item; however, no adjustment has been made for the historic amounts of SAVB.
- (r) Adjustment reflects the annual amortization of intangibles SL over 10 years for both CDI and the client list intangible.
- (s) The Company expects to incur significant merger charges related to contract cancellations, severance, conversion cost and other merger related charges; however, these are not reflected in these pro forma income statements.
- (t) Adjustment reflects effective income tax rate of 34.00%.
- (u) Adjustment reflects exchange ratio of 0.2503 times weighted average shares outstanding of SAVB.

Table of Contents

COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA
(Unaudited)

Presented below for SCBT and SAVB is historical, unaudited pro forma combined and pro forma equivalent per share financial data as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011 and as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012. The information presented below should be read together with the historical consolidated financial statements of SCBT and SAVB, including the related notes, filed by SCBT and SAVB, as applicable, with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

The unaudited pro forma and pro forma per equivalent share information gives effect to the merger as if the merger had been effective on December 31, 2011 or June 30, 2012 in the case of the book value data, and as if the merger had been effective as of January 1, 2011 or January 1, 2012, in the case of the earnings per share and the cash dividends data. The unaudited pro forma data combines the historical results of SAVB into SCBT's consolidated statement of income. While certain adjustments were made for the estimated impact of fair value adjustments and other acquisition-related activity, they are not indicative of what could have occurred had the acquisition taken place on January 1, 2011 or January 1, 2012.

In addition, the unaudited pro forma data includes adjustments, which are preliminary and may be revised. The unaudited pro forma data, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of the combined company under one set of assumptions, does not reflect the impact of factors that may result as a consequence of the merger or consider any potential impacts of current market conditions or the merger on revenues, expense efficiencies, asset dispositions and share repurchases, among other factors, nor the impact of possible business model changes. As a result, unaudited pro forma data is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not represent an attempt to predict or suggest future results.

	Historical		SCBT Pro Forma Combined	SAVB Pro Forma Equivalent Per Share(1)
	SCBT	SAVB		
Basic Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations				
For the year ended December 31, 2011	\$ 1.65	\$ (0.30)	\$ 1.75	\$ 0.44
For the six months ended June 30, 2012	1.06	(0.08)	1.10	0.28
Diluted Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations				
For the year ended December 31, 2011	\$ 1.63	\$ (0.30)	\$ 1.75	\$ 0.44
For the six months ended June 30, 2012	1.05	(0.08)	1.10	0.28
Cash Dividends				
For the year ended December 31, 2011	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.17
For the six months ended June 30, 2012	0.34	0.00	0.34	0.08
Book Value				
As of December 31, 2011	\$ 27.19	\$ 11.69	\$ 28.72	\$ 7.19
As of June 30, 2012	28.17	11.63	29.38	7.35
Market Value				
As of August 7, 2012(2)	\$ 37.21	\$ 5.55	N/A	\$ 9.31

(1) Reflects SAVB shares at the exchange ratio of 0.2503.

(2) Business day immediately prior to the public announcement of the proposed merger.

In the table above, book value per share on a pro forma basis assumes that equity has been increased by \$74.1 million and \$73.6 million, for December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2012, respectively. This change is the net result of consideration transferred in the merger, including SCBT common shares with an estimated value of \$73.6 million, less one-time transaction expenses of \$7.9 million, net

Table of Contents

of tax that is incurred by SCBT. The fair value of SCBT's common shares was calculated by applying the exchange ratio of 0.2503 SCBT shares for each share of SAVB common stock using the outstanding number of SAVB's shares as of June 30, 2012, and \$40.87, the closing price of SCBT's common shares on September 21, 2012. The price per SCBT share used to determine consideration at closing will be based on the closing price of SCBT's common shares at the date of closing and will be different from the amount assumed in these pro forma calculations.

Pro forma combined basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods presented include assumed amortization or accretion of certain fair value adjustments made to loans, securities, core deposit intangibles, other intangibles and deposits. These inclusions increased net income, before preferred stock dividends and discount accretion, by \$5.5 million and \$1.6 million for the year and six-month period ended December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained or incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including, but not limited to, statements about the financial condition, results of operations, earnings outlook and prospects of SCBT, SAVB and the combined company following the proposed transaction and statements for the period following the completion of the merger. Words such as "anticipate," "believe," "feel," "expect," "estimate," "indicate," "seek," "strive," "plan," "intend," "outlook," "forecast," "project," "position," "target," "mission," "contemplate," "assume," "achievable," "potential," "strategy," "goal," "aspiration," "outcome," "continue," "remain," "maintain," "trend," "objective" and variations of such words and similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as "will," "would," "should," "could," "might," "can," "may" or similar expressions, as they relate to SCBT, SAVB, the proposed transaction or the combined company following the transaction often identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are predicated on the beliefs and assumptions of management based on information known to management as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and do not purport to speak as of any other date. Forward-looking statements may include descriptions of the expected benefits and costs of the transaction; forecasts of revenue, earnings or other measures of economic performance, including statements of profitability, business segments and subsidiaries; management plans relating to the transaction; the expected timing of the completion of the transaction; the ability to complete the transaction; the ability to obtain any required regulatory, shareholder or other approvals; any statements of the plans and objectives of management for future or past operations, products or services, including the execution of integration plans; any statements of expectation or belief and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing.

The forward-looking statements contained or incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus reflect the view of management as of this date with respect to future events and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Should one or more of these risks materialize or should underlying beliefs or assumptions prove incorrect, actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by the forward-looking statements or historical results. Such risks and uncertainties include, among others, the following possibilities: (1) the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the definitive merger agreement between SCBT and SAVB; (2) the outcome of any legal proceedings that may be instituted against the SCBT or SAVB; (3) the inability to complete the transactions contemplated by the definitive merger agreement due to the failure to satisfy each transaction's respective conditions to completion, including the receipt of regulatory approvals; (4) credit risk associated with an obligor's failure to meet the terms of any contract with the subsidiary banks of SCBT or SAVB or to otherwise perform as agreed; (5) interest risk involving the effect of a change in interest rates on both SCBT's or SAVB's banks' earnings and the market values of their portfolio equity; (6) liquidity risk affecting SCBT's and SAVB's banks' ability to meet their obligations when they come due; (7) price risk focusing on changes in market factors that may affect the value of traded instruments in "mark-to-market" portfolios; (8) transaction risk arising from problems with service or product delivery; (9) compliance risk involving earnings or capital resulting from violations of, or nonconformance with, laws, rules, regulations, prescribed practices or ethical standards; (10) strategic risk resulting from adverse business decisions or improper implementation of business decisions; (11) reputation risk that adversely affects earnings or capital arising from negative public opinion; (12) terrorist activities risk that results in loss of consumer confidence and economic disruptions; (13) continuing economic downturn risk resulting in further deterioration in the credit markets; (14) greater than expected noninterest expenses; (15) excessive loan losses; (16) potential deposit attrition, higher than expected costs, customer loss and business disruption associated with SCBT's integration of Peoples and SAVB, including, without limitation, potential difficulties in maintaining relationships with key personnel and other integration-related matters;

Table of Contents

(17) the risks of fluctuations in market prices for SCBT stock that may or may not reflect the economic condition or performance of SCBT; (18) changes to the payment of dividends on SCBT common stock as a result of regulatory supervision or at the discretion of the SCBT board of directors; and (19) other factors, which could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward looking statements.

For any forward-looking statements made in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or in any documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, SCBT and SAVB claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements, which speak only as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the date of any document incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. SCBT and SAVB do not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances, assumptions or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the merger or other matters addressed in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and attributable to SCBT, SAVB or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In addition to general investment risks and the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed under the section "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," you should carefully consider the following risk factors in deciding how to vote for the proposals presented in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You should also consider the other information in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Because the market price of SCBT common stock will fluctuate, SAVB shareholders cannot be certain of the market value of the merger consideration they will receive.

Upon completion of the merger, each share of SAVB common stock will be converted into 0.2503 of a share of SCBT common stock. The market value of the merger consideration may vary from the closing price of SCBT common stock on the date SCBT announced the merger, on the date that this joint proxy statement/prospectus is mailed to SAVB shareholders, on the date of the special meeting of the SAVB shareholders and on the date the merger is completed and thereafter. Any change in the market price of SCBT common stock prior to the completion of the merger will affect the market value of the merger consideration that SAVB shareholders will receive upon completion of the merger, and there will be no adjustment to the merger consideration for changes in the market price of either shares of SCBT common stock or shares of SAVB common stock. Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors that are beyond the control of SCBT and SAVB, including but not limited to general market and economic conditions, changes in our respective businesses, operations and prospects and regulatory considerations. Therefore, at the time of the SAVB special meeting you will not know the precise market value of the consideration you will receive at the effective time of the merger. You should obtain current market quotations for shares of SCBT common stock and for shares of SAVB common stock.

The market price of SCBT common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the shares of SAVB or SCBT currently.

Upon completion of the merger, holders of SAVB common stock will become holders of SCBT common stock. SCBT's business differs in important respects from that of SAVB, and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of SCBT common stock after the completion of the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the independent results of operations of each of SCBT and SAVB.

Regulatory approvals may not be received, may take longer than expected or may impose conditions that are not presently anticipated or that could have an adverse effect on the combined company following the merger.

Before the merger and the bank mergers may be completed, SCBT and SAVB must obtain approvals from the Federal Reserve Board, the FDIC, the Georgia DBF and the South Carolina State Board. Other approvals, waivers or consents from regulators may also be required. These regulators may impose conditions on the completion of the merger or require changes to the terms of the merger. Such conditions or changes could have the effect of delaying or preventing completion of the merger or imposing additional costs on or limiting the revenues of the combined company following the merger, any of which might have an adverse effect on the combined company following the merger. See "The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger."

Table of Contents

Combining the two companies may be more difficult, costly or time consuming than expected and the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the merger may not be realized.

SCBT and SAVB have operated and, until the completion of the merger, will continue to operate, independently. The success of the merger, including anticipated benefits and cost savings, will depend, in part, on SCBT's ability to successfully combine the businesses of SCBT and SAVB. To realize these anticipated benefits and cost savings, after the completion of the merger, SCBT expects to integrate SAVB's business into its own. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect the combined company's ability to maintain relationships with clients, customers, depositors and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the merger. The loss of key employees could adversely affect SCBT's ability to successfully conduct its business in the markets in which SAVB now operates, which could have an adverse effect on SCBT's financial results and the value of its common stock. If SCBT experiences difficulties with the integration process, the anticipated benefits of the merger may not be realized fully or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected. As with any merger of financial institutions, there also may be business disruptions that cause SCBT and/or SAVB to lose customers or cause customers to remove their accounts from SCBT and/or SAVB and move their business to competing financial institutions. Integration efforts between the two companies will also divert management attention and resources. These integration matters could have an adverse effect on each of SAVB and SCBT during this transition period and for an undetermined period after completion of the merger on the combined company. In addition, the actual cost savings of the merger could be less than anticipated.

The fairness opinions obtained by SAVB from its financial advisors will not reflect changes in circumstances between the date of the signing of the merger agreement and the completion of the merger.

SAVB has obtained fairness opinions dated August 7, 2012 from SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and FIG Partners, LLC, and such opinions have not been updated as of the date of this document and will not be updated at the time of the completion of the merger. Changes in the operations and prospects of SAVB or SCBT, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of SAVB and SCBT, and on which the fairness opinions were based, may alter the value of SAVB or SCBT or the prices of shares of SAVB common stock or SCBT common stock by the time the merger is completed. The fairness opinions do not address the fairness of the merger consideration, from a financial point of view, at the time the merger is completed or as of any other date than the date of the opinions. The fairness opinions that SAVB received from its financial advisors are attached as Annex B and Annex C to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a description of the opinions, see "The Merger Opinion of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc." and "The Merger Opinion of FIG Partners, LLC. For a description of the other factors considered by SAVB's board of directors in determining to approve the merger, see "The Merger SAVB's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors."

Certain of SAVB's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that may differ from the interests of SAVB's shareholders including, if the merger is completed, the receipt of financial and other benefits.

SAVB shareholders should be aware that some of SAVB's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger and have arrangements that are different from, or in addition to, those of SAVB shareholders generally. These interests and arrangements may create potential conflicts of interest. SAVB's board of directors was aware of these interests and considered these interests, among other matters, when making its decision to approve the merger agreement, and in recommending that SAVB's shareholders vote in favor of approving the merger agreement.

Table of Contents

These interests include:

Each SAVB option, whether vested or unvested, will become exercisable for a specified period prior to the closing date and, to the extent not exercised prior to the closing date, will be cashed out for the spread between the closing price per share immediately prior to the effective time and the per-share exercise price of such stock option.

Each outstanding share of SAVB restricted stock will vest at the effective time and be converted into the merger consideration.

In connection with entering into the merger agreement (or shortly thereafter), Messrs. Helmken, Harden, Keith and Hayes entered into employment agreements with SCBT that become effective upon the closing of the merger and provide for severance upon a termination of employment.

Mr. Stramm previously entered into a change in control agreement with SAVB that provides for severance upon a termination of employment for any reason during the one-year period immediately following a change in control.

Each SAVB director will participate on an advisory board of SCBT following the closing of the merger and will receive compensation for three years that is consistent with the board retainer the SAVB directors currently receive with respect to services provided to the SAVB board of directors.

For a more complete description of these interests, see "The Merger Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger" and "The Merger Agreement Treatment of SAVB Stock Options and Other Equity-Based Awards."

Termination of the merger agreement could negatively impact SAVB.

If the merger agreement is terminated, there may be various consequences. For example, SAVB's businesses may have been impacted adversely by the failure to pursue other beneficial opportunities due to the focus of management on the merger, without realizing any of the anticipated benefits of completing the merger. Additionally, if the merger agreement is terminated, the market price of SAVB common stock could decline to the extent that the current market price reflects a market assumption that the merger will be completed. If the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, including circumstances involving a change in recommendation by SAVB's board of directors, SAVB may be required to pay SCBT a termination fee of \$2.6 million.

SAVB will be subject to business uncertainties and contractual restrictions while the merger is pending.

Uncertainty about the effect of the merger on employees and customers may have an adverse effect on SAVB. These uncertainties may impair SAVB's ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel until the merger is completed, and could cause customers and others that deal with SAVB to seek to change existing business relationships with SAVB. Retention of certain employees by SAVB may be challenging while the merger is pending, as certain employees may experience uncertainty about their future roles with SAVB or SCBT. If key employees depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to remain with SAVB or SCBT, SAVB's business or SAVB's business assumed by SCBT following the merger could be harmed. In addition, subject to certain exceptions, SAVB has agreed to operate its business in the ordinary course prior to closing. See "The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements" for a description of the restrictive covenants applicable to SAVB.

Table of Contents

If the merger is not completed, SCBT and SAVB will have incurred substantial expenses without realizing the expected benefits of the merger.

Each of SCBT and SAVB has incurred and will incur substantial expenses in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, as well as the costs and expenses of filing, printing and mailing this joint proxy statement/prospectus and all filing and other fees paid to the SEC in connection with the merger. If the merger is not completed, SCBT and SAVB would have to recognize these expenses without realizing the expected benefits of the merger.

The merger agreement limits SAVB's ability to pursue an alternative acquisition proposal and requires SAVB to pay a termination fee of \$2.6 million under limited circumstances relating to alternative acquisition proposals. Additionally, certain provisions of SAVB's articles of incorporation and bylaws may deter potential acquirers.

The merger agreement prohibits SAVB from soliciting, initiating or knowingly encouraging or facilitating certain alternative acquisition proposals with any third party, subject to exceptions set forth in the merger agreement. See "The Merger Agreement Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" on page 119. The merger agreement also provides for the payment by SCBT or SAVB of a termination fee in the amount of \$2.6 million in the event that the other party terminates the merger agreement for certain reasons. These provisions might discourage a potential competing acquirer that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of SAVB from considering or proposing such an acquisition. See "Merger Agreement Termination Fee" on page 123. Additionally, SAVB has a classified board of directors and under SAVB's articles of incorporation, business combinations require the approval of a majority of shareholders as well as the recommendation for such business combination by at least two-thirds of the continuing directors of SAVB. See "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights Anti-Takeover Provisions and Other Shareholder Protections" on page 135. These provisions and other provisions of SAVB's articles of incorporation could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of SAVB or may discourage a potential competing acquirer.

The shares of SCBT common stock to be received by SAVB shareholders as a result of the merger will have different rights from the shares of SAVB common stock.

Upon completion of the merger, SAVB shareholders will become SCBT shareholders and their rights as shareholders will be governed by the SCBT articles of incorporation and the SCBT bylaws. The rights associated with SAVB common stock are different from the rights associated with SCBT common stock. Please see "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights" beginning on page 131 for a discussion of the different rights associated with SCBT common stock.

Table of Contents

THE SAVB SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information for SAVB shareholders about the special meeting that SAVB has called to allow its shareholders to consider and vote on the merger agreement. SAVB is mailing this joint proxy statement/prospectus to you, as a SAVB shareholder, on or about October 29, 2012. Together with this joint proxy statement/prospectus, SAVB is also sending to you a notice of the special meeting of SAVB shareholders and a form of proxy card that SAVB's board of directors is soliciting for use at the special meeting and at any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is also being furnished by SCBT to SAVB shareholders as a prospectus in connection with the issuance of shares of SCBT common stock upon the consummation of the merger as the merger consideration.

Date, Time and Place of Meeting

The special meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia on November 30, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. local time.

Matters to Be Considered

At the special meeting of shareholders, you will be asked to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve the merger agreement;

a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement; and

a proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation that certain executive officers of SAVB will or may receive in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements or arrangements with SAVB.

Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors

SAVB's board of directors has determined that the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are advisable and in the best interests of SAVB and its shareholders and has unanimously approved the merger and the merger agreement. SAVB's board of directors unanimously recommends that SAVB shareholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement, "FOR" the SAVB adjournment proposal and "FOR" the compensation proposal. See "The Merger SAVB's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors" for a more detailed discussion of SAVB's board of directors' recommendation.

Record Date and Quorum

SAVB's board of directors has fixed the close of business on October 24, 2012 as the record date for determining the holders of shares of SAVB common stock entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the SAVB special meeting.

As of the record date, there were 7,199,237 shares of SAVB common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the SAVB special meeting held by approximately 1,600 holders of record. Each share of SAVB common stock entitles the holder to one vote at the SAVB special meeting on each proposal to be considered at the SAVB special meeting.

The presence at the special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SAVB common stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All shares of SAVB common stock present in person or represented by proxy, including

abstentions and

Table of Contents

broker non-votes, if any, will be treated as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for all matters voted on at the SAVB special meeting.

Vote Required; Treatment of Abstentions and Failure to Vote

Approval of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the merger agreement by all of the shares of SAVB's common stock entitled to vote on the merger agreement. You are entitled to one vote for each share of SAVB common stock you held as of the record date. Your failure to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting, failure to instruct your bank or broker how to vote or your abstaining with respect to the proposal to approve the merger agreement, will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

Approval of the SAVB adjournment proposal and the compensation proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of SAVB common stock represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote thereon at the special meeting. Therefore, if you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against approval of such proposals. However, if you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SAVB special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the SAVB adjournment proposal or the compensation proposal, it will have no effect on such proposals.

Shares Held by Officers and Directors

As of the record date, there were 7,199,237 shares of SAVB common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Each of the directors of SAVB and certain executive officers and shareholders of SAVB have entered into a voting agreement with SCBT, pursuant to which they have agreed, solely in their capacity as SAVB shareholders, to vote all of their shares of SAVB common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting. As of the record date, SAVB directors, executive officers and shareholders who are parties to the voting agreements owned and were entitled to vote an aggregate of approximately 1,492,745 shares of SAVB common stock, which represents approximately 20.73% of the shares of SAVB common stock outstanding on that date. As of the record date, the directors and executive officers of SAVB and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately 1,343,640 shares of SAVB common stock representing approximately 18.66% of the shares of SAVB common stock outstanding on that date, and held options to purchase 68,229 shares of SAVB common stock and 796 shares underlying restricted stock awards. As of the record date, SCBT and its subsidiaries did not hold any shares of SAVB common stock (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent), and its directors and executive officers or their affiliates did not hold any shares of SAVB common stock. See "The Merger Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger."

Voting of Proxies; Incomplete Proxies

Each copy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus mailed to holders of SAVB common stock is accompanied by a form of proxy with instructions for voting. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record, you should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this joint proxy statement/prospectus, regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting.

If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker how to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank or broker.

Do not send your SAVB stock certificates with your proxy card. After the merger is completed, you will be mailed a transmittal form with instructions on how to exchange your SAVB stock certificates for the merger consideration.

Table of Contents

All shares represented by valid proxies that SAVB receives through this solicitation, and that are not revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card. If you make no specification on your proxy card as to how you want your shares voted before signing and returning it, your proxy will be voted "FOR" the proposal to approve the merger agreement, "FOR" the SAVB adjournment proposal and "FOR" the compensation proposal. No matters other than the matters described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are anticipated to be presented for action at the special meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. However, if other business properly comes before the special meeting, the proxy agents will, in their discretion, vote upon such matters in their best judgment.

Shares Held in "Street Name"; Broker Non-Votes

Under stock exchange rules, banks, brokers and other nominees who hold shares of SAVB common stock in "street name" for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on "routine" proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, banks, brokers and other nominees are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters determined to be "non-routine," such as the proposal to approve the merger agreement, the SAVB adjournment proposal and the compensation proposal without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. Broker non-votes are shares held by a broker, bank or other nominee that are represented at the SAVB special meeting, but with respect to which the broker or nominee is not instructed by the beneficial owner of such shares to vote on the particular proposal and the broker does not have discretionary voting power on such proposal. If your broker, bank or other nominee holds your shares of SAVB common stock in "street name," your broker, bank or other nominee will vote your shares of SAVB common stock only if you provide instructions on how to vote by filling out the voter instruction form sent to you by your broker, bank or other nominee with this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Shares Held in 401(k) Plan

If you own shares through the SAVB stock fund of the SAVB 401(k) Plan, the proxy card includes the shares you hold in the SAVB 401(k) Plan as well as the shares you hold outside of the SAVB 401(k) Plan. You are considered a shareholder of record and must complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope as soon as possible.

Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a SAVB Shareholder's Vote

If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to SAVB's corporate secretary or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting.

Any shareholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether a proxy has been previously given, but the mere presence (without notifying SAVB's corporate secretary) of a shareholder at the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking your proxy should be addressed to:

The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.
P.O. Box 188
Savannah, Georgia 31402
Attention: Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

If your shares are held in "street name" by a bank or broker, you should follow the instructions of your bank or broker regarding the revocation of proxies.

Solicitation of Proxies

SAVB is soliciting your proxy in conjunction with the merger. SAVB will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from you. In addition to solicitation of proxies by mail, SAVB will request that banks, brokers and other record holders send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of SAVB common stock and secure their voting instructions. SAVB will reimburse the record holders for their reasonable expenses in taking those actions. If necessary, SAVB may use its directors and several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from the SAVB shareholders, either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or electronic means.

Attending the Meeting

All holders of SAVB common stock, including shareholders of record and shareholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers, nominees or any other holder of record, are invited to attend the special meeting. Shareholders of record can vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a shareholder of record, you must obtain a proxy executed in your favor from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you plan to attend the special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership. In addition, you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you in order to be admitted. SAVB reserves the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership and without proper photo identification. The use of cameras, sound recording equipment, communications devices or any similar equipment during the special meeting is prohibited without SAVB's express written consent.

Assistance

If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SAVB common stock, please contact Michael W. Harden, Jr., Chief Financial Officer:

25 Bull Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 629-6500

Table of Contents

THE SCBT SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information for SCBT shareholders about the special meeting that SCBT has called to allow its shareholders to consider and vote on the stock issuance in connection with the merger. SCBT is mailing this joint proxy statement/prospectus to you, as a SCBT shareholder, on or about October 29, 2012. Together with this joint proxy statement/prospectus, SCBT is also sending to you a notice of the special meeting of SCBT shareholders and a form of proxy card that SCBT's board of directors is soliciting for use at the special meeting and at any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

Date, Time and Place of Meeting

The special meeting will be held at SCBT's headquarters in the Habersham Conference Room on the third floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. local time.

Matters to Be Considered

At the special meeting of shareholders, you will be asked to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve stock issuance in connection with the merger; and

a proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve stock issuance.

Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors

SCBT's board of directors has determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger and the stock issuance, are advisable and in the best interests of SCBT and its shareholders, has unanimously approved the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SCBT shareholders vote "FOR" proposal to approve the stock issuance and "FOR" the proposal to adjourn the SCBT special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposal to approve the stock issuance. See "The Merger SCBT's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors" for a more detailed discussion of SCBT's board of directors' recommendation.

Record Date and Quorum

SCBT's board of directors has fixed the close of business on October 24, 2012 as the record date for determining the holders of SCBT common stock entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the SCBT special meeting.

As of the record date, there were 15,123,734 shares of SCBT common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the SCBT special meeting held by approximately 6,510 holders of record. Each share of SCBT common stock entitles the holder to one vote at the SCBT special meeting on each proposal to be considered at the SCBT special meeting.

The presence at the special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All shares of SCBT common stock present in person or represented by proxy, including abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be treated as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for all matters voted on at the SCBT special meeting.

Table of Contents

Vote Required; Treatment of Abstentions and Failure to Vote

To approve the stock issuance or the SCBT adjournment proposal, a majority of the shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote and represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting must be voted in favor of approving the proposal. If you mark "ABSTAIN" on your proxy with respect to the proposal to approve the stock issuance or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against such proposals. However, if you fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the SCBT special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the stock issuance proposal or the SCBT adjournment proposal, it will have no effect on such proposals.

Shares Held by Officers and Directors

As of the record date, there were 15,123,734 shares of SCBT common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. As of the record date, the directors and executive officers of SCBT and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately 768,847 shares of SCBT common stock representing approximately 5.1% of the shares of SCBT common stock outstanding on that date, and held options to purchase 175,707 shares of SCBT common stock and 125,940 shares underlying restricted stock awards. As of the record date, SAVB and its subsidiaries did not hold any shares of SCBT common stock (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent), and its directors and executive officers or their affiliates did not hold any shares of SCBT common stock.

Voting of Proxies; Incomplete Proxies

Each copy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus mailed to holders of SCBT common stock is accompanied by a form of proxy with instructions for voting. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record, you should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this joint proxy statement/prospectus, regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting.

If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker how to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank or broker.

All shares represented by valid proxies that SCBT receives through this solicitation, and that are not revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card. If you make no specification on your proxy card as to how you want your shares voted before signing and returning it, your proxy will be voted "FOR" the proposal to approve the stock issuance and "FOR" the SCBT adjournment proposal. No matters other than the matters described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are anticipated to be presented for action at the special meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. However, if other business properly comes before the special meeting, the proxy agents will, in their discretion, vote upon such matters in their best judgment.

Shares Held in "Street Name"; Broker Non-Votes

Under stock exchange rules, banks, brokers and other nominees who hold shares of SCBT common stock in "street name" for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on "routine" proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, banks, brokers and other nominees are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters determined to be "non-routine," without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. Broker non-votes are shares held by a broker, bank or other nominee that are represented at the SCBT special meeting, but with respect to which the broker or nominee is not instructed by the beneficial owner of such shares to vote on the particular proposal and the broker does not have discretionary voting power on such proposal. If your broker, bank or other nominee holds your shares of SCBT common stock in "street name," your broker, bank or other nominee will vote your shares of SCBT common stock only if you provide instructions on how to vote by filling out

Table of Contents

the voter instruction form sent to you by your broker, bank or other nominee with this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a SCBT Shareholder's Vote

If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to SCBT's corporate secretary or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting.

Any shareholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether a proxy has been previously given, but the mere presence (without notifying SCBT's corporate secretary) of a shareholder at the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking your proxy should be addressed to:

SCBT Financial Corporation
520 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Attention: Corporate Secretary

If your shares are held in "street name" by a bank or broker, you should follow the instructions of your bank or broker regarding the revocation of proxies.

Solicitation of Proxies

SCBT is soliciting your proxy in conjunction with the merger. SCBT will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from you. In addition to solicitation of proxies by mail, SCBT will request that banks, brokers and other record holders send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of SCBT common stock and secure their voting instructions. SCBT will reimburse the record holders for their reasonable expenses in taking those actions. If necessary, SCBT may use its directors and several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from the SCBT shareholders, either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or electronic means.

Attending the Meeting

All holders of SCBT common stock, including shareholders of record and shareholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers, nominees or any other holder of record, are invited to attend the special meeting. Shareholders of record can vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a shareholder of record, you must obtain a proxy executed in your favor from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you plan to attend the special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership. In addition, you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you in order to be admitted. SCBT reserves the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership and without proper photo identification. The use of cameras, sound recording equipment, communications devices or any similar equipment during the special meeting is prohibited without SCBT's express written consent.

Table of Contents

Assistance

If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of SCBT common stock, please contact Renee R. Brooks, Corporate Secretary:

520 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(800) 277-2175

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ABOUT SCBT

SCBT is a bank holding company incorporated under South Carolina law in 1985. Until February of 2004, SCBT was named "First National Corporation." SCBT currently holds all of the stock of its subsidiary, SCBT, a South Carolina banking corporation (which we refer to below as SCBT Bank). SCBT Bank opened for business in 1934 and converted from a national bank charter to a South Carolina bank charter effective as of July 1, 2012, changing its name from "SCBT, N.A." to "SCBT." SCBT operates as South Carolina Bank and Trust, North Carolina Bank and Trust, and Community Bank and Trust. SCBT coordinates the financial resources of the consolidated enterprise and thereby maintains financial, operational and administrative systems that allow centralized evaluation of subsidiary operations and coordination of selected policies and activities. SCBT's operating revenues and net income are derived primarily from cash dividends received from SCBT Bank. At June 30, 2012, SCBT had consolidated total assets of approximately \$4.37 billion, gross loans of approximately \$3.04 billion and total deposits of approximately \$3.66 billion.

SCBT Bank provides a full range of retail and commercial banking services, mortgage lending services, trust and investment services, and consumer finance loans through 53 financial centers in 19 South Carolina counties, three financial centers in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and 21 financial centers in 10 counties in North Georgia. SCBT Bank has served the Carolinas for more than 78 years. SCBT Bank began operating in 1934 in Orangeburg, South Carolina and has maintained its ability to provide superior customer service while also leveraging its size to offer many products more common to super-regional banks. SCBT has pursued a growth strategy that relies primarily on organic growth, supplemented by the acquisition of select financial institutions or branches in certain market areas. In recent years, SCBT has continued to grow its business in South Carolina, and has expanded into North Carolina and Georgia through, among other things, its acquisitions of Peoples Bancorporation, Inc., a full service nationally-chartered community bank, in April 2012, Habersham Bank, a full service Georgia state-chartered community bank, in February of 2011, and Community Bank & Trust, a full service Georgia state-chartered community bank, in January of 2010.

The principal executive offices of SCBT are located at 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and its telephone number is (800) 277-2175. SCBT's website can be accessed at <http://www.scbtonline.com>. Information contained in SCBT's website does not constitute part of, and is not incorporated into, this joint proxy statement/prospectus. SCBT common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SCBT.

The directors and executive officers of SCBT immediately prior to the closing of the merger will continue to be the directors and executive officers of SCBT, as the surviving corporation of the merger, after the merger.

Additional information about SCBT and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

SCBT adopted ASU 2011-5, Comprehensive Income, as of January 1, 2012, which required a separate statement of Comprehensive Income that follows the Statement of Operations. As this standard requires retrospective application, SCBT has included the impact of the adoption of this accounting principle below to reflect retrospective application of each of the years for the five-year period ended December 31, 2011, as those financial statements are incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part.

Table of Contents

SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(Dollars in thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30,		For the Periods Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Net income	\$ 15,059	\$ 7,434	\$ 22,595	\$ 51,882	\$ 13,595	\$ 15,785	\$ 21,565
Other comprehensive income (loss):							
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities:							
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during period	1,783	4,296	7,345	(1,323)	7,516	(14,930)	2,254
Tax effect	(680)	(1,521)	(2,647)	470	(2,668)	5,673	(857)
Reclassification adjustment for losses (gains) included in net income	(61)	(333)	(308)	(292)	(82)	9,927	460
Tax effect	23	115	111	104	29	(3,772)	(174)
Net of tax amount	1,065	2,557	4,501	(1,041)	4,795	(3,102)	1,683
Noncredit portion of other-than-temporary impairment losses:							
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses				(1,281)	(10,494)		
Tax effect				455	3,725		
Reclassification adjustment of credit portion included in net income				6,770	5,005		
Tax effect				(2,404)	(1,776)		
Net of tax amount				3,540	(3,540)		
Unrealized losses on derivative financial instruments qualifying as cash flow hedges:							
Unrealized holding losses arising during period	(267)	(256)	(1,060)	(775)	(21)		
Tax effect	99	90	428	276	7		
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in interest expense	144	151	304	162			
Tax effect	(52)	(53)	(123)	(58)			
Net of tax amount	(76)	(68)	(451)	(395)	(14)		
Unrealized gain (loss) related to the Company's pension plan and and post-retirement benefits:							
Pension plan unrealized gain (loss)			(5,072)	(875)	3,998	(7,056)	779
Post-retirement benefit gain (loss)			(39)	64	37	(251)	(55)
Tax effect			2,104	297	(1,473)	2,711	(377)
Net of tax amount			(3,007)	(514)	2,562	(4,596)	347
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	989	2,489	1,043	1,590	3,803	(7,698)	2,030
Comprehensive income	\$ 16,048	\$ 9,923	\$ 23,637	\$ 53,471	\$ 17,398	\$ 8,087	\$ 23,595

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ABOUT SAVB

General Development of Business

SAVB was incorporated as a Georgia business corporation on October 5, 1989, for the purpose of becoming a bank holding company. SAVB became a bank holding company within the meaning of the Bank Holding Company Act and the Georgia Bank Holding Company Act upon the acquisition of 100 percent of the common stock of The Savannah Bank on August 22, 1990.

In February 1998, SAVB entered into a plan of merger to exchange shares of its stock for shares of Bryan Bancorp of Georgia, Inc., the bank holding company for Bryan Bank. The transaction was valued at approximately \$24 million. The merger, which was accounted for as a pooling of interests, was a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. The merger was consummated on December 15, 1998. Bryan Bancorp of Georgia, Inc. was merged into SAVB and Bryan Bank became a wholly-owned subsidiary of SAVB on the merger date.

On February 6, 2006, SAVB invested \$10 million cash, a portion of the net proceeds from an August 2005 private placement stock offering, in 100 percent of the common stock of Harbourside Community Bank, or Harbourside, a newly-formed federal stock savings bank, located on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The plans for forming Harbourside began in October 2003 when The Savannah Bank opened a mortgage loan production office on Hilton Head Island. Effective September 30, 2009, SAVB merged the charter of Harbourside into The Savannah Bank. The two Harbourside branches are now The Savannah Bank branches.

SAVB acquired all of the net assets of Minis & Co., Inc., which we refer to as Minis, as of August 31, 2007. The net assets of Minis were incorporated into a new, wholly-owned subsidiary of SAVB which continued to operate under the name of Minis & Co., Inc. The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting, and accordingly, the results of Minis' operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements beginning September 1, 2007. Minis is a registered investment advisor based in Savannah, Georgia, offering a full line of investment management services.

On September 30, 2008, SAVB formed a new subsidiary, SAVB Holdings, LLC, to hold previously identified problem loans (including problem and nonperforming loans) and foreclosed real estate, or OREO, primarily from Harbourside. SAVB funded this subsidiary with an initial \$12.5 million loan from a related private party and purchased loans and OREO at their current value.

The Savannah Bank, Bryan Bank, Minis and SAVB Holdings are the four operating subsidiaries of SAVB. The Savannah Bank received its charter from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, or the OCC, and opened for business on August 22, 1990. Bryan Bank received its charter from the Georgia DBF in December 1989. The deposits at The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are insured by the FDIC.

As of June 30, 2012, The Savannah Bank had nine full service offices and one stand-alone automated teller machine, or ATM, total assets of \$703 million, total loans of \$544 million, total deposits of \$609 million, total shareholders' equity of \$66.4 million and net income of \$230,000 for the six month period then ended. As of June 30, 2012, Bryan Bank had two full service offices, total assets of \$234 million, total loans of \$176 million, total deposits of \$210 million, total shareholders' equity of \$20.7 million and net income of \$5,000 for the six month period then ended. Minis had approximately \$443.5 million in assets under management at June 30, 2012.

In September 2005, SAVB formed SAVB Properties, LLC for the primary purpose of owning a 50 percent interest in two real estate partnerships. Johnson Square Associates, a Georgia general partnership, owns a seven-story, 35,000 square foot building at 25 Bull Street on Johnson Square in downtown Savannah. SAVB currently leases approximately 51 percent of this space for its corporate

Table of Contents

headquarters and the main office of The Savannah Bank. Whitaker Street Associates, a Georgia Limited Partnership, owned the 80' x 200' parking lot directly across Whitaker Street from 25 Bull Street. On December 28, 2010, SAVB sold its 50 percent interest in Whitaker Street Associates for approximately \$694,000 and a gain of approximately \$255,000.

Banking Services

SAVB has approximately 188 full time equivalent employees as of June 30, 2012. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank offer a full range of deposit services, including checking accounts, savings accounts and various time deposits ranging from daily money market accounts to long-term certificates of deposit. The transaction accounts and time deposits are tailored to the principal market areas at rates competitive with those offered in the area. In addition, retirement accounts such as Individual Retirement Accounts and Simplified Employee Pension accounts are offered. The FDIC insures all deposit accounts up to the maximum amount of \$250,000. In addition, through the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act, unlimited insurance coverage on noninterest-bearing transaction accounts was extended to all financial institutions through December 31, 2012. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank solicit these accounts from individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, and governmental authorities.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank offer a full range of short-term and medium-term commercial, real estate, residential mortgage and personal loans. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's primary lending focus is business, real estate and consumer lending. Commercial loans include both secured loans and a limited volume of unsecured loans. Consumer loans include secured loans for financing automobiles, home improvements, real estate and other personal investments. Unsecured consumer loans are limited and generally made to the most creditworthy borrowers. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank originate fixed and variable rate mortgage loans and offer real estate construction and acquisition loans.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's lending policies provide each lending officer with written guidance for lending activities as approved by the board of directors of the banks. Real estate loan-to-value guidelines generally conform to regulatory loan-to-value limits. Additionally, the existence of reliable sources of repayment/cash flow are usually required before making any loan, regardless of the collateral. Appraisals are obtained as required. Lending officers or contract inspectors make on-site inspections on construction loans. Lending authority is delegated to each lending officer by the Credit Committee of each of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's board. Loans in excess of the individual officer limits must be approved by a senior officer with sufficient approval authority delegated by these committees. Loans to borrowers whose aggregate combined companywide exposure exceeds \$1,500,000 at The Savannah Bank and \$1,000,000 at Bryan Bank require the approval of the bank's Credit Committee.

Management and the directors are aware that environmental liabilities may negatively impact the financial condition of borrowers, the value of real property and the contingent environmental clean-up liabilities The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank could incur by having a lien on environmentally deficient property. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank generally decline to make loans secured by property with environmental deficiencies. Environmental surveys are required when there is reason for concern about potential environmental liabilities.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank operate residential mortgage loan origination departments. The banks take mortgage loan applications, obtain rate commitments and complete various origination documentation and follow-up for an origination fee from third-party mortgage bankers. In addition to generating fee income, the departments also generate banking relationships from its customers and real estate-related contacts. These loans are funded by other mortgage investors and have not been warehoused on The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's books.

Table of Contents

Credit Risk Management and Allowance for Loan Losses

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank have a comprehensive program designed to control and continually monitor the credit risks inherent in the loan portfolios. This program includes a structured loan approval process in which the board delegates authority for various types and amounts of loans to loan officers on a basis commensurate with seniority and lending experience. There are four risk grades of "criticized" assets: Special Mention, Substandard, Doubtful and Loss. Assets designated as substandard, doubtful or loss are considered "classified". The classification of assets is subject to regulatory review and reclassification. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank include aggregate totals of criticized assets, and general and specific valuation reserves in quarterly reports to the board, which approves the overall allowance for loan losses evaluation.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank use a risk rating system which is consistent with the regulatory risk rating system. This system applies to all assets of an insured institution and requires each institution to periodically evaluate the risk rating assigned to its assets. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's loan risk rating systems utilize both the account officer and an independent loan review function to monitor the risk rating of loans. Each loan officer is charged with the responsibility of monitoring changes in loan quality within his or her loan portfolio and reporting changes directly to credit administration and senior management. The internal credit administration function monitors loans on a continuing basis for both documentation and credit related exceptions. Additionally, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank have contracted with an external loan review service which performs a review of the banks' loans at least semi-annually to determine that the appropriate risk grade has been assigned to each borrowing relationship and to evaluate other credit quality, documentation and compliance factors. Delinquencies are monitored on all loans as a basis for potential credit quality deterioration. Commercial and mortgage loans that are delinquent 90 days or longer generally are placed on nonaccrual status unless the credit is well-secured and in process of collection. Revolving credit loans and other personal loans are typically charged-off when payments are 120 days past due. Loans are placed on nonaccrual status or charged-off at an earlier date if collection of principal or interest in full becomes doubtful. Real estate acquired through foreclosure is classified as substandard unless there is sufficient evidence to indicate such classification is not warranted. For further information, see "SAVB's Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

Other Banking Services

The Savannah Bank was granted trust powers by the OCC in 1996. The Trust Department of The Savannah Bank contracts with Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company, a part of BMO Financial Group, for trust data processing, securities safekeeping and certain other operational functions. This system provides clients and their advisors access to trust account information via the Internet. Employee benefit administration and certain money management functions are outsourced to third parties. Using these resources, the Trust Department offers a full array of trust services, including investment management, personal trusts, custodial accounts, estate administration and retirement plan asset management.

Originally founded in 1932, Minis is a registered investment advisory firm based in Savannah, Georgia. Minis provides fee-only investment services to individuals, families, employee benefit plans, non-profit organizations and other entities.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank offer cash management services, remote deposit capture, Internet banking, electronic bill payment, non-cash deposit courier service, safe deposit boxes, travelers checks, direct deposit of payroll, U.S. Savings bonds, official bank checks and automatic drafts for various accounts. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank have thirteen automated teller machines and are members of the STAR network of automated teller machines. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank issue ATM and debit cards. They also offer Discover, VISA and MasterCard credit cards as an agent for a correspondent bank.

Table of Contents

Location and Service Area

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's primary service areas include the city of Savannah and surrounding Chatham County, the city of Richmond Hill (which is 20 miles southwest of downtown Savannah) and surrounding Bryan County, and Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and southern Beaufort County in South Carolina. Their secondary service areas include Effingham and Liberty Counties, Georgia and Jasper County, South Carolina. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's target customers are individuals and small to medium-sized businesses, including wholesale, retail and professional service businesses in the community. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank also target individuals who meet certain net worth and income requirements as potential customers for private banking services.

The Savannah Bank's main office, known as the Johnson Square Office, opened in August 1990 and is located in the primary financial district in downtown Savannah, where most of the commercial banks in the primary service area have their main Savannah offices. In recent years, regional banks with headquarters outside of the state of Georgia have acquired several of the banks in the primary service area. The Savannah Bank emphasizes that it is based in Savannah and that its directors and officers are committed to the economic development of the Savannah area.

Bryan Bank's main office opened in December 1989 and is located in the primary commercial area of the city of Richmond Hill. Several other community bank branch offices and one grocery store branch office are located in Richmond Hill.

In October 1992, The Savannah Bank opened its second office at 400 Mall Boulevard. The Mall Boulevard Office is located in the primary commercial and retail district in Savannah which includes a high concentration of professional and service-related businesses.

In November 1995, The Savannah Bank opened its third office, the West Chatham Office, at 100 Chatham Parkway. West Chatham is a full service office located six miles west of the main office in a commercial and industrial growth area of Chatham County.

In October 1997, the fourth office at 4741 Highway 80 East on Whitmarsh Island, six miles east of the main office, opened for business. Deposits, mortgage loans and consumer loans are the primary opportunities for this location which serves a large concentration of higher net worth individuals.

In October 1998, The Savannah Bank opened its fifth location in the Medical Arts Shopping Center. This office is strategically located near two major hospitals and numerous medical, dental and professional practices. This location is approximately four miles southeast of the main office.

In October 2003, The Savannah Bank opened a mortgage loan production office on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina which operated as Harbourside Mortgage Company, a division of The Savannah Bank, through February 28, 2006. On March 1, 2006, the separately chartered Harbourside opened for business in its new main office building at 852 William Hilton Parkway, the primary traffic artery on Hilton Head Island. This is now a branch of The Savannah Bank.

In September 2006, The Savannah Bank opened an office in The Village on Skidaway Island adjacent to the Landings community in Savannah. This office location services the higher income individuals and higher net worth retiree island communities nearby.

In December 2007, the former Harbourside opened its second office in Bluffton, South Carolina on Bluffton Parkway. This is a rapidly growing area with a concentration of residential homes and small businesses. This is now a branch of The Savannah Bank.

In August 2008, Bryan Bank opened its second office in Richmond Hill at 3700 Highway 17, about one-half mile from I-95. The branch occupies 3,000 square feet of this 11,500 square foot facility. SAVB's regional banking operations center, which provides support functions including imaged item

Table of Contents

processing, statement rendering, information technology, deposit operations, loan operations and branch operations support functions, occupies the remainder of the facility.

On June 25, 2010, The Savannah Bank entered into an agreement with the FDIC to purchase substantially all deposits and certain liabilities and assets of First National Bank, Savannah, which we refer to as First National. Through this transaction, The Savannah Bank assumed the lease of one of First National's branches located at 802 First Street, Tybee Island, Georgia. Deposits, mortgage loans and consumer loans are the primary opportunities for this location which serves a large concentration of higher net worth individuals and is a popular tourist destination.

In September 2010, The Savannah Bank's loan production office located at 400 Main Street in St. Simons Island, Georgia was closed.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's business plans rely principally upon local advertising and promotional activity and upon personal contacts by their directors and officers to attract business and to acquaint potential customers with their personalized services. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank emphasize a high degree of personalized customer service. Advertising and marketing emphasize the advantages of dealing with an independent, locally-owned, relationship-oriented bank to meet the particular needs of individuals, professionals and small to medium-size businesses in the community.

Supervision and Regulation Credit and Monetary Policies and Related Matters

SAVB and its subsidiaries are affected by the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies, including the Federal Reserve Board. An important function of these policies is to curb inflation and control recessions through control of the supply of money and credit. The operations of SAVB and its subsidiaries are affected by the policies of government regulatory authorities, including the Federal Reserve Board which regulates money and credit conditions through open market operations in United States Government and Federal agency securities, adjustments in the discount rate on member bank borrowings, and requirements against deposits and regulation of interest rates payable by member banks on time and savings deposits. These policies have a significant influence on the growth and distribution of loans, investments and deposits, and interest rates charged on loans, or paid for time and savings deposits, as well as yields on investments. These policies have had a significant effect on the operating results of commercial banks, including The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future. Future policies of the Federal Reserve Board and other authorities and their effect on future earnings of SAVB and its subsidiaries cannot be predicted.

The Federal Reserve Board has a policy that a financial holding company is expected to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to each of its subsidiary banks and to commit resources to support each such subsidiary bank. Under the source of strength doctrine, the Federal Reserve Board may require a financial holding company to contribute capital to a troubled subsidiary bank, and may charge the financial holding company with engaging in unsafe and unsound practices for failure to commit resources to such a subsidiary bank. Accordingly, in the event that one of The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank becomes troubled, SAVB may be required to contribute capital to the troubled bank. Such a capital injection may be required at times when SAVB does not have the resources to provide it in which case, SAVB may be charged with engaging in unsafe and unsound practices for failure to commit resources to the troubled bank. In addition, any capital loans by a holding company to any subsidiary bank are subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to certain other indebtedness of such subsidiary bank. In addition, the Crime Control Act of 1990 provides that in the event of a financial holding company's bankruptcy, any commitment by such holding company to a Federal bank or thrift regulatory agency to maintain the capital of a subsidiary bank will be assumed by the bankruptcy trustee and entitled to a priority of payment.

Table of Contents

The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act, or FIRREA, provides that depository institutions insured by the FDIC may be liable for any losses incurred by, or reasonably expected to be incurred by, the FDIC in connection with (i) the default of a commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution, or (ii) any assistance provided by the FDIC to a commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution in danger of default. "Default" is defined generally as the appointment of a conservator or receiver and "in danger of default" is defined generally as the existence of certain conditions indicating that a "default" is likely to occur in the absence of regulatory assistance. Accordingly, in the event that any insured bank or subsidiary of SAVB causes a loss to the FDIC, other bank subsidiaries of SAVB could be liable to the FDIC for the amount of such loss.

Under federal law, the OCC may order the pro rata assessment of shareholders of a national bank whose capital stock has become impaired, by losses or otherwise, to relieve a deficiency in such national bank's capital stock. This statute also provides for the enforcement of any such pro rata assessment of shareholders of such national bank to cover such impairment of capital stock by sale, to the extent necessary, of the capital stock of any assessed shareholder failing to pay the assessment. Similarly, the laws of certain states provide for such assessment and sale with respect to The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank chartered by such states.

Federal and State Laws and Regulation of Banks and Bank Holding Companies

Supervision and Regulation

Bank holding companies and commercial banks are extensively regulated under both federal and state law. These laws and regulations delineate the nature and extent of the activities in which commercial banks may engage. To the extent that the following information describes statutory and regulatory provisions, it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the particular statutory and regulatory provisions. Supervision, regulation and examination of banks by the bank regulatory agencies are intended primarily for protection of depositors rather than holders of bank or bank holding company securities. Changes in applicable laws or regulations may have a material effect on the business of SAVB, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank.

SAVB, as a bank holding company, is required to register as such with the Federal Reserve Board and the Georgia DBF. It is required to file with both of these agencies quarterly and annual reports and other information regarding its business operations and those of its subsidiaries. It is also subject to supervision and examination by these two agencies and will be required to obtain their approval before acquiring, directly or indirectly, ownership or control of any voting shares of a bank or bank subsidiary of a bank holding company if, after such acquisition, it would own or control, directly or indirectly, more than five percent of the voting stock of such bank or banking subsidiary of a bank holding company. A bank holding company may acquire direct or indirect ownership or control of voting shares of any company that is engaged directly or indirectly in banking or managing or controlling banks or performing services for its authorized subsidiaries. A bank holding company may also engage in or acquire an interest in a company that engages in activities that the Federal Reserve Board has determined by regulation or order to be so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto. Similar requirements are imposed by the Georgia DBF. The Federal Reserve Board has the authority to order a bank holding company or its subsidiaries to terminate certain activities or to terminate its ownership or control of any subsidiary when it has reasonable cause to believe that the bank holding company's continued ownership, activity or control constitutes a serious risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of it or any of its bank subsidiaries.

The Savannah Bank is a nationally-chartered commercial bank subject to extensive supervision and regulation by the OCC. Bryan Bank is a Georgia-chartered, non-member of the Federal Reserve Board, commercial bank subject to extensive supervision by the Georgia DBF and the FDIC. The deposits of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund, or DIF, of the FDIC

Table of Contents

up to the applicable limits allowed by law. Accordingly, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are subject to certain FDIC regulations and to examination by the FDIC as their primary insurer.

The bank regulatory agencies are responsible for overseeing the affairs of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank and periodically examining The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank to determine their compliance with laws and regulations. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank must make quarterly reports of financial condition and results of operations to the regulators. This quarterly financial information is made available to the public approximately 45 days after each quarter-end. The bank regulatory agencies use this data for quarterly offsite monitoring of the financial condition of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank. In addition, SAVB must file quarterly reports with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, or the FRB Atlanta. This financial information is reviewed by the FRB Atlanta for accuracy, consistency and reasonableness and is also made available to holding company database providers within 75 days of the end of each quarter. Bank analysts, regulators and consultants regularly use this information in analyzing historical and expected performance of banks and bank holding companies.

The bank regulatory agencies have authority to issue formal orders against banks and bank holding companies which are about to engage, are engaging or have engaged in unsafe or unsound practices in the conduct of their business. The regulators can order affirmative action to correct any harm resulting from a violation or practice, including, but not limited to, making restitution and providing reimbursement or guarantees against loss in certain cases. The bank regulatory agencies also administer several federal statutes, such as the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, or the Community Reinvestment Act, and the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act, which apply to The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank.

Capital Requirements

The federal banking regulators have adopted guidelines imposing minimum capital to risk-weighted assets ratios applicable to bank holding companies and state banks as well as minimum leverage ratio guidelines for bank holding companies, national banks, and state member bank. The Fed and the FDIC have the authority to impose, on a case-by-case basis, higher capital requirements on bank holding companies and state banks if they determine that the circumstances of a particular institution require it.

The guidelines also provide that institutions experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions will be expected to maintain strong capital positions substantially above the minimum supervisory levels without significant reliance on intangible assets. Higher capital may be required in individual cases, depending upon a bank holding company's or a bank's risk profile. All bank holding companies and banks are expected to hold capital commensurate with the level and nature of their risks, including the volume and severity of their problem loans. Lastly, the Federal Reserve Board's guidelines indicate that holding companies will be prohibited from participating in new financial affiliations if, at the time of certification, any insured depository affiliate had received a less than "satisfactory" Community Reinvestment Act rating at its most recent examination.

FDICIA and Prompt Corrective Action

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act, or FDICIA, established a system of prompt corrective action to resolve the problems of undercapitalized insured banks. Under this system, the federal banking regulators are required to rate insured banks on the basis of five capital categories (Well Capitalized, Adequately Capitalized, Undercapitalized, Significantly Undercapitalized and Critically Undercapitalized) as described in regulations established by the federal bank regulatory agencies.

If a bank fails to remain well-capitalized, it will be subject to a variety of enforcement remedies that increase as the capital condition worsens. For instance, the FDICIA generally prohibits a bank

Table of Contents

from making any capital distribution, including payment of a dividend, or paying any management fee to its holding company if the bank would thereafter be undercapitalized as a result. The federal banking regulators are also required to take mandatory supervisory actions and are authorized to take other discretionary actions, with respect to insured banks in the three undercapitalized categories, the severity of which will depend upon the capital category in which the insured bank is assigned. Undercapitalized banks are subject to restrictions on borrowing from the Federal Reserve Board, may not accept brokered deposits absent a waiver from the FDIC, are subject to growth limitations and are required to submit capital restoration plans for regulatory approval. A bank's holding company must guarantee any required capital restoration plan, up to an amount equal to the lesser of 5% of the bank's assets at the time it becomes undercapitalized or the amount of the capital deficiency when the institution fails to comply with the plan. Significantly undercapitalized banks may be subject to a number of requirements and restrictions, including orders to sell sufficient voting stock to become adequately capitalized, requirements to reduce total assets and cessation of receipt of deposits from correspondent banks. Generally, subject to a narrow exception, the FDICIA requires the banking regulator to appoint a receiver or conservator for an insured bank that is critically undercapitalized.

As of June 30, 2012, the capital ratios of SAVB and The Savannah Bank exceed the ratios required to be considered "well-capitalized" under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action in the most recent notification from the FDIC.

Regulatory Proceedings against The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank & Trust

On October 5, 2011, The Savannah Bank entered into a formal written agreement with the OCC, pursuant to which The Savannah Bank agreed to take steps to improve its asset quality, credit risk exposure, strategic planning initiatives, capital planning, and liquidity and risk management. Since the completion of the examination, the board of directors and management of The Savannah Bank have aggressively worked to address the findings of the exam and have developed formal action plans to comply with the requirements of the agreement and concerns that gave rise to the agreement. As of June 30, 2012, The Savannah Bank was still working on improving its asset quality, but was otherwise in compliance with the terms of the agreement. Entry into the agreement does not change The Savannah Bank's "well-capitalized" status. As of June 30, 2012, The Savannah Bank had Tier 1 capital of 8.92 percent of total assets and total risk-based capital of 13.56 percent, both of which are in excess of the required regulatory ratios to be considered "well capitalized" and also exceed the ratios that The Savannah Bank agreed with the OCC to maintain (a Tier 1 capital ratio of 8.00 percent and total risk-based capital ratio of 12.00 percent).

On March 1, 2012, Bryan Bank entered into a Consent Order with the FDIC and the Georgia DBF pursuant to which Bryan Bank agreed to take steps to improve its asset quality, credit risk exposure, strategic planning initiatives, capital planning and liquidity and risk management. Entry into the order automatically changes Bryan Bank's capital status to "adequately capitalized" for regulatory purposes even though Bryan Bank's capital ratios exceed the required regulatory ratios to be considered "well capitalized." The order requires Bryan Bank to maintain a Tier 1 capital ratio of 8.00 percent and total risk-based capital ratio of 10.00 percent. As of June 30, 2012, Bryan Bank had a Tier 1 Leverage Ratio of 7.88 percent which is below the requirement set by the order. However, Bryan Bank's leverage ratio did increase 31 basis points in the second quarter 2012 on a linked quarter basis. SAVB is evaluating its options to bring Bryan Bank into compliance with this stipulation.

Transactions with Affiliates

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are subject to applicable provisions of the Federal Reserve Act, which restrict the ability of any bank to extend credit to its parent holding company. Additionally, a national banking association cannot extend credit to any affiliate (including its parent and non-bank subsidiaries of its parent); issue a guarantee, acceptance or letter of credit (including an endorsement

Table of Contents

or standby letter of credit) on behalf of its affiliates; invest in the stock or securities of affiliates or, under certain circumstances, take such stock or securities as collateral for loans to any borrower.

Source of Strength

Federal Reserve policy, as codified by the Dodd-Frank Act, requires a bank holding company to act as a source of financial strength and to take measures to preserve and protect bank subsidiaries in situations where additional investments in a troubled bank may not otherwise be warranted. As a result, a bank holding company may be required to contribute additional capital to its subsidiaries in the form of capital notes or other instruments which qualify as capital under regulatory rules. Any loans from the holding company to its subsidiary banks likely will be unsecured and subordinated to the bank's depositors and perhaps to other creditors of the bank.

Monetary Policy

The earnings of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank and, consequently, of SAVB, are affected significantly by the policies of the Federal Reserve Board, which regulates the money supply in order to mitigate recessionary and inflationary pressures. Among the techniques used to implement these objectives are open market operations in U.S. Government securities, changes in the rate paid by banks on bank borrowings, and changes in reserve requirements against bank deposits. These techniques are used in varying combinations to influence overall growth and distribution of bank loans, investments and deposits, and their use may also affect interest rates charged on loans or paid for deposits. The monetary policies of the Federal Reserve Board have had a significant effect on the operating results of banks, including The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future.

Recent Regulatory Developments

The Dodd-Frank Act

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. As more fully discussed below, the Dodd-Frank Act has had and will likely continue to have a broad impact on the financial services industry, imposing significant regulatory and compliance changes, increased capital, leverage and liquidity requirements, changes to deposit insurance assessments, lending limits and mortgage lending practices, increased consumer financial protection, limits on interchange fees and numerous other provisions designed to improve supervision and oversight of, and strengthen safety and soundness within, the financial services sector. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act establishes a new framework of authority to conduct systemic risk oversight within the financial system that will be distributed among new and existing federal regulatory agencies, including the Financial Stability Oversight Council, or the Oversight Council, the Federal Reserve Board, the OCC and the FDIC.

Many of the provisions became effective upon enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act, while others are subject to further study, rulemaking, and the discretion of regulatory bodies and will be implemented over time. Given the uncertainty associated with the manner in which the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act will be implemented by the various regulatory agencies and through regulations, the full extent of the impact such requirements will have on SAVB's or The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's operations or our ability to pursue future business opportunities is unclear. The changes resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act may impact the profitability of SAVB or The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's business activities, require changes to certain business practices, impose upon SAVB or The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank more stringent capital, liquidity and leverage requirements or otherwise adversely affect our business. These changes may also require SAVB to invest significant management attention and resources to evaluate and make any changes necessary to comply with new statutory and regulatory requirements. SAVB cannot predict with any certainty the likelihood, timing, and scope of

Table of Contents

any such change and the impact any such change may have. Such changes could materially adversely affect SAVB's business, financial condition or results of operations.

The following items provide a brief description of the relevant provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act and their potential impact on our operations and activities, both currently and prospectively.

Creation of New Governmental Agencies. The Dodd-Frank Act creates various new governmental agencies such as the Oversight Council and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, or CFPB, an independent agency housed within the Federal Reserve Board. The CFPB has a broad mandate to issue regulations, examine compliance and take enforcement action under the federal financial consumer laws. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act permits states to adopt consumer protection laws and regulations that are stricter than those regulations promulgated by the CFPB, and state attorneys general are permitted to enforce consumer protection rules adopted by the CFPB against certain institutions.

Limitation on Federal Preemption. The Dodd-Frank Act significantly reduces the ability of national banks to rely upon federal preemption of state consumer financial laws. Although the OCC will have the ability to make preemption determinations where certain conditions are met, the broad rollback of federal preemption has the potential to create a patchwork of federal and state compliance obligations. This could, in turn, result in significant new regulatory requirements applicable to us, with attendant potential significant changes in our operations and increases in our compliance costs. It could also result in uncertainty concerning compliance, with attendant regulatory and litigation risks.

Corporate Governance. The Dodd-Frank Act addresses investor protection, corporate governance and executive compensation matters that will affect most U.S. publicly traded companies. The Dodd-Frank Act: (1) grants shareholders of U.S. publicly traded companies an advisory vote on executive compensation; (2) enhances independence requirements for compensation committee members; and (3) requires companies listed on national securities exchanges to adopt incentive-based compensation clawback policies for executive officers.

Deposit Insurance. The Dodd-Frank Act makes permanent the \$250,000 deposit insurance limit for insured deposits and provides unlimited insurance on noninterest-bearing transaction accounts through December 31, 2012. Amendments to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, or FDIA, also revise the assessment base against which an insured depository institution's deposit insurance premiums paid to the DIF will be calculated. Under the amendments, the assessment base will no longer be the institution's deposit base, but rather its average consolidated total assets less its average tangible equity. This may shift the burden of deposit insurance premiums toward those depository institutions that rely on funding sources other than U.S. deposits. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act makes changes to the minimum designated reserve ratio of the DIF, increasing the minimum from 1.15 percent to 1.35 percent of the estimated amount of total insured deposits, and eliminating the requirement that the FDIC pay dividends to depository institutions when the reserve ratio exceeds certain thresholds. Several of these provisions could increase our FDIC deposit insurance premiums.

Capital Standards. Regulatory capital standards are expected to change as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act, and in particular as a result of the Collins Amendment. The Collins Amendment requires that the appropriate federal banking agencies establish minimum leverage and risk-based capital requirements on a consolidated basis for insured depository institutions and their holding companies. As a result, SAVB and The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank will be subject to the same capital requirements, and must include the same components in regulatory capital. One impact of the Collins Amendment is to prohibit bank and bank holding companies from including in their Tier 1 regulatory capital certain hybrid debt and equity securities issued on or after May 19, 2010.

Shareholder Say-On-Pay Votes. The Dodd-Frank Act requires public companies to take shareholders' votes on proposals addressing compensation (known as say-on-pay), the frequency of a

Table of Contents

say-on-pay vote (known as say-on-frequency), and the golden parachutes available to executives in connection with change-in-control transactions (known as say-on-golden parachutes). Public companies must give shareholders the opportunity to vote on the compensation at least every three years and the opportunity to vote on frequency at least every six years, indicating whether the say-on-pay vote should be held annually, biennially, or triennially. The say-on-pay and say-on-frequency rules are not applicable to smaller reporting companies until annual meetings occurring on or after January 21, 2013, but SAVB elected nonetheless to provide shareholders the opportunity to vote on these issues in 2011. The say-on-pay, say-on-frequency and the say-on-golden parachute votes are explicitly nonbinding and cannot override a decision of the Federal Reserve Board.

Mortgage Loan Origination and Risk Retention. The Dodd-Frank Act contains additional regulatory requirements that may affect our mortgage origination and servicing operations, result in increased compliance costs and may impact revenue. For example, in addition to numerous new disclosure requirements, the Dodd-Frank Act imposes new standards for mortgage loan originations on all lenders, including banks, in an effort to strongly encourage lenders to verify a borrower's ability to repay. Most significantly, the new standards limit the total points and fees that we and/or a broker may charge on conforming and jumbo loans to 3 percent of the total loan amount. Also, the Dodd-Frank Act, in conjunction with the Federal Reserve Board's final rule on loan originator compensation issued August 16, 2010 and effective April 1, 2011, prohibits certain compensation payments to loan originators and the practice of steering consumers to loans not in their interest when it will result in greater compensation for a loan originator. These standards have resulted in a myriad of new controls over processing systems and pricing and compensation policies and practices in order to ensure compliance and to decrease repurchase requests and foreclosure defenses. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act generally requires lenders or securitizers to retain an economic interest in the credit risk relating to loans the lender sells and other asset-backed securities that the securitizer issues if the loans have not complied with the ability to repay standards. The risk retention requirement generally will be 5 percent, but could be increased or decreased by regulation.

Imposition of Restrictions on Certain Activities. The Dodd-Frank Act requires new regulations for the over-the-counter derivatives market, including requirements for clearing, exchange trading, capital, margin and reporting. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act requires that certain swaps and derivatives activities be "pushed out" of insured depository institutions and conducted in separately capitalized non-bank affiliates and generally prohibits banking entities from engaging in "proprietary trading" or investing in or sponsoring private equity and hedge funds, subject to limited exemptions.

Repeal of Regulation Q. On April 14, 2011, the Federal Reserve Board released a proposed rulemaking to implement the repeal of Regulation Q, which prohibited payment of interest on demand deposits, as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act. The repeal of Regulation Q was effective July 21, 2011. Although Regulation Q prohibits the payment of interest on all demand deposits, in practice, the prohibition was limited to forbidding the payment of interest on business checking accounts. In response to Regulation Q's limitations, banks developed Negotiable Order of Withdrawal, or NOW, and sweep accounts to extend interest to businesses and individuals, among others. Upon the repeal of Regulation Q, banks may offer interest-bearing demand deposits, including checking accounts, to businesses as well as individuals.

Basel III

As a result of the Dodd-Frank Act's Collins Amendment, SAVB, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank will formally be subject to the same regulatory capital requirements. The current risk-based capital guidelines that apply to SAVB are based upon the 1988 capital accord of the international Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, or Basel, a committee of central banks and bank supervisors, as implemented by the U.S. federal banking agencies on an interagency basis. In 2008, the banking

Table of Contents

agencies collaboratively began to phase-in capital standards based on a second capital accord, or Basel II, for large or "core" international banks (generally defined for U.S. purposes as having total assets of \$250 billion or more or consolidated foreign exposures of \$10 billion or more). Basel II emphasizes internal assessment of credit, market and operational risk, as well as supervisory assessment and market discipline in determining minimum capital requirements.

On September 12, 2010, the Group of Governors and Heads of Supervision, the oversight body of Basel, announced agreement to a strengthened set of capital requirements for internationally active banking organizations in the U.S. and around the world known as "Basel III." Basel III was endorsed at the meeting of the G-20 nations in November 2010 and the final text of the Basel III rules was subsequently agreed to by Basel on December 16, 2010. The Basel III reforms are subject to individual adoption by member nations. Member countries are expected to issue laws or regulations to implement Basel III by January 2013. It is expected that the U.S. federal banking agencies will implement Basel III as indicated by a joint press release issued by the U.S. federal banking agencies on September 12, 2010 expressing support for the Basel III standards. Certain aspects of the new standards are slated to become effective upon implementation while others will be phased in over several years. These standards, which are aimed at capital reform, seek to further strengthen financial institutions' capital positions by mandating a higher minimum level of common equity to be held, along with a capital conservation buffer to withstand future periods of stress. Basel III addresses the quality of capital and introduces new capital requirements but does not purport to overrule the Basel II standards, which focus on the appropriate allocation of capital to bank assets based on credit risk.

While the timing and scope of any implementation of Basel III by the U.S. remains uncertain, the following items provide a brief description of the relevant provisions of Basel III and their potential impact on our capital levels if applied to SAVB.

New Minimum Capital Requirements. Subject to implementation by the U.S. federal banking agencies, Basel III would be expected to have the following effects on the minimum capital levels of banking institutions to which it applies when fully phased in by January 1, 2019:

Minimum Common Equity. The minimum requirement for common equity, the highest form of loss absorbing capital, will be raised from the current 2.0 percent level, before the application of regulatory adjustments, to 4.5 percent after the application of stricter adjustments. This requirement will be phased in by January 1, 2015. As noted below, total common equity required will rise to 7.0 percent by January 1, 2019 (4.5 percent attributable to the minimum required common equity plus 2.5 percent attributable to the "capital conservation buffer" as discussed below).

Minimum Tier 1 Capital. The minimum Tier 1 capital requirement, which includes common equity and other qualifying financial instruments based on stricter criteria, will increase from 4.0 percent to 6.0 percent also by January 1, 2015. Total Tier 1 capital will rise to 8.5 percent by January 1, 2019 (6.0 percent attributable to the minimum required Tier 1 capital ratio plus 2.5 percent attributable to the capital conservation buffer).

Minimum Total Capital. The minimum total capital (Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital) requirement will increase to 8.0 percent by January 1, 2013 (10.5 percent by January 1, 2019, including the capital conservation buffer).

Capital Conservation Buffer. An initial capital conservation buffer of 0.625 percent above the regulatory minimum common equity requirement will begin in January 2016 and will gradually be increased to 2.5 percent by January 1, 2019. The buffer will be added to common equity, after the application of deductions. The purpose of the conservation buffer is to ensure that banks maintain a buffer of capital that can be used to absorb losses during periods of financial and economic stress. It is expected that, while banks would be allowed to draw on the buffer during such periods of stress, the closer their regulatory capital ratios approach the minimum requirement, the greater the constraints that would be applied to earnings distributions.

Table of Contents

Countercyclical Buffer. Basel III expects regulators to require, as appropriate to national circumstances, a "countercyclical buffer" within a range of 0 percent to 2.5 percent of common equity or other fully loss absorbing capital. The purpose of the countercyclical buffer is to achieve the broader goal of protecting the banking sector from periods of excess aggregate credit growth. For any given country, it is expected that this buffer would only be applied when there is excess credit growth that is resulting in a perceived system-wide build up of risk. The countercyclical buffer, when in effect, would be introduced as an extension of the conservation buffer range.

Regulatory Deductions from Common Equity. The regulatory adjustments (i.e., deductions and prudential filters), including minority interests in financial institutions and deferred tax assets from timing differences, would be deducted in increasing percentages beginning January 1, 2014, and would be fully deducted from common equity by January 1, 2018. Certain instruments that no longer qualify as Tier 1 capital, such as trust preferred securities, also would be subject to phase-out over a 10-year period beginning January 1, 2013.

Non-Risk Based Leverage Ratios. These capital requirements are supplemented by a non-risk-based leverage ratio that will serve as a backstop to the risk-based measures described above. In July 2010, the Governors and Heads of Supervision agreed to test a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 3.0 percent during the parallel run period. Based on the results of the parallel run period, any final adjustments would be carried out in the first half of 2017 with a view to adopting the 3.0 percent leverage ratio on January 1, 2018, based on appropriate review and calibration.

Additional Capital Requirement Regulation. In addition to Basel III, the Dodd-Frank Act requires or permits the federal banking agencies to adopt regulations affecting banking institutions' capital requirements in a number of respects, including potentially more stringent capital requirements for systemically important financial institutions. On November 22, 2011, the Federal Reserve Board issued a final rule requiring top-tier U.S. bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of \$50 billion or more to submit annual capital plans for review. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board also expects these banks to demonstrate that they can achieve the capital ratios required by the Basel III framework as applied to the U.S.

The timing and scope of any implementation of Basel III by the U.S. remains uncertain and, the standards could be further amended by Basel. Accordingly, the regulations ultimately applicable to us may be substantially different from the Basel III final framework as published in December 2010 and redefined in 2011. While it is likely that implementation of the Basel III standards in the U.S. will result in generally higher regulatory capital standards, it is difficult at this time to predict how any new standards will ultimately be applied to us and how we will be affected by such standards.

Incentive Compensation

On June 25, 2010, the federal banking agencies jointly issued final guidance regarding sound incentive compensation policies, or the "Incentive Compensation Guidance," intended to ensure that the incentive compensation policies of banking organizations do not undermine the safety and soundness of such organizations by encouraging excessive risk-taking. The Incentive Compensation Guidance, which covers all employees that have the ability to materially affect the risk profile of an organization, either individually or as part of a group, is based upon the key principles that a banking organization's incentive compensation arrangements should (i) provide employees incentives that appropriately balance risk and financial results in a manner that does not encourage employees to expose their organizations to imprudent risk, (ii) be compatible with effective internal controls and risk management, and (iii) be supported by strong corporate governance, including active and effective oversight by the organization's board of directors. Any deficiencies in compensation practices that are identified may be incorporated into the organization's supervisory ratings, which can affect its ability to make acquisitions or perform other actions. The Incentive Compensation Guidance provides that

Table of Contents

enforcement actions may be taken against a banking organization if its incentive compensation arrangements or related risk-management control or governance processes pose a risk to the organization's safety and soundness and the organization is not taking prompt and effective measures to correct the deficiencies. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act contains prohibitions on incentive-based compensation arrangements, or any feature of such arrangements, that encourage inappropriate risk taking by financial institutions, are deemed to be excessive, or that may lead to material losses. Also, under the Dodd-Frank Act, a covered financial institution must disclose to its appropriate federal regulator the structure of its incentive-based compensation arrangements in a manner sufficient for such regulator to determine whether the structure provides excessive compensation, fees, or benefits or could lead to material financial loss to the institution. In February 2011, the federal banking agencies issued proposed interagency rules designed to implement the Dodd-Frank Act's compensation restrictions in a manner consistent with existing compensation standards contained in the FDIA and with the principles outlined in the Incentive Compensation Guidance.

The scope and content of the U.S. banking regulators' guidance on and rules governing executive compensation are continuing to develop and are likely to continue evolving in the near future. It cannot be determined at this time whether compliance with such guidance and rules will adversely affect the ability of SAVB and its subsidiaries to hire, retain and motivate their key employees.

Other Statutes and Regulations

SAVB, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are subject to a myriad of other statutes and regulations affecting their activities. Some of the more important include:

OFAC. The Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, is responsible for helping to ensure that U.S. entities do not engage in transactions with certain prohibited parties, as defined by various Executive Orders and Acts of Congress. OFAC sends bank regulatory agencies lists of persons and organizations suspected of aiding, harboring or engaging in terrorist acts, known as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons. If SAVB, The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank find a name on any transaction, account or wire transfer that is on an OFAC list, SAVB, The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank must freeze such account, file a suspicious activity report and notify the appropriate authorities.

Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act. Pursuant to Section 23A, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are limited in their ability to engage in "covered transactions" with SAVB or other nonbank affiliates of SAVB. Further, pursuant to Section 23B, such transactions must be on an arms-length basis and on terms at least as favorable to The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank as those prevailing at the time for transactions with unaffiliated companies. "Covered transactions" include loans or extensions of credit to, and investments in or certain other transactions with, affiliates.

Outstanding loans from The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank to SAVB or other nonbank affiliates of SAVB may not exceed 10 percent of the banks' capital stock and surplus, and the total of such transactions between the banks and all of their non-subsidiary affiliates may not exceed 20 percent of the banks' capital stock and surplus. These loans must be fully or over-collateralized. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are also prohibited from purchasing low quality assets from SAVB or other nonbank affiliates of SAVB. Except for limitations on low quality asset purchases and transactions that are deemed to be unsafe or unsound, the Federal Reserve Board's Regulation W, as made applicable to state nonmember banks by section 18(j) of the FDIA generally excludes affiliated depository institutions from treatment as "affiliates."

The Dodd-Frank Act generally enhances the restrictions on transactions with affiliates under Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act, including an expansion of the definition of "covered transactions" and an increase in the amount of time for which collateral requirements regarding covered credit transactions must be satisfied. The ability of the Federal Reserve Board to grant

Table of Contents

exemptions from these restrictions is also narrowed by the Dodd-Frank Act, including with respect to the requirement for the OCC, FDIC and Federal Reserve Board to coordinate with one another.

Loans to Insiders. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank also are subject to restrictions on extensions of credit to executive officers, directors, principal shareholders and their related interests. Such extensions of credit (i) must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with third parties, (ii) must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable terms and (iii) may require approval by the Banks' boards of directors. Loans to executive officers are subject to certain additional restrictions.

Consumer Regulation. Activities of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are subject to a variety of statutes and regulations designed to protect consumers. These laws and regulations include provisions that:

limit the interest and other charges collected or contracted for by the Banks, including new rules regarding the terms of credit cards and debit card overdrafts;

govern the Banks' disclosures of credit terms to consumer borrowers;

require the Banks to provide information to enable the public and public officials to determine whether it is fulfilling its obligation to help meet the housing needs of the communities it serves;

prohibit the Banks from discriminating on the basis of race, creed or other prohibited factors when it makes decisions to extend credit; and

govern the manner in which the Banks may collect consumer debts.

New rules on credit card interest rates, fees, and other terms took effect on February 22, 2010, as directed by the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act. Among the new requirements are (i) 45-days advance notice to a cardholder before the interest rate on a card may be increased, subject to certain exceptions; (ii) a ban on interest rate increases in the first year; (iii) an opt-in for over-the-limit charges; (iv) caps on high fee cards; (v) greater limits on the issuance of cards to persons below the age of 21; (vi) new rules on monthly statements and payment due dates and the crediting of payments; and (vii) the application of new rates only to new charges and of payments to higher rate charges.

The FDIC expects financial institutions' boards of directors and management to ensure that the institution mitigates the risks associated with offering automated overdraft payment programs and complies with all consumer protection laws and regulations, including providing clear and meaningful disclosures and other communications about overdraft payment programs, fees, and other features and options, and demonstrating compliance with new opt-in requirements for ATM withdrawals and one-time point-of-sale debit card transactions. In addition, the FDIC expects financial institutions to:

Promptly honor customers' requests to decline coverage of overdrafts (i.e., opt-out) resulting from non-electronic transactions;

Give consumers the opportunity to affirmatively choose the overdraft payment product that overall best meets their needs;

Monitor accounts and take meaningful and effective action to limit use of overdrafts by customers as a form of short-term, high-cost credit, including, for example, giving customers who overdraw their accounts on more than six occasions where a fee is charged in a rolling twelve-month period a reasonable opportunity to choose a less costly alternative and decide whether to continue with fee-based overdraft coverage;

Table of Contents

Institute appropriate daily limits on overdraft fees; and consider eliminating overdraft fees for transactions that overdraw an account by a de minimis amount; and

Not process transactions in a manner designed to maximize the cost to consumers.

Institutions using a third-party vendor for their overdraft payment programs must exercise careful oversight, as discussed in the FDIC's 2008 Guidance for Managing Third-Party Risk. The FDIC will take supervisory action where overdraft payment programs pose unacceptable safety and soundness or compliance management system risks or result in violations of laws or regulations, including unfair or deceptive acts or practices and fair lending laws.

As a result of the turmoil in the residential real estate and mortgage lending markets, there are several concepts currently under discussion at both the federal and state government levels that could, if adopted, alter the terms of existing mortgage loans, impose restrictions on future mortgage loan originations, diminish lenders' rights against delinquent borrowers or otherwise change the ways in which lenders make and administer residential mortgage loans. If made final, any or all of these proposals could have a negative effect on the financial performance of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's mortgage lending operations, by, among other things, reducing the volume of mortgage loans that The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank can originate and impairing their ability to proceed against certain delinquent borrowers with timely and effective collection efforts.

The deposit operations of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are also subject to laws and regulations that:

require the banks to adequately disclose the interest rates and other terms of consumer deposit accounts;

impose a duty on the banks to maintain the confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribe procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records;

require escheatment of unclaimed funds to the appropriate state agencies after the passage of certain statutory time frames; and

govern automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts with the banks and the rights and liabilities of customers who use automated teller machines and other electronic banking services. As described above, beginning in July 2010, new rules took effect that limited the banks' ability to charge fees for the payment of overdrafts for everyday debit and ATM card transactions.

As noted above, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank will likely face an increase in their consumer compliance regulatory burden as a result of the combination of the newly-established CFPB and the significant roll back of federal preemption of state laws in this area.

Commercial Real Estate Lending. Lending operations that involve concentrations of commercial real estate loans are subject to enhanced scrutiny by federal banking regulators. Regulators have issued guidance with respect to the risks posed by commercial real estate lending concentrations. Commercial real estate loans generally include land development, construction loans and loans secured by multifamily property and nonfarm, nonresidential real property where the primary source of repayment is derived from rental income associated with the property. The guidance prescribes the following guidelines for examiners to help identify institutions that are potentially exposed to concentration risk and may warrant greater supervisory scrutiny:

total reported loans for construction, land development and other land represent 100 percent or more of the institution's total capital; or

Table of Contents

total commercial real estate loans represent 300 percent or more of the institution's total capital, and the outstanding balance of the institution's commercial real estate loan portfolio has increased by 50 percent or more during the prior 36 months.

Appraisals. The Federal Reserve Board issued an interim final rule, mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act, which is intended to ensure that real estate appraisers can use their independent judgment in assigning home values, and that they receive customary and reasonable payments for their services. The rule also includes several provisions that protect the integrity of the appraisal process when a consumer's home is securing the loan.

The interim final rule prohibits coercion and similar actions designed to cause appraisers to base the appraised value of properties on factors other than their independent judgment; bans appraisers and appraisal management companies hired by lenders from having financial or other interests in the properties or the credit transactions; and prohibits creditors from extending credit based on appraisals if they know beforehand about violations involving appraiser coercion or conflicts of interest.

The rule also requires creditors or settlement service providers to file reports with the appropriate state licensing authorities if they have information about appraiser misconduct. It also mandates the payment of reasonable and customary compensation to appraisers who are not employees of the creditors or of the appraisal management companies hired by the creditors.

Affiliation Authority. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, or GLB, amended section 4 of the Federal Reserve Act to provide a framework for engaging in new financial activities. Those bank holding companies that qualify to engage in the new financial activities are designated as Financial Holding Companies. Provisions of GLB permit bank holding companies that qualify as financial holding companies to engage in activities, and acquire companies engaged in activities, that are financial in nature or incidental to such financial activities. Financial holding companies are also permitted to engage in activities that are "complementary" to financial activities if the Federal Reserve Board determines that the activity does not pose a substantial risk to the safety or soundness of the institution or the financial system in general.

The Federal Reserve Board may act by either regulation or order in determining what activities are financial in nature, or incidental or complementary to activities that are financial in nature. In doing so, the Federal Reserve Board must notify the U.S. Treasury Department, or Treasury, of requests to engage in new financial activities and may not determine that an activity is financial or incidental to a financial activity if Treasury objects. Furthermore, Treasury may propose that the Federal Reserve Board find a particular activity financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity. GLB establishes a similar procedure with regard to the Treasury's (acting through the OCC) determination of financial activities and activities that are incidental to financial activities for subsidiaries of national banks. Congress intended for the Federal Reserve Board and Treasury to establish a consultative process that would negate the need for either agency to veto a proposal of the other agency.

Federal Home Loan Bank Reform. GLB reformed the Federal Home Loan Bank, or FHLB, System, including expanding the collateral that a community bank can pledge against FHLB advances, thus giving smaller banks access to a substantial new liquidity source.

Privacy. GLB imposed a number of new restrictions on the ability of financial institutions to share nonpublic personal information with nonaffiliated third parties. Specifically, the GLB:

require The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank to adequately disclose the interest rates and other terms of consumer deposit accounts;

impose a duty on the banks to maintain the confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribe procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records;

Table of Contents

require escheatment of unclaimed funds to the appropriate state agencies after the passage of certain statutory time frames; and

govern automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts with the banks and the rights and liabilities of customers who use automated teller machines and other electronic banking services. As described above, beginning in July 2010, new rules took effect that limited the banks' ability to charge fees for the payment of overdrafts for everyday debit and ATM card transactions.

GLB also imposes an affirmative obligation on banks to respect their customers' privacy interests. Language protects a community bank's ability to share information with third parties selling financial products (for example, insurance or securities) to bank customers. Community banks can thus continue such sales practices without being subject to the opt-out provisions contained elsewhere in the legislation.

Branch Banking. Pursuant to the Financial Institutions Code of Georgia, banks located in Georgia are authorized to branch statewide. Accordingly, a bank located anywhere in Georgia has the ability, subject to regulatory approval, to establish branch facilities near any of SAVB's facilities and within its market area. If other banks were to establish branch facilities near SAVB's facilities, it is uncertain whether these branch facilities would have a material adverse effect on its business.

The Dodd-Frank Act substantially amended the legal framework that had previously governed interstate branching activities. Formerly, under the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994, a bank's ability to branch into a particular state was largely dependent upon whether the state "opted-in" to de novo interstate branching. Many states did not "opt-in," which resulted in branching restrictions in those states. The Dodd-Frank Act removed the "opt-in" concept and permits banks to engage in de novo branching outside of their home states, provided that the laws of the target state permit banks chartered in that state to branch within that state. Accordingly, de novo interstate branching by The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank and competitor institutions is subject to these new standards. This legislation has relevance for the banking industry due to increased competitive forces from institutions which may consolidate through mergers and those which may move into new markets through enhanced opportunities to branch across state lines. Georgia and South Carolina do not have reciprocal provisions for de novo branches or charters. Holding companies domiciled in Georgia may not branch or charter banks in South Carolina and vice versa. Alternatives for expansion between these states include acquiring an existing financial institution, chartering a federal savings bank or moving the charter of a national bank within 35 miles of its headquarters into the new state.

Anti-Tying Regulations. A bank holding company and its subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in certain tie-in arrangements in connection with the extension of credit or provision of any product or service to its customers. In general, a bank may not extend credit, lease or sell property or furnish any service or fix or vary the consideration for such on the condition that (i) the customer should obtain or provide some additional credit, property or service from or to such bank (other than a loan, discount, deposit or trust service related to and usually provided in connection with a loan, discount, deposit or trust service), its bank holding company or any other subsidiary of its bank holding company or (ii) the customer may not obtain some other credit, property or service from a competitor, except to the extent reasonable conditions are imposed in a credit transaction to assure the soundness of the credit extended. A bank may, however, offer combined-balance products and may otherwise offer more favorable terms if a customer obtains two or more traditional bank products.

Standards for Safety and Soundness. The FDIA requires the federal bank regulatory agencies to prescribe, by regulation or guideline, operational and managerial standards for all insured depository institutions relating to: (i) internal controls; (ii) information systems and internal audit systems;

Table of Contents

(iii) loan documentation; (iv) credit underwriting; (v) interest rate risk exposure; and (vi) asset quality. The agencies also must prescribe standards for asset quality, earnings, and stock valuation, as well as standards for compensation, fees and benefits. The federal bank regulatory agencies have adopted regulations and Interagency Guidelines Prescribing Standards for Safety and Soundness, or the Guidelines, to implement these required standards. The Guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal bank regulatory agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. Under the regulations, if the FDIC determines that The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank fail to meet any standards prescribed by the Guidelines, it may require the Banks to submit an acceptable plan to achieve compliance, consistent with deadlines for the submission and review of such safety and soundness compliance plans. Moreover, the Federal Reserve Board has cease and desist powers over SAVB and its non-banking subsidiaries should their actions constitute a serious threat to the safety, soundness or stability of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank.

Dividends. Although SAVB is not presently subject to any direct regulatory restrictions on dividends (other than those of Georgia corporate law), SAVB has agreed with the FRB Atlanta to obtain approval prior to paying or declaring any dividends to shareholders. SAVB's long-term ability to pay cash dividends will also depend on the amount of dividends paid by The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank to SAVB. OCC regulations restrict the amount of dividends which The Savannah Bank may pay without obtaining prior approval. Based on such regulatory restrictions, without prior approval The Savannah Bank is restricted from paying dividends in a calendar year which exceeds the current year's net income combined with the retained net profits of the preceding two years. Based upon this restriction, The Savannah Bank would not be able to pay any dividends to SAVB in 2012. The Savannah Bank has also agreed with the OCC to obtain approval prior to paying or declaring any dividends to SAVB. Bryan Bank may pay dividends equal to no more than 50 percent of prior year net income without prior approval from the Georgia DBF. Based upon this restriction, Bryan Bank would not be able to pay any dividends to SAVB in 2012. Bryan Bank has also agreed with the Georgia DBF and the FDIC to obtain approval prior to paying or declaring any dividends to SAVB. The dividend payout plans of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank consider the objective of maintaining their "well-capitalized" status.

The principal source of our liquidity at the holding company level is dividends from our subsidiaries. We must pay essentially all of our operating expenses from funds we receive from our subsidiaries. Therefore, shareholders may receive dividends from us only to the extent that funds are available after payment of our operating expenses.

FHLB Advances. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are members of the FHLB System, which consists of 12 regional FHLBs subject to supervision and regulation by the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The FHLBs maintain central credit facilities primarily for member institutions. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, as members of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, which we refer to as FHLB Atlanta, are required to hold shares of capital stock in FHLB Atlanta in an amount equal to: (i) 15 basis points of the Bank's total assets (adjusted annually) and (ii) 4.5 percent of its advances (borrowings) from FHLB Atlanta. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are in compliance with this requirement at June 30, 2012.

Each FHLB serves as a reserve or central bank for its member institutions within its assigned regions. It is funded primarily from proceeds derived from the sale of obligations of the FHLB System. The FHLB makes advances (i.e., loans) to members in accordance with policies and procedures established by its Board. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are authorized to borrow funds from FHLB Atlanta to meet demands for withdrawals of deposits, to meet seasonal requirements and for the expansion of its loan portfolio. Advances may be made on a secured or unsecured basis depending upon a number of factors, including the purpose for which the funds are being borrowed and the amount of previously existing advances. Interest rates charged for advances vary depending upon maturity, the cost of funds to FHLB Atlanta and the purpose of the borrowing.

Table of Contents

Community Reinvestment Act

The Community Reinvestment Act requires the federal bank regulatory agencies to encourage financial institutions to meet the credit needs of low- and moderate-income borrowers in their local communities. The Community Reinvestment Act does not establish specific lending requirements or programs for banks nor does it limit a bank's discretion to develop the types of products and services that it believes are best suited to its particular community. On a periodic basis, the OCC, in the case of The Savannah Bank, and the FDIC, in the case of Bryan Bank, is charged with preparing a written evaluation of the banks' record of meeting the credit needs of the entire community and assigning a rating - outstanding, satisfactory, needs to improve or substantial noncompliance. The federal bank regulatory agencies will take that rating into account in its evaluation of any application made by The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank for, among other things, approval of the acquisition or establishment of a branch or other deposit facility, an office relocation, a merger or the acquisition of shares of capital stock of another financial institution. A bank's Community Reinvestment Act rating may be used as the basis to deny or condition an application. In addition, as discussed above, bank holding companies may not become financial holding companies unless each of its bank subsidiaries has a Community Reinvestment Act rating of at least "Satisfactory."

Further, Community Reinvestment Act regulations provide for certain disclosure obligations. In accordance with the Community Reinvestment Act, each institution must post a Community Reinvestment Act notice advising the public of the right to comment to the institution and its regulator on the institution's Community Reinvestment Act performance and to review the Community Reinvestment Act public file. Each lending institution must maintain for public inspection a public file that includes a listing of branch locations and services, a summary of lending activity, a map of its communities, and any written comments from the public on its performance in meeting community credit needs. Large institutions also are required to collect certain data, including the amount and location of originated and purchased small business, small farm, community development, and home mortgage loans, and to report this data to their regulatory agencies.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank received a "satisfactory" rating on the most recent performance evaluations of their Community Reinvestment Act efforts by their respective bank regulatory agencies.

Consumer Protection Regulations

Retail activities of banks are subject to a variety of statutes and regulations designed to protect consumers. Interest and other charges collected or contracted for by banks are subject to state usury laws and federal laws concerning interest rates. Loan operations are also subject to federal laws applicable to credit transactions, such as:

the federal Truth-In-Lending Act and Regulation Z issued by the Federal Reserve Board, governing disclosures of credit terms to consumer borrowers;

the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and Regulation C issued by the Federal Reserve Board, requiring financial institutions to provide information to enable the public and public officials to determine whether a financial institution is fulfilling its obligation to help meet the housing needs of the community it serves;

the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Regulation B issued by the Federal Reserve Board, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, creed or other prohibited factors in extending credit;

the Fair Credit Reporting Act and Regulation V issued by the Federal Reserve Board, governing the use and provision of information to consumer reporting agencies; and

Table of Contents

the guidance of the various federal agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing such federal laws.

Deposit operations also are subject to:

the Truth in Savings Act and Regulation DD issued by the Federal Reserve Board, which requires disclosure of deposit terms to consumers;

Regulation CC issued by the Federal Reserve Board, which relates to the availability of deposit funds to consumers;

the Right to Financial Privacy Act, which imposes a duty to maintain the confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribes procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records; and

the Electronic Funds Transfer Act and Regulation E issued by the Federal Reserve Board, which governs automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts and customers' rights and liabilities arising from the use of ATMs and other electronic banking services.

In addition, there are a number of significant consumer protection standards that apply to functional areas of operation (rather than applying only to loan or deposit products). For example, in June 2010, the Federal Reserve Board issued a final rule establishing standards for debit card interchange fees and prohibiting network exclusivity arrangements and routing restrictions. The Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC also recently enacted consumer protection regulations related to automated overdraft payment programs offered by financial institutions. The FDIC has also issued rules aimed at protecting consumers in connection with retail foreign exchange transactions. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has been actively revising Regulation E, which governs electronic transactions, including a recent proposal governing remittance transfer transactions. Among the finalized changes made to Regulation E is the November 2009 amendment, which prohibits financial institutions from charging consumers fees for paying overdrafts on ATM and one-time debit card transactions, unless a consumer consents, or opts in, to the overdraft service for those types of transactions. Regulation E amendments also require financial institutions to provide consumers with a notice that explains the financial institution's overdraft services, including the fees associated with the service and the consumer's choices. The amendments to Regulation E became effective on August 1, 2010.

In November 2010, the FDIC supplemented the Regulation E amendments by requiring FDIC-supervised institutions to implement additional changes relating to automated overdraft payment programs by July 1, 2011. The most significant of these changes require financial institutions to monitor overdraft payment programs for "excessive or chronic" customer use and undertake "meaningful and effective" follow-up action with customers that overdraw their accounts more than six times during a rolling 12-month period. The additional guidance also imposes daily limits on overdraft charges, requires institutions to review and modify check-clearing procedures, prominently distinguish account balances from available overdraft coverage amounts and requires increased board and management oversight regarding overdraft payment programs.

Many of the foregoing laws and regulations are subject to change resulting from the provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act, which in many cases calls for revisions to implementing regulations. In addition, oversight responsibilities of these and other consumer protection laws and regulations transferred from the Bank's primary regulator to the CFPB. The CFPB is in the process of republishing the transferred regulations in a new section of the Code of Federal Regulations but has not yet made substantive changes to these rules. It is anticipated that the CFPB will be making substantive changes to a number of consumer protection regulations and associated disclosures in the near term. We cannot predict the effect that being regulated by a new, additional regulatory authority focused on consumer financial protection, or any new implementing regulations or revisions to existing regulations that may result

Table of Contents

from the establishment of this new authority, will have on SAVB's or The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's businesses. In addition, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank may also be subject to certain state laws and regulations designed to protect consumers. Additional regulations resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act or changes in state laws and regulations applicable to The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank could increase our cost of doing business or harm our competitive position.

Anti-Money Laundering

The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, or Patriot Act, significantly expands the responsibilities of financial institutions in preventing the use of the U.S. financial system to fund terrorist activities. Title III of the Patriot Act provides for a significant overhaul of the U.S. anti-money laundering regime. Among other provisions, it requires financial institutions operating in the U.S. to develop new anti-money laundering compliance programs, due diligence policies and controls to ensure the detection and reporting of money laundering. Such required compliance programs are intended to supplement existing compliance requirements, also applicable to financial institutions, under the Bank Secrecy Act and OFAC Regulations. This federal legislation and the resultant bank regulations require a financial institution to expeditiously search its records to determine whether it maintains or has maintained accounts, or engaged in transactions with individuals or entities listed in a database maintained by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN. The records search must cover current accounts, accounts opened in the prior twelve months, and transactions conducted in the prior six months. Its purpose is to identify funds or transactions with individuals associated with terrorist activities. Substantial penalties and/or criminal prosecution may result from non-compliance. Management has established policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the Patriot Act.

Recent Banking Legislation

Bills are presently pending before the U.S. Congress and certain state legislatures, and additional bills may be introduced in the future before Congress and the state legislatures, which, if enacted, may alter the structure, regulation and competitive relationships of the nation's financial institutions. It cannot be predicted whether or in what form any of these proposals will be adopted or the extent to which the business of SAVB, The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank may be affected thereby.

Competition

The banking business is very competitive. Banks generally compete with other financial institutions using the mix of banking products and services offered, the pricing of services, the convenience and availability of services, the degree of expertise of personnel and the personal manner in which services are offered. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank compete with other commercial and savings banks in their primary service areas. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank also compete with credit unions, consumer finance companies, insurance companies, money market mutual funds, brokerage firms and other financial institutions, some of which are not subject to the degree of regulation and restrictions imposed upon The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank. Many of these competitors have substantially greater resources and lending limits than The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank and offer certain services that the banks do not provide currently.

Many of these competitors have more branch offices in the banks' primary service area. However, SAVB's plan is to expand into the markets which will best serve its targeted customers. Management believes that competitive pricing, local ownership, local decisions, local control and personalized, relationship-oriented service provide The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank with a method to compete effectively for prospective customers.

Table of Contents

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank experience the most competition from new local community or regional bank entrants into the market area. Numerous banking offices of community banks, regional banks and de novo banks have opened in the Savannah market over the past decade. While there has been no de novo activity over the past few years, several new regional or community banks have entered the Savannah and coastal South Carolina markets through the acquisition of failed banks from the FDIC. Other banks have indicated interest in these markets. These new entrants have increased and will likely continue to increase the competition for existing and new business.

Deposit growth is a continuing challenge facing the banking industry and The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank. It is likely that deposit growth in competitive markets will require higher deposit interest rates. Higher costs of funds without corresponding higher rates on earning assets will have a long-term negative impact on net interest income. Higher growth in lower cost core deposits, higher revenue growth from fee based services and lower overhead growth rates are the key items required to accomplish SAVB's earnings growth objectives.

SELECTED STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR SAVB**Investments****Table 1 Weighted Average Yields by Maturity**

The following table sets forth the amortized cost, fair value and tax-equivalent yields by investment type and contractual maturity at June 30, 2012:

(\$ in thousands)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Taxable- Equivalent Yield(a) (%)
Securities available for sale:			
U.S. government-sponsored enterprises ("GSE") and mortgage-backed:			
Within one year	\$	\$	
One year to five years	1,187	1,193	1.29
Due after ten years	4,000	3,992	1.00
Mortgage-backed securities GSE	61,193	62,934	2.58
Total	66,380	68,119	2.46
Other interest-earning investments:			
Within one year	501	504	5.54
One year to five years	1,109	1,140	2.52
Five years to ten years	6,684	7,038	3.35
Due after ten years	6,769	6,827	5.20
Restricted equity securities	3,037	3,037	2.38
Total	18,100	18,546	3.50
Total securities available for sale	\$ 84,480	\$ 86,665	2.64

(a) The yield is calculated on the amortized cost of the securities.

Table of Contents**Loans**

Following is certain information regarding the loan portfolio as of June 30, 2012 on a consolidated basis.

Table 2 Loan Repricing Opportunities

The following table sets forth certain loan maturity and repricing information as of June 30, 2012. Loan renewals generally reprice relative to the prime rate in effect at the time of the renewal. Management expects that certain real estate mortgage loans which have maturities of one to three years with longer amortization periods will renew at maturity.

(\$ in thousands) Loan Category	One Year or Less	After One Year through Five Years	Over Five Years	Total
Real estate-construction and development	\$ 18,610	\$ 1,744	\$	\$ 20,354
Commercial	41,421	20,923	1,583	63,927
Total	\$ 60,031	\$ 22,667	\$ 1,583	\$ 84,281
Loans with fixed rates	\$ 21,238	\$ 22,667	\$ 1,583	\$ 45,488
Loans with floating and adjustable rates	38,793			38,793
Total	\$ 60,031	\$ 22,667	\$ 1,583	\$ 84,281

Nonaccrual, Past Due and Restructured Loans

At June 30, 2012, nonperforming loans were \$29,578,000. At June 30, 2012, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank had nonaccruing loans of \$29,417,000 and \$161,000 in loans past due 90 days or more. Interest income of \$286,000 was recognized on impaired loans in the first six months of 2012.

Except for consumer loans, SAVB's policy is to place loans on nonaccrual status when, in management's judgment, the collection of principal and interest in full becomes doubtful. Interest receivable accrued in prior years and subsequently determined to have doubtful collectibility is charged to the allowance for loan losses. Interest on loans that are placed on nonaccrual is recognized after principal is collected in full. In some cases where borrowers are experiencing financial difficulties, loans may be restructured to provide terms significantly different from the original contractual terms.

Loan Concentrations

Most of SAVB's business activity is with customers located within Chatham and Bryan County, Georgia and southern Beaufort County, South Carolina. SAVB has no loans that are considered to be highly leveraged transactions or foreign credits.

Allowance for Loan Losses

See "SAVB's Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for details about the activity and breakdown of the allowance for loan losses and additional information regarding accounting estimates in the allowance.

Table of Contents**Long-term Obligations**

The following table includes a breakdown of payment obligations due under long-term contracts:

(\$ in thousands) Contractual Obligations	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		Less than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	4 - 5 Years	More than 5 Years
FHLB Atlanta advances	\$ 13,150	\$	\$ 3,000	\$	\$ 10,150
Subordinated debt	10,310				10,310
Operating leases buildings	5,122	838	1,489	1,158	1,637
Long-term contracts	4,324	1,236	2,493	595	
Total	\$ 32,906	\$ 2,074	\$ 6,982	\$ 1,753	\$ 22,097

Description of Properties

SAVB's headquarters is located at 25 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia, in an office building located on Johnson Square in downtown Savannah. The building also serves as the headquarters for The Savannah Bank. The Savannah Bank has leased space at this location since 1990. SAVB signed a new lease as of February 1, 2010 increasing the total square footage rented in the building to approximately 21,000 square feet, which is 51 percent of the building. Minis and the Trust Department of SAVB moved into the building from other leased space in 2010. SAVB is responsible for its pro rata share of operating cost increases in utilities, janitorial services, property taxes and insurance. In September 2005, SAVB Properties LLC, a subsidiary of SAVB, acquired a 50 percent interest in Johnson Square Associates, LLP, which owns the 25 Bull Street property.

In 1989, Bryan Bank constructed its 8,500 square foot, two-story main office in Richmond Hill, Georgia, on land owned by Bryan Bank. The building has a walk-up ATM, a drive-up ATM and 4 drive-through lanes.

The Savannah Bank leases approximately 6,500 square feet on the first floor of a two-story building located at 400 Mall Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia. This space is used for a branch location and the mortgage and construction lending departments. The building is near the intersection of Mall Boulevard and Hodgson Memorial Drive, a location that is convenient to a significant concentration of commercial, service, and retail entities. The lease rate increases with the Consumer Price Index. The initial lease term was for five years and ended March 31, 1997. The Savannah Bank committed to exercise the fourth five-year lease option effective March 31, 2012 for the space used for the branch location, however, it did not renew the lease for approximately 2,300 square feet where the mortgage and construction lending departments were located. The Savannah Bank is also responsible for its pro rata share of increases in the cost of ad valorem taxes, insurance and maintenance of common areas. The Savannah Bank renovated the space, constructed a vault, and added a five lane drive-through teller facility adjacent to the building.

During 1995, The Savannah Bank entered into a three-year ground lease with seven five-year renewal options on land located at 100 Chatham Parkway. The Savannah Bank also has a right of first refusal to buy the property at appraised value should the owner ever decide to sell the property. The location is at the intersection of Chatham Parkway and U.S. Highway 80, a major commercial and industrial intersection in west Chatham County. The Savannah Bank, N.A. made land improvements and constructed a 2,200 square-foot banking facility including four drive-through lanes and an ATM drive-through lane. The West Chatham Office opened for business on November 20, 1995.

In 1997, The Savannah Bank constructed a 2,300 square foot office on an out lot owned in the Island Towne Centre Shopping Plaza on Whitmarsh Island, six miles east of downtown Savannah. This office includes a four lane drive-through facility.

Table of Contents

In November 1997, SAVB entered into a ten-year lease beginning June 1, 1998 with four five-year renewal options in the Medical Arts Shopping Center at 4809 Waters Avenue. SAVB exercised its first five-year renewal in 2008. The property consists of 3,055 square feet of banking office space and a separate drive-through facility behind the shopping center.

On February 24, 2006, Harbourside entered into a lease agreement, effective March 1, 2006, for approximately 17,400 square feet of office space at 852 William Hilton Parkway on Hilton Head Island. During 2009, SAVB purchased the building from the landlord. The branch is now a branch of The Savannah Bank. The Savannah Bank consolidated its operations to the first floor and has fully leased out the second floor.

On August 1, 2006, The Savannah Bank entered into a lease agreement for approximately 1,200 square feet of banking office space in The Village, a shopping center on Skidaway Island. The initial term of the lease is for five years and includes two five-year renewal options. The Savannah Bank committed to exercise the first five-year lease option in August 2011. The rent adjusts annually by an amount that approximates the increase in the Consumer Price Index. The Savannah Bank is also responsible for its pro rata share of increases in the cost of ad valorem taxes, insurance and maintenance of common areas.

On January 31, 2007, Harbourside entered into a lease agreement, effective October 1, 2007, for approximately 4,500 square feet of office space on Bluffton Parkway in Bluffton, South Carolina. The lease is on a new building for a 10-year initial lease term with three five-year renewal options. After three years, the rent adjusted three percent. The branch is now a branch of The Savannah Bank. The Savannah Bank, as the tenant, is responsible for all taxes, insurance and maintenance.

In 2008, Bryan Bank acquired a lot for a future branch site in a commercial development on Highway 144 in Richmond Hill.

In August 2008, Bryan Bank opened its second office in Richmond Hill at 3700 Highway 17, about one-half mile from I-95. The new branch is 3,000 square feet. SAVB also relocated its regional banking operations center from previously leased space in Savannah to the new facility. The imaged item processing, statement rendering, information technology, loan operations, deposit operations and branch operations support functions are located at this center. The operations center occupies the remainder of the 11,500 square foot facility.

In September 2008, The Savannah Bank purchased a commercial lot in Pooler, Georgia as a potential branch location. The Savannah Bank leases a separate location in Pooler for a drive-up ATM.

On June 25, 2010, The Savannah Bank assumed a lease for an approximately 2,000 square foot branch located at 802 First Street, Tybee Island, Georgia through an agreement with the FDIC. This lease ran through September 2011 and has two 5 year renewal terms. The Savannah Bank is currently renting from month to month and has not exercised the first five year renewal term. The rent adjusts annually by an amount that approximates the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Legal Proceedings

SAVB and its subsidiaries are subject to various legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of its business. In management's opinion, there is no legal proceeding pending against SAVB which would have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or liquidity. Additionally, in the ordinary course of business, SAVB and its subsidiaries are subject to regulatory examinations, information gathering requests, inquiries and investigations. For information on litigation pending in connection with the merger, see "The Merger Litigation Relating to the Merger" on page 108.

Table of Contents

THE MERGER

The following discussion contains certain information about the merger. The discussion is subject, and qualified in its entirety by reference, to the merger agreement attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. We urge you to read carefully this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the merger agreement attached as Annex A, for a more complete understanding of the merger.

Terms of the Merger

Each of SCBT's and SAVB's respective boards of directors have approved the merger agreement. The merger agreement provides for the merger of SAVB with and into SCBT, with SCBT continuing as the surviving entity. In the merger, each share of SAVB common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the merger, except for specified shares of SAVB common stock held by SAVB or SCBT, will be converted into the right to receive 0.2503 shares of SCBT common stock, par value \$2.50 per share. Immediately following the merger, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, each a wholly owned bank subsidiary of SAVB, will merge with and into SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary, with SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary continuing as the surviving bank. No fractional shares of SCBT common stock will be issued in connection with the merger, and holders of SAVB common stock will be entitled to receive cash in lieu thereof.

SAVB shareholders are being asked to approve the merger agreement and SCBT shareholders are being asked to approve the stock issuance in connection with the merger. See "The Merger Agreement" for additional and more detailed information regarding the legal documents that govern the merger, including information about the conditions to the completion of the merger and the provisions for terminating or amending the merger agreement.

Background of the Merger

As part of its ongoing consideration and evaluation of SAVB's long-term prospects and strategies, SAVB's board of directors and senior management have regularly reviewed and assessed SAVB's business strategies and objectives, including strategic opportunities and challenges, all with the goal of enhancing shareholder value.

Over the last few years, these reviews have included a focus on the prevailing negative industry and economic conditions, and have involved a robust discussion regarding the identification, exploration and consideration of potential strategic initiatives intended to best position SAVB and its subsidiaries to continue to anticipate and respond to such conditions. During this same period, SAVB has been faced with many difficult challenges related to the ongoing financial crisis and resulting recession affecting the nation. The economic challenges that have faced the nation over the last few years have had a disproportionately negative impact on many of the markets that SAVB serves in Georgia and South Carolina, including a sharp-downturn in the real estate market, and a greater inability of SAVB's borrowers to repay their loans. The State of Georgia has witnessed more bank failures than any other state, with more than 80 banks in Georgia having failed since August 2008.

As a result of these adverse market conditions, SAVB has experienced significantly higher levels of loan loss provisions, increases in total charge-offs, increases in carrying costs and other expenses associated with maintaining and disposing of problem assets, sharp reductions in new loan demand, and a number of regulatory enforcement orders, all of which have negatively affected SAVB's financial condition, results of operations and future earnings capacity.

Although the economic environment showed some initial signs of moderate improvement during parts of 2011 and 2012, the limited growth that was witnessed demonstrated that the economic recovery would likely be slow and protracted due to high unemployment, low consumer confidence, and a soft housing and real estate market. The current sustained period of increased payment delinquencies,

Table of Contents

foreclosures and losses caused by adverse market and economic conditions in coastal Georgia and South Carolina has adversely affected the value of SAVB's assets, revenues, and results of operations and overall financial condition, and SAVB believed that this was likely to continue in the near term.

Through its regulatory enforcement orders and related discussions with its bank regulatory agencies, SAVB indicated in 2011 and 2012 that SAVB's bank subsidiaries would take actions to improve the bank subsidiaries capital position, reduce the level of problem assets, and to take other actions designed to enhance the bank subsidiaries' credit risk management, credit quality, strategic planning, capital planning and liquidity risk management. The bank subsidiaries also agreed to strive to achieve and maintain prescribed capital ratios.

The regulatory enforcement orders also prohibit SAVB's bank subsidiaries from paying dividends to SAVB, and require that SAVB obtain regulatory approval prior to paying or declaring any dividends to its shareholders. Additionally, SAVB believed that pending legal and regulatory initiatives would require SAVB to have higher capital ratios in the future, thus limiting the future overall earnings potential for SAVB.

During this difficult regulatory and economic environment, SAVB's board of directors has continued to assess SAVB's strategies, objectives and challenges. Beginning in the Summer of 2011, in response to regulatory directives and SAVB's financial results, SAVB's board of directors began to work with its advisors to identify, consider and pursue various avenues to address its challenges, including a simultaneous bulk sale of problem assets and a capital raise through the sale of newly issued securities. SAVB's board of directors engaged FIG Partners, LLC, which we refer to as "FIG," to advise the board as it pursued the capital raise transaction.

Both the proposed asset sale and capital raise were critical to SAVB's strategy to remain an independent community bank, and to restore its financial well-being and regulatory standing, so as to permit SAVB to grow in the future, whether organically or through acquisitions. However, each of these transactions, if consummated, had potential downsides. For instance, the sale of problem assets would have resulted in significant losses to SAVB, thereby reducing total capital and increasing the need for significant additional capital. The capital raise, in turn, would likely have been at a price that significantly diluted existing shareholders.

Accordingly, in October 2011, at the same time SAVB was pursuing a potential sale of problem assets and capital raise, SAVB was approached by a financial institution regarding a potential acquisition of SAVB. In response to this proposal, SAVB's board of directors engaged SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. ("STRH") as its financial advisor in evaluating its strategic alternatives, including a potential sale of SAVB. The executive committee of SAVB's board of directors met and received a presentation from STRH in October 2011, where STRH discussed the condition of the Southeastern United States bank merger market, and the value that SAVB's shareholders might be able to achieve in a merger or other strategic transaction. STRH also reviewed with the board the challenges that SAVB could expect to face if it remained independent, including challenges related to increased regulatory burdens and overhead expense, challenges related to SAVB's ability to increase capital to support growth, and the challenges of rebuilding an earning asset base and achieving normalized earnings that would support a more attractive stock price.

In addition to the first bank that approached SAVB, STRH identified five financial institutions that STRH believed might be interested in exploring a strategic combination, and that STRH believed might be capable of completing such a transaction on terms that would be attractive to SAVB. SCBT was one of these five additional institutions. In November 2011, acting on behalf of SAVB, STRH contacted each of these six financial institutions to ascertain each of these institutions' interest in a potential strategic combination with SAVB. Two such parties that responded indicated preliminary interest in transactions involving consideration in the range of \$5-\$10 per share of SAVB common stock, but these indications were subject to extensive due diligence and other conditions. Two other parties expressed an interest in

Table of Contents

discussing a transaction but declined to submit pricing information without additional due diligence. Each of these four parties executed a confidentiality agreement. Two parties did not respond. After careful consideration, SAVB's board of directors determined to proceed with the asset sale and capital raise, as SAVB's board of directors believed that the asset sale and capital raise was in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Thereafter, SAVB and STRH maintained a dialogue regarding the state of the banking market and economy in the Southeastern United States and SAVB's progress on its asset sale and capital raise. Toward the end of June 2012, representatives of STRH contacted J. Curtis Lewis III, Chairman of SAVB's board of directors, to discuss SAVB's stand-alone strategy and SAVB's progress on its asset sale and capital raise. STRH also provided to SAVB an update of the financial analysis it had previously conducted for SAVB. Following this discussion, STRH contacted SCBT to ascertain SCBT's interest in exploring a potential combination with SAVB. STRH then reported to Mr. Lewis that SCBT was interested in exploring a strategic business combination.

On June 29, 2012, SCBT's Chairman, CEO and CFO met with SAVB directors Lewis, Brown and Demere and representatives of STRH, in Savannah, Georgia. During the discussions, SAVB conveyed to SCBT that if SCBT was interested in a strategic combination, then SCBT should work quickly towards completing due diligence and making an offer to SAVB, as SAVB was continuing to work towards the completion of the asset sale and capital raise, in the event that an agreement with SCBT could not be reached. Accordingly, SAVB and SCBT began to exchange confidential information regarding the respective companies.

Following the meeting with SCBT, Mr. Lewis contacted the other members of SAVB's board of directors and updated each of them regarding the discussions with SCBT. SAVB's board of directors supported continued discussions with SCBT on a parallel track with SAVB's proposed asset sale and capital raise.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Lewis received an initial letter from the CEO of SCBT proposing a combination of their respective financial institutions through an all-stock transaction. The initial proposal from SCBT was subject to the completion of SCBT's due diligence on SAVB and contemplated that the terms of a final proposal, including final pricing terms, would be negotiated following due diligence by the respective companies.

On the same day, SAVB conferred with representatives of STRH and a representative of Alston & Bird LLP ("Alston & Bird"), special legal counsel to SAVB, regarding SCBT's proposal. Following the discussion, Mr. Lewis communicated with SCBT's CEO regarding certain aspects of SCBT's proposal, including its requirement that SAVB deal exclusively with SCBT. Following some minor revisions to SCBT's proposal, SAVB's board of directors authorized Mr. Lewis to execute SCBT's proposal letter in order to further explore a potential strategic combination with SCBT and commence a due diligence review with SCBT.

Over the next several weeks, the parties began conducting more comprehensive mutual due diligence.

On July 11, at a special meeting of SAVB's board of directors, the board reviewed and thoroughly discussed SCBT's interest in a potential transaction. In addition, representatives of STRH conducted a presentation including a preliminary financial analysis of SCBT's proposal and answered related questions from SAVB's directors. SAVB's board of directors and representatives of STRH discussed STRH's analysis of SAVB's intrinsic value and SAVB's prospects as a stand-alone company, including estimates of earnings per share and net income available to common shareholders. STRH also reviewed with the board the challenges that SAVB could expect to face if it remained independent, including challenges related to increasing regulatory burdens and overhead expenses as well as SAVB's ability to increase capital to support growth. SAVB's board of directors also discussed other strategic alternatives,

Table of Contents

including the potential asset sale and potential capital raise, including the fact that since SAVB's board began pursuing the asset sale and capital raise in Fall of 2011, the terms and conditions of both the potential capital raise and asset sale had become significantly less favorable to SAVB and its existing shareholders. Legal counsel reviewed with the board its fiduciary duties.

SAVB's board of directors also discussed with STRH whether to consider contacting other parties to ascertain their potential interest in a business combination. Based on these discussions, and the advice of STRH, and taking into account the previous contacts that STRH had made on behalf of SAVB with other potentially interested parties, the board determined that the likelihood that other parties could be able to pursue a timely transaction with SAVB was outweighed by (a) the risk that a protracted process would jeopardize the asset sale and capital raise (which would leave SAVB with no strategic alternatives) and, (b) the execution risk that SAVB might face with respect to any transaction with SCBT if the process became protracted. Additionally, SAVB's board of directors recognized SCBT's demonstrated ability to close similar transactions, the value of SCBT's culture, SCBT's ability to successfully manage its operations during the financial crisis, and the synergies that a partnership between SAVB and SCBT would create. SAVB viewed SCBT as having a unique marketplace and footprint, which is very much compatible with SAVB's footprint and business, and believed that it would be a good strategic and cultural fit that would benefit SAVB's shareholders in the short- and long-term.

On July 24, following SCBT's due diligence review, representatives of SCBT, including its Chairman, CEO and CFO, met with representatives of SAVB, including SAVB's CEO and CFO and directors Lewis, Brown and Demere. During the meeting, SCBT and SAVB engaged in preliminary discussions regarding an indicative pricing range for SCBT's proposal. Following the meeting, directors Lewis, Demere and Helmken met, with representatives of STRH and Alston & Bird present, to discuss SCBT's proposal and potential alternatives. STRH also presented an updated financial analysis. Following the meeting, SAVB's Chairman discussed SCBT's proposal with SCBT's CEO. SAVB's Chairman indicated to SCBT's CEO that in order to proceed with discussions regarding a potential transaction, SAVB's board of directors would require stock consideration above the indicative range discussed with SCBT at the July 24 meeting.

During July 25 and July 26, SAVB and SCBT maintained contact through their representatives and discussed several possible pricing scenarios. On July 26, Mr. Lewis received a revised proposal from the CEO of SCBT proposing a combination of their respective financial institutions through an all-stock transaction valued at approximately \$9 per share of SAVB's common stock based on a fixed exchange ratio of 0.2503 shares of SCBT common stock for each share of common stock of SAVB, and provided that SAVB agree to not pursue the asset sale or capital raise. The closing sale price of SAVB's and SCBT's common stock on July 26 was \$5.20 and \$35.95 per share, respectively.

Additionally on July 26, representatives of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz ("Wachtell Lipton"), special counsel to SCBT, provided Alston & Bird, special counsel to SAVB, with a draft merger agreement. SAVB's board of directors solicited fairness opinions regarding the potential transaction with SCBT from both STRH and FIG.

As a result of SCBT's July 26 proposal, and as part of its ongoing review and assessment of SAVB's strategic plan, SAVB's board of directors met with representatives of STRH, Alston & Bird and FIG to discuss SCBT's proposal at a meeting held on July 27.

SAVB's board of directors reviewed and thoroughly discussed SCBT's July 26 proposal. In addition, representatives of STRH conducted a presentation including a preliminary financial analysis of SCBT's proposal and answered related questions from SAVB's directors. SAVB's board of directors and representatives of STRH discussed STRH's analysis of SAVB's intrinsic value and SAVB's prospects as a stand-alone company. The board also discussed other strategic alternatives, including the potential asset sale and capital raise. SAVB's board of directors also received a preliminary financial analysis from FIG comparing the asset sale and capital raise with the potential transaction with SCBT. Legal counsel reviewed with the board its fiduciary duties.

Table of Contents

After discussion among the board members, SAVB's board of directors unanimously approved the terms of the revised proposal from SCBT, authorized Mr. Lewis to execute the letter of intent from SCBT and authorized Mr. Lewis and Mr. Helmken to proceed to negotiate a definitive merger agreement with SCBT. SAVB's Chairman and SCBT's CEO executed the letter of intent on July 27.

Over the next week, SAVB's management and legal counsel negotiated the final terms of the merger agreement with SCBT's management and legal counsel.

On August 7, SAVB's board of directors met again with STRH, FIG and legal counsel to consider SCBT's proposal. STRH made a presentation that summarized the financial matters associated with the proposed transaction and included comparisons to certain publicly traded companies similar to SCBT and SAVB, an analysis of recently completed mergers and acquisitions similar to the merger, an analysis of the estimated future earnings and terminal value of SAVB and other analyses relevant to the financial terms of the merger. STRH advised SAVB's board of directors that the transaction was fair to SAVB's shareholders from a financial standpoint. FIG also made a presentation to SAVB's board of directors that summarized the financial matters associated with the proposed transaction and included an analysis of recently completed mergers and acquisitions similar to the merger, an analysis of the estimated future earnings and terminal value of SAVB and other analyses relevant to the financial terms of the merger. FIG advised SAVB's board of directors that the transaction was fair to SAVB's shareholders from a financial standpoint. Alston & Bird outlined for the board the terms of a draft definitive merger agreement that had been negotiated with SCBT.

After extensive discussion and deliberation, SAVB's board of directors, having determined that the terms of SCBT's proposal, the related merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, were fair to and in the best interests of SAVB and its shareholders, unanimously approved and declared advisable the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, directed that the merger agreement be submitted to its shareholders for adoption and approval, and recommended that shareholders vote in favor of the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

On August 7, the SCBT board of directors held a telephonic meeting, along with its financial and legal advisors, to review and consider the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. After extensive discussion and deliberation, the SCBT board of directors, by unanimous vote, determined that the merger agreement was advisable and in the best interests of SCBT and its shareholders, recommended that SCBT's shareholders vote in favor of the stock issuance proposal and authorized management to execute the merger agreement.

Later that evening, SCBT and SAVB executed the merger agreement. Prior to market open on August 8, the proposed merger was publicly announced.

SAVB's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors

After careful consideration, SAVB's board of directors, at a meeting held on August 7, 2012, unanimously determined that the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement is in the best interests of SAVB and its shareholders. Accordingly, SAVB's board of directors adopted and approved the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SAVB shareholders vote "FOR" the approval of the merger agreement.

In evaluating the merger agreement and reaching its decision to adopt and approve the merger agreement and recommend that SAVB shareholders approve the merger agreement, SAVB's board of directors consulted with SAVB's management, as well as its outside legal and financial advisors, and

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

considered a number of factors, including the following material factors (not in any relative order of importance):

SAVB's board of directors' knowledge and understanding of SAVB's business, operations, financial condition, asset quality, earnings and prospects, and of SCBT's business, operations, financial condition, asset quality, earnings and prospects, taking into account the presentations made by SCBT officers, the results of SAVB's due diligence review of SCBT and information provided by SAVB's financial advisors;

its knowledge of SAVB's prospects as an independent entity, including challenges related to increasing regulatory burdens and overhead expense, SAVB's ability to increase capital to support growth;

its knowledge of the current environment in the financial services industry, including national, regional and local economic conditions, continued consolidation, increased regulatory burdens, evolving trends in technology and increasing nationwide and global competition, the current financial market conditions, the current environment for community banks, particularly in Georgia, and the likely effects of these factors on the combined company's potential growth, development, productivity, profitability and strategic options, and the historical market prices of SAVB and SCBT common shares;

its knowledge of the strategic alternatives available to SAVB and the challenges and potential downsides associated with the potential asset sale and capital raise contemplated by SAVB (discussed on pages 71-75);

its belief that the merger is more favorable to SAVB shareholders than the alternatives to the merger, which belief was formed based on the careful review undertaken by SAVB's board of directors, with the assistance of its management and outside legal and financial advisors, of the strategic challenges and alternatives available to SAVB, including continued operation as an independent community bank and the required actions necessary to remain an independent community bank;

the complementary aspects of the SAVB and SCBT businesses, including customer focus, geographic coverage, business orientation and compatibility of the companies' management and operating styles;

its understanding of SCBT's commitment to enhancing its strategic position in both the States of Georgia and South Carolina;

the potential expense-saving and revenue-enhancing opportunities in connection with the merger, the related potential impact on the combined company's earnings and the fact that the nature of the merger consideration would allow former SAVB shareholders to participate as SCBT shareholders in the benefits of such savings opportunities and the future performance of the combined company generally;

the prospect of SAVB's shareholders becoming shareholders of SCBT, which has a long history of paying cash dividends and additional liquidity in its stock and could thereby provide SAVB's shareholders with the ability to realize increased value following the merger;

the anticipated pro forma impact of the transaction on the combined company;

SCBT's successful track record and SAVB's board of directors' belief that the combined enterprise would benefit from application of SCBT's ability to take advantage of economies of scale and grow in the current economic environment, making SCBT an attractive partner for SAVB;

Table of Contents

the financial analyses provided by STRH, SAVB's financial advisor regarding the merger, and FIG, and the oral opinions of STRH and of FIG delivered on August 7, 2012, subsequently confirmed by written opinions dated the same date, to the effect that, as of the date of such opinions, and based upon and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and conditions described in such opinions, the merger consideration to be received by the holders of SAVB common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders, as more fully described below under " Opinion of STRH Robinson Humphrey, Inc." and " Opinion of FIG Partners, LLC";

the financial terms of the merger, including the fact that, based on the closing price of SCBT common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market as of market close on August 6, 2012 (the trading day prior to SAVB's board of directors' decision to adopt and approve the merger agreement), the implied value of the per share merger consideration represented an approximate 69.1% premium to the last quoted sales price of SAVB common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market as of that date;

the financial and other terms of the merger agreement, including the fixed exchange ratio, tax treatment and mutual deal protection and termination fee provisions, which SAVB's board of directors reviewed with its outside financial and legal advisors, including:

SAVB's ability, under certain circumstances specified in and prior to the time SAVB shareholders approve the merger agreement, to (i) provide non-public information in response to a written acquisition proposal from a third party and (ii) participate in discussions or negotiations with the third party making such a proposal, if, in each case, the acquisition proposal was not the result of a material violation of the provisions of the merger agreement relating to the solicitation of acquisition proposals, and if SAVB's board of directors, prior to taking any such actions, determines in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, that failure to take such actions would violate SAVB's board of directors' fiduciary duties under applicable law and, after consultation with its financial advisor and outside counsel, that such acquisition proposal constitutes a superior proposal;

SAVB's board of directors' ability, under certain circumstances, to withhold, withdraw, qualify or modify its recommendation to SAVB's shareholders, subject to the potential payment by SAVB of a termination fee of \$2.6 million to SCBT, which SAVB's board of directors concluded was reasonable in the context of termination fees in comparable transactions and in light of the overall terms of the merger agreement, including the merger consideration;

the fact that the outside date under the merger agreement allows for sufficient time to complete the merger;

SAVB's board of directors' belief that the proposed merger with SCBT would generally be a tax-free transaction to SAVB shareholders with respect to the SCBT common stock to be received by SAVB shareholders in the merger; and

the level of effort that SAVB must use under the merger agreement to obtain required regulatory approvals, and the prospects for such approvals being obtained in a timely fashion and without the imposition of any conditions of the type described in "The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger" on page 106;

the likelihood that the merger would be completed based on, among other things (not in any relative order of importance):

the reputation of SCBT, its familiarity with SAVB's industry and its demonstrated ability to complete similar acquisition transactions;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

SAVB's board of directors' assessment of SCBT's resources, market share and safety and soundness ratings;

the fact that the merger agreement provides that, in the event of a failure of the merger to be consummated under certain circumstances where the conditions to consummation of the merger have been satisfied, SCBT will pay SAVB a \$2.6 million termination fee, without SAVB having to establish any damages;

its review of the potential costs associated with executing the merger agreement, including change in control severance and related costs, as well as estimated advisor fees, which SAVB's board of directors concluded were reasonable and would not affect the advice from, or the work performed by, senior management of SAVB or SAVB's financial advisors in connection with the evaluation of the merger and the merger agreement by SAVB's board of directors.

SAVB's board of directors also considered potential risks and a variety of potentially negative factors in connection with its deliberations concerning the merger agreement and the merger, including the following material factors (not in any relative order of importance):

the fact that, because the merger consideration is a fixed exchange ratio of shares of SCBT common stock to SAVB common stock, SAVB shareholders could be adversely affected by a decrease in the trading price of SCBT common stock during the pendency of the merger;

the fact that, while SAVB expects that the merger will be consummated, there can be no assurance that all conditions to the parties' obligations to complete the merger agreement will be satisfied, including the risk that certain regulatory approvals, the receipt of which are conditions to the consummation of the merger, might not be obtained, and, as a result, the merger may not be consummated;

the risk that potential benefits and synergies sought in the merger may not be realized or may not be realized within the expected time period, and the risks associated with the integration of the two companies;

the restrictions on the conduct of SAVB's business prior to the completion of the merger, which are customary for public company merger agreements involving financial institutions, but which, subject to specific exceptions, could delay or prevent SAVB from undertaking business opportunities that may arise or any other action it would otherwise take with respect to the operations of SAVB absent the pending completion of the merger;

the significant risks and costs involved in connection with entering into and completing the merger, or failing to complete the merger in a timely manner, or at all, including as a result of any failure to obtain required regulatory approvals, such as the risks and costs relating to diversion of management and employee attention from other strategic opportunities and operational matters, potential employee attrition, and the potential effect on business and customer relationships;

the fact that SAVB would be prohibited from affirmatively soliciting acquisition proposals after execution of the merger agreement, and the possibility that the \$2.6 million termination fee payable by SAVB upon the termination of the merger agreement under certain circumstances could discourage other potential acquirers from making a competing bid to acquire SAVB;

the potential risk that a further downturn in the South Carolina housing market could negatively impact SCBT's loan portfolio, and thereby affect the value of the SCBT common stock;

the fact that some of SAVB's directors and executive officers have other interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as SAVB shareholders, as more fully described under " Interests of SAVB's Directors and

Executive Officers in the Merger";

Table of Contents

the fact that SAVB shareholders would not be entitled to dissenters' rights in connection with the merger; and

the possibility of litigation in connection with the merger.

In view of the wide variety of the factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these matters, SAVB's board of directors did not find it useful, and did not attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to these factors. In considering the factors described above, the individual members of SAVB's board of directors may have given different weight to different factors. SAVB's board of directors conducted an overall analysis of the factors described above including thorough discussions with, and questioning of, SAVB management and SAVB's legal and financial advisors, and considered the factors overall to be favorable to, and to support, its determination.

The foregoing explanation of SAVB's board of directors' reasoning and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the factors discussed in the section entitled "Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements."

Opinion of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.

On October 27, 2011, SAVB executed an engagement letter with SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., which we refer to as STRH, to render financial advisory and investment banking services to SAVB. STRH agreed to assist SAVB in evaluating its strategic alternatives, and ultimately agreed to assess the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration in the proposed merger with SCBT, to the shareholders of SAVB. SAVB selected STRH because STRH is a nationally recognized investment banking firm with substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger and is familiar with SAVB and its business. As part of its investment banking business, STRH is continually engaged in the valuation of financial services companies and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions. In requesting STRH's advice and opinion, no limitations were imposed by SAVB upon STRH with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed by it in rendering its opinion.

As part of its engagement, a representative of STRH attended the meeting of SAVB's board of directors held on August 7, 2012, at which SAVB's board of directors evaluated the proposed merger with SCBT. At this meeting, STRH reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and rendered an oral opinion (which was subsequently confirmed in writing) that, as of such date, and based upon and subject to factors and assumptions set forth therein, the merger consideration offered to SAVB shareholders in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view. SAVB's board of directors approved the merger agreement at this meeting.

The full text of STRH's written opinion, dated August 7, 2012, is attached as Annex B to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated herein by reference. SAVB shareholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety for a description of the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by STRH. The description of the opinion set forth herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion.

STRH's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion is directed to SAVB's board of directors and addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration offered to SAVB shareholders. It does not address the merits of the underlying business decision to proceed with the merger or the relative merits of the merger compared with other business strategies or transactions and does not constitute a recommendation to any SAVB shareholder as to how the shareholder should vote at the SAVB special meeting on the merger or any related matter. The terms of the merger agreement were determined through arms-length negotiations between SAVB and SCBT; STRH did not recommend any specific form of consideration to SAVB or that any specific form of consideration constituted the only appropriate consideration for the merger.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

In rendering its opinion, STRH, among other things:

reviewed the definitive merger agreement;

discussed the proposed merger with the SAVB management team and SAVB's board of directors and with SAVB's legal counsel;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to SAVB and its subsidiaries;

reviewed certain non-public internal and audited and unaudited financial statements of SAVB and its subsidiaries, and certain other financial, asset quality and operating data, which has been shared and discussed with SAVB's management;

reviewed financial projections with SAVB's management reflecting SAVB's business and prospects;

held discussions with SAVB's management regarding past and current business, operations and financial condition and prospects of SAVB and its subsidiaries;

considered current and historical market conditions and certain financial, stock market and other publicly available information relating to the business of other companies and banks whose operations STRH considered relevant in evaluating the merger;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to SAVB and the merger;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to SCBT;

reviewed certain publicly available audited and unaudited financial statements of SAVB, and certain other financial, asset quality and operating data, which has been shared and discussed with SAVB's management;

compared the financial performance of both SAVB and SCBT with those of certain other publicly traded companies STRH deemed comparable and relevant;

compared certain financial terms of the merger to the financial terms, to the extent publicly available, of certain other transactions STRH deemed relevant; and

performed such other analyses and considered such other factors, as STRH deemed appropriate.

In conducting its review and arriving at its opinion, STRH assumed and relied upon, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information discussed with SAVB management or reviewed by STRH. With respect to the financial forecasts of SAVB provided to or discussed with STRH, STRH assumed, at the direction of SAVB management and without independent verification or investigation, that such forecasts have been reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available information, estimates and judgments of SAVB management as to the future financial performance of SAVB. In arriving at its opinion, STRH did not conduct a physical inspection of the properties and facilities of SAVB and has not made nor obtained any evaluations or appraisals of the assets or liabilities (including, without limitation, any potential environmental liabilities), contingent or otherwise, of SAVB.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

The projections furnished to STRH and used by it in certain of its analyses were based on projections prepared by SAVB's senior management team. SAVB does not publicly disclose internal management projections of the type provided to STRH in connection with its review of the merger. As a result, such projections were not prepared with a view towards public disclosure. The projections were based on numerous variables and assumptions, which are inherently uncertain, including factors related to general economic and competitive conditions. Accordingly, actual results could vary

Table of Contents

significantly from those set forth in the projections. The projections reflected SAVB management's assessment, at that time, of SAVB's prospects given its then-current operating environment. SAVB does not intend to update or otherwise revise the projections to reflect circumstances existing after the date when made or to reflect the occurrence of future events even in the event that any or all of the assumptions underlying the projections are shown to be in error. In addition, the projections may not reflect the manner in which SCBT would operate SAVB after the merger.

For purposes of rendering its opinion, STRH assumed that, in all respects material to its analyses:

the merger will be consummated in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement without waiver, modification or amendment of any term, condition or agreement thereof;

the representations and warranties of each party in the merger agreement and in all related documents and instruments referred to in the merger agreement are true and correct;

each party to the merger agreement and all related documents will perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by such party under such documents;

all conditions to the completion of the merger will be satisfied without any waivers; and

in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory, contractual or other consents or approvals for the merger, no restrictions, including any divestiture requirements, termination or other payments or amendments or modifications, will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on the future results of operations or financial condition of the combined entity or the contemplated benefits of the merger, including the cost savings, revenue enhancements and related expenses expected to result from the merger.

STRH further assumed that the merger will be accounted for using the acquisition method under generally accepted accounting principles, and that the merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. STRH's opinion is not an expression of an opinion as to the prices at which shares of SAVB common stock or shares of SCBT common stock will trade following the announcement of the merger or the actual value of the shares of common stock of the combined company when issued pursuant to the merger, or the prices at which the shares of common stock of the combined company will trade following the completion of the merger.

In performing its analyses, STRH made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, which are beyond the control of STRH, SAVB and SCBT. Any estimates contained in the analyses performed by STRH are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by these analyses. Additionally, estimates of the value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which such businesses or securities might actually be sold. Accordingly, these analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

In addition, the STRH opinion was among numerous factors taken into consideration by SAVB's board of directors in making its determination to approve the merger agreement and the merger. Consequently, the analyses described below should not be viewed as determinative of the decision of SAVB's board of directors with respect to the fairness of the merger consideration.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses presented by STRH to SAVB's board of directors on August 7, 2012, in connection with its fairness opinion. The summary is not a complete description of the analyses underlying the STRH opinion or the presentation made by STRH to SAVB's board of directors, but summarizes the material analyses performed and presented in connection with such opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex analytic process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. Therefore, a fairness opinion is

Table of Contents

not readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In arriving at its opinion, STRH did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor that it considered, but rather made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. Accordingly, STRH believes that its analyses and the summary of its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on the information presented below in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying its analyses and opinion. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses.

Summary of Proposal

STRH reviewed the financial terms of the proposed transaction. Using an exchange ratio of 0.2503 shares of SCBT's common stock for every one share of SAVB common stock, STRH calculated an approximate aggregate transaction value of \$67.0 million, or \$9.30 per share, based on SCBT's closing stock price on August 6, 2012 of \$37.15. Based upon financial information as of or for the twelve month period ended June 30, 2012, STRH calculated the following transaction ratios:

Transaction Value / LTM Earnings:	NM
Transaction Value / Book Value:	79.97%
Transaction Value / Tangible Book Value:	83.40%
Market Premium, as of August 6, 2012:	69.10%
Core Deposit Premium:	(2.0)%
Transaction Value / Assets:	7.04%

Selected Peer Group Analysis*SAVB Peer Group Analysis*

STRH reviewed and compared publicly available financial data, market information and trading multiples for SAVB with other selected publicly traded companies that STRH deemed relevant and comparable to SAVB. The peer group consisted of certain select publicly traded banks (excluding pink sheet banks) headquartered in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia with total assets as of the most recent quarter reported between \$500 million and \$2 billion (29 companies).

Name (Ticker):

Access National Corporation (ANCX)
Alliance Bankshares Corporation (ABVA)
American National Bankshares Inc. (AMNB)
C&F Financial Corporation (CFFI)
Carolina Bank Holdings, Inc. (CLBH)
Colony Bankcorp, Inc. (CBAN)
Community Bankers Trust Corporation (BTC)
Crescent Financial Bancshares, Inc. (CRFN)
Eastern Virginia Bankshares, Inc. (EVBS)
ECB Bancorp, Inc. (ECBE)
Fauquier Bankshares, Inc. (FBSS)
First Capital Bancorp, Inc. (FCVA)
First Community Corporation (FCCO)
First South Bancorp, Inc. (FSBK)
Middleburg Financial Corporation (MBRG)

Name (Ticker):

Monarch Financial Holdings, Inc. (MNRK)
National Bankshares, Inc. (NKSH)
New Century Bancorp, Inc. (NCBC)
NewBridge Bancorp (NBBC)
Old Point Financial Corporation (OPOF)
Palmetto Bancshares, Inc. (PLMT)
Park Sterling Corporation (PSTB)
Peoples Bancorp of North Carolina, Inc. (PEBK)
Southern Community Financial Corporation (SCMF)
Southern First Bancshares, Inc. (SFST)
Southern National Bancorp of Virginia, Inc. (SONA)
Valley Financial Corporation (VYFC)
Village Bank and Trust Financial Corp. (VBFC)
Yadkin Valley Financial Corporation (YAVY)

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

For the selected publicly traded companies, STRH analyzed, among other things, financial performance, capital ratios and asset quality, for the most recent quarter reported, in addition to current marketing, price performance and liquidity analysis. Projected earnings, book value and tangible book value per share for the comparables companies were based on research consensus estimates. The table below sets forth the 1st quartile, median and 4th quartile operating metrics, valuation multiples, capital ratios, asset quality, market pricing and returns of selected publicly traded banks (excluding pink sheet banks).

Financial Performance (MRQ)	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
ROAA	0.17%	(0.50)%	0.43%	1.61%
ROATCE	2.25%	(1.24)%	4.20%	18.67%
Core Pre Tax ROAA(1)	1.28%	0.28%	0.85%	2.52%
Net Interest Margin	3.90%	3.25%	3.59%	4.57%
Noninterest Income/Avg Assets	0.64%	0.39%	0.84%	2.97%
Efficiency	68.67%	85.65%	75.92%	61.55%

Note:

- (1) Pre-tax, pre provision, adjusted for one-time gains and losses.

Capital Ratios (MRQ)	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
TCE Ratio	8.46%	5.34%	7.66%	11.79%
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	8.60%	8.16%	9.03%	12.36%
Total Risk Based Ratio	13.14%	12.40%	13.67%	17.77%

Asset Quality (MRQ)	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
Adjusted NPA's / Assets	5.71%	6.98%	3.30%	1.09%
Texas Ratio(1)	52.75%	71.80%	29.73%	16.94%
LTM NCO's / Avg. Loans	2.38%	0.32%	1.17%	2.34%
LLR / Loans	3.14%	1.35%	2.06%	2.77%
LLR / NPAs	41.90%	24.91%	35.79%	119.59%

Note:

- (1) Texas ratio defined as Adjusted NPAs divided by TCE plus LLR

Current Market Pricing	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
Price / Book Value Per Share	41.71%	44.02%	70.24%	116.53%
Price / Tangible Book Value Per Share	43.50%	47.14%	71.81%	150.80%
Price / LTM EPS	NM	8.25x	12.20x	36.50x
Price / MRQ EPS (A)	22.92x	7.22x	11.21x	23.82x
Price / 2012 (e) EPS	NA	8.03x	11.48x	45.44x
Price / 2013 (e) EPS	NA	8.55x	15.26x	18.07x

Table of Contents

Price Performance	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
1-Year Stock Price Change	(24.35)%	(17.02)%	15.26%	73.26%
1-Year Total Return	(24.35)%	(16.59)%	18.47%	80.06%
3-Year Stock Price Change	(28.20)%	(46.60)%	(0.49)%	102.76%
3-Year Total Return	(27.83)%	(45.99)%	10.66%	106.30%

Other Analysis	Savannah Peer Group			
	Savannah	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	0.91%	4.15%
Market Capitalization (\$ in MM)	\$ 39.60	\$ 27.17	\$ 48.51	\$ 148.16
Liquidity: 3-Mo Average Daily Trading Volume (Actual \$)	\$ 17,705	\$ 13,867	\$ 25,111	\$ 521,421

SCBT Peer Group Analysis

STRH reviewed and compared publicly available financial data, market information and trading multiples for SCBT with other selected publicly traded companies that STRH deemed relevant and comparable to SCBT. The peer group consisted of certain select publicly traded banks (excluding pink sheet banks) headquartered in the Southeastern region of the United States with total assets as of the most recent quarter reported between \$2.5 billion and \$7.5 billion (22 companies).

Name (Ticker):

Ameris Bancorp (ABCB)
Bank of the Ozarks, Inc. (OZRK)
BankAtlantic Bancorp, Inc. (BBX)
Capital City Bank Group, Inc. (CCBG)
Cardinal Financial Corporation (CFNL)
CenterState Banks, Inc. (CSFL)
City Holding Company (CHCO)
Community Trust Bancorp, Inc. (CTBI)
First Bancorp (FBNC)
First Financial Holdings, Inc. (FFCH)
Home BancShares, Inc. (HOMB)

Name (Ticker):

Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. (PNFP)
Renasant Corporation (RNST)
Republic Bancorp, Inc.(RBCAA)
Simmons First National Corporation (SFNC)
State Bank Financial Corporation (STBZ)
StellarOne Corporation (STEL)
TowneBank (TOWN)
Union First Market Bankshares Corporation (UBSH)
United Community Banks, Inc. (UCBI)
Virginia Commerce Bancorp, Inc. (VCBI)
WesBanco, Inc. (WSBC)

For the selected publicly traded companies, STRH analyzed, among other things, financial performance, capital ratios and asset quality, for the most recent quarter reported, in addition to current marketing, price performance and liquidity analysis. Projected earnings, book value and tangible book value per share for the comparables companies were based on research consensus estimates. The table below sets forth the 1st quartile, median and 4th quartile operating metrics, valuation multiples,

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

capital ratios, asset quality, market pricing and returns of selected publicly traded banks (excluding pink sheet banks).

Financial Performance (MRQ)	SCBT Peer Group			
	SCBT	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
ROAA	0.75%	0.37%	0.86%	1.59%
ROATCE	9.89%	5.90%	9.63%	16.85%
Core Pre Tax ROAA(1)	1.74%	1.08%	1.54%	2.77%
Net Interest Margin	4.59%	3.53%	3.87%	4.66%
Noninterest Income/Avg Assets	1.09%	0.36%	1.29%	2.12%
Efficiency	64.50%	74.47%	63.27%	48.77%

Note:

- (1) Pre-tax, pre provision, adjusted for one-time gains and losses.

Capital Ratios (MRQ)	SCBT Peer Group			
	SCBT	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
TCE Ratio	8.03%	6.40%	8.86%	11.95%
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	9.22%	9.23%	10.30%	12.18%
Total Risk Based Ratio	15.19%	13.44%	15.54%	20.20%

Asset Quality (MRQ)	SCBT Peer Group			
	SCBT	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
Adjusted NPA's / Assets	1.90%	4.60%	2.74%	1.23%
Texas Ratio(1)	19.42%	40.86%	20.00%	12.02%
LTM NCO's / Avg. Loans	0.91%	0.39%	0.64%	2.79%
LLR / Loans	2.69%	1.30%	1.63%	2.29%
LLR / NPAs	99.95%	20.92%	44.78%	102.40%

Note:

- (1) Texas ratio defined as Adjusted NPAs divided by TCE plus LLR

Current Market Pricing	SCBT Peer Group			
	SCBT	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
Price / Book Value Per Share	125.15%	73.68%	102.61%	155.73%
Price / Tangible Book Value Per share	154.17%	85.56%	122.41%	195.45%
Price / LTM EPS	16.47x	11.02x	12.91x	15.67x
Price / MRQ EPS (A)	16.89x	11.31x	13.95x	25.71x
Price / 2012 (e) EPS	16.07x	11.20x	13.68x	20.00x
Price / 2013 (e) EPS	13.47x	10.49x	12.37x	15.27x

Price Performance and Return	SCBT Peer Group			
	SCBT	1st Quartile	Median	4th Quartile
1-Year Stock Price Change	22.89%	(7.35)%	19.31%	36.50%
1-Year Total Return	25.68%	(4.36)%	21.18%	40.59%
3-Year Stock Price Change	44.27%	(20.49)%	13.05%	117.00%
3-Year Total Return	53.22%	(14.51)%	17.82%	123.30%

Table of Contents

Other Analysis	SCBT	SCBT Peer Group		
		25%	Median	75%
Dividend Yield	1.83%	0.66%	2.06%	3.86%
Market Capitalization (\$ in MM)	\$ 560.44	\$ 226.97	\$ 415.30	\$ 682.75
Liquidity: 3-Mo Average Daily Trading Volume	\$ 1,720,788	\$ 528,770	\$ 963,026	\$ 1,914,130

No companies used in the analyses described above are identical to SCBT, SAVB or the pro forma combined company. Accordingly, an analysis of these results involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies.

SAVB Stock Price Performance

STRH reviewed the history of the publicly reported trading prices of SAVB's common stock for the one-year, three-year and five-year period ended August 6, 2012. STRH then compared the relationship between the movements in the price of SAVB's common stock against the movements in the prices of SAVB's peers used for comparable company analysis and the NASDAQ Bank Index.

SAVB Historical Stock Performance vs. Peer Group and NASDAQ Bank Index

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Savannah	(24.4)%	(28.2)%	(77.2)%
Savannah Peers	15.6%	(15.2)%	(54.5)%
NASDAQ Bank Index	5.9%	5.5%	(36.3)%

SCBT Stock Price Performance

STRH reviewed the history of the publicly reported trading prices of SCBT's common stock for the one-year, three-year, and five-year period ended August 6, 2012. STRH then compared the relationship between the movements in the price of SCBT's common stock against the movements in the prices of SCBT's peers used for comparable company analysis and the NASDAQ Bank Index.

SCBT Historical Stock Performance vs. Peer Group and NASDAQ Bank Index

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
SCBT	19.6%	44.2%	23.4%
SCBT Peers	13.5%	6.9%	(21.6)%
NASDAQ Bank Index	5.9%	5.5%	(36.3)%

Selected Precedent Transactions Analysis*Size / Asset Quality*

STRH reviewed and analyzed certain financial data related to 19 completed bank mergers and acquisitions announced between January 1, 2010 and August 6, 2012. These transactions involved target banks based in the United States with the following characteristics:

Total assets, for the most recent quarter reported, of between \$500 million and \$2.5 billion; and

Ratio of nonperforming assets to total assets, for the most recent quarter reported, between 3.0% and 10.0%.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

These transactions (listed by announce date in order from most recent to the oldest) were as follows:

Acquiror	Target
City Holding Company	Community Financial Corp
Customers Bancorp, Inc.	Acacia Federal Savings Bank
Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc.	Beacon Federal Bancorp, Inc.
Trustmark Corp	BancTrust Financial Group, Inc.
Park Sterling Corporation	Citizens South Banking Corp
WashingtonFirst Bankshares, Inc.	Alliance Bankshares Corporation
Washington Federal, Inc.	South Valley Bancorp, Inc.
Capital Bank Financial Corp	Southern Community Financial Corp
Old National Bancorp	Indiana Community Bancorp
SCBT Financial Corp	Peoples Bancorporation, Inc.
Opus Bank	RMG Capital Corp
Park Sterling Corp	Community Capital Corp
IBERIABANK Corp	Omni Bancshares Inc.
Susquehanna Bancshares Inc.	Abington Bancorp Inc
American National Bankshares	MidCarolina Financial Corp
Nara Bancorp Inc.	Center Financial Corp.
Community Bancorp LLC	Cadence Financial Corp.
Old National Bancorp	Monroe Bancorp
F.N.B. Corp.	Comm Bancorp Inc.

For the purpose of this analysis, transaction multiples from the merger were derived from the transaction value based on SCBT's closing stock price on August 6, 2012 and financial data as of June 30, 2012 for SAVB. STRH compared these transaction multiples with the transaction multiples implied by the selected transactions listed above. The results of the calculations and the analysis are set forth in the table below.

	Selected Transaction			
	SCBT / Savannah Transaction	25% Percentile	Median	75% Percentile
LTM EPS	NM	23.37x	23.68x	26.76x
Stated TBVPS	0.83x	0.79x	1.17x	1.29x
Core Deposit Per Share(1)	(2.0)%	(3.8)%	0.8%	2.1%
Closing Stock Price 8/3/12	69.1%	17.8%	35.2%	57.7%
Closing Stock Price 7/3/12	77.8%	22.8%	56.9%	100.2%

(1) Assumes \$656 million in core deposits (deposits less jumbo CDs and all brokered deposits)

Southeast Region

Aside from asset quality comparison, STRH also reviewed precedent transactions in the Southeast region of the United States. STRH reviewed and analyzed certain financial data related to 19 completed bank mergers and acquisitions announced between January 1, 2010 and August 6, 2012. These transactions involved target banks based in the Southeast region of the United States with the following characteristics (28 transactions):

Transaction value between \$10 million and \$150 million; and

Targets banks are based in AL, AK, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC and TN.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

These transactions (listed by announce date in order from most recent to the oldest) were as follows:

Acquiror	Target
Customers Bancorp, Inc.	Acacia Federal Savings Bank
WashingtonFirst Bankshares, Inc.	Alliance Bankshares Corporation
1st United Bancorp, Inc.	Anderon Bank
Trustmark Corporation	BancTrust Financial Group, Inc.
Trustmark Corporation	Bay Bank & Trust Co.
IBERIABANK Corporation	Cameron Bancshares, Inc.
Park Sterling Corporation	Citizens South Banking Corporation
Kentucky First Federal Bancorp (MHC)	CKF Bancorp, Inc.
Park Sterling Corporation	Community Capital Corporation
City Holding Company	Community Financial Corp
Piedmont Community Bank Hldgs	Crescent Financial Corp.
CBM Florida Holding Co.	First Community Bk of America
MidSouth Bancorp, Inc.	First Louisiana National Bank
BNC Bancorp	First Trust Bank
IBERIABANK Corporation	Florida Gulf Bancorp, Inc.
First Volunteer Corporation	Gateway Bancshares, Inc.
Home Bancorp, Inc.	GS Financial Corp.
BNC Bancorp	KeySource Financial, Inc.
Community Trust Bancorp Inc.	Lafollette First Natl Corp.
American National Bankshares	MidCarolina Financial Corp.
IBERIABANK Corp.	Omni Bancshares Inc.
SCBT Financial Corporation	Peoples Bancorporation, Inc.
First Community Bancshares, Inc.	Peoples Bank of Virginia
Eb Bancorp, Inc.	SouthEast Bancshares, Inc.
Capital Bank Financial Corporation	Southern Community Financial Corporation
Stonegate Bank	Southwest Capital Bancshares
City Holding Company	Virginia Savings Bancorp, Inc.
Drummond Banking Company	Williston Holding Company

For the purpose of this analysis, transaction multiples from the merger were derived from the transaction value based on SCBT's closing stock price on August 6, 2012 and financial data as of June 30, 2012 for SAVB. STRH compared these transaction multiples with the transaction multiples implied by the selected transactions listed above. The results of the calculations and the analysis are set forth in the table below.

	Selected Transaction			
	SCBT / Savannah Transaction	25% Percentile	Median	75% Percentile
LTM EPS	NM	14.55x	16.76x	22.85x
Stated TBVPS	0.83x	0.77x	0.93x	1.09x
Core Deposits Per Share(1)	(2.0)%	(3.9)%	(1.6)%	1.0%
Closing Stock Price 8/3/12	69.1%	12.9%	17.1%	17.3%
Closing Stock Price 7/3/12	77.8%	30.4%	56.9%	92.1%

(1) Assumes \$656 million in core deposits (deposits less jumbo CDs and all brokered deposits)

No company or transaction used as a comparison in the above analysis is identical to SCBT, SAVB or the merger. Accordingly, an analysis of these results involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies.

Table of Contents**SAVB Net Present Value Analysis**

STRH performed an analysis that estimated the present value of SAVB through December 31, 2017. The analysis assumed that SAVB performed in accordance with the financial projections for years ended December 2012 through 2017 with projections approved by SAVB's management team.

STRH calculated the implied SAVB valuation with the assumptions below:

Assumes the base case discount rate of 13.5%, which was arrived using the CAPM method and a sensitivity from 10% to 17%

2017 terminal value based on P/E multiple of 13.0x and 100% P/TBV multiple. STRH also sensitized these terminal year PE multiples from 10.0x - 16.0x and terminal year TBV multiple of 75% - 125%

Assumes that excess TCE above 9.0% will be returned to shareholders

Discount Rate	Terminal Price / Earnings in 2017						
	10.0x	11.0x	12.0x	13.0x	14.0x	15.0x	16.0x
10.0%	\$ 5.35	\$ 5.80	\$ 6.25	\$ 6.70	\$ 7.14	\$ 7.59	\$ 8.04
11.0%	\$ 5.10	\$ 5.52	\$ 5.95	\$ 6.37	\$ 6.80	\$ 7.23	\$ 7.65
12.0%	\$ 4.86	\$ 5.26	\$ 5.67	\$ 6.07	\$ 6.48	\$ 6.88	\$ 7.29
13.0%	\$ 4.63	\$ 5.02	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.79	\$ 6.17	\$ 6.56	\$ 6.94
13.5%	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.90	\$ 5.27	\$ 5.65	\$ 6.03	\$ 6.40	\$ 6.78
14.0%	\$ 4.41	\$ 4.78	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.52	\$ 5.88	\$ 6.25	\$ 6.62
15.0%	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.56	\$ 4.91	\$ 5.26	\$ 5.61	\$ 5.96	\$ 6.31
16.0%	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.35	\$ 4.69	\$ 5.02	\$ 5.35	\$ 5.69	\$ 6.02
17.0%	\$ 3.84	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.47	\$ 4.79	\$ 5.11	\$ 5.43	\$ 5.75

Discount Rate	Terminal Price / TCBV in 2017						
	75.0%	80.0%	90.0%	100.0%	110.0%	120.0%	125.0%
10.0%	\$ 5.96	\$ 6.30	\$ 6.98	\$ 7.65	\$ 8.33	\$ 9.01	\$ 9.34
11.0%	\$ 5.68	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.64	\$ 7.28	\$ 7.93	\$ 8.57	\$ 8.89
12.0%	\$ 5.41	\$ 5.71	\$ 6.33	\$ 6.94	\$ 7.55	\$ 8.16	\$ 8.47
13.0%	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.44	\$ 6.03	\$ 6.61	\$ 7.20	\$ 7.78	\$ 8.07
13.5%	\$ 5.03	\$ 5.32	\$ 5.89	\$ 6.45	\$ 7.02	\$ 7.59	\$ 7.88
14.0%	\$ 4.91	\$ 5.19	\$ 5.75	\$ 6.30	\$ 6.86	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.69
15.0%	\$ 4.69	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.48	\$ 6.01	\$ 6.54	\$ 7.07	\$ 7.34
16.0%	\$ 4.47	\$ 4.72	\$ 5.23	\$ 5.73	\$ 6.24	\$ 6.75	\$ 7.00
17.0%	\$ 4.27	\$ 4.51	\$ 4.99	\$ 5.47	\$ 5.96	\$ 6.44	\$ 6.68

STRH also considered how this analysis would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. To illustrate this impact, STRH calculated the impact to implied valuation using an adjusted DCF case by sensitizing the annual earnings

Table of Contents

estimates by 25% above and below the base case annually. The analysis resulted in the table below for a reference range of SAVB per share value, using a discount rate of 13.5%.

Budget Variance	Terminal Price / Earnings in 2017						
	10.0x	11.0x	12.0x	13.0x	14.0x	15.0x	16.0x
(25.0)%	\$ 3.11	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.95	\$ 4.24	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.80
(20.0)%	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.29	\$ 4.59	\$ 4.90	\$ 5.20
(15.0)%	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.31	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.27	\$ 5.59
(10.0)%	\$ 3.96	\$ 4.29	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.97	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.65	\$ 5.99
(5.0)%	\$ 4.24	\$ 4.60	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.67	\$ 6.03	\$ 6.38
0.0%	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.90	\$ 5.27	\$ 5.65	\$ 6.03	\$ 6.40	\$ 6.78
5.0%	\$ 4.80	\$ 5.20	\$ 5.59	\$ 5.99	\$ 6.38	\$ 6.78	\$ 7.17
10.0%	\$ 5.09	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.91	\$ 6.33	\$ 6.74	\$ 7.16	\$ 7.57
15.0%	\$ 5.37	\$ 5.80	\$ 6.23	\$ 6.67	\$ 7.10	\$ 7.53	\$ 7.96
20.0%	\$ 5.65	\$ 6.10	\$ 6.55	\$ 7.01	\$ 7.46	\$ 7.91	\$ 8.36
25.0%	\$ 5.93	\$ 6.40	\$ 6.87	\$ 7.34	\$ 7.82	\$ 8.29	\$ 8.76

Budget Variance	Terminal Price / TCBV in 2017						
	75.0%	80.0%	90.0%	100.0%	110.0%	120.0%	125.0%
(25.0)%	\$ 4.56	\$ 4.84	\$ 5.41	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.55	\$ 7.12	\$ 7.41
(20.0)%	\$ 4.65	\$ 4.94	\$ 5.51	\$ 6.08	\$ 6.65	\$ 7.22	\$ 7.50
(15.0)%	\$ 4.75	\$ 5.03	\$ 5.60	\$ 6.17	\$ 6.74	\$ 7.31	\$ 7.60
(10.0)%	\$ 4.84	\$ 5.13	\$ 5.70	\$ 6.27	\$ 6.84	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.69
(5.0)%	\$ 4.94	\$ 5.22	\$ 5.79	\$ 6.36	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.78
0.0%	\$ 5.03	\$ 5.32	\$ 5.89	\$ 6.45	\$ 7.02	\$ 7.59	\$ 7.88
5.0%	\$ 5.12	\$ 5.41	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.55	\$ 7.12	\$ 7.69	\$ 7.97
10.0%	\$ 5.22	\$ 5.50	\$ 6.07	\$ 6.64	\$ 7.21	\$ 7.78	\$ 8.07
15.0%	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.60	\$ 6.17	\$ 6.74	\$ 7.31	\$ 7.88	\$ 8.16
20.0%	\$ 5.41	\$ 5.69	\$ 6.26	\$ 6.83	\$ 7.40	\$ 7.97	\$ 8.26
25.0%	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.79	\$ 6.36	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.07	\$ 8.35

STRH noted that the discounted dividend stream and terminal value analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent upon the numerous assumptions that must be made, and the results thereof are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results.

Contribution Analysis

STRH analyzed the relative contribution of each of SCBT and SAVB to certain pro forma balance sheet, income statement and market capitalization of the combined company following the merger. STRH compared the relative contribution of these items with the estimated pro forma ownership

Table of Contents

percentage SAVB's shareholders would represent in SCBT pro forma. The results of this analysis are illustrated in the table below:

(Financials as of June 30, 2012, in 000's)	Financial Contribution	
	SCBT	Savannah
Balance Sheet:		
Assets	82.12%	17.88%
Gross Loans	80.35%	19.65%
Adjusted Nonaccrual Loans, 90 day+ and OREO	64.42%	35.58%
Equity Capital	83.61%	16.39%
Tangible Equity Capital	81.22%	18.78%
2012E Tangible Common Equity	84.11%(1)	15.89%(2)
Earnings:		
LTM Reported Net Income	NM	NM
2012 Q2 Reported Net Income (Annualized)	94.76%	5.24%
2012 (e) Net Income	NM(1)	NM(2)
2013 (e) Net Income	99.37%(1)	0.63%(2)
Other:		
Market Cap (\$M)	93.41%	6.59%
Pro Forma Ownership	89.32%	10.68%

Notes

- (1) Based on STRH Research Estimates, Research Report Dated July 30, 2012.
- (2) Per Savannah Management

Financial Impact Analysis

STRH performed pro forma merger analyses that combined projected income statement and balance sheet information of both SCBT and SAVB. Assumptions regarding the accounting treatment, acquisition adjustments and cost savings were used to calculate the financial impact that the merger would have on certain projected financial results of the pro forma company. This analysis indicated that the merger is expected to be accretive to SCBT's earnings per share and dilutive to book value and tangible common book value per share. The analyses were based on financial projections and certain merger assumptions (including estimated cost savings and one-time charges) reviewed and approved by senior management of SAVB. For all of the above analyses, the actual results achieved by the pro forma company following the merger will vary from the projected results, and the variations may be material.

Conclusion

Based on the above analyses and subject to the limitations and exceptions set forth in STRH's written opinion, STRH concluded that the exchange ratio of 0.2503 shares of SCBT's common stock for every one share of SAVB common stock is fair to holders of common stock of SAVB, from a financial point of view.

Compensation to STRH

As compensation for its services acting as financial advisor to SAVB in connection with the merger, SAVB paid STRH \$250,000 upon execution of the merger agreement. Additional compensation of approximately \$500,000 (for a total compensation of 1% of the value of the merger), depending on the SCBT closing share value, will be payable upon the successful completion of the merger

Table of Contents

transaction. In addition, SAVB agreed to reimburse STRH for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the merger (not to exceed \$15,000 without the prior written consent of SAVB) and to indemnify STRH for certain liabilities that may arise out of its engagement by SAVB and the services provided by STRH, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933. STRH has not provided other investment banking services to SAVB in the past two years and, at this point, does not expect to provide SAVB with further investment banking services in the future. Furthermore, STRH does not currently provide any services to SCBT, and in the past two years no material relationship has existed between STRH and SCBT, nor has STRH received any compensation from SCBT.

Opinion of FIG Partners, LLC

FIG has delivered to SAVB's board of directors its opinion that, based upon and subject to the various considerations set forth in its written opinion dated August 7, 2012, the total merger consideration to be paid to the SAVB shareholders is fair from a financial point of view as of such date. In requesting FIG's advice and opinion, no limitations were imposed by SAVB upon FIG with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed by it in rendering its opinion. **The full text of the opinion of FIG, dated August 7, 2012, which describes the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached hereto as Annex C. SAVB shareholders should read this opinion in its entirety.**

FIG's opinion is directed only to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the total merger consideration, and, as such, does not constitute a recommendation to any SAVB shareholder as to how the shareholder should vote at the special meeting of SAVB shareholders. The summary of the opinion of FIG set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion.

The following is a summary of the analyses performed by FIG in connection with its fairness opinion. Certain of these analyses were confirmed in a presentation to SAVB's board of directors by FIG. The summary set forth below does not purport to be a complete description of either the analyses performed by FIG in rendering its opinion or the presentation delivered by FIG to SAVB's board of directors, but it does summarize all of the material analyses performed and presented by FIG.

The preparation of a fairness opinion involves various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analyses and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. In arriving at its opinion, FIG did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis and factor considered by it, but rather made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. FIG may have given various analyses more or less weight than other analyses. Accordingly, FIG believes that its analyses and the following summary must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses, without considering all factors could create an incomplete view of the process underlying the analyses set forth in its report to SAVB's board of directors and its fairness opinion.

In performing its analyses, FIG made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of SAVB. The analyses performed by FIG are not necessarily indicative of actual value or actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. Such analyses were prepared solely as part of FIG's analysis of the fairness of the transaction consideration, from a financial point of view, to SAVB shareholders. The analyses do not purport to be an appraisal or to reflect the prices at which a company might actually be sold or the prices at which any securities may trade at the present time or at any time in the future. FIG's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to any other business combination in which SAVB might engage. In addition, as described above, FIG's opinion to SAVB's board of directors was one of many factors taken into consideration by SAVB's board of directors in making its determination to approve the merger agreement.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

During the course of its engagement, and as a basis for arriving at its opinion, FIG reviewed and analyzed material bearing upon the financial and operating conditions of SAVB and SCBT and material prepared in connection with the merger, including, among other things, the following:

reviewed the merger agreement;

reviewed certain historical publicly available business and financial information concerning SAVB and SCBT including among other things, quarterly and annual reports filed by the parties with the FDIC and Federal Reserve;

reviewed certain financial projections prepared by the management of SAVB;

reviewed filings with the SEC by SAVB and SCBT;

held discussions with members of the senior management of SAVB and SCBT for the purpose of reviewing future prospects of SAVB and SCBT, including internal budget and strategic planning forecasts related to the respective businesses, earnings, assets, liabilities and the amount of and timing of cost savings expected to be achieved as a result of the merger;

reviewed the terms of recent merger and acquisition transactions, to the extent publicly available, involving banks, thrifts and bank and thrift holding companies that we considered relevant; and

performed such other analyses and considered such other factors as we have deemed appropriate.

In rendering its opinion, FIG assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of the publicly and non-publicly available financial and other information furnished to FIG by SAVB and SCBT and relied upon the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the parties contained in the merger agreement. FIG also assumed that the financial forecasts furnished to or discussed with FIG by SAVB and SCBT were reasonably prepared and reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of senior management of SAVB and SCBT as to the future financial performance of SAVB and SCBT. FIG has not made any independent evaluation or appraisal of any properties, assets or liabilities of SAVB or SCBT.

Contribution Analysis

FIG prepared a contribution analysis showing percentages of total assets, total loans, total deposits, and tangible common equity, and net income at June 30, 2012 for SAVB and for SCBT, to be contributed to the combined company on a pro forma basis by SAVB and SCBT. SAVB shareholders will receive 0.2503 shares of SCBT for every outstanding share of SAVB.

	SAVB Contribution To SCBT
Total assets	17.9%
Gross loans	19.0%
Total deposits	18.3%
Total tangible common equity	18.9%
MRQ Net Income	4.9%
Pro Forma Ownership	10.7%

Comparable Transaction Analysis

As part of its analysis, FIG reviewed two groups of comparable merger transactions. The first peer group included transactions, which have occurred since January 1, 2011, that involved target banks

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

located in the Southeastern U.S. Region (AL, AR, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) that had total assets greater than \$100 million and NPA/Assets greater than 5.0% (the "Comparable Transactions Southeastern Region"). All consideration types were included. The group was also limited to bank holding companies and commercial banks and transactions where pricing was disclosed. This group consisted of the following 11 transactions:

Buyer	St.	Seller	St.
Drummond Banking Co.	FL	Williston Holding Co.	FL
BNC Bancorp	NC	First Trust Bank	NC
Trustmark Corp.	MS	BancTrust Financial Group Inc.	AL
Mathias Bancshares Inc.	AR	Decatur State Bank	AR
Capital Bank Finl Corp	FL	Southern Community Financial	NC
First Volunteer Corp.	TN	Gateway Bancshares Inc.	GA
BNC Bancorp	NC	KeySource Financial Inc.	NC
SCBT Financial Corp.	SC	Peoples Bancorporation Inc.	SC
Banco do Brasil S.A.		EuroBank	FL
Park Sterling Corporation	NC	Community Capital Corp.	SC
CBM Florida Holding Co.	FL	First Community Bk of America	FL

In addition, FIG also reviewed comparable transactions which have occurred since January 1, 2010, that involved target banks located throughout the United States that had total assets between \$500 million and \$2.5 billion and NPA/Assets greater than 5.0% (the "Comparable Transactions National"). All consideration types were included. The group was also limited to bank holding companies and commercial banks and transactions where pricing was disclosed. This group consisted of the following 21 transactions:

Buyer	St.	Seller	St.
BNC Bancorp	NC	First Trust Bank	NC
Trustmark Corp.	MS	BancTrust Financial Group Inc.	AL
Carlile Bancshares Inc.	TX	Washington Investment Co.	CO
Washington Federal Inc.	WA	South Valley Bancorp Inc.	OR
Capital Bank Finl Corp	FL	Southern Community Financial	NC
Arvest Bank Group Inc.	AR	Union Bank	MO
First Volunteer Corp.	TN	Gateway Bancshares Inc.	GA
SCBT Financial Corp.	SC	Peoples Bancorporation Inc.	SC
SKBHC Holdings LLC	AZ	Viking Fncl. Services Corp.	WA
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	Elgin State Bancorp Inc.	IL
Park Sterling Corporation	NC	Community Capital Corp.	SC
Opus Bank	CA	Cascade Financial Corp.	WA
IBERIABANK Corp.	LA	Omni Bancshares Inc.	LA
SKBHC Holdings LLC	CA	AmericanWest Bank	WA
Community Bancorp LLC	TX	Cadence Financial Corp.	MS
FNB United Corp.	NC	Bank of Granite Corp.	NC
Old Line Bancshares Inc	MD	Maryland Bankcorp Inc.	MD
People's United Financial Inc.	CT	Smithtown Bancorp Inc.	NY
Grandpoint Capital Inc.	CA	First Commerce Bancorp	CA
Jacksonville Bancorp Inc.	FL	Atlantic BancGroup Inc.	FL
Roma Financial Corp. (MHC)	NJ	Sterling Banks Inc.	NJ

FIG calculated the medians and averages of the following relevant transaction ratios in the Comparable Transactions U.S. Southeastern Region and the Comparable Transactions National: the percentage of the offer value to the acquired company's total assets, the multiple of the offer value to

Table of Contents

the acquired company's stated book value; the multiple of the offer value to the acquired company's tangible book value; and the tangible book value premium to core deposits. FIG compared these multiples with the corresponding multiples for the merger, valuing the total consideration that would be received pursuant to the merger agreement at approximately \$67.0 million, or \$9.31 per SAVB diluted share. In calculating the multiples for the merger, FIG used SAVB's stated book value, tangible book value per share, total assets, and total core deposits as of June 30, 2012. The results of this analysis are as follows:

	Offer Value to		Ratio of
	Total	Tangible	Tangible
	Assets	Book Value	Book
	(%)	(%)	Value
			Premium
			to Core
			Deposits
			(%)
SAVB	7.0	83.5	(2.1)
Transaction U.S. Southeastern Region Median	6.2	69.7	(3.2)
Transactions U.S. Southeastern Region Average	5.7	74.0	(2.9)
Transactions National Median	6.2	75.9	(2.2)
Transaction National Average	5.6	81.7	(1.4)

Market Premium Analysis

As part of its analysis, FIG conducted a market premium valuation based on the most recent transactions in the United States (the "Market Transactions"). The Market Transactions consisted of all transactions of publicly-traded banking institutions since January 1, 2011 where a transaction premium (acquisition price / market price) was disclosed. The observed premiums and indicated values of the analysis are as follows:

	Observed Premium	Indicated Value	Transaction Price
1-Day	69.3%	\$ 7.61	\$ 9.31
1-Week	66.5%	\$ 8.55	\$ 9.31
1-Month	75.9%	\$ 8.14	\$ 9.31
3-Months	81.2%	\$ 8.65	\$ 9.31

In the market premium valuation, the indicated values ranged from \$7.61 per share to \$8.65 per share. The transaction price of \$9.31 per share was above the range indicated by this method.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

FIG estimated the present value of all shares of SAVB common stock by estimating the value of SAVB's estimated future earnings stream beginning in 2012. Reflecting SAVB's internal projections and FIG estimates, FIG assumed net loss in 2012 of \$478 thousand and net income in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 of \$2.428 million, \$3.468 million, \$4.062 million, and \$4.719 million, respectively. The present value of these earnings was calculated based on a range of discount rates of 12.0%, 13.0%, and 14.0%, respectively. In order to derive the terminal value of SAVB's earnings stream beyond 2016, FIG performed two separate analyses: 1) an acquisition in 2016 at 18.0 times estimated earnings in the terminal year; and 2) an acquisition in 2015 at 1.00 times estimated book value in the terminal year. The present value of these terminal amounts was then calculated based on the range of discount rates mentioned above. These rates and values were chosen to reflect different assumptions regarding the required rates of return of holders or prospective buyers of SAVB's common stock. The two analyses and the underlying assumptions yielded a range of value for all the shares of SAVB's stock of

Table of Contents

approximately 1) \$6.54 per share to \$7.09 per share; and 2) \$7.32 per share to \$7.93 per share compared to the merger consideration of \$9.31 per share.

Franchise Valuation

FIG estimated the value of SAVB's franchise through a build up methodology based on a deposit premium, credit mark and capital mark based analysis. The methodology begins with SAVB's tier 1 tangible common capital of \$81.2 million. From the tier 1 common capital number, a credit mark is subtracted which is based on a loan credit mark of 8.5% and an OREO credit mark of 35%, totaling a net mark of \$31.0 million. A capital mark is also subtracted from the tier 1 common capital figure if tier 1 common capital is less than 8%. This was not the case for SAVB and therefore, no subtraction was made for the capital mark. After a credit mark and capital mark has been applied to tier 1 common capital, a deposit premium is applied based on deposit premiums for noninterest bearing deposits of 4.5%, NOW accounts of 2.5% and MMDA and savings accounts of 1.0%. The total deposit premium calculated was \$12.2 million. Therefore, the total indicated franchise valuation was \$62.4 million, which indicated a value of \$8.66 per share compared to the merger consideration of \$9.31 per share.

Based upon the foregoing analyses and other investigations and assumptions set forth in its opinion, without giving specific weightings to any one factor or comparison, FIG determined that the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to SAVB shareholders.

Miscellaneous

FIG is a nationally recognized investment banking firm and, as part of its investment banking business, is continually engaged in the valuation of financial institutions in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private placements and valuations for other purposes. As a specialist in securities of financial institutions, FIG has experience in, and knowledge of, banks, thrifts and bank and thrift holding companies. SAVB's board of directors selected FIG to act as its financial advisor in connection with the merger on the basis of the firm's reputation and expertise in transactions such as the merger.

SAVB and FIG have entered into an engagement letter relating to the services to be provided by FIG in connection with the merger. FIG will receive a fee of \$100,000 from SAVB for rendering a written opinion to SAVB's board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger to SAVB shareholders; which is not at all contingent upon the consummation of the merger. Further, SAVB has agreed to reimburse FIG for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements incurred in connection with its engagement, and will indemnify FIG against any claims or liabilities arising out of FIG's engagement by SAVB. In the last two years, FIG has performed other financial advisory and capital markets services for SAVB relating to the raising of capital. FIG does not currently provide any services to SCBT, and in the past two years no material relationship has existed between FIG and SCBT, nor has FIG received any compensation from SCBT.

SCBT's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors

In reaching its decision to adopt and approve the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and to recommend that its shareholders approve the stock issuance, the SCBT board of directors consulted with SCBT management, as well as its financial and legal advisors, and considered a number of factors, including the following material factors:

each of SCBT's and SAVB's business, operations, financial condition, asset quality, earnings and prospects;

Table of Contents

the anticipated pro forma impact of the transaction on the combined company, including the expected impact on financial metrics including earnings and tangible equity per share and on regulatory capital levels;

its understanding of the current and prospective environment in which SCBT and SAVB operate, including national and local economic conditions, the competitive environment for financial institutions generally, and in particular the view, informed by SCBT's prior acquisitions, that selective acquisitions are an important part of SCBT's strategic plan in these conditions;

its review and discussions with SCBT's management concerning the due diligence examination of SAVB;

the complementary nature of SAVB's franchise, businesses, customers and markets, and in particular management's view of the attractiveness of the opportunity to have a leading position in the Savannah market;

the potential risks associated with achieving anticipated cost synergies and savings and successfully integrating SAVB's business, operations and workforce with those of SCBT, including the costs and risks of successfully integrating the differing business models of the two companies;

SCBT's past record of integrating acquisitions and of realizing projected financial goals and benefits of acquisitions;

the potential risk of diverting management attention and resources from the operation of SCBT's business and towards the completion of the merger and the integration of the two companies; and

the regulatory and other approvals required in connection with the merger and the expected likelihood that such regulatory approvals will be received in a reasonably timely manner and without the imposition of unacceptable conditions.

In view of the wide variety of the factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these matters, SCBT's board of directors did not find it useful, and did not attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to these factors. In considering the factors described above, the individual members of SCBT's board of directors may have given different weight to different factors. SCBT's board of directors conducted an overall analysis of the factors described above including thorough discussions with, and questioning of, SCBT management and SCBT's legal and financial advisors, and considered the factors overall to be favorable to, and to support, its determination.

The foregoing explanation of SCBT's board of directors' reasoning and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the factors discussed in the section entitled "Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements."

Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of SAVB's board of directors that you vote to approve the merger agreement, you should be aware that some of SAVB's executive officers and directors have financial interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of SAVB shareholders generally. The independent members of SAVB's board of directors were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the merger agreement and the merger, and in recommending to the shareholders that the merger agreement be approved. For purposes of all of SAVB's agreements and plans described below, the completion of the merger will constitute a change of control, change in control or a term of similar meaning.

Table of Contents

Advisory Board

Each member of SAVB's board of directors will serve on an advisory board established by SCBT to monitor the performance and operations in the Savannah, Georgia metropolitan statistical area. In connection with such service on the advisory board, each member of SAVB's board of directors will enter into advisory board member agreements with SCBT that provide for the same cash retainer as such director received while a member of SAVB's board of directors for a three-year period and the SAVB directors will be subject to covenants not to compete or solicit clients or employees during that three-year period. The cash retainer under the advisory agreement will be paid through the third anniversary of the effective date, regardless of whether the advisory period is terminated on an earlier date.

Equity-Based Awards

Equity-based awards held by SAVB's executive officers and directors will be treated at the effective time of the merger as follows:

SAVB Stock Options. The directors and executive officers of SAVB held options to purchase an aggregate of 80,234 shares of common stock as of August 31, 2012, of which 3,000 were unvested. No more than thirty (30) days prior to the effective time, each outstanding option will be fully vested (with unvested options conditionally vesting, subject to the consummation of the merger) and exercisable. Each SAVB stock option that is not exercised prior to the effective time will be converted into a right to receive the product of (i) the excess, if any, of (A) the closing price per share of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the effective time over (B) the per-share exercise price of such SAVB stock option and (ii) the number of shares of SAVB common stock subject to such SAVB stock option. In the event that the product obtained by the prior sentence is zero or a negative number, then the SAVB stock option will be cancelled for no consideration.

The following table sets forth the total number of SAVB stock options held by each of the executive officers and non-employee directors of SAVB, the number of those options that are vested as of August 31, 2012, the number of options that will accelerate and vest as a result of the merger, and the estimated value of the total payment for the executive's or non-employee director's options in connection with the merger. The estimated value of the payments is based on a merger consideration value of \$9.33, which is equal to the average closing market price of SAVB's common stock over the

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

first five business days following the first public announcement of the merger, which occurred after the closing of NASDAQ on August 7, 2012.

	Total Options (#)	Options Vested as of August 31, 2012 (#)	Options that Vest in Connection with the Merger (#)	Estimated Value of Total Payment for Options (vested and unvested) in Connection with the Merger (#)
Executives				
John C. Helmken II	20,540	20,540		(1)
Michael W. Harden, Jr.				
R. Stephen Stramm	5,625	5,625		(1)
Holden T. Hayes	3,000		3,000	(1)
Jerry O'Dell Keith	7,656	7,656		(1)
Directors				
Francis A. Brown	825	825		286
Russell W. Carpenter	2,711	2,711		474
Clifford H. Dales	3,531	3,531		792
Robert H. Demere, Jr.	3,381	3,381		590
Berryman W. Edwards, Jr.	1,895	1,895		508
J. Wiley Ellis(2)	9,784	9,784		1,974
L. Carlton Gill	2,519	2,519		455
J. Curtis Lewis III	5,451	5,451		1,003
Aaron M. Levy	2,259	2,259		414
M. Lane Morrison	2,093	2,093		379
James Toby Roberts, Sr.	3,071	3,071		595
James W. Royal, Sr.	3,672	3,672		667
Robert T. Thompson, Jr.(2)	2,221	2,221		384

(1) The exercise price of the options is greater than \$9.33. Accordingly, pursuant to the merger agreement, these options would be cancelled for no consideration.

(2) Neither Mr. Ellis nor Mr. Thompson is a current member of SAVB's Board of Directors, but each is included in the table above because he was a director for a portion of fiscal year 2012. Mr. Ellis retired from SAVB's Board of Directors on April 26, 2012. Mr. Thompson died on March 18, 2012.

SAVB Restricted Shares. The executive officers of SAVB held an aggregate of 796 SAVB restricted shares as of August 31, 2012. As of the effective time, each SAVB restricted share will vest in full, become free of all restrictions and the holder of such SAVB restricted share will receive the merger consideration in exchange for each SAVB restricted share.

The following table sets forth the number of SAVB restricted shares that are held by each of the executive officers of SAVB as of August 31, 2012, all of which will vest at the effective time of the merger, and the estimated value of the shares. The estimated value of the payments is based on a

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

merger consideration value of \$9.33 (determined as described above). None of SAVB's non-employee directors hold restricted shares.

	Outstanding Restricted Shares of SAVB Common Stock that Vest in the Merger (#)	Estimated Value of Outstanding Restricted Shares of SAVB Common Stock that Vest in the Merger (\$)
Executives		
John C. Helmken II		
Michael W. Harden, Jr.	187	\$ 1,745
R. Stephen Stramm		
Holden T. Hayes		
Jerry O'Dell Keith	609	\$ 5,682

SAVB Deferred Stock Plan. Certain executive officers and directors of SAVB held an aggregate of 90,826 SAVB deferred stock units as of August 31, 2012. All SAVB deferred stock units will be converted into rights with respect to a number of shares of SCBT common stock that is equal to the number of SAVB deferred stock units immediately prior to the effective time of the merger multiplied by the exchange ratio (rounded to the nearest whole share), and otherwise on the same terms and conditions as applied to such SAVB deferred stock units immediately prior to the effective time. The obligations in respect of the SAVB deferred stock units (as converted into SCBT deferred Stock units), will be payable or distributable in accordance with the terms of the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan. As of the effective time of the merger, SCBT will assume the obligations and succeed to the rights of SAVB under the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan with respect to the SAVB deferred stock units (as converted into SCBT deferred stock units).

The following table sets forth the number of SAVB deferred stock units that are held by each of the executive officers and non-employee directors of SAVB, as of August 31, 2012. The estimated value of the payments is based on a merger consideration value of \$9.33 (determined as described above).

	Outstanding Deferred Stock Units (#)	Estimated Value of Outstanding Deferred Stock Units (\$)
Executives		
John C. Helmken II		
Michael W. Harden, Jr.		
R. Stephen Stramm		
Holden T. Hayes	772	7,203
Jerry O'Dell Keith	2,057	19,192
Directors		
Francis A. Brown		
Russell W. Carpenter	9,697	90,473
Clifford H. Dales	11,219	104,673
Robert H. Demere, Jr.	13,539	126,319
Berryman W. Edwards, Jr.	7,254	67,680
J. Wiley Ellis(1)		
L. Carlton Gill	3,525	32,888
J. Curtis Lewis III	18,254	170,310
Aaron M. Levy	8,059	75,190
M. Lane Morrison		
James Toby Roberts, Sr.		
James W. Royal, Sr.	16,450	153,479
Robert T. Thompson, Jr.(1)		

(1) Neither Mr. Ellis nor Mr. Thompson is a current member of SAVB's Board of Directors, but each is included in the table above because he was a director for a portion of fiscal year 2012.

Table of Contents

Mr. Ellis retired from SAVB's Board of Directors on April 26, 2012. Mr. Thompson died on March 18, 2012.

SAVB ESPP. All SAVB ESPP Options outstanding under the SAVB ESPP on November 15, 2012, will be automatically exercised on such date and the shares of SAVB common stock issued pursuant to the exercise of such SAVB ESPP Options will receive the merger consideration. The SAVB ESPP will terminate on November 15, 2012. Mr. Harden is the only executive officer who participates in the ESPP.

Change in Control Agreements between SAVB and Messrs. Helmken, Keith and Stramm

Each of Messrs. Helmken, Keith and Stramm has previously entered into a change in control agreement with SAVB. Each such change in control agreement provides that the named executive officer will continue to receive from the surviving company the same level of compensation for a period of one year after termination if, following a change in control, the executive is terminated without cause during the one-year period immediately following a change in control. In addition, each agreement provides that the executive may voluntarily terminate employment during the one-year period following a change in control and will continue to receive the same level of compensation for the period beginning on the date of termination of employment and ending on the first anniversary of the change in control. As of the effective time, the change in control agreements with each of Mr. Helmken and Mr. Keith will be superseded by the employment agreements by and between each of Mr. Helmken and Mr. Keith and SCBT, which was entered into in connection with the execution of the merger agreement (as such employment agreements are described below).

Employment Agreements between SCBT and Certain Named Executive Officers of SAVB

Employment Agreements with Messrs. Helmken, Hayes and Keith. As a condition to entering into the merger agreement, SCBT entered into employment agreements with each of Messrs. Helmken and Hayes. In addition, Mr. Keith entered into an employment agreement with SCBT on August 22, 2012. The employment agreements by and between SCBT and each of Messrs. Helmken, Hayes and Keith will become effective upon the closing of the merger and will have a three-year term. The employment agreements each provide for annual base salary, a performance bonus for fiscal year 2012, subject to the executive's continued employment with SCBT through the payment date, participation in an annual performance based incentive plan for fiscal year 2013, a one-time bonus upon the successful systems conversion at both The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, subject to the executive's continued employment with SCBT through the payment date, an initial grant of restricted stock with a value of \$150,000 in the case of Mr. Helmken, \$100,000 in the case of Mr. Hayes and \$50,000 in the case of Mr. Keith, which restricted stock vests 100% on the third anniversary of grant subject to the executive's continued employment with SCBT, and participation in employee benefit plans that are consistent with similarly situated employees of SCBT. Mr. Helmken's employment agreement also provides that SCBT will reimburse him for any lost director fees if he is required to resign as a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Each of the employment agreements provides for severance upon a termination of employment for any reason, whether by SCBT or the executive, other than for "cause", death or disability, that is equal to continued base salary for the remaining term of the employment agreement. Each executive is also subject to covenants not to compete and not to solicit clients or employees for the duration of the term of the employment agreement (regardless of whether he is employed). The employment agreements also provide that in the event that any payments or benefits provided under the employment agreements or any other arrangement would result in such payments or benefits being considered excess parachute payments as defined in Section 280G of the Code and the imposition of a federal excise tax pursuant to Section 4999 of the Code, then such payments or benefits will be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of such excise tax.

Table of Contents

Employment Agreement with Mr. Harden. On August 17, 2012, SCBT entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Harden that will become effective upon the closing of the merger and has a one-year term. Mr. Harden's employment agreement provides for annual base salary and participation in employee benefit plans that are consistent with similarly situated employees of SCBT. Mr. Harden's employment agreement provides for severance upon a termination of employment for any reason, whether by SCBT or the executive, other than for "cause", death or disability, that is equal to continued base salary for the remaining term of the employment agreement. Mr. Harden's employment agreement also provides that in the event that any payments or benefits provided under the employment agreement or any other arrangement would result in such payments or benefits being considered excess parachute payments as defined in Section 280G of the Code and the imposition of a federal excise tax pursuant to Section 4999 of the Code, then such payments or benefits will be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of such excise tax.

Proposed Conversion Bonus

SCBT has offered Mr. Stramm a \$30,000 conversion bonus if he remains employed by SCBT through the successful systems conversion at both The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank paid in a lump sum following the systems conversions. As of October 24, 2012, Mr. Stramm had not accepted the offered conversion bonus.

Quantification of Payments and Benefits to the SAVB Named Executive Officers

The following table and related footnotes is intended to comply with Item 402(t) of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act, which requires disclosure of information about the payments and benefits that each of the SAVB "named executive officers," as determined for the purposes of SAVB's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, will or may receive that are based on or otherwise relate to the merger, assuming the merger was completed on October 24, 2012. The estimated value of the payments relating to equity awards disclosed below are based on a merger consideration value of \$9.33 (determined as described above). Excluding the payments relating to equity awards, the estimated payments reflected in the table are not guaranteed; instead the payments require (i) in the case of the conversion bonus, completion of a successful systems conversion at The Savannah Bank or Bryan Bank; (ii) in the case of the 2012 performance bonus, the executive's continued employment on the payment date; and (iii) in the case of the severance payments, the executive's termination of employment.

Golden Parachute Compensation

Name	Cash (\$)	Equity (\$)	Total (\$)(5)
John C. Helmken II	1,025,000(1)		1,025,000
Michael W. Harden, Jr.	158,100(2)	1,745(4)	159,845
R. Stephen Stramm	208,500(3)		208,500
Holden T. Hayes	750,000(1)		750,000
Jerry O'Dell Keith	690,000(1)	5,682(4)	695,682

Note: This compensation table should be read in conjunction with the preceding paragraph and the footnotes below.

(1)

This amount includes the aggregate of (i) a one-time bonus upon the successful systems conversion at both The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, in following amounts: Mr. Helmken, \$100,000; Mr. Hayes, \$100,000; and Mr. Keith, \$75,000; (ii) a performance bonus for fiscal 2012 in following amounts: Mr. Helmken, \$50,000; Mr. Hayes, \$50,000; and Mr. Keith, \$30,000; and (iii) severance payments in following aggregate amounts: Mr. Helmken, \$765,000; Mr. Hayes, \$600,000; and Mr. Keith, \$585,000, in each case

Table of Contents

payable pursuant to the terms of the named executive officer's employment agreement with SCBT (as described in greater detail above). The severance payments assume that each of the named executive officers incurred a severance-qualifying termination immediately following the effective time and represent modified single trigger payments because the payments are made to the named executive officer if he terminates his employment for any reason or no reason or his employment is terminated without cause. The bonus payments assume that the named executive officer is employed by SCBT on the payment date and represent single trigger payments because the amounts are triggered by the change in control, or events related to the change in control, for which payment is not conditioned upon a termination or resignation of the named executive officer. As described above, Mr. Helmken's employment agreement also provides for the reimbursement of any lost director fees if he is required to resign as a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The maximum amount of this potential payment is \$110,000 and it has been included as a single trigger payment in this column.

- (2) This amount includes aggregate severance payments payable pursuant to the terms of Mr. Harden's employment agreement with SCBT (as described in greater detail above). The severance payments assume that Mr. Harden incurred a severance-qualifying termination of employment immediately following the effective time and represent a modified single trigger payment because the payment is made to the named executive officer if he terminates his employment for any reason or no reason or his employment is terminated without cause.
- (3) This amount includes aggregate severance payments payable pursuant to the terms of Mr. Stramm's change in control agreement with SAVB (described in greater detail above) equal to \$178,500 and the proposed \$30,000 conversion bonus described above. The severance payments assume that Mr. Stramm incurred a severance qualifying termination of employment immediately following the effective time and represent a modified single trigger payment because the payment is made to the named executive officer if he terminates his employment for any reason or no reason or his employment is terminated without cause. The proposed conversion bonus assumes that Mr. Stramm is employed by SCBT on the payment date and represents a single trigger payment because the amounts are triggered by the change in control, or events related to the change in control, for which payment is not conditioned upon Mr. Stramm's termination of employment.
- (4) This amount includes the value of the named executive officer's accelerated vesting of outstanding restricted shares. None of the named executive officers hold unvested, in-the-money stock options. These amounts represent single trigger benefits because the outstanding restricted shares vest upon the consummation of the merger without regard to whether the named executive officer terminates employment. The restricted stock awards that each of Messrs. Helmken, Hayes and Keith will receive pursuant to his employment agreement with SCBT, which awards are described above under the heading "Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Employment Agreement with Messrs. Helmken, Hayes and Keith," are not reflected in this table because such awards are payable by SCBT in consideration for post-closing services and, accordingly, are not considered "golden parachute compensation" under Regulation S-K Item 402(t).
- (5) The amounts in this column for Messrs. Helmken, Harden, Hayes and Keith may be reduced if any portion of such amounts constitutes "excess parachute payments" under Section 280G of the Code. The amounts will be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of an excise tax under Section 280G or 4999 of the Code.

Table of Contents**Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on the Compensation Proposal**

In accordance with Section 14A of the Exchange Act, SAVB is providing its shareholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on certain compensation that may be paid or become payable to its named executive officers in connection with the merger pursuant to existing agreements and arrangements with SAVB. The compensation that is subject to such advisory vote is set forth in the table below.

Compensation Subject to Compensation Proposal(1)

Name	Cash (\$)	Equity (\$)	Total (\$)
John C. Helmken II			
Michael W. Harden, Jr.		1,745(3)	1,745
R. Stephen Stramm	178,500(2)		178,500
Holden T. Hayes			
Jerry O'Dell Keith		5,682(3)	5,682

- (1) Pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 14a-21(c), the payments that may be paid or become payable pursuant to the employment agreements by and between each of Mr. Helmken, Mr. Keith, Mr. Harden and Mr. Hayes and SCBT and the conversion bonus that may become payable to Mr. Stramm by SCBT are not subject to this advisory vote and, accordingly, are not included in this table.
- (2) This amount includes aggregate severance payments payable pursuant to the terms of Mr. Stramm's change in control agreement with SAVB (as described in greater detail above in the section of the proxy statement entitled, "Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Change in Control Agreements between SAVB and Messrs. Helmken, Keith and Stramm"). This amount represents a modified single trigger payment because the payment is made to the named executive officer if he terminates his employment for any reason or no reason or his employment is terminated without cause. As noted above in the section of the proxy statement entitled, "Interests of SAVB's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Change in Control Agreements between SAVB and Messrs. Helmken, Keith and Stramm," as of the effective time, the change in control agreements with each of Mr. Helmken and Mr. Keith will be superseded by the employment agreements by and between each of Mr. Helmken and Mr. Keith and SCBT. The payments that may be paid or become payable pursuant to the employment agreements by and between each of Mr. Helmken and Mr. Keith and SCBT are not subject to this advisory vote and, accordingly, are not included in the table above.
- (3) This amount includes the value of the named executive officer's accelerated vesting of outstanding restricted shares. None of the named executive officers hold unvested, in-the-money stock options. These amounts represent single trigger benefits because the outstanding restricted shares vest upon the consummation of the merger without regard to whether the named executive officer terminates employment.

Table of Contents

As required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act, SAVB is asking its shareholders to vote on the adoption of the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the compensation that may be paid or become payable to SAVB's named executive officers in connection with the merger and the agreements or understandings pursuant to which such compensation may be paid or become payable, as disclosed in the "Compensation Subject to Compensation Proposal" table included in the section of the proxy statement entitled "Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on the Compensation Proposal," including the associated narrative discussion, are hereby APPROVED."

The vote on the compensation proposal is a vote separate and apart from the vote to approve the merger agreement. You may vote for the compensation proposal and against the proposal to approve the merger agreement, and vice versa. Because the vote on the compensation proposal is advisory only, it will not be binding on either SAVB or SCBT. Accordingly, because SAVB is contractually obligated to pay the compensation, if the merger is completed, the compensation will be payable, subject only to the conditions applicable thereto, regardless of the outcome of the advisory vote.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of SAVB common stock present in person or by proxy at the SAVB special meeting and entitled to vote on the matter will be required to approve the advisory resolution on executive compensation payable to SAVB's named executive officers in connection with the merger. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal but the failure to vote your shares will have no effect on the outcome of the proposal.

SAVB's board of directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the compensation proposal.

Public Trading Markets

SCBT common stock is listed for trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SCBT," and SAVB common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "SAVB." Upon completion of the merger, SAVB common stock will no longer be quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market.

Under the merger agreement, SCBT will use reasonable best efforts to cause the shares of SCBT common stock to be issued in connection with the merger to be listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, and the merger agreement provides that neither SCBT nor SAVB will be required to complete the merger if such shares are not approved for listing, subject to notice of issuance, on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

SCBT's Dividend Policy

No assurances can be given that any dividends will be paid by SCBT or that dividends, if paid, will not be reduced or eliminated in future periods. Special cash dividends, stock dividends or returns of capital may, to the extent permitted by the policies and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, be paid in addition to, or in lieu of, regular cash dividends. Dividends from SCBT will depend, in large part, upon receipt of dividends from SCBT Bank, and any other banks which SCBT acquires, because SCBT will have limited sources of income other than dividends from SCBT Bank and other banks it acquires and earnings from the investment of proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock retained by SCBT. SCBT's board of directors may change its dividend policy at any time, and the payment of dividends by financial holding companies is generally subject to legal and regulatory limitations. For further information, see "Comparative Market Prices and Dividends."

Dissenters' Rights in the Merger

Under Section 14-2-1302(c) of the Georgia Business Corporation Code, as amended (the "GBCC"), there is no right of dissent in favor of the holders of shares listed on a national securities

Table of Contents

that are required, under a plan of merger, to accept, in exchange for their shares, only shares of the surviving corporation that are listed on a national securities exchange. SAVB common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market and SCBT common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Both the NASDAQ Global Market and the NASDAQ Global Select Market are national securities exchanges, and, accordingly, shareholders of SAVB common stock are not entitled to any right of dissent in connection with the merger.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

Completion of the merger is subject to prior receipt of all approvals and consents required to be obtained from applicable governmental and regulatory authorities. Subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement, SCBT and SAVB have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts and cooperate to prepare and file, as promptly as possible, all necessary documentation and to obtain as promptly as practicable all regulatory approvals required or advisable to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. These approvals include, among others, approval from the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, or the Georgia DBF, and the South Carolina State Board of Financial Institutions. The Savannah Bank is also required to provide notification of the merger to the OCC. SCBT and SAVB have filed, or are in the process of filing, applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

Federal Reserve Board

The merger of SAVB with SCBT must be approved by the Federal Reserve Board under Section 3 of the BHC Act. In considering the approval of a transaction such as the merger, the BHC Act requires the Federal Reserve Board to review, with respect to the bank holding companies and the banks concerned: (1) the competitive impact of the transaction, (2) the financial condition and future prospects, including capital positions and managerial resources, (3) the convenience and needs of the communities to be served and the record of the insured depository institution subsidiaries of the bank holding companies under the Community Reinvestment Act, (4) the effectiveness of the companies and the depository institutions concerned in combating money-laundering activities, and (5) the extent to which the proposal would result in greater or more concentrated risks to the stability of the U.S. banking or financial system. In connection with its review, the Federal Reserve Board will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application and is authorized to hold a public meeting or other proceeding if they determine that would be appropriate.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The bank mergers must be approved by the FDIC under the Bank Merger Act. An application for approval of the bank mergers has been filed with the FDIC as soon as is practicable and will be subject to a 30-day comment and review period by the FDIC. In evaluating an application filed under the Bank Merger Act, the FDIC generally considers: (1) the competitive impact of the transaction, (2) financial and managerial resources of the banks party to the bank merger or mergers, (3) the convenience and needs of the community to be served and the record of the banks under the Community Reinvestment Act, (4) the banks' effectiveness in combating money-laundering activities and (5) the extent to which the bank merger or mergers would result in greater or more concentrated risks to the stability of the U.S. banking or financial system. In connection with its review, the FDIC will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application for the bank mergers, and is authorized to hold a public meeting or other proceeding if they determine that would be appropriate.

Table of Contents

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

The Savannah Bank is regulated by the OCC. The Savannah Bank must file a notice with the OCC advising the agency of its intention to merge with SCBT's wholly-owned banking subsidiary. The OCC will then provide instructions to The Savannah Bank for terminating its status as a national bank.

Georgia Department of Banking and Finance

The merger of SAVB and SCBT and the bank mergers must be approved by the Georgia DBF under §§ 7-1-628 and 7-1-608 of the Official Code of Georgia adopting the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994. The matters to be addressed in the application to the Georgia DBF for the merger of SAVB and SCBT are the same as the matters to be addressed in the application to the Federal Reserve Board under Section 3 of the BHC Act. The matters to be addressed in the application to the Georgia DBF for the bank mergers are the same as the matters to be addressed in the application to the FDIC under the Bank Merger Act. In connection with its review, the Georgia DBF will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application.

South Carolina State Board of Financial Institutions

The bank mergers must be approved by the South Carolina State Board. The matters to be addressed in the application to the South Carolina State Board are the same as the matters to be addressed in the application to the FDIC under the Bank Merger Act. In connection with its review, the South Carolina State Board will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application.

Additional Regulatory Approvals and Notices

Notifications and/or applications requesting approval may be submitted to various other federal and state regulatory authorities and self-regulatory organizations.

SCBT and SAVB believe that the merger does not raise substantial antitrust or other significant regulatory concerns and that we will be able to obtain all requisite regulatory approvals. However, neither SAVB nor SCBT can assure you that all of the regulatory approvals described above will be obtained and, if obtained, we cannot assure you as to the timing of any such approvals, our ability to obtain the approvals on satisfactory terms or the absence of any litigation challenging such approvals. In addition, there can be no assurance that such approvals will not impose conditions or requirements that, individually or in the aggregate, would or could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, results of operations, assets or business of SCBT following completion of the merger.

The parties' obligation to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of all required regulatory approvals. SCBT and SAVB will use their respective reasonable best efforts to resolve any objections that may be asserted by any regulatory authority with respect to the merger agreement or the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Neither SAVB nor SCBT is aware of any material governmental approvals or actions that are required for completion of the merger other than those described above. It is presently contemplated that if any such additional governmental approvals or actions are required, those approvals or actions will be sought. There can be no assurance, however, that any additional approvals or actions will be obtained.

Table of Contents

Litigation Relating to the Merger

On October 11, 2012, a purported shareholder of SAVB filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court of the State of New York captioned *Rational Strategies Fund v. Robert H. Demere, Jr. et al.*, No. 653566/2012, naming SAVB, members of SAVB's board of directors and SCBT as defendants. This lawsuit is purportedly brought on behalf of a putative class of SAVB's common shareholders and seeks a declaration that it is properly maintainable as a class action with the Plaintiff as the proper class representative. The lawsuit alleges that SAVB, SAVB's directors and SCBT breached duties and/or aided and abetted such breaches by failing to disclose certain material information about the merger. Among other relief, the complaint seeks to enjoin the merger. Each of SAVB and SCBT believes that the claims asserted are without merit.

Table of Contents

THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The following describes certain aspects of the merger, including certain material provisions of the merger agreement. The following description of the merger agreement is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the merger agreement, which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A and is incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. We urge you to read the merger agreement carefully and in its entirety, as it is the legal document governing the merger.

Structure of the Merger

Each of SAVB's board of directors and SCBT's board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement. The merger agreement provides for the merger of SAVB with and into SCBT, with SCBT continuing as the surviving entity in the merger. Immediately following the merger, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank, each a wholly owned bank subsidiary of SAVB, will merge with and into SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary, with SCBT's bank subsidiary continuing as the surviving bank.

Merger Consideration

Each shareholder of SAVB common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the merger, except for specified shares of SAVB common stock held by SAVB or SCBT, will receive 0.2503 shares of SCBT common stock for each share of SAVB common stock held immediately prior to the merger.

If the number of shares of common stock of SCBT or SAVB changes before the merger is completed as a result of any reclassification, recapitalization, stock split (including a reverse stock split) or subdivision or combination or readjustment of shares, or any stock dividend or stock distribution with a record date during such period, then the exchange ratio and merger consideration will be proportionately adjusted.

Fractional Shares

SCBT will not issue any fractional shares of SCBT common stock in the merger. Instead, a SAVB shareholder who otherwise would have received a fraction of a share of SCBT common stock will receive an amount in cash rounded to the nearest whole cent. This cash amount will be determined by multiplying the fraction of a share of SCBT common stock to which the holder would otherwise be entitled by the SCBT closing share value.

Governing Documents; Directors and Officers

At the effective time of the merger, the articles of incorporation and bylaws of SCBT in effect immediately prior to the effective time will be the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the surviving corporation after completion of the merger until thereafter amended in accordance with their respective terms and applicable law. The directors and officers of SCBT in office immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, together with such additional persons as may thereafter be elected, shall serve as the directors and officers, respectively, of the surviving corporation from and after the effective time of the merger in accordance with the bylaws of SCBT.

Treatment of SAVB Stock Options and Other Equity-Based Awards

Options

No more than thirty (30) days prior to the effective time, each outstanding option (other than outstanding under the SAVB ESPP) will be fully vested (with unvested options conditionally vesting, subject to the consummation of the merger) and exercisable. Each SAVB option that is not exercised

Table of Contents

prior to the effective time will be converted into a right to receive the product of (i) the excess, if any, of (A) the closing price per share of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the effective time over (B) the per-share exercise price of such SAVB stock option and (ii) the number of shares of SAVB common stock subject to such SAVB stock option. In the event that the product obtained by the prior sentence is zero or a negative number, then the SAVB stock option will be cancelled for no consideration.

Restricted Stock

As of the effective time, each SAVB restricted share will vest in full, become free of all restrictions and the holder of such SAVB restricted share will receive the merger consideration in exchange for each SAVB restricted share.

SAVB ESPP

All SAVB ESPP Options outstanding under the SAVB ESPP on November 15, 2012, will be automatically exercised on such date and the shares of SAVB common stock issued pursuant to the exercise of such SAVB ESPP Options will receive the merger consideration. Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, (i) no new offer period commenced under the SAVB ESPP after August 7, 2012, (ii) participants were prohibited from altering their payroll deduction from those in effect as of August 7, 2012 (other than to discontinue participation in the SAVB ESPP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the SAVB ESPP), and (iii) the amount of the accumulated contributions of each participant under the SAVB ESPP as of immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, will, to the extent not used to purchase shares of SAVB common stock in accordance with the terms and conditions of the SAVB ESPP, be refunded to such participant as promptly as practicable following the effective time of the merger (without interest). The SAVB ESPP will terminate on November 15, 2012.

Deferred Stock Plan

All SAVB Deferred Stock Units will be converted into rights with respect to a number of shares of SCBT common stock that is equal to the number of SAVB Deferred Stock Units immediately prior to the effective time of the merger multiplied by the exchange ratio (rounded to the nearest whole share) (which as-converted SAVB Deferred Stock Units we refer to in this proxy statement as the SCBT Deferred Stock Units), and otherwise on the same terms and conditions (including applicable deferral provisions) as applied to such SAVB Deferred Stock Units immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. The obligations in respect of the SAVB Deferred Stock Units (as converted into SCBT Deferred Stock Units), will be payable or distributable in accordance with the terms of the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan. As of the effective time of the merger, SCBT will assume the obligations and succeed to the rights of SAVB under the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan with respect to the SAVB Deferred Stock Units (as converted into SCBT Deferred Stock Units).

Closing and Effective Time of the Merger

The merger will be completed only if all conditions to the merger discussed in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and set forth in the merger agreement are either satisfied or waived. See " Conditions to Complete the Merger."

The merger will become effective when the Articles of Merger, as described in Section 14-2-1105 GBCC and Section 33-11-105 of the Carolina Business Corporation Act of 1988, as amended (the "BCA"), are filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia and the Secretary of State of the State of South Carolina, respectively. The closing of the transactions contemplated by the merger will occur at 10:00 a.m., New York City time on a date no later than three business days after the

Table of Contents

satisfaction or waiver of the last of the conditions specified in the merger agreement, or such other date as mutually agreed to by the parties. It currently is anticipated that the completion of the merger will occur in the fourth quarter of 2012 subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions, but neither SAVB nor SCBT can guarantee when or if the merger will be completed.

Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates

The conversion of SAVB common stock into the right to receive the merger consideration will occur automatically at the effective time of the merger. After completion of the merger, the exchange agent will exchange certificates representing shares of SAVB common stock for the merger consideration to be received pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement.

Letter of Transmittal

As soon as reasonably practicable after the completion of the merger, the exchange agent will mail appropriate transmittal materials and instructions to those persons who were holders of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the completion of the merger. These materials will contain instructions on how to surrender shares of SAVB common stock in exchange for the merger consideration the holder is entitled to receive under the merger agreement.

If a certificate for SAVB common stock has been lost, stolen or destroyed, the exchange agent will issue the merger consideration upon receipt of (1) an affidavit of that fact by the claimant and (2) if reasonably required, such bond as SCBT may determine is necessary as indemnity against any claim that may be made against SCBT with respect to such lost, stolen or destroyed certificate.

After completion of the merger, there will be no further transfers on the stock transfer books of SAVB other than to settle transfers of SAVB common stock that occurred prior to the effective time of the merger.

Withholding

SCBT and the exchange agent will be entitled to deduct and withhold from the consideration otherwise payable to any SAVB shareholder the amounts they are required to deduct and withhold under any applicable federal, state, local or foreign tax law. If any such amounts are withheld, these amounts will be treated for all purposes of the merger agreement as having been paid to the shareholders from whom they were withheld.

Dividends and Distributions

Whenever a dividend or other distribution is declared by SCBT on SCBT common stock, the record date for which is after the effective time of the merger, the declaration will include dividends or other distributions on all shares of SCBT common stock issuable under the merger agreement, but such dividends or other distributions will not be paid to the holder thereof until such holder has duly surrendered his, her or its SAVB stock certificates.

Representations and Warranties

The representations, warranties and covenants described below and included in the merger agreement were made only for purposes of the merger agreement and as of specific dates, are solely for the benefit of SCBT and SAVB, may be subject to limitations, qualifications or exceptions agreed upon by the parties, including those included in confidential disclosures made for the purposes of, among other things, allocating contractual risk between SCBT and SAVB rather than establishing matters as facts, and may be subject to standards of materiality that differ from those standards

Table of Contents

relevant to investors. You should not rely on the representations, warranties, covenants or any description thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or condition of SCBT, SAVB or any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of the representations, warranties and covenants may change after the date of the merger agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in public disclosures by SCBT or SAVB. The representations and warranties and other provisions of the merger agreement should not be read alone, but instead should be read only in conjunction with the information provided elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

The merger agreement contains customary representations and warranties of SCBT and SAVB relating to their respective businesses. The representations and warranties in the merger agreement do not survive the effective time of the merger.

The merger agreement contains representations and warranties made by SAVB to SCBT relating to a number of matters, including the following:

corporate matters, including due organization and qualification and subsidiaries;

capitalization;

authority relative to execution and delivery of the merger agreement and the absence of conflicts with, or violations of, organizational documents or other obligations as a result of the merger;

required governmental and other regulatory filings and consents and approvals in connection with the merger;

reports to regulatory authorities;

financial statements, internal controls, books and records and absence of "off-balance sheet arrangements";

absence of undisclosed liabilities;

the absence of certain changes or events;

legal proceedings;

tax matters;

employee benefit matters;

labor matters;

compliance with applicable laws;

certain material contracts;

agreements with regulatory authorities;

investment securities;

derivative instruments and transactions;

environmental matters;

insurance matters;

real and personal property;

intellectual property matters;

broker's fees payable in connection with the merger;

Table of Contents

investment adviser matters;

loan matters;

related party transactions;

inapplicability of takeover statutes;

absence of knowledge of any reasons why all required regulatory approvals should not be obtained on a timely basis;

the accuracy of information supplied for inclusion in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and other similar documents; and

absence of additional representations.

The merger agreement contains representations and warranties made by SCBT to SAVB relating to a number of matters, including the following:

corporate matters, including due organization and qualification;

capitalization;

authority relative to execution and delivery of the merger agreement and the absence of conflicts with, or violations of, organizational documents or other obligations as a result of the merger;

required governmental and other regulatory filings and consents and approvals in connection with the merger;

legal proceedings;

the absence of certain changes or events;

reports to regulatory authorities;

financial statements, internal controls, books and records and absence of "off-balance sheet arrangements";

absence of undisclosed liabilities;

compliance with applicable laws;

tax matters;

environmental matters;

intellectual property;

broker's fees payable in connection with the merger; and

absence of knowledge of any reasons why all required regulatory approvals should not be obtained on a timely basis;

the accuracy of information supplied for inclusion in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and other similar documents; and

absence of additional representations.

Certain representations and warranties of SCBT and SAVB are qualified as to "materiality" or "material adverse effect." For purposes of the merger agreement, a "material adverse effect," when used in reference to either SAVB or SCBT, means any event, circumstance, development, change or effect that, individually or in the aggregate, (1) is, or is reasonably likely to be, material and adverse to the business, operations, prospects, condition (financial or otherwise) or results of operations of such

Table of Contents

company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole or (2) prevents or materially impairs, or would be reasonably likely to prevent or materially impair, the ability of such company to timely consummate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or to perform its agreements or covenants under the merger agreement; provided that in the case of clause (1) of this sentence, a material adverse effect will not be deemed to include any event, circumstance, development, change or effect to the extent resulting from:

changes in GAAP, except to the extent that the effects of such changes disproportionately affect the applicable party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as compared to other companies in the industry in which the applicable party operates;

changes in laws generally applicable to companies in the financial services industry, except to the extent that the effects of such changes disproportionately affect the applicable party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as compared to other companies in the industry in which the applicable party operates;

changes in political or regulatory conditions or general economic or market conditions in the United States or any state or territory thereof, in each case generally affecting other companies in the financial services industry, except to the extent that the effects of such changes disproportionately affect the applicable party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as compared to other companies in the industry in which the applicable party operates;

failure, in and of itself, to meet earnings projections or internal financial forecasts, but not including any underlying causes thereof, or changes in the trading price of a party's common stock, in and of itself, but not including any underlying causes thereof;

public disclosure of the merger agreement; or

any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declared or undeclared acts of war or terrorism, except to the extent that the effects of such changes disproportionately affect the applicable party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as compared to other companies in the industry in which the applicable party operates.

Covenants and Agreements

Conduct of Businesses Prior to the Completion of the Merger

SAVB has agreed that, prior to the effective time of the merger, it will, and will cause each of its subsidiaries to, conduct its business in the usual, regular and ordinary course consistent with past practice, use reasonable best efforts to preserve intact its business organization, rights, franchises and current relationships and take no action that is intended to or would reasonably be expected to adversely affect or materially delay the ability of SAVB or SCBT to obtain any required regulatory approvals or to perform their respective obligations under the merger agreement.

Additionally, SAVB has agreed that prior to the effective time of the merger, except as expressly required by the merger agreement or with the prior written consent of SCBT, SAVB will not, and will not permit any of its subsidiaries to, subject to certain exceptions, undertake the following actions:

(1) incur indebtedness or guarantee indebtedness of another person, except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice (and after good faith consultation with SCBT with respect to any sales of brokered or internet certificates of deposit with a term that exceeds six months) or (2) assume, guarantee, endorse or otherwise as an accommodation become responsible for the obligations of any other individual, corporation or other entity, except in connection with presentation of items for collection (e.g., personal or business checks) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

Table of Contents

(1) adjust, split, combine or reclassify any capital stock; (2) set any record or payment dates for any dividends or distributions on its capital stock, make, declare or pay any dividend or distribution (other than dividends paid in the ordinary course of business by any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary to SAVB or any other direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary) or redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire any securities or obligations convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of its capital stock or other equity interest; (3) grant any stock appreciation rights, restricted stock units or other equity-based compensation or grant any right to acquire any shares of its capital stock; (4) issue or commit to issue any additional shares of capital stock or sell, lease, transfer, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any capital stock in any SAVB subsidiary, except upon the exercise of SAVB options outstanding as of the date of the merger agreement or (5) enter into any agreement, understanding or arrangement with respect to the sale or voting of its capital stock;

sell, lease, transfer, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets (other than to a direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary);

acquire direct or indirect control over any business or corporate entity or make any other investment in any person, except in connection with a foreclosure of collateral or conveyance of such collateral in lieu of foreclosure taken in connection with collection of a loan in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and with respect to loans made to third parties who are not affiliates of SAVB;

grant any SAVB options, SAVB restricted shares, awards based on the value of SAVB's capital stock or other equity-based award with respect to shares of SAVB common stock under any SAVB employee benefit plan or otherwise, or grant any person any right to acquire any shares of SAVB capital stock;

except as required under applicable law or the terms of any SAVB employee benefit plan, (1) enter into, adopt or terminate, or agree to enter into, adopt or terminate, any employee benefit plan, (2) amend any employee benefit plan in a manner that would result in any increase in cost, (3) increase or agree to increase the compensation or benefits payable to any employee, officer, director or consultant, (4) enter into any new, or amend any existing, collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement, (5) provide any funding for any rabbi trust or similar arrangement, (6) grant or accelerate the vesting of or lapsing of restrictions with respect to any equity-based awards or other long-term incentive compensation under any employee benefit plan, (7) hire, transfer or promote any employee who has a target annual compensation of \$50,000 or more or (8) terminate the employment of any employee other than a termination of employment for cause in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, provided that SAVB shall consult with SCBT prior to making any such termination;

settle any claim, action or proceeding other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice involving solely money damages not in excess of \$100,000 individually or \$200,000 in the aggregate; waive, compromise, assign, cancel or release any material rights or claims; or agree to any injunction, decree, order or judgment restricting or otherwise affecting its business or operations;

pay, discharge or satisfy any claims, liabilities or obligations, other than in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;

make any change in accounting methods or systems of internal accounting controls, except as required by GAAP as concurred in by SAVB's independent auditors, or revalue in any material respect any of its assets, except as required by GAAP and in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

except as may be required by a change in applicable law, make, change or revoke any tax election, change an annual tax accounting period, adopt or change any tax accounting method, file any material amendment with respect to a tax return, enter into any closing agreement with respect to taxes, or settle any material tax claim, audit, assessment or dispute or surrender any right to claim a refund of a material amount of taxes;

amend its articles of incorporation or bylaws or comparable organizational documents;

(1) materially restructure or materially change its investment securities portfolio or its gap position or the manner in which the portfolio is classified or reported, (2) or invest in any mortgage-backed or mortgage-related securities that would be considered "high-risk" securities under applicable regulatory pronouncements or (3) purchase or otherwise acquire any debt security with a remaining term as of the date of such purchase or acquisition of greater than fifteen years for SAVB's own account or any subsidiary's own account without previously consulting with SCBT;

enter into, modify, amend or terminate any material contract, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

change in any material respect its credit policies and collateral eligibility requirements and standards, except as may be required by a regulatory authority;

fail to use reasonable best efforts to take any action that is required under an agreement with a regulatory authority or knowingly take any action that violates such an agreement;

except as required by applicable law, regulation or policies, enter into any new line of business or change in any material respect its lending, investment, underwriting, risk and asset liability management, interest rate or fee pricing with respect to depository accounts, hedging and other material banking and operating policies or practices, including policies and practices with respect to underwriting, pricing, originating, acquiring, selling, servicing, or buying or selling rights to service loans;

permit the construction of new structures upon, or purchase or lease any real property in respect of, any branch or other facility, or file any application or take any other action to establish, relocate or terminate the operation of any banking office;

make, or commit to make, any capital expenditures in excess of \$50,000 in the aggregate;

without previously notifying and consulting with SCBT, and except to the extent approved by SAVB and committed to prior to the date of the merger agreement and disclosed to SCBT, make or acquire any loan or issue a commitment (or renew or extend an existing commitment) for any loan relationship aggregating in excess of \$500,000, or amend or modify in any material respect any existing loan relationship, that would result in total credit exposure to the applicable borrower in excess of \$500,000;

take any action that is intended to, would or would be reasonably likely to result in any of the conditions to the completion of the merger not being satisfied or prevent or materially delay the completion of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, except as may be required by applicable laws;

take any action, or knowingly fail to take any action, that prevents or impedes, or could reasonably be expected to prevent or impede, the merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code; or

agree to take, make any commitment to take or adopt any resolutions of SAVB's board of directors in support of, any of the above prohibited actions.

Table of Contents

SCBT has agreed to a more limited set of restrictions on its business prior to the completion of the merger. Specifically, SCBT has agreed that prior to the effective time of the merger, except as expressly contemplated or permitted by the merger agreement or with the prior written consent of SAVB, SCBT will not, and will not permit any of its subsidiaries to, subject to certain exceptions, undertake the following actions:

amend its articles of incorporation or bylaws or similar governing documents of any of its subsidiaries in a manner that would materially and adversely affect the economic benefits of the merger to the holders of SAVB common stock or that would materially impede SCBT's ability to consummate the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

take any action that is intended to, would or would be reasonably likely to result in any of the conditions to the completion of the merger not being satisfied or prevent or materially delay the completion of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, except as may be required by applicable laws;

take any action, or knowingly fail to take any action, that prevents or impedes, or could reasonably be expected to prevent or impede, the merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code; or

agree to take, make any commitment to take or adopt any resolutions of SCBT's board of directors in support of, any of the above prohibited actions.

Regulatory Matters

SCBT and SAVB have agreed to use their respective reasonable best efforts to take all actions that are necessary, proper or advisable to comply promptly with all legal requirements with respect to the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and to obtain all permits, consents, authorizations, waivers or approvals of any regulatory authority required or advisable in connection with the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. However, in no event will SCBT be required, and will SAVB and its subsidiaries be permitted (without SCBT's written consent), to take any action or agree to any condition or restriction if such action, condition or restriction would have, or would be reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect in respect of SCBT or SAVB and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole (measured on a scale relative to SAVB and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole) (including, without limitation, any determination by a regulatory authority that the bank mergers may not be consummated simultaneously with effective time of the merger, or that certain agreements between SAVB's bank subsidiaries and their regulators will not terminate and be of no further force and effect following the bank mergers (and without on-going conditions or restrictions)). SCBT and SAVB have also agreed to furnish each other with all information reasonably necessary in connection with any statement, filing, notice or application in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, as well as to keep each other apprised of the status of matters related to the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Tax Matters

SCBT and SAVB have agreed to use their respective reasonable best efforts to cause the merger to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, and to not knowingly take any action that could reasonably be expected to prevent the merger from so qualifying.

Employee Matters

The merger agreement provides that, for a period of 12 months after the completion of the merger, SCBT will provide to employees of SAVB and its subsidiaries, who are actively employed as of

Table of Contents

the completion of the merger (to the extent they continue to be actively employed following the completion of the merger), life insurance, accidental death and disability and medical benefit plans that, in the aggregate, are substantially comparable to such plans that are generally available to similarly situated employees of SCBT. The service of SAVB employees prior to the completion of the merger will be treated as service with SCBT for purposes of eligibility, participation and vesting under SCBT's employee benefit plans, subject to customary exclusions. Following the completion of the merger, continuing employees will be eligible to participate in the SCBT severance plan (unless the continuing employee receives severance benefits, change in control benefits or any enhanced payments pursuant to any individual agreement, change in control arrangement, or deferred compensation plan).

Director and Officer Indemnification and Insurance

The merger agreement provides that after the completion of the merger, SCBT will indemnify and hold harmless all present and former directors and officers of SAVB against all liabilities arising out of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of SAVB if the claim pertains to any matter of fact arising, existing or occurring at or before the effective time of the merger, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and SAVB's governing documents.

The merger agreement requires SCBT to use its reasonable best efforts to maintain for a period of six years after completion of the merger SAVB's existing directors' and officers' liability insurance policy, or policies of at least the same coverage and amounts and containing terms and conditions that are substantially no less advantageous than the current policy (or, with the consent of SAVB prior to the completion of the merger, any other policy), with respect to claims arising from facts or events that occurred prior to the completion of the merger, and covering such individuals who are currently covered by such insurance. However, SCBT is not required to incur annual premium payments greater than 250% of SAVB's current annual directors' and officers' liability insurance premium. In lieu of the foregoing, prior to the completion of the merger, SCBT may obtain a six-year "tail" prepaid policy providing coverage equivalent to such insurance.

Repayment of Loan

SCBT agreed to repay, at the completion of the merger, all outstanding principal and accrued but unpaid interest owed to Lewis Broadcasting Corporation pursuant to the Amended and Restated Promissory Note, dated June 13, 2012, between SAVB Holdings, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SAVB and Lewis Broadcasting Corporation.

Georgia Advisory Board

SCBT agreed to establish an advisory board consisting of the current directors of SAVB, together with any additional individuals appointed by SCBT in its sole discretion, to monitor the performance and operations of the surviving corporation of the merger in the Savannah, Georgia area. The advisory board will exist for a minimum of three years following the completion of the merger and the compensation provided to members of the advisory board for their service during this period will be consistent with the compensation provided to directors of SAVB as of the date of the merger agreement. In connection with their service on the advisory board, each member will enter into an advisory board member agreement. See " Advisory Board Member Agreements" on page 125.

Surviving Corporation Board

SCBT intends to select, in consultation with SAVB, one existing or former director of SAVB to serve on the boards of directors of SCBT and its banking subsidiary, provided that such person is reasonably acceptable to the Governance Committee of SCBT and satisfied all applicable requirements regarding service on the respective boards of directors.

Table of Contents

Certain Additional Covenants

The merger agreement also contains additional covenants, including covenants relating to the filing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, obtaining required consents, the listing of the shares of SCBT common stock to be issued in the merger, access to information of the other company, notification of certain matters, exemption from takeover laws and public announcements with respect to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

SAVB Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors

SAVB has agreed to hold a meeting of its shareholders for the purpose of voting upon approval of the merger agreement as promptly as practicable. SAVB will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain from its shareholders the requisite shareholder approval of the merger agreement, including by recommending that its shareholders approve and adopt the merger agreement.

SCBT Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors

SCBT has agreed to hold a meeting of its shareholders for the purpose of voting upon approval of the issuance of SCBT common stock in connection with the merger agreement as promptly as practicable. SCBT will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain from its shareholders the requisite shareholder approval of the merger agreement, including by recommending that its shareholders approve the stock issuance.

Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers

For purposes of the merger agreement:

an "acquisition proposal" means any inquiries or proposals regarding any merger, share exchange, consolidation, sale of assets, sale of shares of capital stock (including, by way of a tender offer) or similar transactions involving SAVB or any of its subsidiaries that, if consummated, would constitute an "alternative transaction" (as described below);

an "alternative transaction" means (1) any transaction pursuant to which any person (or group of persons) other than SCBT or its affiliates acquires or would acquire more than 20% of the outstanding shares of SAVB common stock or outstanding voting power of SAVB, or more than 20% of the outstanding shares or voting power of any other series or class of capital stock of SAVB that would be entitled to a class or series vote with respect to the merger, whether from SAVB or pursuant to a tender offer or exchange offer or otherwise, (2) a merger, share exchange, consolidation or other business combination involving SAVB (other than the merger), (3) any transaction pursuant to which any person (or group of persons) other than SCBT or its affiliates acquires or would acquire control of assets (including for this purpose the outstanding equity securities of any SAVB subsidiaries and securities of the entity surviving any merger or business combination involving any SAVB subsidiary) of SAVB or any of its subsidiaries representing more than 20% of the fair market value of all the assets, deposits, net revenues or net income of SAVB and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, immediately prior to such transaction or (4) any other consolidation, business combination, recapitalization or similar transaction involving SAVB or any of its subsidiaries, other than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, as a result of which the holders of shares of SAVB common stock immediately prior to such transaction do not, in the aggregate, own at least 80% of each of the outstanding shares of SAVB common stock and the outstanding voting power of the surviving or resulting entity in such transaction immediately following the completion of the transaction, in substantially the same proportion as such holders held the shares of SAVB common stock immediately prior to the completion of such transaction; and

Table of Contents

a "superior proposal" means an unsolicited acquisition proposal made by a third person to acquire, directly or indirectly, pursuant to a tender offer, exchange offer, merger, consolidation or other business combination or acquisition transaction (1) all or substantially all of the assets of SAVB or (2) all of the outstanding voting securities of SAVB and which the board of directors of SAVB has in good faith determined to be more favorable, from a financial point of view, to SAVB shareholders, than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement (as may be proposed to be amended by SCBT) and to be reasonably capable of being completed on the terms proposed.

SAVB also has agreed that it will not, and will cause each of its subsidiaries and its and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives not to, directly or indirectly:

solicit, initiate, knowingly encourage or facilitate (including by furnishing information) or take any other action designed to facilitate, any acquisition proposal;

participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding an alternative transaction or acquisition proposal; or

enter into any agreement regarding any alternative transaction or acquisition proposal.

However, if prior to approval of the merger agreement by SAVB shareholders, SAVB receives an acquisition proposal that did not arise in connection with a breach by SAVB of its non-solicitation obligations described above and that is determined by the board of directors to be a superior proposal, SAVB may, prior to approval of the merger agreement by SAVB shareholders, (1) furnish nonpublic information to the person making the superior proposal, provided that disclosure of such information is made on terms that are at least as restrictive as the confidentiality terms in effect between SAVB and SCBT and that such information is also disclosed to SCBT and (2) engage in discussions or negotiations with the person making the superior proposal, provided that the board of directors concludes that failure to take such actions would cause it to violate its fiduciary duties.

Furthermore, SAVB's board of directors may not (1) withdraw, modify, qualify in any manner adverse to SCBT or refuse to recommend the approval of the merger agreement to SAVB shareholders, (2) adopt, approve or recommend any acquisition proposal or (3) cause or permit SAVB or its subsidiaries to enter into any agreement likely to lead to any acquisition proposal. However, the board of directors may, prior to the approval of the merger agreement by SAVB shareholders, change its recommendation if it determines in good faith that failing to do so would be reasonably likely to violate its fiduciary duties. In connection with a change in recommendation in response to an acquisition proposal, SAVB must (1) determine in good faith that the acquisition proposal constitutes a superior proposal, (2) give SCBT four business days' prior notice and certain information about the acquisition proposal, (3) negotiate in good faith with SCBT to enable SCBT to modify the terms of the merger agreement such that the acquisition proposal no longer constitutes a superior proposal and (4) in the event of any modifications to the acquisition proposal, give notice to SCBT.

SAVB has also agreed to provide SCBT written notice within 24 hours following the receipt of any acquisition proposal, material modification to any acquisition proposal or request for nonpublic information or access to SAVB's or its subsidiaries' properties, books or records by any person that has made or, to SAVB's knowledge, may be considering making, an acquisition proposal. The notice will indicate the identity of the person making the acquisition proposal or requesting nonpublic information or access and the material terms of the acquisition proposal or modification to an acquisition proposal. SAVB shall keep SCBT fully informed, on a current basis, of any material changes in the status and any material changes or modifications in the terms of any such acquisition proposal, indication or request.

SAVB and its subsidiaries have agreed to (1) immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing discussions or negotiations conducted with any third party with respect to any alternative

Table of Contents

transaction or acquisition proposal, (2) enforce and not release any third party from the confidentiality and standstill provisions of any agreement to which SAVB or its subsidiaries is a party and (3) immediately terminate any approval previously given under any such provisions authorizing any person to make an acquisition proposal.

The merger agreement provides that the SAVB's board of directors may (1) disclose to its shareholders a position contemplated by Rules 14d-9 and 14e-2(a)(2)-(3) under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (2) issue a statement in connection with an acquisition proposal that does not involve the commencement of a tender offer, so long as the statement includes no more than would be required for a "stop, look and listen" communication of the type contemplated by Rule 14d-9(f) under the Exchange Act or (3) making any disclosure to the shareholders of SAVB, if, in the good faith judgment of the board of SAVB, failure to do so would violate its duties under applicable law. However, compliance with such Rules will not eliminate or modify the effect that any action would otherwise have under the merger agreement and any disclosure (other than solely a "stop, look and listen" communication) will be treated as a modification of SAVB's recommendation in a manner adverse to SCBT unless the board of directors of SAVB expressly and concurrently reaffirms its recommendation that shareholders approve the merger agreement.

Conditions to Complete the Merger

SCBT's and SAVB's respective obligations to complete the merger are subject to the fulfillment or waiver of the following conditions:

the approval of the merger agreement by SCBT's and SAVB shareholders;

the receipt of required regulatory approvals without a condition or restriction that would have, or would be reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect in respect of SCBT or SAVB and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole (measured on a scale relative to SAVB and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole), and the expiration or termination of all related statutory waiting periods. Such condition or restriction may include, without limitation, any determination by a regulatory authority that the bank mergers may not be consummated simultaneously with the effective time of the merger or that certain agreements between SAVB's bank subsidiaries and their regulators will not terminate and be of no further force and effect at the effective time of the bank mergers;

the absence of any order, injunction, decree or judgment by any court or governmental body or agency of competent jurisdiction or other legal restraint or prohibition preventing the completion of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

the authorization of the listing of the SCBT common stock to be issued upon the consummation of the merger on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, subject to official notice of issuance;

the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part with respect to the SCBT common stock to be issued upon the consummation of the merger under the Exchange Act, and the absence of any stop order or proceedings threatened by the SEC for that purpose;

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of each other party in the merger agreement as of the day on which the merger is completed, subject to the materiality standards provided in the merger agreement and the performance of the other party in all material respects of all obligations required to be performed by it at or prior to the effective time of the merger under the merger agreement (and the receipt by each party of certificates from the other party to such effects); and

receipt by each of SCBT and SAVB of an opinion of legal counsel as to certain tax matters.

Table of Contents

SCBT's obligations to complete the merger are further subject to:

(1) the bank mergers having been consummated and (2) the termination of each of the regulatory agreements between the OCC and The Savannah Bank and between the FDIC and the State of Georgia Department of Banking and Finance on the one hand, and Bryan Bank on the other hand, in each case substantially simultaneously with the merger;

immediately prior to the completion of the merger, each of certain key employees being an active employee of SAVB, having not repudiated his employment agreement with SCBT and, to the knowledge of SAVB, no circumstances having arisen that would serve as a basis for terminating such employee's employment for "cause" under the employment agreement with SCBT, had such circumstances arisen following the effective time of his employment agreement;

the absence of a material adverse effect with respect to SAVB; and

each of the sitting members of the SAVB board of directors having entered into an advisory board member agreement. See " Advisory Board Member Agreements."

SAVB's obligations to complete the merger are further subject to the absence of a material adverse effect with respect to SCBT.

Neither SAVB nor SCBT can provide assurance as to when or if all of the conditions to the merger can or will be satisfied or waived by the appropriate party. As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, neither SAVB nor SCBT has reason to believe that any of these conditions will not be satisfied.

Termination of the Merger Agreement

The merger agreement can be terminated at any time prior to completion of the merger by mutual consent, or by either party in the following circumstances:

the merger has not been completed by May 7, 2013 (we refer to this date, as extended, as the end date), if the failure to complete the merger by the end date is not caused by the terminating party's breach of the merger agreement;

any required regulatory approval has been denied by the relevant regulatory authority and this denial has become final and non-appealable, or a regulatory authority has issued a final, non-appealable injunction permanently enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the completion of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; or

there is a breach by the other party that would cause the failure of the closing conditions described above, and the breach is not cured prior to the earlier of the end date and 30 business days following written notice of the breach.

In addition, SCBT may terminate the merger agreement in the following circumstances:

SAVB's board of directors fails to recommend to the SAVB shareholders that they approve the merger agreement or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SCBT;

SAVB's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its non-solicitation obligations described above in " Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" or its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings described above in " SAVB's Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors";

SAVB's board of directors approves, recommends or endorses, or proposes or resolves to approve, recommend or endorse, an alternative transaction or acquisition proposal; or

Table of Contents

SAVB shareholders do not approve the merger agreement and the transactions it contemplates at the special meeting or adjournment thereof.

In addition, SAVB may terminate the merger agreement in the following circumstances:

SCBT's board of directors fails to recommend to the SCBT shareholders that they approve the stock issuance or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SAVB;

SCBT's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings described above in " SCBT's Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors"; or

SCBT shareholders do not approve the stock issuance at the special meeting or adjournment thereof.

Effect of Termination

If the merger agreement is terminated, it will become void, except that (1) both SCBT and SAVB will remain liable for any willful and material breach of the merger agreement and (2) designated provisions of the merger agreement will survive the termination, including those relating to payment of fees and expenses and the confidential treatment of information.

Termination Fee

SAVB will pay SCBT a \$2.6 million termination fee and shall reimburse SCBT for all of its out-of-pocket fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger agreement, if the merger agreement is terminated by SCBT in the following circumstances:

SAVB's board of directors fails to recommend to the SAVB shareholders that they approve the merger agreement or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SCBT;

SAVB's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its non-solicitation obligations described above in " Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" or its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings described above in " SAVB Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SAVB's Board of Directors"; or

SAVB's board of directors approves, recommends or endorses, or proposes or resolves to approve, recommend or endorse, an alternative transaction or acquisition proposal.

In addition, SAVB would be subject to the same termination fee and expense reimbursement obligation, if the merger agreement is terminated by SCBT or SAVB under the following circumstances:

(1) an acquisition proposal or intent to make an acquisition proposal is made known to SAVB or its shareholders after the date of the merger agreement; (2) thereafter the merger agreement is terminated (a) by SCBT or SAVB because the merger has not been completed by the end date and SAVB shareholders have not yet approved the merger agreement, (b) by SCBT following a breach by SAVB or (c) by SCBT, because SAVB shareholders fail to approve the merger agreement at the shareholder meeting; and (3) SAVB consummates an alternative transaction or enters into any letter of intent, acquisition agreement or other similar agreement related to an alternative transaction, in each case within 15 months of the date the merger agreement is terminated.

Table of Contents

SCBT will pay SAVB a \$2.6 million termination fee and reimburse SAVB for all of its out-of-pocket fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger agreement, if the merger agreement is terminated by SAVB under the following circumstances:

SCBT's board of directors fails to recommend to the SCBT shareholders that they approve the stock issuance or withdraws, modifies or qualifies, or proposes or resolves to withdraw, modify or qualify, such recommendation in a manner adverse to SAVB; or

SCBT's board of directors fails to comply in all material respects with its non-solicitation obligations described above in " Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" or its obligations with respect to calling shareholder meetings described above in " SCBT Shareholder Meeting and Recommendation of SCBT's Board of Directors."

Expenses and Fees

Except as set forth above, each of SCBT and SAVB will be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by it in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Amendment, Waiver and Extension of the Merger Agreement

Subject to applicable law, SCBT and SAVB may amend the merger agreement by written agreement. However, after any approval of the merger agreement by SAVB shareholders, there may not be, without further approval of SAVB shareholders, any amendment of the merger agreement that requires further approval under applicable law.

At any time prior to the effective time of the merger, each party, to the extent legally allowed, may extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other party; waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties of the other party; and waive compliance by the other party with any of the agreements and conditions contained in the merger agreement.

Voting Agreements

In connection with entering into the merger agreement, SCBT entered into a voting and support agreement with each of the following:

each of the directors of SAVB;

J. Wiley Ellis, General Counsel and former Chairman of SAVB;

Michael W. Harden, Jr., Chief Financial Officer of SAVB;

Holden T. Hayes, Senior Vice President of SAVB and President of The Savannah Bank;

Jerry O'Dell Keith, Senior Vice President of SAVB and President of Bryan Bank;

R. Stephen Stramm, Executive Vice President Lending;

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Colonial Group, Inc., an entity affiliated with Robert H. Demere, Vice Chairman of SAVB;

Lewis Broadcasting Corporation, an entity affiliated with J. Curtis Lewis III, Chairman of SAVB; and

the SAVB Deferred Stock Plan.

We refer to these agreements collectively as the voting agreements. The following summary of the voting agreements is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the form of voting agreement attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex E.

Table of Contents

Pursuant to the voting agreements, each shareholder party to a voting agreement agreed to vote his, her or its shares of SAVB common stock:

in favor of the approval of the merger agreement;

in favor of any proposal to adjourn or postpone any shareholder meeting to a later date if there are not sufficient votes for approval of the merger agreement on the date on which such shareholder meeting is held;

in favor of any action in furtherance of either of the foregoing;

against any action or agreement that is intended, or could be reasonably expected to, result in a breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or obligation of SAVB in the merger agreement or that would otherwise be inconsistent with, prevent, impede or delay the completion of the merger; and

against any proposal that relates to an acquisition proposal or alternative transaction or any amendment or other change in SAVB's articles of incorporation or bylaws, except as to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

The voting agreements provide that each shareholder party to a voting agreement will not, other than pursuant to the merger, directly or indirectly:

sell (including short sell), transfer, pledge, encumber or otherwise dispose of (including by gift) any of such shareholder's shares of SAVB common stock; or

enter into any contract providing for any action described in the preceding bullet.

The voting agreements further provide that each shareholder party to a voting agreement will not, in its capacity as shareholder of SAVB, take any action that is intended, or could be reasonably expected, to prevent, impede or delay the consummation of the merger.

The voting agreements will terminate upon the earlier of the effective time of the merger and the termination of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms.

As of the record date, shareholders who are party to the voting agreements beneficially own and are entitled to vote an aggregate of approximately 1,492,745 shares of SAVB common stock, which represent approximately 20.73% of the shares of SAVB common stock outstanding on that date.

Advisory Board Member Agreements

SCBT will establish an advisory board consisting of each of the members of SAVB's board of directors and any additional individuals appointed by SCBT in its sole discretion to monitor the operations in the Savannah, Georgia area. In connection with joining the advisory board, each sitting member of SAVB's board of directors as of the Closing will enter into an Advisory Board Member Agreement, which generally provides for each such member to receive advisory fees, paid monthly, for the three-year period immediately following the Closing that are equivalent to the board retainer fees paid to the SAVB directors immediately prior to the Closing in exchange for each member agreeing to non-competition and non-solicitation (with respect to both customers and employees) covenants for the three-year period immediately following the closing of the merger.

The preceding discussion is a summary of the Advisory Board Member Agreements and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of Advisory Board Member Agreement, which is provided in its entirety as Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Table of Contents

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

The merger will be accounted for as an acquisition by SCBT using the acquisition method of accounting. Accordingly, the assets (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities (including executory contracts and other commitments) of SAVB as of the effective time of the merger will be recorded at their respective fair values and added to those of SCBT. Any excess of purchase price over the fair values is recorded as goodwill. The consolidated financial statements of SCBT will reflect these fair values and the results of operations of SAVB only after the merger closes and will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of SAVB. The purchase price will be determined by adding (1) the product obtained by multiplying (a) the number of shares of SAVB common stock to be cancelled in the merger, (b) 0.2503, the exchange ratio and (c) the closing price of SCBT's common shares of the last trading day prior to the date of acquisition and (2) the amount of cash paid by SCBT for SAVB's outstanding stock options.

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER

The following is a general discussion of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to "U.S. holders" (as defined below) of SAVB common stock that exchange their shares of SAVB common stock for shares of SCBT common stock in the merger. The following discussion is based upon the Code, the U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and judicial and administrative authorities, rulings and decisions, all as in effect as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. These authorities may change, possibly with retroactive effect, and any such change could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this discussion. This discussion does not address any tax consequences arising under the unearned income Medicare contribution tax pursuant to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, nor does it address any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction, or under any U.S. federal laws other than those pertaining to the income tax.

The following discussion applies only to U.S. holders of shares of SAVB common stock who hold such shares as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). Further, this discussion does not purport to consider all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that might be relevant to U.S. holders in light of their particular circumstances and does not apply to U.S. holders subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws (such as, for example, dealers or brokers in securities, commodities or foreign currencies, traders in securities that elect to apply a mark-to-market method of accounting, banks and certain other financial institutions, insurance companies, mutual funds, tax-exempt organizations, holders subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code, partnerships, S corporations or other pass-through entities or investors in partnerships, S corporations or such other pass-through entities, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, former citizens or residents of the United States, U.S. expatriates, holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, holders who hold shares of SAVB common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale or conversion transaction or other integrated investment, holders who acquired SAVB common stock pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options, through a tax qualified retirement plan or otherwise as compensation, holders who exercise appraisal rights, or holders who actually or constructively own more than 5% of SAVB common stock).

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of SAVB common stock that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes (1) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation, or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (3) a trust if (a) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (b) such trust has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S.

Table of Contents

person for U.S. federal income tax purposes or (4) an estate, the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, regardless of its source.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds SAVB common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in such partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes that holds SAVB common stock, and any partners in such partnership, should consult their own independent tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the merger to their specific circumstances.

Determining the actual tax consequences of the merger to you may be complex and will depend on your specific situation and on factors that are not within our control. You should consult your own independent tax advisor as to the specific tax consequences of the merger in your particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local, foreign and other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

Tax Consequences of the Merger Generally

The parties intend for the merger to qualify as a "reorganization" for U.S. federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. It is a condition to the obligation of SCBT to complete the merger that SCBT receive an opinion from Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, dated the closing date of the merger, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. It is a condition to the obligation of SAVB to complete the merger that SAVB receive an opinion from Alston & Bird LLP dated the closing date of the merger, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. These opinions will be based on facts and representations contained in representation letters provided by SCBT and SAVB and on customary factual assumptions. Neither of the opinions described above will be binding on the Internal Revenue Service, which we refer to as the IRS, or any court. SCBT and SAVB have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the IRS regarding any matters relating to the merger, and as a result, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the conclusions set forth below. In addition, if any of the representations or assumptions upon which those opinions are based are inconsistent with the actual facts, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger could be adversely affected.

Provided the merger qualifies as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, upon exchanging your SAVB common stock for SCBT common stock, you generally will not recognize gain or loss, except with respect to cash received instead of fractional shares of SCBT common stock (as discussed below). The aggregate tax basis of the SCBT common stock that you receive in the merger (including any fractional shares deemed received and redeemed for cash as described below) will equal your aggregate adjusted tax basis in the shares of SAVB common stock you surrender in the merger. Your holding period for the shares of SCBT common stock that you receive in the merger (including any fractional share deemed received and redeemed for cash as described below) will include your holding period of the shares of SAVB common stock that you surrender in the merger. If you acquired different blocks of SAVB common stock at different times or at different prices, the SCBT common stock you receive will be allocated pro rata to each block of SAVB common stock, and the basis and holding period of each block of SCBT common stock you receive will be determined on a block-for-block basis depending on the basis and holding period of the blocks of SAVB common stock exchanged for such block of SCBT common stock.

Cash Instead of Fractional Shares

If you receive cash instead of a fractional share of SCBT common stock, you will be treated as having received such fractional share of SCBT common stock pursuant to the merger and then as

Table of Contents

having sold such fractional share of SCBT common stock for cash. As a result, you generally will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the basis in your fractional share of SCBT common stock as set forth above. Such gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, as of the effective date of the merger, the holding period for such fractional share (including the holding period of shares of SAVB common stock surrendered therefor) exceeds one year. Long-term capital gains of individuals are generally eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

If you are a non-corporate holder of SAVB common stock, you may be subject, under certain circumstances, to information reporting and backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28% and scheduled to increase to 31% in 2013) on any cash payments you receive. You generally will not be subject to backup withholding, however, if you (1) furnish a correct taxpayer identification number, certify that you are not subject to backup withholding and otherwise comply with all the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules; or (2) provide proof that you are otherwise exempt from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules are not an additional tax and will generally be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided you timely furnish the required information to the IRS.

This discussion of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences is for general information purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, tax advice. Holders of SAVB common stock are urged to consult their independent tax advisors with respect to the application of U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the U.S. federal estate or gift tax rules, or under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF SCBT

As a result of the merger, SAVB shareholders who receive shares of SCBT common stock in the merger will become shareholders of SCBT. Your rights as shareholders of SCBT will be governed by South Carolina law and the articles of incorporation and the amended and restated bylaws of SCBT. The following briefly summarizes the material terms of SCBT common stock. We urge you to read the applicable provisions of the South Carolina Business Corporation Act, SCBT's articles of incorporation and bylaws and federal laws governing bank holding companies carefully and in their entirety. Copies of SCBT's and SAVB's governing documents have been filed with the SEC. To find out where copies of these documents can be obtained, see "Where You Can Find More Information."

Authorized Capital Stock

SCBT's authorized capital stock consists of 40,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of the record date, there were 15,123,734 shares of SCBT common stock outstanding, 0 shares of SCBT preferred stock outstanding and warrants to purchase 0 shares of SCBT common stock outstanding.

Common Stock

Dividend Rights

SCBT can pay dividends if, as and when declared by SCBT's board of directors, subject to compliance with limitations imposed by law. The holders of SCBT common stock will be entitled to receive and share equally in these dividends as they may be declared by SCBT's board of directors out of funds legally available for such purpose. If SCBT issues preferred stock, the holders of such preferred stock may have a priority over the holders of the common stock with respect to dividends.

Voting Rights

Each holder of SCBT common stock will be entitled to one vote per share and will not have any right to cumulate votes in the election of directors. Directors will be elected by a majority of the shares actually voting on the matter at each annual meeting or special meeting called for the purpose of electing such directors. If SCBT issues preferred stock, holders of the preferred stock may also possess voting rights.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of SCBT, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of SCBT common stock would be entitled to receive, after payment or provision for payment of all its debts and liabilities, all of the assets of SCBT available for distribution. If preferred stock is issued, the holders thereof may have a priority over the holders of the common stock in the event of liquidation or dissolution.

Preemptive Rights

Holders of the common stock of SCBT will not be entitled to preemptive rights with respect to any shares which may be issued. Preemptive rights are the priority right to buy additional shares if SCBT issues more shares in the future. Therefore, if additional shares are issued by SCBT without the opportunity for existing shareholders to purchase more shares, a shareholder's ownership interest in SCBT may be subject to dilution.

For more information regarding the rights of holders of SCBT common stock, see "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights."

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock

SCBT's articles of incorporation permit SCBT's board of directors to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, with such designations, titles, voting powers, preferences and rights and such qualifications, limitations and restrictions as may be fixed by SCBT's board of directors without any further action by SCBT shareholders. The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the rights of holders of common stock.

Table of Contents

COMPARISON OF SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS

If the merger is completed, holders of SAVB common stock will receive shares of SCBT common stock in exchange for their shares of SAVB common stock. SCBT is organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina and SAVB is organized under the laws of the State of Georgia. The following is a summary of the material differences between (1) the current rights of SAVB shareholders under the GBCC and SAVB's articles of incorporation and bylaws and (2) the current rights of SCBT shareholders under the BCA and SCBT's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

SCBT and SAVB believe that this summary describes the material differences between the rights of holders of SCBT common stock as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the rights of holders of SAVB common stock as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, however, it does not purport to be a complete description of those differences. Copies of SCBT's and SAVB's governing documents have been filed with the SEC. To find out where copies of these documents can be obtained, see "Where You Can Find More Information."

Authorized Capital Stock

SCBT

SCBT's articles of incorporation authorize it to issue up to 40,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of the record date, there were 15,123,734 shares of SCBT common stock outstanding, 0 shares of SCBT preferred stock outstanding and warrants to purchase 0 shares of SCBT common stock outstanding.

SAVB

SAVB's articles of incorporation authorize it to issue up to 20,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of the record date, there were 7,199,237 shares of SAVB common stock outstanding, 0 shares of SAVB preferred stock outstanding and warrants to purchase 0 shares of SAVB common stock outstanding.

Voting Limitations

SCBT

Section 35-2-101 et seq. of the Code of Laws of South Carolina contains a control share acquisition statute that, in general terms, provides that where a shareholder acquires issued and outstanding shares of a corporation's voting stock (referred to as control shares) within one of several specified ranges (one-fifth or more but less than one-third, one-third or more but less than a majority, or a majority or more), approval of the control share acquisition by the corporation's shareholders must be obtained before the acquiring shareholder may vote the control shares. The required shareholder vote is a majority of all votes entitled to be cast, excluding "interested shares," defined as shares held by the acquiring person, officers of the corporation and employees who are also directors of the corporation. A corporation may, however, opt-out of the control share statute through a charter or bylaw provision, which SCBT has done pursuant to its bylaws. Accordingly, the South Carolina control share acquisition statute does not apply to acquisitions of shares of SCBT common stock. Although not anticipated, SCBT could seek shareholder approval of an amendment to its bylaws to eliminate the opt-out provision. See " Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws."

SAVB

The GBCC does not contain a control share acquisition statute.

Table of Contents

Size of Board of Directors

SCBT

SCBT's articles of incorporation currently provide that SCBT's board of directors shall consist of a maximum of twenty directors and that directors may increase membership on the board of directors up to this maximum. The provisions of SCBT's articles of incorporation concerning the size of SCBT's board of directors may only be amended or repealed by a vote of not less than 80% of the outstanding voting stock of SCBT. SCBT's board of directors currently has 16 directors.

SAVB

SAVB's bylaws currently provide that SAVB's board of directors shall consist of between five and sixteen members, and that the actual number of directors may be fixed or changed from time to time within the aforementioned range by SAVB shareholders or by SAVB's board of directors. SAVB's board of directors currently has 14 directors.

Cumulative Voting and Election of Directors

SCBT

SCBT shareholders do not have the right to cumulate their votes with respect to the election of directors. In order to be elected, each director nominee must receive a majority of votes cast by SCBT common shareholders at each annual meeting of the shareholders, or a similar vote at any special meeting called for the purpose of electing directors.

SAVB

SAVB shareholders do not have the right to cumulate their votes with respect to the election of directors. In order to be elected, each director nominee must receive a plurality of votes cast by SAVB common shares entitled to vote in the election of directors at each annual meeting of the shareholders, or a similar vote at any special meeting called for the purpose of electing directors.

Classes of Directors

SCBT

SCBT's board of directors is divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as reasonably possible, with each class of directors serving for successive three-year terms so that each year the term of only one class of directors expires.

SAVB

SAVB's board of directors is divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class of directors serving for successive three-year terms so that each year, the term of only one class of directors expires.

Removal of Directors

SCBT

Directors may be removed, with or without cause, only by the affirmative vote of holders of 80% of SCBT's common shares. Cause shall mean fraudulent or dishonest acts or gross abuse of authority in the discharge of duties to SCBT and shall be established after written notice of specific charges and the opportunity to meet and refute such charges.

Table of Contents

SAVB

At any meeting of SAVB shareholders called for the purpose, the entire board of directors or any individual director may be removed from office, with or without cause, upon the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB and the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB other than those of which an interested shareholder is the beneficial owner. As defined in SAVB's articles of incorporation, an "interested shareholder" means any person, other than SAVB or its subsidiaries, that is (i) the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB, or (ii) an affiliate of SAVB and, at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of SAVB.

Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors

SCBT

Except in the event that a director is serving at the election of the preferred shareholders, newly created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors and vacancies occurring in any office or directorship for any reason, including removal of an officer or director with or without cause, may be filled by the vote of a majority of the directors then in office, even if less than a quorum exists. The term of any director elected to fill a vacancy shall expire at the next meeting of shareholders at which directors are elected.

SAVB

Vacancies occurring on SAVB's board of directors resulting from death, resignation or retirement of a director, or any other cause other than removal by the shareholders or increase in the number of directors shall be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum, for the term corresponding to the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office. Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors through less than a quorum, and the directors so chosen shall hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of shareholders at which a successor shall be elected and shall qualify.

Special Meetings of Shareholders

SCBT

Under SCBT's bylaws, special meetings of shareholders may be called by the President, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, a majority of SCBT's board of directors or by the holders of not less than ten percent (10%) of all SCBT common shares entitled to vote at such meeting. The place of such meetings shall be designated by the directors.

SAVB

Under SAVB's bylaws, special meetings of shareholders may be called at any time by SAVB's board of directors, the chairman of SAVB's board of directors, SAVB's chief executive officer or president, or upon written request to the secretary of SAVB by any holder or holders of, in the aggregate, at least a majority of all issued and outstanding capital stock of SAVB. The time, place and date of such meetings must be specified in the notice of the meeting.

Table of Contents

Quorum

SCBT

Under SCBT's bylaws, a majority of SCBT common shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of SCBT shareholders except a special meeting called to consider a merger, consolidation or sale of substantially all of the assets of SCBT that has not been recommended by SCBT's board of directors, at which 80% of SCBT common shares entitled to vote shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present or represented at a meeting of shareholders, a meeting may be adjourned despite the absence of a quorum.

SAVB

Under SAVB's bylaws, a majority of the outstanding shares of stock shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of shareholders. A lesser number may adjourn from day to day, and shall announce the time and place to which the meeting is adjourned.

Dividends

SCBT

Under South Carolina law, which is the law of the state where SCBT is incorporated, SCBT may not declare a dividend if, after giving effect to such dividend, it would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of business or if its total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time the dividend was declared, to satisfy the preferential rights of any holders of SCBT preferred shares. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has the authority to restrict dividends issued by bank holding companies, including SCBT.

SAVB

Under Georgia law, which is the law of the state where SAVB is incorporated, SAVB may not declare a dividend if, after giving effect to such dividend, it would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business or the corporation's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if SAVB were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has the authority to restrict dividends issued by bank holding companies, including SAVB.

Notice of Shareholder Meetings

SCBT

SCBT's bylaws provide that SCBT must give written notice between 10 and 60 days before any shareholder meeting to each shareholder entitled to vote at such meeting and to each other shareholder entitled to notice of the meeting. The notice must state the place, date and hour of the meeting, and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes of the meeting. Additionally, if at any meeting SCBT's bylaws are to be altered, repealed, amended, or adopted, notice of such meeting must make this clear.

SAVB

SAVB's bylaws provide that written notice of the annual meeting of SAVB's shareholders or of a special meeting of SAVB's shareholders called by SAVB's board of directors, the chairman of SAVB's board of directors, SAVB's chief executive officer or president must state the place, day and hour of

Table of Contents

the meeting and must be given not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the date of such meeting. Notice of a special meeting of SAVB's shareholders called by shareholders holding, in the aggregate, at least a majority of all issued and outstanding capital stock of SAVB must state the place, day and hour of the meeting and must be given in writing not less than 50 nor more than 60 days before the date of such meeting. Notice of any special meeting of SAVB's shareholders must also state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. The notice of any meeting of SAVB's shareholders at which amendments to or restatements of SAVB's articles of incorporation, the merger or consolidation of SAVB, or the disposition of SAVB's corporate assets requiring shareholder approval are to be considered must state such purpose, and must further comply with all requirements of law.

Anti-Takeover Provisions and Other Shareholder Protections

SCBT

Under SCBT's articles of incorporation, certain business combinations (for example, mergers, share exchanges, consolidations or a sale of all or substantially all of SCBT's assets) that are not recommended by SCBT's board of directors require, in addition to any vote required by law, the approval of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding SCBT shares entitled to vote on such business combinations. In addition, if such business combination involves any SCBT shareholder owning or controlling 20% or more of the SCBT's voting stock at the time of the proposed transaction (which we refer to as a controlling party), and (1) certain fair price requirements are not satisfied or (2) the business combination is not recommended by a majority of the entire SCBT board of directors, then such business combination must be approved by at least 80% of the outstanding SCBT shares entitled to vote on such business combination and at least 67% of the outstanding SCBT shares entitled to vote on such business combination that are not held by the controlling party.

SAVB

Under SAVB's articles of incorporation, certain business combinations (for example, a merger or consolidation with an interested shareholder, the sale of a threshold amount of SAVB's assets, the adoption of a plan of liquidation or dissolution of SAVB or a reclassification of SAVB's securities), in addition to any vote otherwise required by law or SAVB's articles of incorporation, must be (1) unanimously approved by SAVB's continuing directors, provided that the continuing directors constitute at least three members of SAVB's board of directors at the time of such approval, or (2) recommended by at least two-thirds of SAVB's continuing directors and approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares, other than voting shares beneficially owned by the interested shareholder, who is, or whose affiliate is, a party to the business combination. However, these voting requirements do not apply to a business combination if a number of conditions are met, as set forth in SAVB's articles of incorporation. As defined in SAVB's articles of incorporation, an "interested shareholder" means any person, other than SAVB or its subsidiaries, that is (i) the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB, or (ii) an affiliate of SAVB and, at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of SAVB.

Under SAVB's articles of incorporation, SAVB may not engage in certain business combinations (for example, a merger or consolidation with an interested shareholder, the sale of a threshold amount of SAVB's assets, the adoption of a plan of liquidation or dissolution of SAVB, a reclassification of SAVB's securities or the provision of any loan, advance, guarantee or pledge to an interested shareholder by SAVB) with any interested shareholder for a period of five years following the date that such shareholder became an interested shareholder unless: (1) prior to such time SAVB's Board approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder; (2) in the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming

Table of Contents

an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder became the beneficial owner of at least 90 percent of the voting stock of SAVB outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by certain persons or entities; or (3) subsequent to becoming an interested shareholder, such shareholder acquired additional shares resulting in the interested shareholder being the beneficial owner of at least 90 percent of the outstanding voting stock of the resident domestic corporation, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by certain persons or entities.

SAVB's articles of incorporation also provide that the requirements set forth under Sections 14-2-1111 through 14-2-1113 and 14-2-1131 through 14-2-1133 of the GBCC related to fair price requirements and business combinations with interested shareholders, respectively, are applicable to SAVB, and are in addition to and cumulative of all other requirements imposed with respect to SAVB's affairs.

Limitation of Personal Liability of Officers and Directors

SCBT

SCBT's articles of incorporation provide for the elimination or limitation of director liability for monetary damages to the maximum extent allowed by South Carolina law.

SAVB

SAVB's articles of incorporation provide that a director or officer of SAVB will not be personally liable to SAVB or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of the duty of care or other duty as a director or officer, except (a) for any appropriation, in violation of duties, of any business opportunity for SAVB, (b) for acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) for any type of liability for unlawful distributions as set forth in Section 14-2-832 of the GBCC, or (d) for any transaction from which the director or officer derived any improper personal benefit. Any amendments to the GBCC enacted after the date that SAVB's bylaws were adopted that further eliminate or limit the personal liability of directors will eliminate or limit, to the fullest extent permitted by the GBCC, as amended, the personal liability of directors and officers of SAVB.

Indemnification of Directors and Officers and Insurance

SCBT

SCBT's bylaws provide for the indemnification of any current and former directors to the fullest extent authorized by law. SCBT may advance reasonable expenses to directors, provided that if required by law, such advancement of expenses shall only be made if the director seeking such advancement provides SCBT with a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she met the standard of conduct required by law and a written undertaking to repay the advance if it is ultimately determined that he or she did not meet that standard of conduct. SCBT's bylaws further provide that SCBT may, to the extent authorized from time to time by SCBT's board of directors, grant rights of indemnification and to the advancement of expenses to any officer, employee or agent of the SCBT consistent with the other provisions of SCBT's bylaws concerning the indemnification and advancement of expenses to SCBT directors.

SCBT's bylaws provide that SCBT may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee or agent of SCBT or another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any expense, liability or loss, whether or not SCBT would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under applicable law.

Table of Contents

SAVB

SAVB's bylaws provide for the indemnification of any current or former director, officer, employee or agent of SAVB as authorized under the applicable provisions of the GBCC. SAVB's bylaws provide that expenses incurred by any persons who are, were, or are threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether formal or informal, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of SAVB, or was serving at the request of SAVB as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, may be paid by SAVB in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by SAVB's board of directors upon an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount if it is ultimately determined he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by SAVB.

SAVB's bylaws further provide that the indemnification rights provided in SAVB's bylaws are not deemed to be exclusive of any other rights, in respect of indemnification or otherwise, to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw or resolution approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote thereon taken at a meeting the notice of which specified that such bylaw or resolution would be placed before shareholders, both as to action by a director, officer, employee or agent of SAVB in his or her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office or position, provided such indemnification does not exceed the powers of indemnification permitted under the provisions of the GBCC, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Under the GBCC, SAVB may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of an individual who is a director, officer, employee, or agent of SAVB or who, while a director, officer, employee, or agent of SAVB, serves at SAVB's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity against liability asserted against or incurred by him or her in that capacity or arising from his or her status as a director, officer, employee, or agent, whether or not SAVB would have power to indemnify or advance expenses to him or her against the same liability under the applicable provisions of the GBCC.

Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

SCBT

The BCA provides that SCBT's articles of incorporation generally may be amended upon approval by the board of directors and the holders of two-thirds of the SCBT outstanding shares entitled to vote. Pursuant to SCBT's articles of incorporation, however, the amendment of certain provisions of the articles of incorporation requires the vote of the holders of at least 80% of the SCBT's outstanding shares. These include provisions relating to issuing SCBT's capital stock; the approval of certain business combinations not approved by SCBT's board of directors; the number, classification, election and removal of directors and amendments to SCBT's bylaws.

SCBT's bylaws may be amended either by a majority of the entire SCBT board of directors or by a vote of the holders of at least 80% of SCBT's outstanding shares entitled to vote.

SAVB

The GBCC provides that SAVB's board of directors may adopt certain amendments to SAVB's articles of incorporation without shareholder action. However, generally, the GBCC provides that SAVB's articles of incorporation may be amended upon approval by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the amendment by each voting group entitled to vote on the amendment, unless the GBCC,

Table of Contents

SAVB's articles of incorporation or SAVB's board of directors require a greater vote. Pursuant to SAVB's articles of incorporation, the amendment of Articles VIII and IX of SAVB's articles of incorporation, which relate to business combinations with interested shareholders, requires, only if such amendment has not been unanimously recommended to SAVB's shareholders by SAVB's continuing directors then in office, both the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB and the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding voting shares of SAVB other than those of which an interested shareholder is a beneficial owner, in addition to any affirmative vote required by law or SAVB's articles of incorporation with respect to any other shares of SAVB's capital stock. Further, Article X, which relates to the applicability of Article 11, Parts 2 and 3 of the GBCC, may only be repealed by both the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the continuing directors and a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by voting shares of SAVB, other than shares beneficially owned by any interested shareholder, in addition to any vote required by SAVB's articles of incorporation.

SAVB's bylaws provide that such bylaws may be amended by SAVB's shareholders at any annual or special meeting of shareholders or by SAVB's board of directors at any regular or special meeting of the board of directors. Action by SAVB's shareholders with respect to SAVB's bylaws may be taken by the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares entitled to elect directors, and action by SAVB's board of directors with respect to SAVB's bylaws may be taken by the affirmative vote of a majority of all directors then holding office.

Action by Written Consent of the Shareholders

SCBT

Under SCBT's bylaws, SCBT shareholders may act without a shareholder meeting by written consent. Such written consent must set forth the action so taken and be signed by the holders of all SCBT's outstanding shares entitled to vote upon such action or their attorneys-in-fact or proxy holders.

SAVB

Under SAVB's bylaws, SAVB shareholders may act without a shareholder meeting by written consent. Such written consent must set forth the action so taken and be signed by all of SAVB's shareholders entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof and any further requirements of law pertaining to such consents have been complied with.

Shareholder Rights Plan

Neither SCBT nor SAVB currently has a shareholder rights plan in effect.

Rights of Dissenting Shareholders

SCBT

The dissenters' rights of SCBT shareholders are governed in accordance with the BCA. Under South Carolina law, a dissenting or objecting shareholder has the right to demand and receive payment of the fair value of the shareholder's shares in the event of (1) the consummation of a plan of merger if shareholder approval is required and the shareholder is entitled to vote on the plan, or if the corporation to be merged is a subsidiary that is merged with its parent; (2) the consummation of a plan of share exchange if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the plan; (3) the consummation of a sale or exchange of all or substantially all of the property of the corporation other than in the ordinary course of business if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the sale or exchange; (4) an amendment to the corporation's articles of incorporation in a way that materially and adversely affects the shareholder's rights; (5) in certain circumstances, the conversion of a corporation into a limited liability company or a

Table of Contents

partnership; or (6) a transaction, to the extent the corporation's articles of incorporation, bylaws or a resolution of the corporation's board of directors provides for dissenters' rights relating to such a transaction.

The BCA provides that a shareholder may not demand the fair value of the shareholder's shares and is bound by the terms of the transaction if, among other things, the shares are listed on a national securities exchange on the record date for determining shareholders entitled to vote on the matter. Shares of SCBT common stock are currently listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, a national securities exchange.

SAVB

The dissenters' rights of SAVB shareholders are governed in accordance with the GBCC. Under the GBCC, a record shareholder of a Georgia corporation is entitled to dissent from, and obtain payment of the fair value of his or her shares in the event of any of the following corporate actions: (1) the consummation of a plan of merger to which the corporation is party if shareholder approval is required and the shareholder is entitled to vote on the merger (subject to certain exceptions), or if the corporation is a subsidiary that is merged with its parent; (2) the consummation of a plan of share exchange to which the corporation is a party as the corporation whose shares will be acquired, if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the plan; (3) the consummation of a sale or exchange of all or substantially all of the property of the corporation if a shareholder vote is required on the sale or exchange (subject to certain exceptions); (4) an amendment to the corporation's articles of incorporation with respect to a class or series of shares that reduces the number of shares of a class or series owned by the shareholder to a fraction of a share if the fractional share so created is to be acquired for cash; (5) any corporate action taken pursuant to a shareholder vote to the extent that Article 9 of the GBCC, the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws or a resolution of the corporation's board of directors provides that voting or nonvoting shareholders are entitled to dissent and obtain payment for their shares; or (6) a transaction, to the extent the corporation's articles of incorporation, bylaws or a resolution of the corporation's board of directors provides for dissenters' rights relating to such a transaction.

The GBCC further provides that there is no right of dissent in favor of the holders of shares listed on a national securities that are required, under a plan of merger, to accept, in exchange for their shares, only shares of the surviving corporation that are listed on a national securities exchange. SAVB common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market and SCBT common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, both of which are national securities exchanges.

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICES AND DIVIDENDS**

SCBT common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SCBT," and SAVB common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "SAVB." The following table sets forth the high and low reported intra-day sales prices per share of SCBT common stock and SAVB common stock, and the cash dividends declared per share for the periods indicated.

	SCBT Common Stock			SAVB Common Stock		
	High	Low	Dividend	High	Low	Dividend
2009						
First Quarter	34.37	16.53	0.17	10.35	5.59	0.125
Second Quarter	26.76	19.68	0.17	11.00	6.50	0.02
Third Quarter	28.83	20.58	0.17	8.50	6.65	0.02
Fourth Quarter	28.36	25.14	0.17	9.30	7.00	0.02
2010						
First Quarter	38.78	27.59	0.17	11.09	7.50	0.02
Second Quarter	41.03	32.78	0.17	12.20	9.00	0.00
Third Quarter	35.36	28.28	0.17	10.15	8.86	0.00
Fourth Quarter	32.86	29.84	0.17	9.25	6.80	0.00
2011						
First Quarter	34.00	30.10	0.17	8.00	6.82	0.00
Second Quarter	36.18	27.10	0.17	8.18	7.16	0.00
Third Quarter	31.00	24.54	0.17	7.96	5.81	0.00
Fourth Quarter	30.82	24.02	0.17	7.23	4.22	0.00
2012						
First Quarter	33.81	29.16	0.17	5.88	4.71	0.00
Second Quarter	35.88	30.27	0.17	5.29	3.61	0.00
Third Quarter	42.13	34.30	0.17	10.33	4.80	0.00
Fourth Quarter (through October 24, 2012)	41.70	38.39		10.30	9.44	

On August 7, 2012, the last full trading day before the public announcement of the merger agreement, the high and low sales prices of shares of SCBT common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market were \$37.39 and \$37.02, respectively. On October 24, 2012, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the high and low sales prices of shares of SCBT common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market were \$39.65 and \$38.54, respectively.

On August 7, 2012, the last full trading day before the public announcement of the merger agreement, the high and low bid prices of shares of SAVB common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market were \$5.69 and \$5.55 respectively. On October 24, 2012, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the high and low bid prices of shares of SAVB common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market were \$9.70 and \$9.50, respectively.

As of October 24, 2012, the last date prior to printing this joint proxy statement/prospectus for which it was practicable to obtain this information for SCBT and SAVB, respectively, there were approximately 6,510 registered holders of SCBT common stock and approximately 1,600 registered holders of SAVB common stock.

SAVB shareholders are advised to obtain current market quotations for SCBT common stock and SAVB common stock. The market price of SCBT common stock and SAVB common stock will fluctuate between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the date of completion of the merger. No assurance can be given concerning the market price of SCBT common stock or SAVB common stock before or after the effective date of the merger. Changes in the market price of SCBT common stock prior to the completion of the merger will affect the market value of the merger consideration that SAVB shareholders will receive upon completion of the merger.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF SAVB**

The following table sets forth, as of September 30, 2012, except as noted below, the number of shares and percentage of the outstanding SAVB common stock beneficially owned by each of SAVB's directors and executive officers and by all executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class(1)
Non-Director Five Percent Beneficial Owners		
Wellington Management	665,464(2)	9.24
Directors		
Francis A. Brown	19,375(3)	0.27
Russell W. Carpenter	71,179(4)	0.99
Clifford H. Dales	14,529(5)	0.20
Robert H. Demere, Jr.	338,906(6)	4.71
Berryman W. Edwards, Jr.	20,470(7)	0.28
L. Carlton Gill	115,331(8)	1.60
John C. Helmken II	59,851(9)	0.83
Jerry O'Dell Keith	19,898(10)	0.28
J. Curtis Lewis III	358,909(11)	4.98
Aaron M. Levy	73,594(12)	1.02
M. Lane Morrison	84,404(13)	1.17
James Toby Roberts, Sr.	98,604(14)	1.37
James W. Royal, Sr.	90,810(15)	1.26
Executives		
Michael W. Harden	3,669(16)	0.05
Holden T. Hayes	7,036(17)	0.10
R. Stephen Stramm	34,741(18)	0.48
All Executive Officers and Directors as a Group (16 persons)	1,411,306	19.29

- (1) Pursuant to the rules of the SEC, shares of SAVB's common stock that a beneficial owner has the right to acquire within 60 days pursuant to the exercise of stock options are deemed to be outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage of ownership of the option holder, but not for the purpose of computing the percentage of ownership of any other person.
- (2) Beneficial ownership of Wellington Management Company, LLP is based upon its and its affiliates' Schedule 13F filings with the SEC as of June 30, 2012.
- (3) Includes 825 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (4) Includes 2,711 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (5) Includes 6,776 shares held in Mr. Dales' IRA/401(k) and 3,531 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (6) Includes 3,118 shares held by Mr. Demere's IRA, 312 shares owned by Mr. Demere's wife, 5,296 shares owned by immediate family members, and 3,381 shares subject to currently exercisable options, and 208,781 shares owned beneficially and of record by Colonial Group, Inc. Mr. Demere is President of Colonial Group, Inc. and therefore may

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

be deemed to have shared voting and investment power over the SAVB shares owned by Colonial Group, Inc. Mr. Demere disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.

- (7) Includes 1,895 shares subject to currently exercisable options and 3,800 shares pledged as collateral for two loans.
- (8) Includes 104,878 shares held jointly with Mr. Gill's wife, 5,146 shares held in Mr. Gill's IRA, 2,788 shares held in Mr. Gill's wife's IRA and 2,519 subject to currently exercisable options.
- (9) Includes 23,682 shares held in Mr. Helmken's 401(k) and 20,540 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (10) Includes 9,805 shares held in Mr. Keith's 401(k), 7,656 shares subject to currently exercisable options, and 609 shares of restricted stock.
- (11) Includes 18,430 shares held by Mr. Lewis' IRA and money purchase retirement plan, 65,533 shares owned by immediate family members, 5,451 shares subject to currently exercisable options, and 193,547 shares owned beneficially and of record by Lewis Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Lewis is President of Lewis Broadcasting Corporation and therefore may be deemed to have shared voting and investment power over the SAVB shares owned by Lewis Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Lewis disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- (12) Includes 10,526 held in Mr. Levy's IRA, 10,930 owned by Mr. Levy's wife, 10,526 shares held in Mr. Levy's wife's IRA and 2,259 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (13) Includes 11,796 shares held by Mr. Morrison's IRA, 20,466 shares owned by Mr. Morrison's wife, 24,954 shares in trust for Mr. Morrison's benefit and 2,093 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (14) Includes 14,514 shares held by Mr. Roberts' IRA, 347 shares held in Mr. Roberts' mother's estate, 1,512 shares held in trust, 4,582 held in Mr. Roberts' 401(k) and 3,071 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (15) Includes 5,326 shares held in Mr. Royal's IRA and 3,672 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (16) Includes 187 shares of restricted stock and 1,775 shares held by Mr. Harden's 401(k).
- (17) Includes 724 shares held by Mr. Hayes' IRA, 561 shares held by Mr. Hayes' wife's IRA, 141 shares held in trust for the benefit of Mr. Hayes' children, and 2,610 shares held by Mr. Hayes' 401(k), and 3,000 shares subject to options that are exercisable within sixty (60) days.
- (18) Includes 16,160 shares held in Mr. Stramm's 401(k) and 5,625 shares subject to currently exercisable options.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF SCBT**

The following table sets forth, as of September 30, 2012, the number of shares and percentage of the outstanding SCBT common stock beneficially owned by each of SCBT's directors and executive officers and by all executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class(2)
Non-Director Five Percent Beneficial Owners		
Wellington Management(3)	1,157,956	7.66%
Blackrock, Inc.(3)	856,492	5.67%
Directors		
Jimmy E. Addison	8,731	0.1%
Luther J. Battiste, III	9,875	0.1%
M. Oswald Fogle	34,814	0.2%
Herbert G. Gray	9,957	0.1%
Cynthia A. Hartley	3,088	0.0%
Robert R. Hill, Jr.(5)(7)	143,768	1.0%
Robert R. Horger(4)(5)(7)	91,074	0.6%
Harry M. Mims, Jr.	47,001	0.3%
Ralph W. Norman, Jr.	15,618	0.1%
Alton C. Phillips	22,821	0.2%
James W. Roquemore(4)(6)	40,655	0.3%
Thomas E. Suggs	12,953	0.1%
Kevin P. Walker	5,984	0.0%
John W. Williamson, III	77,230	0.5%
Executives/Officers		
Renee R. Brooks(5)(7)	10,047	0.1%
Joseph E. Burns(5)(6)(7)	57,815	0.4%
Richard C. Mathis(5)(7)	43,263	0.3%
John C. Pollok(4)(5)(7)	90,681	0.6%
Keith S. Rainwater(7)	2,679	0.0%
John F. Windley(5)(7)	40,793	0.3%
All Executive Officers and Directors as a Group (20 persons)	768,847	5.1%

- (1) As reported to SCBT Financial Corporation by the directors and executive officers as of September 30, 2012.
- (2) Based on the number of shares acquirable by director and executive officers through vested stock options within 60 days of September 7, 2012.
- (3) Beneficial ownership of Wellington Management Company, LLP and Blackrock, Inc. is based upon such entity's and its affiliates' Schedule 13F filings with the SEC as of June 30, 2012.
- (4) Excludes shares owned by or for the benefit of family members of the following directors and executive officers, each of whom disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares: Mr. Horger, 377 shares, Mr. Pollok, 649 shares and Mr. Roquemore, 5,037 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 6,063 shares.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

- (5) Includes shares held as of December 31, 2011 by SCBT Financial Corporation under SCBT Financial Corporation's 401(K) Employee Savings Plan, as follows: Mr. Burns, 3,357; Mr. Hill, 10,382; Mr. Horger, 1,703 shares; Mr. Pollok, 6,178 shares; Mr. Windley, 1,963 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 30,415 shares.
- (6) For Mr. Roquemore, includes 9,426 shares owned by Patten Seed Company, of which Mr. Roquemore is a 29% owner and management affiliate. For Mr. Burns, includes 2,137 shares owned by J.E. Burns Holdings, Inc., of which Mr. Burns is an 86% owner and has the ability to direct the voting and disposition of the shares.
- (7) Includes unvested shares of restricted stock, as to which the executive officers have full voting privileges. The shares are as follows: Mr. Burns, 17,592; Mr. Hill, 42,693 shares; Mr. Horger, 5,893 shares; Mr. Pollok, 34,310 shares; Mr. Windley, 7,853 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 125,940 shares.

Table of Contents

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS OF SAVB AS OF AND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

Certain of the information contained within this "SAVB's Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" section has been derived or excerpted from SAVB's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on March 30, 2012, and SAVB's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, filed with the SEC on August 14, 2012. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Financial Information" and the consolidated historical and pro forma financial statements and the related notes thereto included in this prospectus. In addition to historical information, this discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from management's expectations. Factors that could cause such differences are discussed in "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors." SAVB assumes no obligation to update any of these forward-looking statements.

Overview

The objective of the following discussion is to provide supplemental information that sets forth the major factors that have affected SAVB's financial condition and results of operations and should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes. These discussions should facilitate a better understanding of the major factors and trends that affect SAVB's earnings performance and financial condition during the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

The averages used in this discussion for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 are the averages of daily balances for each respective period. See Tables 12 and 13 for average balances and interest rates presented on an annual basis. Certain prior year balances have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. The averages used in this discussion for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 are based on the sum of the daily balances for each respective period divided by the number of days in the reporting period.

SAVB is headquartered in Savannah, Georgia and, as of June 30, 2012, had eleven banking offices and thirteen ATMs in Savannah, Garden City, Skidaway Island, Whitmarsh Island, Tybee Island, Pooler, and Richmond Hill, Georgia and Hilton Head Island and Bluffton, South Carolina. SAVB also has mortgage lending offices in Savannah and Richmond Hill and an investment management office in Savannah.

SAVB's wholly-owned subsidiaries include The Savannah Bank, Bryan Bank, Minis and SAVB Holdings, LLC. Minis is a registered investment advisory firm and SAVB Holdings was formed for the purpose of holding problem loans and other real estate owned, or OREO.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank are located in the relatively diverse and growing Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area, or the Savannah MSA. The diversity of major employers includes manufacturing, port related transportation, construction, military, healthcare, tourism, education, warehousing and the supporting services and products for each of these major employers. The real estate market is experiencing moderate government growth and very minimal commercial and residential growth. Coastal Georgia and South Carolina continue to be desired retiree residential destinations as well as travel destinations. The Savannah MSA and Coastal South Carolina markets have both experienced significant devaluation in real estate prices.

The primary strategic objectives of SAVB are enhancing credit quality and capital ratios as well as growth in loans, deposits, assets under management, product lines and service quality in existing markets, which result in enhanced shareholder value.

Table of Contents

Recent Developments

Proposed Merger

As disclosed elsewhere in this prospectus, on August 7, 2012, SAVB entered into the merger agreement with SCBT. The merger agreement provides that, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the merger agreement, SAVB will merge with and into SCBT, with SCBT continuing as the surviving corporation. Immediately following the closing of the merger, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank will merge with and into SCBT's wholly owned bank subsidiary, with SCBT's bank subsidiary continuing as the surviving bank. In the merger, each outstanding share of SAVB common stock will be converted into the right to receive 0.2503 shares of common stock of SCBT common stock. For further information, see "The Merger" and "The Merger Agreement."

Deferred Tax Assets

As a result of entering into the merger agreement, and thus contractually agreeing to forego certain other strategic initiatives that SAVB had previously intended to pursue, the positive evidence considered in support of SAVB's use of forecasted future earnings as a source of realizing deferred tax assets became insufficient to overcome the negative evidence associated with its pre-tax cumulative loss position. In assessing the need for a valuation allowance, SAVB considered all available evidence about the realization of deferred tax assets, both positive and negative, that could be objectively verified. Accordingly, SAVB presently expects to record a valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets in the range of \$12 to \$13 million during the quarter ending September 30, 2012. The valuation allowance is not reflected in SAVB's consolidated financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, because, while SAVB's entrance into the merger agreement is a subsequent event for purposes of the quarter ended June 30, 2012, the conditions that SAVB considered in determining to record a valuation allowance were not present at any time during the quarter ended June 30, 2012.

As a result, SAVB will record the allowance against its deferred tax asset through income tax expense, which will reduce net income on the statement of operations and reduce shareholder's equity by the same amount. However, this should not have a material effect on the regulatory capital ratios of SAVB or its subsidiaries, in that a significant portion of this deferred tax asset was already disallowed for regulatory capital purposes.

In connection with the other strategic initiatives that SAVB was pursuing up to and until the time that SAVB entered into the merger agreement, SAVB prepaid total expenses of approximately \$850,000. As a result of entering into the merger agreement, SAVB will expense these amounts during the quarter ending September 30, 2012.

Please see Note 8 to SAVB's consolidated financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2012 for additional discussion of the deferred tax assets.

Regulatory Developments

On October 5, 2011, The Savannah Bank entered into a formal agreement with its primary regulator, the OCC. The agreement is based on the findings of the OCC during their on-site examination of The Savannah Bank during March 2011, based on its financial condition as of December 31, 2010. The agreement seeks to enhance The Savannah Bank's existing practices and procedures in the areas of credit risk management, credit quality, strategic planning, capital planning and liquidity risk management. Specifically, under the terms of the agreement, The Savannah Bank is required to (i) protect its interest in assets criticized by regulators and auditors and adopt, implement and adhere to a written program that is effective in eliminating the basis of such criticized assets; (ii) develop, implement, and adhere to a written program to reduce the high level of credit risk; (iii) develop, implement and adhere to a written strategic plan, which shall cover at least three years

Table of Contents

and should include establishing objectives for its overall risk profile, earnings performance, growth expectation, balance sheet mix, off-balance sheet activities, liability structure, capital adequacy, reduction in the volume of nonperforming assets, product line development and market segment; (iv) develop, implement and adhere to a three year capital program; (v) obtain prior written determination of no supervisory objection from the OCC before accepting, renewing, or rolling over brokered deposits, except for a Brokered Money Market Account limit of \$35,000,000; and (vi) submit periodic reports to the OCC regarding various aspects of the foregoing actions.

The agreement requires the establishment of certain plans and programs within various specific time periods. If The Savannah Bank does not satisfy and adhere to each of the requirements listed above, it will not be in compliance with the agreement. Failure to comply with the Agreement could result in additional enforcement actions. The Savannah Bank's board of directors has created a Compliance Committee to ensure that all of the requirements noted in the agreement are being addressed in a timely and effective manner. The Savannah Bank was in compliance with the terms of the agreement as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

In addition to the requirements in the agreement, The Savannah Bank has agreed with the OCC to maintain a total risk-based capital ratio of at least 12.00 percent and a leverage ratio of at least 8.00 percent. As of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, The Savannah Bank's capital ratios exceed these requirements.

Bryan Bank & Trust

On March 1, 2012, Bryan Bank entered into a consent order with FDIC and the Georgia DBF. The order is based on the findings of the FDIC during their on-site examination of Bryan Bank for the examination period ended March 31, 2011. The order requires that Bryan Bank implement a number of actions including developing a written analysis and assessment of its management and staffing needs for the purpose of providing qualified management, eliminating from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified "loss" and 50% of those classified "doubtful," developing a written plan to reduce the remaining assets that are classified in the last regulatory exam or any future regulatory exam, implementing a written plan to improve liquidity, contingency funding, interest rate risk, and asset liability management, reviewing the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses and establishing a comprehensive written policy for determining the adequacy of its allowance for loan losses, performing a risk segmentation analysis and developing a plan for reducing and monitoring its credit concentrations, specifically including its commercial real estate loan concentrations, reviewing, revising, adopting, and implementing its written lending and collection policy to provide effective guidance and control over its lending and credit administration functions, developing a written policy for managing Bryan Bank's other real estate and implementing a plan and comprehensive budget for all categories of income and expense for the year ending 2012. The order further requires that Bryan Bank (i) must have Tier 1 capital equal to or greater than 8.00 percent of its total assets, and total risk-based capital equal to or greater than 10.00 percent of total risk-weighted assets within 90 days of the effective date of the order, (ii) cannot declare or pay dividends, pay bonuses, or pay any form of payment outside the ordinary course of business resulting in a reduction of capital without the prior written approval of the supervisory authorities and (iii) may not accept, renew, or rollover any brokered deposits unless it is in compliance with the requirements of the FDIC regulations governing brokered deposits.

Under the order, Bryan Bank's board of directors has also agreed to increase its participation in the affairs of the bank, including assuming full responsibility for the approval of policies and objectives for the supervision of all of its activities. Pursuant to the order, within 30 days Bryan Bank will establish a board of directors committee to monitor and coordinate compliance with the order.

Table of Contents

The order does not affect Bryan Bank's ability to continue to conduct its banking business with customers in a normal fashion. Bank products and services, hours of operation, Internet banking and ATM usage will all be unaffected, and its deposits will remain insured by the FDIC to the maximum amount allowed by law.

The order will remain in effect until modified or terminated by the supervisory authorities. If Bryan Bank does not satisfy and adhere to each of the requirements listed above, it will not be in compliance with the order. Failure to comply with the order could result in additional enforcement actions.

Table of Contents**Second Quarter Financial Highlights****Table 1 Selected Second Quarter Financial Condition Highlights****Balance Sheet Data at June 30**

(\$ in thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)	2012	2011	% Change
Total assets	\$ 952,221	\$ 1,002,254	(5.0)
Interest-earning assets(a)	889,197	910,717	(2.4)
Loans	725,345	807,533	(10)
Other real estate owned	16,335	12,125	35
Deposits	817,966	857,482	(4.6)
Interest-bearing liabilities	736,668	817,675	(9.9)
Shareholders' equity	83,714	85,134	(1.7)
Loan to deposit ratio	88.68%	94.17%	(5.8)
Equity to assets	8.79%	8.49%	3.5
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	11.86%	11.09%	6.9
Total capital to risk-weighted assets	13.14%	12.37%	6.2
Outstanding shares	7,199	7,199	0.0
Book value per share	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.83	(1.7)
Tangible book value per share	\$ 11.15	\$ 11.32	(1.5)
Market value per share	\$ 4.85	\$ 7.41	(35)
Loan Quality Data			
Nonaccruing loans	\$ 29,417	\$ 39,160	(25)
Loans past due 90 days accruing	161	150	7.3
Net charge-offs	6,421	7,487	(14)
Allowance for loan losses	22,776	23,523	(3.2)
Allowance for loan losses to total loans	3.14%	2.91%	7.9
Nonperforming assets to total assets	4.82%	5.13%	(6.0)
Performance Data for the Second Quarter			
Net income (loss)	\$ 416	\$ (1,492)	128
Return on average assets	0.17%	(0.59)%	129
Return on average equity	1.96%	(6.96)%	128
Net interest margin	3.91%	3.91%	0.0
Efficiency ratio	69.13%	66.18%	4.5
Per share data:			
Net income (loss) basic	\$ 0.06	\$ (0.21)	129
Net income (loss) diluted	\$ 0.06	\$ (0.21)	129
Average shares (000s):			
Basic	7,199	7,199	0.0
Diluted	7,199	7,199	0.0
Performance Data for the First Six Months			
Net loss	\$ (615)	\$ (1,366)	55
Return on average assets	(0.13)%	(0.27)%	52
Return on average equity	(1.47)%	(3.18)%	54
Net interest margin	3.91%	3.82%	2.4
Efficiency ratio	70.20%	62.34%	13
Per share data:			
Net loss basic	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.19)	58
Net loss diluted	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.19)	58
Average shares (000s):			
Basic	7,199	7,199	0.0
Diluted	7,199	7,199	0.0

(a)

Interest-earnings assets do not include the unrealized gain/loss on available for sale investment securities.

Table of Contents**Selected Five Year Financial Highlights****Table 2 Selected Financial Condition Highlights Five-Year Comparison**

(\$ in thousands, except share data)	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
<i>Selected Average Balances</i>					
Total assets	\$ 1,012,451	\$ 1,078,464	\$ 1,018,470	\$ 960,260	\$ 869,026
Interest-earning assets(a)	918,054	979,436	935,617	898,295	830,900
Loans, net of unearned fees(b)	765,641	810,484	841,033	821,673	754,490
Securities	107,066	111,753	81,282	62,019	58,910
Other interest-earning assets	45,347	57,199	13,302	14,603	17,500
Interest-bearing deposits	774,758	840,077	777,763	701,045	628,310
Borrowed funds	51,609	62,140	71,967	88,553	70,939
Total interest-bearing liabilities	826,367	902,217	849,730	789,598	699,249
Noninterest-bearing deposits	95,468	86,458	82,406	83,678	91,367
Total deposits	870,226	926,535	860,169	784,723	719,677
Shareholders' equity	86,695	84,319	79,804	78,998	71,516
Loan to deposit ratio average	88%	87%	98%	105%	105%
<i>Selected Financial Data at Year-End</i>					
Total assets	\$ 985,235	\$ 1,066,930	\$ 1,050,508	\$ 1,007,284	\$ 932,459
Interest-earning assets(a)	889,026	971,653	959,219	931,448	878,992
Loans, net of unearned fees	759,678	826,562	883,886	864,974	808,651
Deposits	846,929	923,745	884,569	832,015	764,218
Interest-bearing liabilities	789,918	881,599	883,527	837,558	759,597
Shareholders' equity	84,130	85,803	79,026	80,932	76,272
Loan to deposit ratio	90%	89%	100%	104%	106%
Shareholders' equity to total assets	8.54%	8.04%	7.52%	8.03%	8.18%
Dividend payout ratio	NM	NM	118.19%	49.38%	36.73%
Risk-based capital ratios:					
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	11.36%	11.13%	10.30%	10.28%	10.49%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets	12.63%	12.40%	11.56%	11.54%	11.74%
<i>Loan Quality Data</i>					
Nonperforming assets	\$ 55,213	\$ 49,099	\$ 42,444	\$ 35,703	\$ 19,535
Nonperforming loans	34,881	35,900	34,115	27,603	17,424
Nonaccruing loans	34,668	32,836	32,545	26,277	14,663
Loans past due 90 days accruing	213	3,064	1,570	1,326	2,761
Net charge-offs	18,468	18,348	8,687	5,564	765
Allowance for loan losses	21,917	20,350	17,678	13,300	12,864
Allowance for loan losses to total loans	2.89%	2.46%	2.00%	1.54%	1.59%
Nonperforming loans to loans	4.59%	4.34%	3.86%	3.19%	2.15%
Nonperforming assets to total assets	5.60%	4.60%	4.04%	3.54%	2.09%
Net charge-offs to average loans	2.41%	2.26%	1.03%	0.68%	0.10%
<i>Per Share Data at Year-End</i>					
Book value	\$ 11.69	\$ 11.92	\$ 13.32	\$ 13.64	\$ 12.88
Tangible book value	\$ 11.19	\$ 11.39	\$ 12.90	\$ 13.19	\$ 12.40
Common stock closing price (NASDAQ)	\$ 4.95	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.85	\$ 17.14
Common shares outstanding (000s)	7,199	7,200	5,932	5,934	5,924

(a) Interest-earning assets do not include the unrealized gain/loss on available for sale investment securities.

(b)

Average nonaccruing loans have been excluded from total average loans.

Table of Contents**Table 3 Selected Operating Highlights Five-Year Comparison**

(\$ in thousands, except share data)	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Summary of operations					
Interest income taxable equivalent	\$ 45,095	\$ 47,961	\$ 50,595	\$ 56,714	\$ 63,414
Interest expense	9,488	14,362	18,258	24,439	30,282
Net interest income taxable equivalent	35,607	33,599	32,337	32,275	33,132
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(32)	(32)	(32)	(32)	(156)
Net interest income	35,575	33,567	32,305	32,243	32,976
Provision for loan losses	20,035	21,020	13,065	6,000	4,675
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	15,540	12,547	19,240	26,243	28,301
Noninterest income					
Trust and asset management fees	2,646	2,599	2,351	2,832	1,513
Service charges on deposits accounts	1,458	1,788	1,809	1,881	1,383
Mortgage related income, net	183	398	432	295	615
Gain on sale of securities	763	608	2,119	163	
Gain (loss) on hedges	(1)	2	873	1,288	
Other operating income	1,597	1,916	1,238	1,216	1,242
Total noninterest income	6,646	7,311	8,822	7,675	4,753
Noninterest expense					
Salaries and employee benefits	11,282	11,948	12,146	13,584	11,846
Occupancy and equipment	3,683	3,945	3,716	3,884	3,294
Information technology	1,708	2,101	1,810	1,633	1,616
Loan collection and OREO expense	1,500	815	848	396	56
FDIC deposit insurance	1,303	1,688	1,886	653	251
Amortization of intangibles	224	171	144	144	48
Loss on sales and write-downs of foreclosed assets	2,679	2,472	2,566	228	44
Other operating expense	3,874	3,837	3,862	4,220	4,028
Total noninterest expense	26,253	26,977	26,978	24,742	21,183
Income (loss) before income taxes	(4,067)	(7,119)	1,084	9,176	11,871
Income tax expense (benefit)	(1,895)	(3,130)	155	3,170	4,235
Net income (loss)	\$ (2,172)	\$ (3,989)	\$ 929	\$ 6,006	\$ 7,636
Net income (loss) per share:					
Basic	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.60)	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.31
Diluted	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.60)	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.29
Cash dividends paid per share	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.185	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.48
Average basic shares outstanding (000s)	7,199	6,625	5,933	5,930	5,850
Average diluted shares outstanding (000s)	7,199	6,625	5,936	5,947	5,922
Performance ratios (averages)					
Net interest margin	3.88%	3.43%	3.46%	3.58%	3.99%
Return on average assets	(0.21)%	(0.37)%	0.09%	0.63%	0.88%
Return on average equity	(2.51)%	(4.73)%	1.16%	7.60%	10.68%
Efficiency ratio	62.18%	66.00%	65.60%	61.98%	56.15%

Table of Contents**Table 4 Selected Quarterly Data 2011 and 2010**

The following is a summary of unaudited quarterly results for 2011 and 2010:

	2011				2010			
	Fourth	Third	Second	First	Fourth	Third	Second	First
Net interest income	\$ 8,682	\$ 9,014	\$ 9,035	\$ 8,844	\$ 8,833	\$ 8,029	\$ 8,276	\$ 8,429
Provision for loan losses	6,510	2,865	6,300	4,360	6,725	5,230	3,745	5,320
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	2,172	6,149	2,735	4,484	2,108	2,799	4,531	3,109
Noninterest income	1,497	1,817	1,707	1,625	1,767	1,538	1,726	2,280
Noninterest expense	6,613	6,418	7,109	6,113	6,701	7,310	6,539	6,427
Income (loss) before income taxes	(2,944)	1,548	(2,667)	(4)	(2,826)	(2,973)	(282)	(1,038)
Income tax expense (benefit)	(910)	320	(1,175)	(130)	(950)	(1,410)	(220)	(550)
Net income (loss)	\$ (2,034)	\$ 1,228	\$ (1,492)	\$ 126	\$ (1,876)	\$ (1,563)	\$ (62)	\$ (488)
Per share:(a)								
Net income (loss) basic	\$ (0.28)	\$ 0.17	\$ (0.21)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.26)	\$ (0.22)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.08)
Net income (loss) diluted	\$ (0.28)	\$ 0.17	\$ (0.21)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.26)	\$ (0.22)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.08)
Dividends	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 0.02
Average shares (000s)								
Basic	7,199	7,199	7,199	7,199	7,200	7,200	6,146	5,938
Diluted	7,199	7,199	7,199	7,199	7,200	7,200	6,146	5,938

(a)

The summation of quarterly earnings per share may not agree with annual earnings per share.

Table of Contents**Table 5 Selected Quarterly Data 2012**

The following is a summary of unaudited quarterly results for 2012:

	2012	
	Second	First
Net interest income	\$ 8,435	\$ 8,570
Provision for loan losses	2,540	4,740
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	5,895	3,830
Noninterest income	1,544	1,518
Noninterest expense	6,898	7,189
Income (loss) before income taxes	541	(1,841)
Income tax expense (benefit)	125	(810)
Net income (loss)	\$ 416	\$ (1,031)
Per share:		
Net income (loss) basic	\$ 0.06	\$ (0.14)
Net income (loss) diluted	\$ 0.06	\$ (0.14)
Dividends	\$	\$
Average shares (000s)		
Basic	7,199	7,199
Diluted	7,199	7,199

Critical Accounting Estimates*Allowance for Loan Losses*

SAVB considers its policies regarding the allowance for loan losses to be its most critical accounting estimate due to the significant degree of management judgment involved. The allowance for loan losses is established through charges to earnings in the form of a provision for loan losses based on management's continuous evaluation of the loan portfolio. Loan losses and recoveries are charged or credited directly to the allowance. The amount of the allowance reflects management's opinion of the adequate level needed to absorb probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The amount charged to the provision and the level of the allowance is based on management's judgment and is dependent upon growth in the loan portfolio, the total amount of past due loans and nonperforming loans, recent charge-off levels, known loan deteriorations and concentrations of credit. Other factors affecting the allowance include market interest rates, loan sizes, portfolio maturity and composition, collateral values and general economic conditions. Finally, management's assessment of probable losses, based upon internal credit grading of the loans and periodic reviews and assessments of credit risk associated with particular loans, is considered in establishing the amount of the allowance.

SAVB has a comprehensive program designed to control and continually monitor the credit risks inherent in the loan portfolios. This program includes a structured loan approval process in which the boards of directors of SAVB, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank delegate authority for various types and amounts of loans to loan officers on a basis commensurate with seniority and lending experience. There are four risk grades of "criticized" assets: Special Mention, Substandard, Doubtful and Loss. Assets designated as substandard, doubtful or loss are considered "classified". The classification of assets is subject to regulatory review and reclassification. SAVB, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank include aggregate totals of criticized assets, and general and specific valuation reserves in quarterly

Table of Contents

reports to their boards of directors, which review and approve the overall allowance for loan losses evaluation.

The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank use a risk rating system which is consistent with the regulatory risk rating system. This system applies to all assets of an insured institution and requires each institution to periodically evaluate the risk rating assigned to its assets. The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's loan risk rating systems utilize the account officer, credit administration and an independent loan review function to monitor the risk rating of loans. Each loan officer is charged with the responsibility of monitoring changes in loan quality within his or her loan portfolio and reporting changes directly to credit administration and senior management. The internal credit administration function monitors loans on a continuing basis for both documentation and credit related exceptions. Additionally, The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank have contracted with an external loan review service that performs a review of their loans on a periodic basis to determine that the appropriate risk grade has been assigned to each borrowing relationship and to evaluate other credit quality, documentation and compliance factors. Delinquencies are monitored on all loans as a basis for potential credit quality deterioration. Commercial and mortgage loans that are delinquent 90 days (four payments) or longer generally are placed on nonaccrual status unless the credit is well-secured and in the process of collection. Revolving credit loans and other personal loans are typically charged-off when payments have become 120 days past due. Loans are placed on nonaccrual status or charged-off at an earlier date if the collection of principal or interest in full becomes doubtful.

No assurance can be given that SAVB will not sustain loan losses which would be sizable in relationship to the amount reserved or that subsequent evaluation of the loan portfolio, in light of conditions and factors then prevailing, will not require significant changes in the allowance for loan losses by future charges or credits to earnings. The allowance for loan losses is also subject to review by various regulatory agencies through their periodic examinations of The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank. Such examinations could result in required changes to the allowance for loan losses. No adjustment in the allowance or significant adjustments to The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's internally classified loans were made as a result of their most recent regulatory examinations.

The allowance for loan losses totaled \$22,776,000, or 3.14 percent of total loans, at June 30, 2012. This is compared to an allowance of \$21,917,000, or 2.89 percent of total loans, at December 31, 2011. For the six months ended June 30, 2012, SAVB reported net charge-offs of \$6,421,000 compared to net charge-offs of \$7,487,000 for the same period in 2011. During the first half of 2012 and 2011, a provision for loan losses of \$7,280,000 and \$10,660,000, respectively, was added to the allowance for loan losses. Both net charge-offs and the provision for loan losses have remained elevated in 2012. The decline in the provision for loan losses during the first six months of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011 were primarily due to lower real estate related charge-offs. Although the local real estate markets continue to show weakness, SAVB's levels of nonperforming assets and past due loans have improved as shown in Table 6. From December 31, 2011, nonperforming assets have declined \$9.3 million, or 17 percent, to \$46 million. This improvement in asset quality during the first six months of 2012 is one of the main reasons for the decline in net charge-offs and the provision for loan losses.

The allowance for loan losses totaled \$21,917,000 or 2.89 percent of total loans at December 31, 2011. This is compared to an allowance of \$20,350,000 or 2.46 percent of total loans at December 31, 2010. For 2011, SAVB reported net charge-offs of \$18,468,000 or 2.41 percent of average loans. This is compared to net charge-offs of \$18,348,000 or 2.26 percent of average loans for 2010. During 2011 and 2010, a provision for loan losses of \$20,035,000 and \$21,020,000, respectively, was added to the allowance for loan losses. Both the net charge-offs and the provision for loan losses remained elevated in 2011. SAVB continues to see weakness in its local real estate markets with downward pressure on real estate values, and this weakness has led to a continued high level of real estate related charge-offs and provisions for loan losses.

Table of Contents

SAVB's nonperforming assets consist of loans on nonaccrual status, loans which are contractually past due 90 days or more on which interest is still being accrued, and OREO. Nonaccrual loans of \$29,417,000 and loans past due 90 days or more of \$161,000 totaled \$29,578,000, or 4.08 percent of gross loans, at June 30, 2012. Nonaccrual loans of \$34,668,000 and loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest of \$213,000 totaled \$34,881,000, or 4.59 percent of gross loans, at December 31, 2011. Generally, loans are placed on nonaccrual status when the collection of the principal or interest in full becomes doubtful. Management typically writes down a loan through a charge to the allowance when it determines the loan is impaired. Nonperforming assets also included \$16,335,000 and \$20,332,000 of OREO at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. Management is aggressively pricing and marketing the OREO.

Nonaccrual loans of \$34,668,000 and loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest of \$213,000 totaled \$34,881,000, or 4.59 percent of gross loans, at December 31, 2011. Nonaccrual loans of \$32,836,000 and loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest of \$3,064,000 totaled \$35,900,000, or 4.34 percent of gross loans, at December 31, 2010. Nonperforming assets also included \$20,332,000 and \$13,199,000 of other real estate owned at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Impaired loans, which include loans modified in troubled debt restructurings, totaled \$42,497,000 and \$51,711,000 at June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

At June 30, 2012 impaired loans consisted primarily of \$16.8 million of improved residential real estate-secured loans and \$19.0 million of land, lot, and construction and development related loans. Less than one percent of the impaired loans are unsecured. The largest impaired relationship consists of four loans totaling \$5.1 million to a residential developer in the Bluffton/Hilton Head Island, South Carolina market. The loans are secured by residential land and lots and are on nonaccrual status and moving towards foreclosure. Approximately \$2,763,000 has already been charged-off on this loan relationship and an additional \$2,251,000 of the allowance was allocated as a specific reserve. The second largest impaired loan relationship consists of one loan totaling \$2.8 million to a residential developer in the Oconee County, Georgia market and secured by 105 improved residential lots and 110 acres of unimproved residential land. The total loan balance is \$10.6 million; however, \$7.8 million is participated to other financial institutions. The loan is current and on accrual status and has \$1,250,000 of the allowance allocated as a specific reserve. The third largest impaired loan relationship consists of four loans totaling \$2.2 million to a residential developer in the Effingham County, Georgia market. These loans are currently on nonaccrual status and are secured by residential land, lots and completed 1-4 family properties. SAVB charged-off \$1,500,000 on this relationship in 2010 and still has approximately \$1,000,000 of the allowance allocated as a specific reserve and \$49,000 allocated as a general reserve. The fourth largest impaired loan relationship consists of one loan for \$2.0 million that is secured by a rental home in Bryan County, Georgia. This loan is a troubled debt restructuring that is performing as agreed. No specific reserves have been applied to the relationship but SAVB does have approximately \$47,000 allocated as a general reserve. The fifth largest impaired loan relationship consists of four loans totaling approximately \$2.0 million that is secured by residential raw land and an improved commercial lot in Chatham County, Georgia. These loans are currently on nonaccrual status and SAVB charged-off approximately \$900,000 on this relationship during 2011 and 2012. At December 31, 2011, SAVB had a commercial loan relationship totaling approximately \$4.5 million that was on nonaccrual status and considered impaired. During the first quarter of 2012, based upon borrower performance and improved cash flows, this loan relationship was placed back on accrual status and is no longer considered impaired.

Impaired loans, which include loans modified in troubled debt restructurings, totaled \$51,711,000 and \$53,869,000 at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

At December 31, 2011 impaired loans consisted primarily of \$19.2 million of improved residential real estate-secured loans and \$20.3 million of land, lot, and construction and development related

Table of Contents

loans. Less than one percent of the impaired loans are unsecured. The largest impaired relationship consists of four loans totaling \$6.4 million to a residential developer in the Bluffton/Hilton Head Island, South Carolina market. The loans are secured by residential land and lots and are on nonaccrual status and moving towards foreclosure. Approximately \$1,449,000 has already been charged-off on this loan relationship and an additional \$3,565,000 of the allowance was allocated as a specific reserve. The second largest impaired loan relationship consists of three loans totaling \$4.5 million secured primarily by a commercial building in Savannah, Georgia. All three of these loans are currently on nonaccrual status and have not had any charge-offs or specific reserves applied to them based upon a recent appraisal. The third largest impaired loan relationship consists of four loans totaling \$2.8 million to a residential developer in the Effingham County, Georgia market. These loans are currently on nonaccrual status and are secured by residential land, lots and completed 1-4 family properties. SAVB charged-off \$1,500,000 on this relationship in 2010 and still has approximately \$750,000 of the allowance allocated as a specific reserve and \$50,000 allocated as a general reserve. The fourth largest impaired loan relationship consists of five loans totaling \$2.2 million secured by a commercial building, a personal residence, a rental home and an improved residential lot on Tybee Island, Georgia. This loan relationship is a troubled debt restructuring that is performing as agreed. No specific reserves have been applied to the relationship, but SAVB does have \$267,000 allocated as a general reserve. The fifth largest impaired loan relationship consists of one loan for \$2.1 million that is secured by a rental home in Bryan County, Georgia. This loan is a troubled debt restructuring that is performing as agreed. No specific reserves have been applied to the relationship but SAVB does have \$36,000 allocated as a general reserve.

SAVB continues to devote significant internal and external resources to managing the past due and classified loans. SAVB has performed extensive internal and external loan review procedures and analyses on the loan portfolio. SAVB charges-down loans as appropriate before the foreclosure process is complete and often before they are past due.

If the allowance for loan losses had changed by five percent for the six months ended June 30, 2012, the effect on net income would have been approximately \$705,000. If the allowance had to be increased by this amount, it would not have changed SAVB's or The Savannah Bank's status as well-capitalized financial institutions. Bryan Bank is considered adequately capitalized due to its consent order with its regulators and is currently below the 8.00 percent Tier 1 leverage ratio that it has agreed with the regulators to maintain.

If the allowance for loan losses had changed by five percent for the year ended December 31, 2012, the effect on net income would have been approximately \$765,000. If the allowance had to be increased by this amount, it would not have changed The Savannah Bank and Bryan Bank's status as well-capitalized financial institutions at December 31, 2011, but it would have decreased Bryan Bank's Tier 1 leverage ratio below the 8.00 percent level that it has agreed with the regulators to maintain.

Edgar Filing: SCBT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

Changes in the allowance for loan losses from 2007 through 2011 are summarized as follows:

(\$ in thousands)	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Balance at the beginning of the year	\$ 20,350	\$ 17,678	\$ 13,300	\$ 12,864	\$ 8,954
Charge-offs commercial	(843)	(1,080)	(459)	(387)	(150)
Charge-offs consumer	(328)	(116)	(210)	(85)	(103)
Charge-offs real estate	(17,803)	(17,569)	(8,224)	(5,242)	(621)
Charge-offs total	(18,974)	(18,765)	(8,893)	(5,714)	(874)
Recoveries commercial	30	17	22	13	6
Recoveries consumer	42	28	29	28	43
Recoveries real estate	434	372	155	109	60
Recoveries total	506	417	206	150	109
Net charge-offs	(18,468)	(18,348)	(8,687)	(5,564)	(765)
Provision for loan losses	20,035	21,020	13,065	6,000	4,675
Balance at the end of the year	\$ 21,917	\$ 20,350	\$ 17,678	\$ 13,300	\$ 12,864
Ratio of net charge-offs to average loans	2.41%	2.26%	1.03%	0.68%	0.10%

The allowance for loan losses is allocated by loan category based on management's assessment of risk within the various categories of loans. Loans are segregated by category and by credit risk rating within each category. The allowance for loan losses is allocated to each category by applying reserve percentages to each category. These percentages are based upon management's assessment of risk inherent within each category and the historical and anticipated loss rates within each category.

SAVB's allocation of the allowance for loan losses is presented in the following table:

(\$ in thousands)	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Commercial	\$ 1,271	\$ 1,528	\$ 977	\$ 760	\$ 750
Real estate-construction and development	1,296	671	2,556	5,291	4,150
Real estate-mortgage	19,061	17,633	13,874	7,061	6,750
Consumer	193	518	227	188	200
Unallocated	96		44		1,014
Total allowance for loan losses	\$ 21,917	\$ 20,350	\$ 17,678	\$ 13,300	\$ 12,864

The composition of the loan portfolio as a percentage of total loans is presented below:

(\$ in thousands)	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Commercial	9.0%	9.1%	10.1%	9.5%	8.8%
Real estate-construction and development	3.0	2.5	7.0	11.5	16.6
Real estate-mortgage	86.4	86.6	81.2	77.0	72.3
Consumer	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.3
Total loans	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table of Contents**Table 6 Allowance for Loan Losses and Nonperforming Assets (Quarterly)**

(\$ in thousands)	2012			2011	
	Second Quarter	First Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Third Quarter	Second Quarter
Allowance for loan losses					
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 22,396	\$ 21,917	\$ 22,854	\$ 23,523	\$ 22,363
Provision for loan losses	2,540	4,740	6,510	2,865	6,300
Net charge-offs	(2,160)	(4,261)	(7,447)	(3,534)	(5,140)
Balance at end of period	\$ 22,776	\$ 22,396	\$ 21,917	\$ 22,854	\$ 23,523
As a % of loans	3.14%	3.01%	2.89%	2.90%	2.91%
As a % of nonperforming loans	77.00%	68.66%	62.83%	53.72%	59.84%
As a % of nonperforming assets	49.61%	44.61%	39.70%	38.30%	45.73%
Net charge-offs as a % of average loans(a)	1.80%	2.27%	2.41%	1.84%	2.65%
Nonperforming assets					
Nonaccruing loans	\$ 29,417	\$ 30,742	\$ 34,668	\$ 41,689	\$ 39,160
Loans past due 90 days accruing	161	1,876	213	851	150
Total nonperforming loans	29,578	32,618	34,881	42,540	39,310
Other real estate owned	16,335	17,589	20,332	17,135	12,125
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 45,913	\$ 50,207	\$ 55,213	\$ 59,675	\$ 51,435
Loans past due 30 - 89 days	\$ 5,364	\$ 4,701	\$ 15,132	\$ 13,096	\$ 17,013
Nonperforming loans as a % of loans	4.08%	4.39%	4.59%	5.39%	4.87%
Nonperforming assets as a % of loans and other real estate owned	6.19%	6.60%	7.08%	7.41%	6.28%
Nonperforming assets as a % of assets	4.82%	5.17%	5.60%	6.04%	5.13%

(a) Annualized

Table of Contents**Table 7 Allowance for Loan Losses and Nonperforming Assets (Year-End 2011 and 2010)**

(\$ in thousands)	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Allowance for loan losses		
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 20,350	\$ 17,678
Provision for loan losses	20,035	21,020
Net charge-offs	(18,468)	(18,348)
Balance at end of period	\$ 21,917	\$ 20,350
As a % of loans	2.89%	2.46%
As a % of nonperforming loans	62.83%	56.69%
As a % of nonperforming assets	39.70%	41.45%
Risk element assets		
Nonaccruing loans	\$ 34,668	\$ 32,836
Loans past due 90 days accruing	213	3,064
Total nonperforming loans	34,881	35,900
Other real estate owned	20,332	13,199
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 55,213	\$ 49,099
Loans past due 30 - 89 days	\$ 15,132	\$ 11,164
Nonperforming loans as a % of loans	4.59%	4.34%
Nonperforming assets as a % of loans and other real estate owned	7.08%	5.85%
Nonperforming assets as a % of assets	5.60%	4.60%
<i>Impairment of Loans</i>		

SAVB measures impaired loans based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, the loan's obtainable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that SAVB will be unable to collect the scheduled payments of principal or interest when due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. A loan is not considered impaired during a period of delay in payment if the ultimate collection of all amounts due is