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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crescent Financial Bancshares, Inc. Announces Fourth Quarter Net Income of \$2.1 Million and Continued Strong Revenue and Loan Growth

RALEIGH, N.C., January 30, 2013 – Crescent Financial Bancshares, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRFN) ("Crescent" or the "Company"), today reported financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2012. Crescent Financial is the parent company of VantageSouth Bank (formerly Crescent State Bank) and is a subsidiary of Piedmont Community Bank Holdings, Inc. ("Piedmont").

The fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2012 summary for Crescent is as follows:

- Net income in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$2.1 million while the net loss in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011 totaled \$852 thousand.
- Net income totaled \$3.8 million in the successor period from February 1 to December 31, 2012 ("2012 Successor Period") and \$529 thousand in predecessor period from January 1 to January 31, 2012 ("2012 Predecessor Period").
 Net income in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011 totaled \$968 thousand.
- The fourth quarter of 2012 included \$2.3 million in merger, conversion and re-branding costs that reduced net income by \$1.4 million on an after-tax basis. Merger, conversion and re-branding costs totaled \$3.4 million in the 2012 Successor Period and reduced net income by \$2.1 million on an after-tax basis.
- Annualized revenue growth equaled 21 percent from the third quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2012 driven by loan growth and improved revenue mix.
- Annualized net loan growth in the last six months of 2012 was 19 percent, which was driven by loan originations for the second half of 2012 totaling \$162.3 million which was a significant increase from \$82.9 million in the first half of 2012. Fourth quarter 2012 loan originations totaled \$87.6 million.
- Net interest margin improved to 4.37 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 3.72 percent in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Net interest margin improved to 4.40 percent in the 2012 Successor Period and 4.55 percent in the 2012 Predecessor Period from 4.19 percent in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011.
- Revenue mix improved as non-interest income increased to 29 percent of total revenues in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 14 percent of total revenues in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Non-interest income improvement has been primarily due to growth in the Company's mortgage and government-guaranteed lending businesses in 2012.
- VantageSouth Bank and Crescent State Bank were merged on November 30, 2012 with the combined bank being rebranded as VantageSouth Bank. The combined VantageSouth Bank now operates on a single technology platform and utilizes common business processes and policies across the company.

"We are proud of the many accomplishments of our team members during 2012," stated Scott Custer, President and CEO of the Company and Piedmont. Mr. Custer continued, "Because of their hard work and dedication, the Company was able to complete two mergers, two system conversions, a bank re-branding, and was able to sign a merger agreement with ECB within the year. These activities elevated expenses but simplified our organizational structure and better position the Company for growth. Additionally, the Company continued to execute on its business plan by increasing loan production, growing revenues and improving mix, and decreasing non-performing assets in the fourth quarter of 2012. We look forward to the proposed merger with ECB, which we believe will generate new revenues and create operating efficiencies for the combined institution and provide

the Company with new markets, relationship-focused bankers, a strong core deposit franchise, and an established agricultural lending program."

VantageSouth Bank Merger

On November 30, 2012, the Company completed the merger of VantageSouth Bank ("Legacy VantageSouth") into Crescent State Bank in a share exchange based on Crescent's volume weighted average stock price. All outstanding Legacy VantageSouth shares of common stock were converted into Crescent's shares at a 5.3278 exchange ratio for a total transaction value of approximately \$35.0 million. At the time of merger, Piedmont owned all outstanding shares of Legacy VantageSouth except for shares of common stock held by directors as required by state law. Piedmont owns approximately 90% of Crescent's outstanding common stock following the merger. Legacy VantageSouth was headquartered in Burlington, North Carolina, and operated five branch offices located in Burlington (2), Fayetteville, Salisbury, and China Grove, North Carolina. The Company re-branded its wholly-owned banking subsidiary as VantageSouth Bank ("VantageSouth") immediately following the merger.

The merger of Legacy VantageSouth into Crescent State Bank was a merger of commonly controlled companies and was accounted for in a manner similar to a pooling of interests transaction. Thus, the Company's financial statements have been retrospectively adjusted to combine the financial statement balances of Crescent and Legacy VantageSouth beginning on November 18, 2011, the date the two companies became commonly controlled by Piedmont. Periods prior to the date of common control reflect only Legacy VantageSouth's historical balances since it was the first company acquired by Piedmont. Due to the application of pushdown accounting to Legacy VantageSouth's books on February 1, 2012, periods prior to this date are denoted as "Predecessor Period(s)" and periods after this date are denoted as "Successor Period(s)".

Earnings Per Share

After preferred stock dividends, the Company recognized net income of \$0.05 per basic and diluted common share during the fourth quarter of 2012 and a net loss of \$0.05 per basic and diluted common share in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. The Company recognized net income of \$0.01 per basic and diluted common share during the 2012 Predecessor Period and net income of \$0.07 per basic and diluted common share in the 2012 Successor Period. Net income per basic and diluted common shared equaled \$0.07 for the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$10.2 million and net interest income totaled \$5.9 million in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Taxable equivalent net interest margin increased to 4.37 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 3.72 percent in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. This significant margin improvement resulted from a decline in funding costs and an increase in yield on interest-earning assets. Funding costs declined as the average rate on total interest-bearing liabilities fell from 1.24 percent in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011 to 0.80 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012. Taxable equivalent yield on interest-earning assets increased from 4.79 percent in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011 to 5.05 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012. The increase in taxable equivalent yield on interest-earning assets was primarily due to an improved asset mix as lower yielding federal funds and overnight investments were used to fund loan growth and securities purchases in 2012.

Average earning assets totaled \$933.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 and \$628.3 million in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Average interest-bearing liabilities equaled \$798.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 and \$541.7 million in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. The increase in average balances was primarily due to Piedmont's acquisition of Crescent in the fourth quarter of 2011 and strong loan growth in the last half of 2012. The first half of the year was marked primarily by a focus on reducing problem assets and building out the Company's lending platform, which included recruiting experienced commercial and retail bankers. In the last half of the year, the Company was able to leverage its lending platform and execute on its business plan by growing its loan portfolio.

Net interest income totaled \$37.3 million in the 2012 Successor Period and \$3.6 million in the 2012 Predecessor Period compared to net interest income of \$11.6 million in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011. Taxable equivalent net interest margin improved to 4.40 percent in the 2012 Successor Period and 4.55 percent in the 2012 Predecessor Period from 4.19 percent in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011.

Provision for Loan Losses and Asset Quality

Provision for loan losses totaled \$1.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 and \$729 thousand in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. The loan loss provision totaled \$5.2 million for the 2012 Successor Period and \$195 thousand in the 2012 Predecessor Period while the loan loss provision in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011 totaled \$880 thousand. The allowance for loan losses and related provision are calculated for the following three portfolio categories: (1) loans originated subsequent to Piedmont's respective acquisitions of Legacy VantageSouth, Community Bank of Rowan, and Crescent (or "New Loans"), (2) purchased non-impaired loans, and (3) purchased credit-impaired loans.

The following table summarizes the changes in allowance for loan losses for each loan category in the three month period and 2012 Successor Period ended December 31, 2012:

(Dollars in thousands)	Ne	w Loans		urchased n-Impaired	Purchased Credit- Impaired	Total
Three Months Ended:						
Balance at October 1, 2012	\$	2,152	\$	87	\$ 907	\$ 3,146
Net charge-offs				(315)	_	(315)
Provision for loan losses		513		283	371	1,167
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$	\$ 2,665		55	\$ 1,278	\$ 3,998
2012						
2012 Successor Period:						
Balance at February 1, 2012	\$	1,276	\$		\$ 	\$ 1,276
Net charge-offs		_		(2,437)	_	(2,437)
Provision for loan losses		1,389		2,492	1,278	5,159
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$	2,665	\$	55	\$ 1,278	\$ 3,998

The allowance for loan losses of \$2.7 million on New Loans at December 31, 2012 represents 0.93 percent of outstanding balances on all New Loans. Impaired New Loans at December 31, 2012 represented 0.38 percent of related outstanding balances on impaired New Loans. Although purchased non-impaired loans were adjusted to fair value at acquisition, the Company records charge-offs for losses and provides reserves for deterioration in credit quality on these loans. All revolving loans were classified as purchased non-impaired at each respective acquisition and a majority of the charge-offs and provision relate to acquired revolving home equity lines.

Loans acquired with evidence of credit deterioration since origination have been grouped into pools of loans with similar risk characteristics and accounted for as purchased credit-impaired loans. Subsequent to acquisition of these loans, estimates of pool-level cash flows expected to be collected are updated each reporting period based on assumptions regarding default rates, loss severities, and other factors that reflect current market conditions. If the Company has probable decreases in pool-level cash flows expected to be collected, the provision for loan losses is charged, resulting in an increase to the allowance for loan losses. If there are probable and significant increases in pool-level cash flows expected to be collected, the Company will first reverse any previously established allowance for loan losses and then increase interest income as a prospective yield adjustment over the remaining life of the loans.

Results of the Company's fourth quarter cash flow re-estimation are summarized as follows:

(Dollars in thousands)	Imp	airment	 sh Flow rovement	New Yield	Previous Yield
Loan pools with cash flow improvement	\$	(111)	\$ 508	7.48%	7.07%
Loan pools with impairment		482	_	6.51%	6.51%
Total	\$	371	\$ 508	6.82%	6.67%

The fourth quarter of 2012 cash flow re-estimation indicated net improved cash flows on purchased credit-impaired loan pools of \$137 thousand. The \$508 thousand of cash flow improvement on related loan pools will be recorded as additional interest income as a prospective yield adjustment over the remaining life of the loans. The \$371 thousand impairment was recorded to the provision for loan losses in the fourth quarter of 2012. The pool-level impairment and cash flow improvement were calculated as the difference between the pool-level recorded investment and the net present value of estimated cash flows at the time of the cash flow re-estimation.

Non-performing loans as a percentage of total loans was 2.43 percent at December 31, 2012, which was a decline from 2.80 percent at September 30, 2012 and 5.09 percent for the predecessor company at December 31, 2011. Total non-performing assets (which include non-accrual loans, loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing, other real estate owned and repossessed loan collateral) as a percentage of total assets at December 31, 2012 was 1.71 percent, which was a decline from 1.97 percent at September 30, 2012 and 3.44 percent for the predecessor company at December 31, 2011.

Non-Interest Income

Non-interest income totaled \$4.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to \$921 thousand in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Non-interest income in the fourth quarter of 2012 included \$771 thousand in mortgage banking income, which was an increase from \$282 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2011. The Company restructured its mortgage lending business following Piedmont's investment in Crescent and hired additional experienced mortgage lenders. The Company also continues to benefit from the improving housing market in the Raleigh, North Carolina and surrounding areas as well as the currently low interest rate environment that has encouraged refinancings.

Non-interest income in the fourth quarter of 2012 also included \$1.7 million in servicing fees and gains on the sale of the guaranteed portion of U.S. Small Business Administration ("SBA") loans originated by the Company, which was a significant increase from \$51 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2011. The Company entered the government-guaranteed lending business following Piedmont's acquisition of Community Bank of Rowan in April 2011 and sells the guaranteed portion of certain SBA loans in the secondary market without recourse and recognizes gains as those loans are sold at a premium. Government-guaranteed lending and sales volumes have increased significantly throughout 2012 while secondary market premiums have also risen. Securities gains also contributed to higher non-interest income as the Company realized \$603 thousand in gains in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to losses of \$55 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Non-interest income totaled \$11.3 million in the 2012 Successor Period and \$657 thousand in the 2012 Predecessor Period. Non-interest income in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011 equaled \$1.7 million. The 2012 Successor Period included \$3.2 million in mortgage banking income, \$3.1 million in government-guaranteed lending income, and \$1.3 million in securities gains while the 2012 Predecessor Period included \$225 thousand in mortgage banking income and \$98 thousand in government-guaranteed lending income.

Non-Interest Expense

Non-interest expense in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$14.4 million compared with \$7.4 million in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011. Non-interest expense in the fourth quarter of 2012 included \$6.6 million in salaries and employee benefits expense and \$1.4 million in occupancy and equipment expense. Also included in non-interest expense in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$2.3 million in merger, conversion, and re-branding costs associated with the Crescent/ Legacy VantageSouth merger and the proposed merger with ECB Bancorp, Inc. ("ECB").

Non-interest expense totaled \$43.2 million in the 2012 Successor Period and \$3.2 million in the 2012 Predecessor Period while non-interest expense in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011 equaled \$11.2 million. The 2012 Successor Period included \$21.3 million in salaries and employee benefits expense and \$4.9 million in occupancy and equipment expense while the 2012 Predecessor Period included \$1.7 million in salaries and employee benefits expense and \$396 thousand in occupancy and equipment expense. The 2012 Successor Period and 2012 Predecessor Period included \$3.4 million and \$59 thousand, respectively, in merger, conversion, and re-branding costs associated with the Legacy VantageSouth/Community Bank of Rowan merger, the Crescent/Legacy VantageSouth merger, and the proposed merger with ECB. Higher non-interest expense in the fourth quarter of 2012 and the combined 2012 Predecessor and Successor Periods was driven by the fact that the operations of Crescent State Bank are included in the consolidated results of operations for periods after Piedmont's acquisition on November 19, 2011.

Income Taxes

The Company's income tax benefit in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$3.3 million while the Company's income tax benefit in the 2012 Successor Period totaled \$3.5 million. Income tax expense totaled \$270 thousand in the 2012 Predecessor Period. The income tax benefits recognized in the quarterly and year-to-date successor periods were primarily due to the Company's reversal of a valuation allowance in the fourth quarter of 2012 related to tax benefits generated by Legacy VantageSouth before and after Piedmont's investment in that company. This valuation allowance reversal was based on the Company's analysis of positive and negative evidence regarding future realization of its deferred tax assets, which included an evaluation of historical and forecasted pre-tax earnings, net operating loss periods, merger costs and savings, asset quality trends, capital levels, and potential tax planning strategies. Based on this analysis, the Company determined that there was sufficient positive evidence to indicate that it would likely realize the full value of its deferred tax assets over time and therefore it was determined that no valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets was needed at December 31, 2012.

The Company's income tax benefit in the predecessor fourth quarter of 2011 totaled \$504 thousand and was \$188 thousand in the predecessor year ended December 31, 2011.

Linked Quarter Comparison

Net income in the fourth quarter of 2012 equaled \$2.1 million, which was an increase from \$1.3 million in the third quarter of 2012. After preferred stock dividends, the Company recognized net income of \$0.05 per basic and diluted common share during the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to a net loss of \$0.03 per basic and diluted common share in the third quarter of 2012. The increase in net income on a linked quarter basis was primarily due to the reversal of a \$3.3 million valuation allowance in the fourth quarter of 2012 related to tax benefits generated by Legacy VantageSouth before and after Piedmont's investment in that company. Net income before income taxes decreased by \$2.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the third quarter of 2012. This decrease in pre-tax net income was primarily due to \$1.8 million in higher merger, conversion, and re-branding costs, a \$963 thousand increase in salaries and benefits expense and a \$411 thousand increase in losses on foreclosed assets. The decline in pre-tax net income was partially offset by a \$942 thousand increase in government-guaranteed lending income.

Net interest income in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$10.2 million compared to \$10.3 million in the third quarter of 2012. Net interest margin declined from 4.49 percent in the third quarter to 4.37 percent in the fourth quarter. The linked quarter decrease in margin was due to lower yields on interest-earning assets as the loan and securities portfolios repriced down somewhat in the fourth quarter, but the impact on net interest income was largely offset by an increase in average loan balances. Average loan balances increased from \$722.2 million in the third quarter to \$749.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2012. The Company originated 87.6 million in new commercial and consumer loans in the fourth quarter while continuing to resolve problem assets. Excluding the impact of purchase accounting accretion, net interest margin declined from 3.76 percent in the third quarter to 3.74 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Provision for loan losses in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$1.2 million compared to provision of \$1.1 million in the third quarter of 2012. The moderate increase in provision was related to an increase in provision for purchased credit-impaired loans, which was mostly offset by a decrease in provision for new loans. The provision (or impairment) on purchased credit-impaired loans in the third and fourth quarters was based on the Company's respective quarterly cash flow re-estimations.

Non-interest income in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$4.1 million, which was an increase from \$3.3 million in the third quarter of 2012. This increase was primarily due to government-guaranteed lending income, which increased by \$942 thousand on a linked quarter basis. SBA guaranteed lending and sales volumes have increased significantly throughout 2012 while secondary market premiums have also risen. The improvement in non-interest income was partially offset by mortgage banking income, which decreased by \$356 thousand. The Company restructured its mortgage lending business and government-guaranteed lending operations following Piedmont's investment and hired additional experienced mortgage lenders. While mortgage banking income fell on a linked quarter basis, it has been a strong source of non-interest income as the Company continues to benefit from the improving housing market in the Raleigh, North Carolina and surrounding areas as well as the currently low interest rate environment that has encouraged refinancings. Securities gains also contributed to higher non-interest income as the Company realized \$603 thousand in gains in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to \$483 thousand in the third quarter.

Non-interest expense in the fourth quarter of 2012 totaled \$14.4 million compared to \$11.1 million in the third quarter of 2012. This increase was primarily due to a \$1.0 million increase in salaries and employee benefits expense related to performance incentive payments at year end and a \$1.8 million increase in merger, conversion, and re-branding costs, most of which are included in other non-interest expense.

The Company's income tax benefit equaled \$3.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2012 primarily due to the Company's reversal of a valuation allowance related to deferred tax benefits generated by Legacy VantageSouth before and after Piedmont's investment in that company. Income tax expense of \$95 thousand in the third quarter of 2012 was based on pre-tax income adjusted for non-taxable income, such as municipal investment income and earnings on bank owned life insurance, and non-deductible expenses, such as certain merger related costs.

Proposed ECB Bancorp, Inc. Merger

On September 25, 2012, Crescent entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger with ECB (the "ECB Merger Agreement"). Pursuant to the ECB Merger Agreement, ECB will merge with and into Crescent (the "Merger"), which will be the surviving bank holding corporation in the merger. Immediately following the merger, The East Carolina Bank, a North Carolina banking corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of ECB, will be merged with and into VantageSouth. At the effective time of the merger, ECB's outstanding shares of common stock will be converted into the right to receive 3.55 shares of the common stock of the Company. The Merger has been approved by the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks but is still subject to federal regulatory approvals and stockholder approvals. The Company expects the merger to close within the first half of 2013.

ECB (NYSE Amex: ECBE) is a bank holding company, headquartered in Engelhard, North Carolina. The East Carolina Bank has twenty-five branch offices in eastern North Carolina stretching from the Virginia to South Carolina state lines east of Interstate 95. ECB offers a full range of financial services, including mortgage, agricultural banking and wealth management services.

VantageSouth Bank is a state chartered bank operating twenty banking offices in Cary (2), Apex, Burlington (2), China Grove, Salisbury, Clayton, Holly Springs, Southern Pines, Pinehurst, Sanford, Fayetteville, Garner, Raleigh (3), Wilmington (2) and Knightdale, North Carolina. Crescent Financial Bancshares, Inc. stock can be found on the NASDAQ Global Market trading under the symbol CRFN. Investors can access additional corporate information, product descriptions and online services through VantageSouth Bank's website at http://www.vantagesouthbank.com.

Forward-looking Statements

Information in this press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially, including without limitation, risks associated with the ownership by Piedmont of a majority of the Company's voting power, including interests of Piedmont differing from other Company stockholders or any change in management, strategic direction, business plan, or operations, the Company's new management's ability to successfully integrate into the Company's business and execute its business plan, the Company's ability to integrate recent and proposed acquisitions into the Company's operations successfully, local economic conditions affecting retail and commercial real estate, disruptions in the credit markets, changes in interest rates, adverse developments in the real estate market affecting the value and marketability of collateral securing loans made by the Bank, the failure of assumptions underlying loan loss and other reserves, competition, and the risk of new and changing regulation. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are discussed in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including without limitation its Annual Report on Form 10-K, its Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and its Current Reports on Form 8-K. The forward-looking statements in this press release speak only as of the date of the press release, and the Company does not assume any obligation to update such forward-looking statements.

Information in this press release also contains forward-looking statements with respect to the expected acquisition of ECB by Crescent. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated by such forward-looking statements, including without limitation: delays in obtaining or failure to receive required regulatory approvals; the possibility that fewer than the required number of ECB's stockholders vote to approve the Merger; the occurrence of events that would have a material adverse effect on ECB or Crescent (as defined in the ECB Merger Agreement); potential delays in the closing of the Merger, potential deposit attrition, higher than expected costs, customer loss and business disruption associated with business integration, including, without limitation, potential difficulties in maintaining relationships with key personnel, technological integration, and other integration related-matters; other uncertainties arising in connection with the Merger; and risk factors that are discussed in Crescent's and ECB's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including without limitation their respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K, their respective Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and their respective Current Reports on Form 8-K. Crescent does not undertake a duty to update any forward-looking statements in this Form 8-K.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

In connection with the Merger, Crescent filed with the SEC on November 21, 2012, and amended on December 21, 2012, a Registration Statement on Form S-4 that includes a preliminary Joint Proxy Statement of Crescent and ECB and a preliminary Prospectus of Crescent(together with the Joint Proxy Statement, as amended, the "Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus"). The companies will file with the SEC other relevant materials in connection with the proposed Merger. Once the Registration Statement is declared effective by the SEC, the companies will mail the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus to their respective shareholders. SHAREHOLDERS OF BOTH CRESCENT AND ECB ARE STRONGLY URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS REGARDING THE PROPOSED MERGER AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CRESCENT, ECB AND THE PROPOSED MERGER. You will be able to obtain a free copy of the Registration Statement, as well as other filings containing information about Crescent at the SEC's Internet site (http://www.sec.gov). The documents can also be obtained, without charge, by directing a written request to either Crescent Financial Bancshares, Inc., 3600 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27612, Attention: Terry Earley, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, or ECB Bancorp, Inc., Post Office Box 337, Engelhard, NC 27824, Attention: Tom Crowder, Chief Financial Officer.

Crescent, ECB and their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be "participants" in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of Crescent and ECB in favor of the Merger. Information about the directors and executive officers of ECB and their ownership of ECB common stock is set forth in ECB's definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 27, 2012 and available at the SEC's Internet site (http://www.sec.gov) and from ECB at the address set forth in the preceding paragraph. Information about the directors and executive officers of Crescent and their ownership of Crescent common stock is set forth in Crescent's definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 5, 2012 and available at the SEC's internet site (http://www.sec.gov) and from Crescent at the address set forth in the preceding paragraph. Additional information regarding the interests of these participants and other persons who may be deemed participants in the solicitation may be obtained by reading the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus regarding the proposed Merger. Free copies of this document may be obtained as described in the preceding paragraph.

INCOME STATEMENTS (unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands except per share data; prior quarters' information has been retrospectively adjusted to reflect the common control merger between Legacy VantageSouth and Crescent)

	Successor Company									Predecessor Company				
	Dec	cember 31,	_	Month Periotember 30,	od Er	nded June 30,	Pe Febr Ma	For the eriod of ruary 1 to arch 31,	I Po Jan	For the eriod of uary 1 to nuary 31,	For Per	the Three Month iod Ended cember 31,		
Interest income		2012		2012		2012		2012		2012		2011		
Loans	\$	10,898	\$	10,810	\$	10,707	\$	7,302	\$	3,807	\$	6,984		
Investment securities	Ψ	855	Ψ	1,036	Ψ	1,070	Ψ	7,302	Ψ	395	Ψ	507		
Fed funds sold and interest- earning deposits		20		16		33		16		4		61		
Total interest income		11,773		11,862		11,810		8,074		4,206		7,552		
Interest expense		,,,,			_	,		5,071		-,= • •		,,,,,,,		
Deposits		1,309		1,320		1,462		995		530		1,032		
Short-term borrowings		10		3		4		2		_		18		
Long-term debt		279		274		311		201		103		646		
Total interest expense		1,598		1,597		1,777		1,198		633		1,696		
•		1,000		1,007		-,,,,		1,170				1,000		
Net interest income		10,175		10,265		10,033		6,876		3,573		5,856		
Provision for loan losses		1,167		1,077		2,046		868		195		729		
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		9,008		9,188		7,987		6,008		3,378		5,127		
Non-interest income														
Mortgage banking income		771		1,127		770		496		225		282		
Government-guaranteed		7 7 1		1,127		770		1,70		220		202		
lending		1,718		776		572		(6)		98		51		
Service charges and fees on deposit accounts		508		523		557		349		194		301		
Bank-owned life insurance income		208		215		203		134		70		103		
Gain (loss) on sale of available for sale securities		603		483		(27)		192		_		(55)		
Other		325		208		315		307		70		239		
Total non-interest income		4,133		3,332		2,390		1,472		657		921		
Non-interest expense														
Salaries and employee benefits		6,613		5,650		5,513		3,500		1,737		3,923		
Occupancy and equipment		1,371		1,387		1,353		809		396		590		
Data processing		852		644		596		881		271		(150)		
FDIC insurance premiums		216		205		229		277		141		602		
Net loss on foreclosed assets		662		251		295		95		11		265		
Other loan related expense		352		419		335		417		162		261		
Other		4,288		2,584		1,977		1,438		518		1,913		
Total non-interest expense		14,354		11,140		10,298		7,417		3,236		7,404		
Income (loss) before income taxes		(1,213)		1,380		79		63		799		(1,356)		
Income taxes		(3,326)		95		(259)		4		270		(504)		
Net income (loss)		2,113		1,285		338		59		529		(852)		
Effective dividend on preferred stock		368		367		367		244		122		182		
Net income (loss) to common stockholders	\$	1,745	\$	918	\$	(29)	\$	(185)	\$	407	\$	(1,034)		
MET INCOME (LOCG) DED	COM	MON CITA	DE											
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER	COM		.KE	0.02	Ф		¢	(0.01)	¢.	0.01	¢.	(0.05)		
Basic Diluted	\$	0.05 0.05	\$	0.03	\$		\$	(0.01)	5	0.01	5	(0.05) (0.05)		
Diluteu	D	0.03	<u> </u>	0.03	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	(0.01)		0.01	D	(0.03)		

			Successor		Predecessor Company							
		T 41 7	71 N /	I41- D	. 1 F	1.1	Pe	for the eriod of	For the Period of		N	he Three Month
	-			Ionth Perio				ruary 1 to	January 1 t		Period Ended	
		nber 31, 012		mber 30, 012		ine 30, 2012		arch 31, 2012	January 31 2012	,	December 31, 2011	
COMMON SHARE DATA		012	2012			2012		2012	2012	—		2011
COMMON SHARE DATA												
Book value per common share	\$	4.18	\$	4.11	\$	4.07	\$	4.10	N/A		\$	4.08
Tangible book value per common share	\$	3.37	\$	3.31	\$	3.26	\$	3.29	N/A		\$	3.27
Ending shares outstanding	35,754,247		35,747,576		35,749,689		35,749,603		35,549,785		35,549,785	
Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic	35,7	30,855	35,7	28,451	35,	727,207	35,	721,856	35,515,535		19,0	61,335
Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted	35,8	08,687	35,751,704		35,727,207		35,721,856		35,537,815	,815		61,335
PERFORMANCE RATIOS	(annual	lized)										
Return on average assets		0.79%		0.49%		0.13%		0.03%	0.58	%		(0.48)%
Return on average equity		4.84%		2.98%		0.80%		0.21%	3.67	%		(3.56)%
Tax equivalent yield on earning assets		5.05%		5.18%		5.07%		5.15%	5.35	%		4.79 %
Cost of interest-bearing liabilities		0.80%		0.83%		0.91%		0.92%	0.95	%		1.24 %
Tax equivalent net interest margin		4.37%		4.49%		4.30%		4.39%	4.55			3.72 %
Efficiency ratio		100.32%		81.93%		82.89%		88.85%	76.50	%		109.25 %
Net loan charge-offs		0.17%		0.44%		0.35%		0.45%	_	- %		0.54 %

INCOME STATEMENTS (unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands except per share data; prior years' information has been retrospectively adjusted to reflect the common control merger between Legacy VantageSouth and Crescent)

		essor pany	Predecessor Company				
	Decem	ary 1 to aber 31,	Jar	nuary 1 to nuary 31, 2012		Year Ended ecember 31, 2011	
Interest income							
Loans	\$	39,717	\$	3,807	\$	13,362	
Investment securities		3,717		395		870	
Federal funds sold and interest-earning deposits		85		4		102	
Total interest income		43,519		4,206		14,334	
Interest expense		4.050		20.5		0.02	
Non-maturity deposits		1,873		205		903	
Time deposits		3,213		325		1,132	
Short-term borrowings		19		102		18	
Long-term debt		1,065		103		725	
Total interest expense		6,170		633		2,778	
Net interest income		37,349		3,573		11,556	
Provision for loan losses		5,159	_	195		880	
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		32,190		3,378		10,676	
Non-interest income		2.164		225		440	
Mortgage banking income		3,164		225			
Government-guaranteed lending Service charges and fees on deposit accounts		3,061 1,937		98 194		476 516	
Bank-owned life insurance income		760		70		103	
Gain (loss) on sale of available for sale securities		1,251		70			
Other		1,154		70		(38) 219	
Total non-interest income		11,327		657		1,716	
Non-interest expense		11,327		037		1,/10	
Salaries and employee benefits		21,276		1,737		5,786	
Occupancy and equipment		4,920		396		953	
Net (gain) loss on foreclosed assets		1,303		11		(191)	
Data processing		2,972		271		1,000	
FDIC insurance premiums		926		141		373	
Other loan related expense		1,524		162		337	
Professional services		4,691		144		867	
Advertising and business development		1,083		73		723	
Printing, postage, and supplies		786		47		210	
Other		3,729		254		1,178	
Total non-interest expense		43,210		3,236		11,236	
Income before income tax		307		799		1,156	
Income tax expense (benefit)		(3.486)		270		188	
Net income		3,793		529		968	
Effective dividend on preferred stock		1,346		122		182	
Net income available to common shareholders	\$	2,447	\$	407	\$	786	
Net income per common share	-						
Basic	\$	0.07	\$	0.01	\$	0.07	
Diluted	\$	0.07	\$	0.01	\$	0.07	
Weighted average common shares outstanding	-						
Basic	35.	727,930	35	,515,535		10,858,657	
Diluted		800,148		.537.815		10,916,549	
				,,.		- 4-	
PERFORMANCE RATIOS (annualized)							
Return on average assets		0.39%		0.58 %		0.32%	
Return on average equity		2.41%		3.67 %		2.56%	
Tax equivalent yield on earning assets		5.12%		5.35 %		5.20%	
Cost of interest-bearing liabilities		0.86%		0.95 %		1.15%	
Tax equivalent net interest margin		4.40%		4.55 %		4.19%	
Efficiency ratio		88.77%		76.50 %		84.66%	
Net loan charge-offs		0.37%		— %		0.31%	

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, prior periods' information has been retrospectively adjusted to reflect the common control merger between Legacy VantageSouth and Crescent)

				Predecessor Company						
	De	ecember 31,	Se	eptember 30,		June 30,	I	March 31,	De	cember 31,
		2012		2012		2012		2012		2011
ASSETS										
Cash and due from banks	\$	15,735	\$	13,187	\$	18,776	\$	16,373	\$	13,229
Interest-earning deposits with banks		7,978		3,821		6,817		5,020		8,583
Federal funds sold		26,750		20,550		44,535		59,145		24,660
Investment securities available for sale		136,311		153,742		173,757		168,526		169,583
Investment securities held to maturity		180		166		130		125		421
Loans held for sale		16,439		8,239		7,357		4,874		4,214
Loans		763,416		739,028		696,872		704,261		736,089
Allowance for loan losses		(3,998)		(3,146)		(3,043)		(1,607)		(2,131)
Net loans		759,418		735,882		693,829		702,654		733,958
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		2,307		2,172		3,894		9,793		9,899
Premises and equipment, net		17,351		17,068		17,130		17,054		16,841
Bank-owned life insurance		19,976		19,800		19,620		19,442		19,261
Foreclosed assets		5,837		6,697		7,772		8,340		11,066
Deferred tax asset, net		36,659		33,162		33,590		33,704		33,935
Goodwill		26,254		26,254		26,254		26,254		26,254
Other intangible assets, net		2,376		2,487		2,597		2,708		2,452
Other assets		11,654		10,842		11,771		9,096		13,265
Total assets	\$	1,085,225	\$	1,054,069	¢	1,067,829	\$	1,083,108	\$	1,087,621
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDE	RS'	EQUITY								
LIABILITIES	113	LQUIII								
Deposits (1)										
Non-interest demand	\$	71,613	\$	111,725	\$	102,596	\$	99,236	\$	113,321
Interest-bearing demand		188,843		139,768		146,027		160,007		175,840
Money market and savings		260,966		241,324		245,913		227,075		189,468
Time		351,800		360,172		372,074		390,181		407,615
Total deposits		873,222	_	852,989	_	866,610		876,499		886,244
Short-term borrowings		7,500				_		5,000		<u>_</u>
Long-term debt		19,864		24,326		24,288		24,252		24,216
Other liabilities		10,698		5,243		7,050		6,158		7,652
Total liabilities		911,284	_	882,558	_	897,948	_	911,909		918,112
		,		, , , ,		,-		,		-, -
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		04.655		24 (21		04.544		24.400		24.442
Preferred stock		24,657		24,601		24,544		24,489		24,442
Common stock		36		36		36		36		36
Common stock warrant		1,325		1,325		1,325		1,325		1,325
Additional paid-in capital		147,510		146,655		146,648		146,627		152,515
Accumulated deficit		(1,405)		(3,200)		(4,115)		(2,420)		(9,089)
Accumulated other comprehensive income		1,818		2,094		1,443		1,142		280
Total stockholders' equity		173,941		171,511		169,881		171,199		169,509
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	1,085,225	\$	1,054,069	\$	1,067,829	\$	1,083,108	\$	1,087,621

⁽¹⁾ Certain business deposit accounts became interest-bearing in the fourth quarter of 2012 as the Company enhanced its deposit product offerings to attract and retain core deposit relationships. This deposit product change increased interest-bearing demand balances while decreasing non-interest demand balances in the fourth quarter.

		Succe Comp			Predecessor Company		
	December 31, 2012	September 30, 2012	June 30, 2012	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011		
<u>CAPITAL RATIOS</u>							
Tangible equity to tangible assets	13.75%	13.92%	13.57%	13.49%	13.30%		
Tangible common equity to tangible assets	11.42%	11.52%	11.21%	11.17%	10.99%		
VantageSouth Bank:							
Tier 1 leverage ratio	11.49%	9.89%	9.41%	8.93%	8.49%		
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	13.48%	12.82%	12.02%	11.17%	10.59%		
Total risk-based capital ratio	14.76%	13.28%	12.49%	11.62%	11.85%		
Crescent State Bank:							
Tier 1 leverage ratio	N/A	12.21%	12.11%	12.18%	10.19%		
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	N/A	13.81%	14.22%	14.96%	13.62%		
Total risk-based capital ratio	N/A	15.20%	15.61%	16.17%	14.64%		
ASSET QUALITY DATA							
Non-performing loans	\$ 12,751	\$ 14,023	\$ 17,983	\$ 19,118	\$ 26,396		
Foreclosed assets	5,837	6,697	7,772	8,340	11,066		
Total non-performing assets	\$ 18,588	\$ 20,720	\$ 25,755	\$ 27,458	\$ 37,462		
Tomi non performing assets	Ţ 10,000		- 20,700	77,100	ψ 27,10 <u>2</u>		
Allowance for loan losses to loans	0.52%	0.43%	0.44%	0.23%	0.29%		
Non-performing loans to total loans	2.43%	2.80%	3.70%	3.90%	5.09%		
Non-performing assets to total assets	1.71%	1.97%	2.41%	2.54%	3.44%		
Restructured loans not included in categories above	104	_	_	917	782		

<u>AVERAGE BALANCES, TAXABLE EQUIVALENT INTEREST AND YIELDS/COSTS</u> (Dollars in thousands)

		Successor Company								Predecessor Company				
	Three	e month	s ended Dec 2012	ember 31,	Three month	s ended Sep 2012	tember 30,	Tł	nree month		nded Dec 011	ember 31,		
	Ave Bal	erage lance	Interest*	Average Yield/ Cost*	Average Balance	Interest*	Average Yield/ Cost*		Average Balance	In	iterest*	Average Yield/ Cost*		
Assets														
Loans	\$ 7	49,053	\$ 10,898	5.79%	\$ 722,177	\$ 10,810	5.95%	\$	437,688	\$	6,984	6.33%		
Investment securities		47,188	934	2.52	163,655	1,115	2.71	Ψ	75,000	Ψ	540	2.86		
Federal funds and other interest-earning assets		36,791	20	0.22	30,844	16	0.21		115,584		61	0.21		
Total interest-earning assets		33,032	11,852	5.05%	916,676	11,941	5.18%		628,272	_	7,585	4.79%		
Non-interest-earning assets		32,629	,		132,347	,			73,063		•			
Total assets		65,661			\$ 1,049,023			\$	701,335					
Liabilities and Equity														
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 1.	59,071	120	0.30%	\$ 135,786	102	0.30%	\$	91,583	\$	217	0.94%		
Money market and savings	2	50,625	343	0.54	244,619	357	0.58		115,012		212	0.73		
Time deposits	3	61,557	846	0.93	362,733	861	0.94		249,627		603	0.96		
Total interest-bearing deposits	7	71,253	1,309	0.68	743,138	1,320	0.71		456,222		1,032	0.90		
Short-term borrowings		4,511	10	0.88	1,500	3	0.80		5,670		18	1.26		
Long-term debt	:	22,517	279	4.93	22,802	274	4.78		79,811		646	3.21		
Total interest-bearing liabilities	7	98,281	1,598	0.80%	767,440	1,597	0.83%		541,703		1,696	1.24%		
Non interest-bearing deposits		86,266			103,535				60,985					
Other liabilities		7,459			6,457				3,656					
Total liabilities	8	92,006			877,432				606,344					
Stockholders' equity	1	73,655			171,591				94,991					
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,0	65,661			\$ 1,049,023			\$	701,335					
Net interest income, taxable equivalent			\$ 10,254			\$ 10,344				\$	5,889			
Interest rate spread				4.25%			4.35%					3.55%		
Tax equivalent net interest margin				4.37%			4.49%					3.72%		
Percentage of average interest- earning assets to average				116 0007			110.4507					115,0007		
interest-bearing liabilities				116.88%			119.45%					115.98%		

^{*} Taxable equivalent basis

	Succe	ssor Compa	any	Predecessor Company									
		y 1, 2012 thi mber 31, 20		January 1, 2	2012 through 31, 2012	n January	Year Ended	December 3	1, 2011				
	Average balance	Interest*	Average Yield/ Cost*	Average balance	Interest*	Average Yield/ Cost*	Average balance	Interest*	Average Yield/ Cost*				
Assets:													
Loans	\$ 727,339	\$ 39,717	5.97%	\$ 730,387	\$ 3,807	6.15%	\$ 201,106	\$ 13,362	6.64%				
Investment securities	164,113	3,990	2.66%	180,220	419	2.74%	29,827	903	3.03%				
Federal funds and other interest-earning assets	42,603	85	0.22%	23,719	4	0.20%	45,384	102	0.22%				
Total interest-earning assets	934,055	43,792	5.12%	934,326	4,230	5.35%	276,317	14,367	5.20%				
Non-interest-earning assets	127,572			134,240			28,430						
Total assets	\$ 1,061,627			\$ 1,068,566			\$ 304,747						
Liabilities and Equity:													
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 149,394	540	0.39%	\$ 172,363	108	0.74%	\$ 36,756	338	0.92%				
Money market and savings	236,735	1,333	0.62%	184,716	96	0.61%	59,813	565	0.94%				
Time deposits	373,337	3,213	0.94%	404,999	325	0.95%	115,245	1,132	0.98%				
Total interest-bearing deposits	759,466	5,086	0.73%	762,078	529	0.82%	211,814	2,035					
Short-term borrowings	3,351	19	0.62%	968	_	%	1,429	18	1.26%				
Long-term debt	22,966	1,065	5.07%	24,217	103	5.02%	27,850	725	2.60%				
Total interest-bearing liabilities	785,783	6,170	0.86%	787,263	632	0.95%	241,093	2,778	1.15%				
Non interest-bearing deposits	97,250			107,156			24,549						
Other liabilities	6,858			4,184			1,266						
Total liabilities	889,891			898,603			266,908						
Stockholders' equity	171,736			169,963			37,839						
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,061,627			\$ 1,068,566			\$ 304,747						
Net interest income		\$ 37,622			\$ 3,598			\$ 11,589					
Interest rate spread			4.26%			4.40%			4.05%				
Net interest margin			4.40%			4.55%			4.19%				
Percentage of average interest- earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities			118.87%			118.68%			114.61%				

^{*} Taxable equivalent basis