

**For release:  
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ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the notification by First Southern Bancshares, Inc., Carbondale, Illinois, to become a bank holding company through the acquisition of 100 percent of the outstanding voting stock of Shawnee Bancshares, Inc., Grand Tower, Illinois, and thereby indirectly acquire its subsidiary bank, Shawnee State Bank, Grand Tower, Illinois.

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