

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

Item 8.01 Other Events

On May 16, 2006, Heartland Financial USA, Inc. (the "Company") announced that it has completed the acquisition of Bank of the Southwest. A copy of the Press Release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BUSINESS
(a) ACQUIRED.

None.

(b) PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

None.

(c) EXHIBITS

99.1 Press Release.

SIGNATURES

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

**HEARTLAND FINANCIAL
USA, INC**

May 16, 2006

By: /s/ John K. Schmidt
Executive Vice President,
CFO & COO