



Contact:
Jodie Corey Behrens, Director of Marketing
Tel: (309) 787-7909 ext. 260
Fax: (309) 787-7564
jcorey@bhsb.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2006

**BLACKHAWK STATE BANK OPENS NEW INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT
Carrie A. Crossen Joins Bank as Investment Executive**

Milan, IL- Blackhawk State Bank is proud to announce the establishment of a new Investment Department located at our headquarters in Milan, IL.

Blackhawk State Bank has partnered with Prime Vest Financial Services, Inc. to provide a wide array of investment opportunities from stock trading to fixed-income investing, mutual funds to insurance products, and fee-based solutions to qualified retirement plans for Blackhawk State Bank customers.

Blackhawk State Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Mrs. Carrie A. Taylor-Crossen to our Blackhawk Bank team of officers. Mrs. Taylor-Crossen joined our team from her position at Metrobank. She is a lifelong Quad City Area resident from Orion, IL, and a graduate of Western Illinois University with over five years of experience in investment banking. Mrs. Taylor-Crossen is a member of the Quad City Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Network, the Davenport One NEXT Young Professionals Network and has volunteered her time to the Davenport Jaycees Haunted Houses. She currently resides East Moline, IL with her husband Tony.

Carrie joins Heidi C. Huiskamp in our new Investment Department. Together they look forward to serving our customers and offering the newly expanded services of the Investment Department. Call or stop in to visit Carrie at our Milan branch. She welcomes your business.

Please join us in welcoming Carrie to Blackhawk State Bank as she joins us in providing the same great customer service we have given to our customers for over 40 years.

###