

**FIRST  
FEDERAL  
BANCSHARES**

*of Arkansas, Inc.*

P. O. Box 550  
200 West Stephenson  
Harrison, AR 72601

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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**FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES OF ARKANSAS, INC.  
ANNOUNCES STOCK REPURCHASE PROGRAM ACTIVITY**

**Harrison, Arkansas – September 24, 2002** - (NASDAQ NMS:FFBH) First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc. (the "Corporation"), a unitary savings and loan holding company for First Federal Bank of Arkansas, FA (the "Bank") announced today that the Corporation had completed its previously announced stock repurchase. The action, which consisted of a repurchase of 143,306 shares of the Corporation's issued and outstanding shares, commenced on June 28, 2002 and was completed on September 24, 2002. Such shares will be reflected as treasury shares and will be available for general corporate purposes.

In addition, First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc., announced today that its Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 136,441 shares, or approximately 5 percent, of the Corporation's outstanding common stock.

Repurchases are authorized to be made by the Corporation from time to time in open-market transactions as, in the opinion of management, market conditions warrant. The repurchased shares will be held as treasury stock and will be available for general corporate purposes.

Larry J. Brandt, President/CEO of the Corporation, stated that "the stock repurchase reflects management's commitment to enhance shareholder value. We firmly believe the repurchase of our stock at levels near book value is an extremely wise and prudent use of excess capital."

As of June 30, 2002, the Corporation had total assets of \$689.2 million. The Bank, in its 68th year, is a community-oriented institution, which serves its market area from 16 offices in Northcentral and Northwest Arkansas.