CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP Form S-4 July 17, 2006 Table of Contents

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# **UNITED STATES**

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549** 

# FORM S-4

# REGISTRATION STATEMENT

**UNDER** 

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

# CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

MISSISSIPPI (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) 6021 (Primary Standard Industrial Classification No.) 301 EAST MAIN STREET 64-0684755 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

(662) 343-1341

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant s Principal Executive Office(s))

Lewis F. Mallory, Jr.

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

301 East Main St.

#### Starkville, Mississippi 39759

(662) 343-1341

(Name, A	ddress.	Including	Zip Code	and Tele	phone Nu	ımber. İnc	duding Ar	ea Code.	of Ag	ent for	Service)

Copies to:

Mark L. Jones

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(713) 652-5151

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

(404) 572-6600

Approximate Date of Commencement of Proposed Sale to the Public:

Upon the merger of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. with and into the Registrant

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

# **Calculation of Registration Fee**

Proposed maximum Amount of registration securities to be registered Common Stock, Par value \$1.00 per share Proposed maximum aggregate registration offering price (2) fee \$4,617,700 \$495.00

- (1) Represents the maximum number of shares of Cadence Financial Corporation common stock estimated to be issuable upon consummation of the merger described herein.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(f) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registration fee is based on the book value of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. common stock as of June 30, 2006 and the number of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. common stock to be received by Cadence Financial

Corporation in the merger, reduced by the cash to be paid to the holders of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. common stock by Cadence Financial Corporation as part of the merger consideration.

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or jurisdiction in which the offer or sale is not permitted.

#### PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JULY 17, 2006

[Seasons Bancshares, Inc. mark]

## PROPOSED MERGER YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

To Seasons Shareholders:

I am writing to you today about our proposed merger with Cadence Financial Corporation. The boards of directors of Cadence Financial Corporation and Seasons Bancshares, Inc. have each agreed to a merger that will result in Seasons merging with and into Cadence. At or about the same time, Seasons Bank, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Seasons, will be merged with and into Cadence Bank, N.A., a national bank and wholly-owned subsidiary of Cadence.

You will be asked to vote on the merger at a special meeting of shareholders to be held on , 2006 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at Seasons main office located at 336 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, Georgia 30512. We cannot complete the merger unless the holders of a majority of the shares of Seasons common stock outstanding on , 2006, the record date for the special meeting, vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement. A copy of the merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement/prospectus. We urge you to read this proxy statement/prospectus carefully and in its entirety. Your board of directors recommends that you vote FOR the approval and adoption of the merger agreement.

Subject to certain exceptions described in this proxy statement/prospectus, if the merger is completed, then you will receive, for each Seasons share that you own, either \$18.83 in cash or a to-be-determined number of shares of Cadence common stock with a market value, measured as of a 10-day trading period ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger, equal to \$18.83, subject to certain limitations described in the merger agreement. For purposes of illustration only, if the merger had occurred on July 12, 2006, the exchange ratio for each share of Seasons common stock would have been .884 shares of Cadence common stock, having a value of \$21.31 based on the average closing price of Cadence common stock over the trading period. We encourage you to obtain current market quotations for Cadence common stock, which is traded on the American Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NBY.

You may elect to receive Cadence common stock, cash or a combination of stock and cash for your Seasons shares, subject to proration, whereby holders of Seasons common stock and Seasons stock options shall collectively receive, in the aggregate, merger consideration in the form of cash approximately equal to \$9,900,000. Because elections are subject to proration, you may receive some stock, rather than cash, even though you make an all-cash election, and you may receive some cash, rather than stock, even though you make an all-stock election. The federal income taxes payable by you will depend upon the value of and form of consideration you receive in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock. You will receive a separate mailing that will contain instructions regarding your election.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please take the time to vote by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card using the enclosed envelope. If you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you want to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote in favor of the merger. If you fail to return your proxy card or do not vote in person at the meeting, the effect will be the same as a vote against the merger.

You should read this entire proxy statement/prospectus carefully because it contains important information about the merger. In particular, you should carefully read the information under the section entitled <u>Risk Factors</u> beginning on page 14.

We very much appreciate and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,	
William L. Sutton	Robert M. Thomas, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer	Chairman of the Board
Seasons Bancshares, Inc.	Seasons Bancshares, Inc.
disapproved of the merger or the securities to be proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation The shares of Cadence common stock to be issue	ed in the merger are not savings accounts, deposit accounts or other obligations of any
bank or non-bank subsidiary of any of the partic Bank Insurance Fund, or any other government:	es and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the al agency.
This proxy statement/prospectus is dated on or about , 2006.	, 2006, and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to Seasons shareholders $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$

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#### PLEASE NOTE

This document, which is sometimes referred to as a proxy statement/prospectus, constitutes a proxy statement of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. with respect to the solicitation of proxies from Seasons shareholders for the special meeting described herein and a prospectus of Cadence Financial Corporation for the shares of Cadence common stock that Cadence will issue to Seasons shareholders in connection with the merger.

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any information other than the information included in this proxy statement/prospectus and the documents we refer you to herein. If someone provides you with other information, please do not rely on it.

This proxy statement/prospectus has been prepared as of the date on the cover page. There may be changes in the affairs of Cadence or Seasons after that date that are not reflected in this proxy statement/prospectus.

As used in this proxy statement/prospectus: (i) the terms Cadence and Seasons refer to Cadence Financial Corporation and Seasons Bancshares, Inc., respectively, and, where the context requires, to Cadence and Seasons and their respective subsidiaries, including Cadence Bank, N.A. and Seasons Bank; and (ii) the term merger agreement refers to the merger agreement which governs the merger of Seasons with and into Cadence, dated as of March 21, 2006.

#### HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As permitted under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), this proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about Cadence that is contained in documents filed with the SEC and that is not included in, or delivered with, this proxy statement/prospectus. See the section entitled Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference at page. You may obtain copies of these documents without charge from the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov as well as from other sources. You may also obtain copies of these documents, without charge, by writing or calling:

#### **Cadence Financial Corporation**

P.O. Box 1187

Starkville, Mississippi 39760

(662) 343-1341

Attention: Richard T. Haston

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. Shareholders requesting documents should do so by in order to receive them before the special meeting.

The descriptions of the merger agreement in this proxy statement/prospectus have been included to provide you with information regarding its terms. The merger agreement contains representations and warranties made by and to the parties thereto as of specific dates. The statements embodied in those representations and warranties were made for purposes of the contracts between the respective parties and are subject to qualifications and limitations agreed by the respective parties in connection with negotiating the terms of the merger agreement. In addition, certain representations and warranties were made as of a specified date, may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from those generally applicable to shareholders, or may have been used for the purpose of allocating the risk between the respective parties rather than establishing matters as facts.

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[Seasons Mark]

## 336 Blue Ridge Street

Blairsville, Georgia 30512

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of shareholders of Seasons Bancshares, Inc. will be held at Seasons main office located at 336 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, Georgia 30512 on , 2006 at 10:00 am, local time, for the following purposes:

- To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger between Cadence Financial Corporation and Seasons Bancshares, Inc., dated March 21, 2006, pursuant to which Cadence will acquire Seasons through the merger of Seasons with and into Cadence. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus as Appendix A.
- 2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting, including, without limitation, a motion to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to allow more time for soliciting additional votes to approve and adopt the merger agreement.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. Approval of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast at the special meeting.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please submit your proxy with voting instructions. To submit your proxy by mail, please complete, sign, date and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Your board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and recommends that you vote  $\ FOR$  adoption of the merger agreement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

William L. Sutton, CEO [date]

Robert M. Thomas, Jr., Chairman

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### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### Q: What am I being asked to vote on?

A: You are being asked to vote on the agreement and plan of merger by and between Cadence and Seasons, dated as of March 21, 2006, which provides for the merger of Seasons with and into Cadence, with Cadence as the surviving corporation in the merger. At the effective time of the merger agreement, Seasons will be merged with and into Cadence, and simultaneously therewith, Seasons Bank, Seasons wholly owned bank subsidiary, will be merged with and into Cadence Bank, Cadence s wholly owned bank subsidiary.

#### Q: Why are Seasons and Cadence proposing to merge?

A: The board of directors of each of Cadence and Seasons believes that a combination of the two companies is in the best interests of its respective company. From Seasons perspective, the Seasons board of directors believes that the merger presents a more favorable opportunity for Seasons to maximize value for its shareholders than Seasons continuing to operate on a stand-alone basis. See *The Merger Reasons for the Merger: Seasons Reasons for the Merger* beginning on page and *The Merger Reasons for the Merger: Cadence s Reasons for the Merger* beginning on page.

#### Q: How does my board of directors recommend I vote on the proposal?

A: Your board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

#### Q: What will I receive in the merger?

A: If the merger agreement is approved and the merger is subsequently completed, you may elect to receive, for each share of Seasons common stock that you own, either shares of Cadence common stock or \$18.83 in cash. If you elect to receive shares of Cadence common stock, you will receive a number of shares of Cadence common stock equal to \$18.83 divided by the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger, subject to certain limitations in the merger agreement. You may elect to receive all cash, all Cadence common stock, or a combination of cash and Cadence common stock for your shares of Seasons common stock, subject to allocation procedures designed to ensure that holders of Seasons common stock and options to acquire Seasons common stock will collectively receive cash consideration in the amount of \$9,900,000.

# Q: How do I make an election for the type of merger consideration I will receive?

A: You will be mailed an election form on which you will indicate the form of merger consideration you wish to receive for your Seasons common stock. Please retain this proxy statement/prospectus in connection with making your election to receive cash, Cadence common stock, or a combination of cash and Cadence common stock for your shares of Seasons common stock. Your election form must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Central time, on October 18, 2006 (which we refer to as the election deadline), to return the completed and signed election form, together with the certificates that represent your shares of Seasons common stock.

# Q: Can I change or revoke my election?

A: Yes. You may change your election at any time prior to the election deadline by submitting to Computershare Shareholder Services, Inc. (Computershare), the exchange agent, a properly completed and signed revised election form. You may revoke your election and withdraw your stock certificates deposited with the exchange agent by submitting written notice to Computershare prior to the election deadline. If you instructed a bank, broker or other financial institution to submit an election for your shares, you must follow their directions for changing or revoking those instructions.

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## Q: Should I send in my stock certificates now?

A: No. You should not send in your stock certificates at this time. Along with the election form, you will receive a letter of transmittal with instructions for you to send in your stock certificate(s) along with your election form to Computershare Trust Company prior to the election deadline. You will receive the merger consideration as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of the merger. If the merger agreement is terminated and the merger does not occur, your election will be revoked automatically and the exchange agent will promptly return your stock certificate(s) to you.

#### Q: What are the tax consequences of the merger to me?

A: For United States federal income tax purposes, if you are a shareholder of Seasons common stock you generally will not recognize gain or loss with respect to your shares of Seasons common stock if you receive only shares of Cadence common stock in the merger, except with respect to any cash received in lieu of a fractional share interest in Cadence common stock.

If you receive a combination of cash and shares of Cadence common stock in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock, you will generally recognize gain, but not loss, with respect to the excess of the cash and value of Cadence common stock you receive over your tax basis in your shares of Seasons common stock exchanged, but in any case not in excess of the amount of cash you receive in the merger.

If you receive solely cash in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock, then you will generally recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash you receive and the tax basis in your shares of Seasons common stock.

Due to the potential varying tax recognition, basis and holding period consequences which will be governed by your individual consequences, we urge you to consult with your tax advisor to fully understand the tax consequences to you. Additionally, the generalizations set forth above may not apply to all shareholders.

#### Q: Who is entitled to vote at the Seasons special meeting?

A: Seasons shareholders of record at the close of business on , 2006, the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote on the approval of the merger agreement at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. However, a Seasons shareholder may only vote his or her shares if he or she is either present in person or represented by proxy at the Seasons special meeting.

#### Q: How many votes do I have?

A: Each share of common stock that you own as of the record date entitles you to one vote. On , 2006, there were 1,032,890 outstanding shares of Seasons common stock. As of the record date, Seasons directors and executive officers and their affiliates beneficially owned approximately 25.5% of the outstanding shares of Seasons common stock.

# Q: How many votes are needed to approve the merger?

A: A majority of the outstanding shares of common stock must vote in favor of the merger agreement in order for the merger to be approved.

# Q: How do I vote?

A: After you have carefully read this proxy statement/prospectus, indicate on your proxy card how you want your shares to be voted, then sign, date and mail it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope as soon as possible so that your shares may be represented and voted at the special meeting. If you are a record owner of shares

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of Seasons common stock on the record date for the special meeting, you may attend the special meeting in person and vote, whether or not you have signed and mailed your proxy card. If you sign and send in your proxy card and do not indicate how you want to vote, your proxy card will be counted as a vote against the merger. If you do not send in your proxy card or if you send it in but indicate that you abstain from voting, it will have the effect of a vote against the merger.

- Q: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, will my broker automatically vote my shares for me?
- A: No. Your broker will vote your shares only if you provide instructions on how to vote. You should follow the directions provided by your broker. Your failure to instruct your broker how to vote your shares with respect to the merger will be the equivalent of voting against the merger.
- Q: Can I change my vote after I have mailed my signed proxy card?
- A: Yes. There are three ways for you to revoke your proxy and change your vote. First, you may send to the Secretary of Seasons a later-dated, signed proxy card before the Seasons special meeting. Second, you may attend Seasons—special meeting in person and vote. Third, you may revoke any proxy by written notice to the Secretary of Seasons prior to Seasons—special meeting. If you have instructed a broker to vote your shares, you must follow directions received from your broker to change your vote.
- Q: Do I have dissenter s rights in connection with the merger?
- A: Yes. Under Georgia law, Seasons shareholders have the right to exercise dissenter s rights with respect to the merger and receive a payment in cash for the value of their shares of Seasons common stock, as determined by an appraisal process. This value may be less than the value of the consideration you would receive in the merger if you do not exercise dissenter s rights. To perfect your dissenter s rights, you must precisely follow the required statutory procedures. See *The Merger-Statutory Provisions for Dissenter s Rights of Shareholders* at page and the information attached at Appendix B.
- Q. When do you expect to complete the merger?
- A. We are working towards completing the merger as quickly as possible and currently expect that the merger will be completed during the fourth quarter of 2006.
- Q. Whom should I call with questions or to obtain additional copies of this proxy statement/prospectus?
- A. You should call either of the following:

Cadence Financial CorporationSeasons Bancshares, Inc.P.O. Box 1187336 Blue Ridge Street

Starkville, Mississippi 39760 Blairsville, Georgia

(662) 343-1341 (706) 745-5588

Attention: Richard T. Haston Attention: William L. Sutton or David K. George

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#### **SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information from this proxy statement/prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. We urge you to carefully read this entire proxy statement/prospectus, its appendices and the other documents to which we have referred you for a more complete understanding of the merger. You may obtain the information about Cadence that is incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled Where You Can Find More Information on page . Each item in this summary includes a page reference directing you to a more complete description of that item. In addition, the merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference. Unless the context requires otherwise, the terms we, our, and us refer to Cadence and Seasons together.

#### The Parties

## Information About Cadence (Page )

Cadence is a financial holding company, organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi and headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi.

Cadence is operations are primarily conducted through its wholly owned subsidiary Cadence Bank, N.A., a national bank (Cadence Bank), and its 30 full service bank facilities located in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. Through Cadence Bank, Cadence offers a range of lending services, including real estate, commercial and consumer loans, to individuals, small- and medium-sized businesses and other organizations located throughout its markets. Cadence complements its lending operations with an array of retail and commercial deposit products and fee-based services to support its clients. Some of these services are provided by two of Cadence is wholly owned subsidiaries. Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance Agency, Inc. and NBC Insurance Services of Alabama. Cadence is third subsidiary, NBC Service Corporation, also has a wholly owned subsidiary named Commerce National Insurance Company.

As of March 31, 2006, Cadence had consolidated total assets of \$1.47 billion, consolidated total loans of approximately \$862.2 million, consolidated total deposits of approximately \$1.14 billion and consolidated shareholders equity of approximately \$118.2 million.

The principal executive offices of Cadence are located at:

301 East Main Street

Starkville, Mississippi 39759

(662) 343-1341

### Information About Seasons (Page )

Seasons is a registered bank holding company, organized under the laws of the State of Georgia and headquartered in Blairsville, Georgia. All of Seasons operations are conducted through its wholly owned subsidiary Seasons Bank, a Georgia state-chartered bank. Seasons Bank currently provides banking services through two banking locations.

As of March 31, 2006, Seasons had consolidated total assets of approximately \$81.4 million, consolidated total loans of approximately \$69.9 million, consolidated total deposits of approximately \$69.3 million and consolidated shareholders equity of approximately \$7.9 million.

The principal executive offices of Seasons are located at:

336 Blue Ridge Street

Blairsville, Georgia 30514

(706) 745-5588

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Seasons Special Shareholders Meeting (Page )

A special meeting of the shareholders of Seasons will be held on , 2006 at Seasons main office located at 336 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, Georgia at 10:00 a.m. local time. At the special meeting, Seasons shareholders will consider and vote on a proposal to adopt and approve the merger by and between Cadence and Seasons, dated as of March 21, 2006. Seasons shareholders may also consider such other matters as may properly be brought before the special meeting and may be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn or postpone the special meeting, which could be used to allow more time for soliciting additional votes to approve and adopt the merger agreement.

## **Seasons Record Date and Voting (Page )**

You are entitled to vote at the special meeting if you were the record owner of shares of Seasons common stock as of the close of business on , 2006, the record date established for the special meeting. You are entitled to one vote for each share of Seasons common stock you owned of record on the record date.

On , 2006, a total of votes were eligible to be cast at the Seasons special meeting.

## Approval of a Majority of Outstanding Seasons Shares Required to Approve Merger (Page )

Holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of Seasons entitled to vote at the meeting must vote to approve the merger agreement in order for it to be adopted. A majority of the issued and outstanding Seasons shares must be present in person or by proxy for any vote to be valid.

#### The Merger (Page )

The merger agreement provides for the merger of Seasons with and into Cadence, with Cadence as the surviving corporation. The merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement/prospectus. We encourage you to read the entire merger agreement, including the exhibits attached to the merger agreement, because it is the principal legal document that governs the transaction.

## What You Will Receive in the Merger (Page )

Subject to the restrictions described below, you may elect to receive cash, shares of Cadence common stock or a combination of both in exchange for each share of Seasons common stock that you hold. The purchase price per share of Seasons common stock shall be \$18.83, and the aggregate purchase price shall be \$22 million of which, in the aggregate and including cash to be paid to holders of options to purchase Seasons common stock, \$9,900,000 shall be in the form of cash consideration. Certain proration provisions are triggered in the event the aggregate cash elections and cash paid for options to purchase shares of Seasons common stock exceeds or is less than \$9,900,000. You will be mailed an election form on which you will indicate the form of merger consideration you wish to receive for your Seasons common stock. You should retain this proxy statement/prospectus in connection with making your election to receive cash, Cadence common stock or a combination of cash and Cadence common stock for your shares of Seasons common stock. You will have until October 18, 2006, the election deadline specified in the election form, to make your election. If you do not return a properly completed election form by the election deadline, you will be deemed to have elected to receive Cadence common stock for your Seasons shares. Complete information on the election procedure can be found in the section entitled The Merger Election and Exchange Procedures on page

The number of shares to be issued by Cadence as consideration for the Seasons shares is to be adjusted based on the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the

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third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger with certain limitations. At the effective time of the merger, each share of Seasons common stock to be converted into Cadence common stock shall be converted into the right to receive the number of shares of Cadence common stock equal to \$18.83 divided by the average closing market price for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger. The merger agreement also provides that the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger will be capped and therefore not adjusted below \$20.05 or above \$27.13. Therefore, the amount of merger consideration in the form of Cadence common stock that you receive you each share of Seasons common stock could be worth more or less than \$18.83 per share.

The merger agreement also provides that every outstanding and unexercised option, whether vested or unvested, to receive Seasons common stock shall be deemed to be vested and exercised and shall receive \$18.83 less the exercise price.

The aggregate consideration to be paid by Cadence for the merger shall be \$22 million, of which, in the aggregate and including the aggregate amount to be paid to holders of options to acquire Seasons common stock, \$9,900,000 shall be in the form of cash consideration.

You should note that, in general and subject to certain allocation provisions, if you elect to receive cash, the value of the consideration you will receive is fixed at \$18.83 per share of Seasons common stock. However, if you elect to receive Cadence common stock as consideration, or a combination of Cadence common stock and cash, the value of the stock consideration will fluctuate and, on the closing date, may be higher or lower than \$18.83 per share of Seasons common stock.

#### **Election of Cash or Stock Consideration** (Page )

After the special meeting of shareholders of Seasons and no later than 15 business days prior to the anticipated completion of the merger, Computershare Trust Company, the exchange agent, will send each Seasons shareholder, who is the owner of record of shares of Seasons common stock three business days prior to the mailing of the election form, an election form that you may use to indicate whether your preference is to receive cash, Cadence common stock or a combination of cash and Cadence common stock. You will have until the election deadline, to return the completed and signed election form, together with the certificates that represent your shares of Seasons common stock. Should you acquire Seasons common stock three business days prior to the mailing of the election form and five business days prior to the election deadline, the exchange agent will provide you with a secondary election form.

Any shareholder of Seasons common stock who makes an election on the election form may at any time, prior to the election deadline, change such shareholder s election by submitting a revised election form, properly completed and signed, that is received by the exchange agent prior to the election deadline.

Any shareholder of Seasons common stock who fails to properly make an election in accordance with the procedures discussed in this proxy statement/prospectus shall be deemed to have made a stock election.

Your election may be limited by the elections other shareholders of Seasons common stock make so that, in the aggregate and including the aggregate amount to be paid to holders of options to acquire Seasons common stock, \$9,900,000 shall be in the form of cash consideration. For example, if cash elections and the amount to be paid to holders of options to acquire shares of Seasons common stock exceeds \$9,900,000, then Cadence will prorate the number of cash election shares so that the aggregate cash consideration to be paid by Cadence shall not exceed \$9,900,000.

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#### No Fractional Shares (Page )

No fractional shares of Cadence common stock shall be issued in the merger. Instead of fractional shares, each Seasons shareholder holding a fractional share interest (after taking into account all Seasons shares held by such shareholder) will receive an amount of cash based on such fractional share interest multiplied by the average closing price of Cadence common stock over the ten full trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger.

## Federal Income Tax Consequences (Page )

We expect that, for United States federal income tax purposes, if you are a shareholder of Seasons common stock you generally will not recognize gain or loss with respect to your shares of Seasons common stock if you receive only shares of Cadence common stock in the merger, except with respect to any cash received in lieu of a fractional share interest in Cadence common stock.

If you receive a combination of cash and shares of Cadence common stock in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock, you will generally recognize gain, but not loss, with respect to the excess of the cash and value of Cadence common stock you receive over your tax basis in your shares of Seasons common stock exchanged, but in any case not in excess of the amount of cash you receive in the merger.

If you receive solely cash in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock, then you will generally recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash you receive and the tax basis in your shares of Seasons common stock.

Tax laws are complicated and the tax consequences of the merger may vary depending upon your individual circumstances. We urge you to consult with your tax advisor to understand fully the merger s tax consequences to you.

#### The Rights of Cadence Shareholders and Seasons Shareholders are Different (Page )

Mississippi law and Cadence sarticles of incorporation and bylaws currently govern the rights of Cadence shareholders. Georgia law and Seasons articles of incorporation and bylaws currently govern the rights of Seasons shareholders. These rights are not identical. Upon completion of the merger, Seasons shareholders who receive shares of Cadence common stock in the merger shall become shareholders of Cadence and have the same rights as other Cadence shareholders.

## Shares of Cadence Common Stock Issued in the Merger to be Listed on the American Stock Exchange (Page

The shares of Cadence common stock to be issued in the merger will be listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol NBY.

# Cadence s Dividend Policy (Page )

Following completion of the merger, former Seasons shareholders who become Cadence shareholders will receive dividends declared by Cadence. There are no assurances, however, that Cadence will declare any future dividends.

# Seasons Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends Approval of the Merger (Page )

Seasons board of directors believes that the merger transaction with Cadence is in the best interests of Seasons and its shareholders and unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement. See *Reasons for the Merger Seasons Reasons for the Merger.* 

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### Opinion of Seasons Financial Advisor (Page )

SunTrust Robinson Humphrey has given an opinion dated March 21, 2006 to Seasons board of directors that the consideration to be received in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to Seasons shareholders. This opinion is attached as Appendix C to this proxy statement/prospectus. You should read this opinion completely to understand the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review undertaken by SunTrust Robinson Humphrey. This opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any Seasons shareholder as to how to vote on the merger agreement or as to the form of consideration that a Seasons shareholder should elect.

## **Management and Operations Following the Merger** (Page

Under the terms of the merger agreement, Seasons will merge with and into Cadence and Seasons shall cease to exist as a separate entity. Additionally, Seasons subsidiary, Seasons Bank, will merge with and into Cadence s subsidiary, Cadence Bank, with Cadence Bank as the surviving entity. The management and board of directors of Cadence will not change because of the merger.

## **Conditions to the Merger** (Page )

The completion of the merger depends upon the satisfaction or waiver of a number of conditions, including the following:

the approval of the merger by Seasons shareholders;

the accuracy of the representations and warranties made in the merger agreement;

the performance of obligations by Cadence and Seasons under the merger agreement;

the receipt of required governmental approvals (including from banking and federal and state securities regulators) and the expiration or termination of all applicable statutory waiting periods relating to the merger;

the absence of any injunction or other order by any court or other governmental entity which would prohibit or prevent the merger; and

receipt of tax opinions of Adams and Reese LLP and Powell Goldstein, LLP, counsel to Cadence and Seasons, respectively, based on facts, assumptions and representations set forth in the opinions, to the effect that the merger transaction constitutes a tax-free reorganization under section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## The Merger Agreement can be Amended or Terminated (Pages and

Cadence and Seasons can mutually agree to terminate the merger agreement at any time prior to completing the merger. In addition, either party acting alone can terminate the merger agreement in certain specified circumstances, including the failure to complete the merger by December 31, 2006, unless the terminating party s breach is the reason the merger has not been completed.

#### **Termination Fee** (Page )

Seasons has agreed that, under specific circumstances described in the merger agreement, Seasons will pay Cadence a termination fee of \$1 million.

# Required Regulatory Approvals (Page )

The merger cannot be completed until required approvals are received from banking regulators. The transactions contemplated in the merger agreement will require regulatory approval from the Board of Governors

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of the Federal Reserve Bank, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, the American Stock Exchange and the SEC. Although we believe that all regulatory approvals will be received in a timely manner, we cannot be certain when or if such approvals will be obtained.

#### Seasons Shareholders have Dissenter s Rights (Page )

Seasons shareholders are entitled to assert certain dissenter s rights under Georgia law. These dissenter s rights may give you the opportunity to receive the fair value of your shares of Seasons common stock in cash instead of having each of your shares converted in the merger into the merger consideration of shares of Cadence common stock or \$18.83 in cash. In order to perfect your dissenter s rights, you must strictly follow specific procedures under the Georgia Business Corporation Code. If you do not follow the procedures set forth in the statutory provisions of the Georgia Business Corporation Code, you may lose your dissenter s rights with respect to the merger. Please refer to pages through for more information. You should also read carefully Appendix B to this proxy statement/prospectus, which is a copy of the relevant statutory provisions of Georgia law related to dissenter s rights.

## Accounting Treatment of the Merger by Cadence (Page )

Cadence will account for the merger as a purchase for financial reporting purposes.

#### Seasons Executive Officers and Board of Directors may have Financial Interests in the Merger that Differ from your Interests (Page )

Seasons executive officers and directors may have economic interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as Seasons shareholders. The Seasons board considered these interests in its decision to approve the merger agreement. For example, some members of the board of directors and some executive officers hold unvested options to acquire shares of Seasons common stock. Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, these officers and board members will be entitled to receive in cash the difference between the exercise price and \$18.83. Additionally, upon completion of the merger, David K. George, President of Seasons, and Nita Elliot, Chief Financial Officer of Seasons, will have employment agreements with Cadence Bank, a subsidiary of Cadence.

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#### **Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Cadence**

The following table sets forth certain consolidated financial information of Cadence. This information is based on, and should be read in conjunction with, the consolidated financial statements and related notes of Cadence contained in its annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and in its quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2006, which are incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus. Information as of and for the periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 is unaudited, but in the opinion of Cadence s management, contains all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of Cadence s financial position and results of operations for such periods in accordance with GAAP. Cadence s results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2006 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that may be expected for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Cadence s financial statements for the years presented below were audited by T.E. Lott & Company, independent registered public accounting firm. The amounts for the quarters ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 have not been audited.

#### **Three Months Ended**

	March 31,			Years Ended Decem				,		2001 (1)				
		2006		2005		2005	. de	2004	char	2003		2002	2	001 (1)
Income Statement Data	(In thousands, except per share data)													
Interest and fees on loans	\$	15,423	\$	12,281	\$	53,035	\$	43,242	\$	34,073	\$	40,022	\$	51,852
Interest and dividends on securities	Ψ.	5,019	Ψ	4,889	Ψ	19,480	Ψ.	18,796	Ψ.	17,242	Ψ.	19,814	Ψ.	17,968
Other interest income		169		140		669		346		262		215		950
Total interest income		20,611		17,310		73,184		62,384		51,577		60,051		70,770
Interest expense		8,869		6,125		27,970		21,186		17,881		22,876		36,001
Net interest income		11,742		11,185		45,214		41,198		33,696		37,175		34,769
Provision for loan losses		401		635		2,128		3,522		2,770		2,790		1,720
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		11,341		10,550		43,086		37,676		30,926		34,385		33,049
Service charges on deposit accounts		1,985		1,870		7,952		8,581		7,774		7,110		5,942
Other income		2,760		2,360		11,983		11,526		12,871		10,936		10,524
Total noninterest income		4,745		5,230		19,935		20,107		20,645		18,046		16,466
Salaries and employee benefits		6,792		5,893		24,934		23,415		19,868		19,827		18,156
Occupancy and equipment expense		1,576		1,613		6,172		5,861		4,657		4,728		4,616
Other expenses		3,266		3,002		13,639		12,451		9,029		8,863		9,344
Total noninterest expenses		11,634		10,508		44,745		41,727		33,554		33,418		32,116
Income before income taxes		4,452		5,272		18,276		16,056		18,017		19,013		17,399
Income taxes		1,202		1,530		4,522		3,757		4,492		4,792		4,261
Net income	\$	3,250	\$	3,742	\$	13,754	\$	12,299	\$	13,525	\$	14,221	\$	13,138
Per Share Data (1)														
Net income basic	\$	0.40	\$	0.46	\$	1.68	\$	1.51	\$	1.65	\$	1.73	\$	1.54
Net income diluted		0.40		0.46		1.68		1.50		1.65		1.73		1.54
Book Value		14.44		14.00		14.31		14.06		13.58		13.57		12.48
Tangible book value		9.63		9.06		9.46		9.08		13.23		13.22		12.13

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Dividends	0.25	0.24	0.98	0.96	0.92	0.87	0.82
Balance Sheet Data							
Total assets	\$ 1,474,168	\$ 1,387,015	\$ 1,446,117	\$ 1,439,573	\$ 1,093,223	\$ 1,077,456	\$ 1,050,802
Net loans	852,738	791,944	851,332	817,649	582,933	570,296	607,976
Total deposits	1,144,331	1,066,584	1,121,684	1,116,373	815,839	817,447	810,703
Investment securities	451,488	446,039	442,440	465,770	378,935	393,783	340,726
Total shareholders equity	118,237	114,277	116,984	114,766	111,102	111,107	102,927
Tangible shareholders equity	78,879	74,003	77,330	74,107	108,249	108,254	100,070

<sup>(1)</sup> Restated for 4-for-3 stock split in 2002.

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At and for the Years

	At and for the Ended Mar	-		Ende	d December	31.	
	2006	2005	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
		(Dollars i	n thousands,	except per s	hare data)		
Selected Financial Ratios:							
Net interest margin (1)	3.61%	3.51%	3.55%	3.37%	3.42%	3.80%	3.59%
Selected Performance Ratios:							
Return on average assets	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Return on average equity	11.1%	13.7%	11.8%	11.0%	12.2%	13.3%	12.5%
Return on average tangible equity	16.8%	21.8%	18.0%	13.7%	12.5%	13.7%	12.9%
Dividend payout ratio	62.5%	52.2%	58.3%	63.6%	55.8%	50.3%	53.2%
Equity to asset ratio	8.1%	7.7%	8.2%	8.7%	10.4%	10.1%	9.8%
Efficiency ratio (2)	70.6%	64.0%	68.7%	68.1%	61.7%	60.5%	62.7%
Asset Quality Ratios (3):							
Ratio of nonperforming assets to total assets	0.44%	0.57%	0.53%	0.62%	0.42%	0.54%	0.67%
Ratio of nonperforming loans to total loans	0.33%	0.66%	0.30%	0.55%	0.55%	0.74%	0.74%
Ratio of allowance for loan losses to nonperforming							
assets	3.36%	2.07%	3.61%	2.39%	1.91%	1.41%	1.48%
Ratio of allowance for loan losses to total loans	1.10%	1.36%	1.08%	1.32%	1.05%	1.05%	1.10%
Capital Ratios:							
Tier 1 leverage ratio (4)	8.6%	8.3%	8.7%	8.2%	13.3%	9.9%	9.7%
Tier 1 risk-based capital	12.5%	12.8%	12.5%	12.2%	21.6%	16.5%	15.0%
Total risk-based capital	13.4%	14.0%	13.4%	13.4%	22.6%	17.4%	16.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Net interest margin is net interest income divided by average earning assets.

<sup>(2)</sup> Efficiency ratio is noninterest expense divided by the sum of net interest income and noninterest income (excluding taxes and the provision for loan losses).

<sup>(3)</sup> Nonperforming loans include loans 90 or more days past due, nonaccrual loans and restructured loans.

<sup>(4)</sup> Tier 1 leverage ratio is defined as Tier 1 capital (pursuant to risk-based capital guidelines) as a percentage of adjusted average assets.

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#### GAAP Reconciliation and Management Explanation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Certain financial information included in Cadence s selected consolidated financial data are not measures of financial performance recognized by accounting principles generally accepted within the United States, or GAAP. These non-GAAP financial measures are tangible book value per share, tangible shareholders equity, and return on average tangible equity. Cadence s management uses these non-GAAP measures in its analysis of Cadence s performance.

Tangible book value per share is defined as total equity reduced by recorded goodwill and other intangible assets divided by total common shares outstanding. This measure is important to investors interested in changes from period-to-period in book value per share exclusive of changes in intangible assets. Goodwill, an intangible asset that is recorded in a purchase business combination, has the effect of increasing total book value while not increasing the tangible assets of a company. For companies such as ours that have engaged in business combinations, purchase accounting can result in the recording of significant amounts of goodwill related to such transactions.

Tangible shareholders equity is shareholders equity less goodwill and other intangible assets.

Return on average tangible equity is defined as annualized earnings for the period divided by average equity reduced by average goodwill and other intangible assets.

These disclosures should not be viewed as a substitute for results determined in accordance with GAAP, and are not necessarily comparable to non-GAAP performance measures that may be presented by other companies. The following reconciliation table provides a more detailed analysis of these non-GAAP performance measures:

	At and		At and for the				
	Quarter						
	Marc 2006	ch 31, 2005	2005	2004	December 31, 2003	2002	2001
Book value per common share	\$ 14.44	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.31	\$ 14.06	\$ 13.58	\$ 13.57	\$ 12.48
Effect of intangible assets per share	\$ (4.81)	\$ (4.94)	\$ (4.85)	\$ (4.98)	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.35)
Tangible book value per share	\$ 9.63	\$ 9.06	\$ 9.46	\$ 9.08	\$ 13.23	\$ 13.22	\$ 12.13
Return on average equity	11.1%	13.7%	11.8%	11.0%	12.2%	13.3%	12.5%
Effect of intangible assets	5.7%	8.1%	6.2%	2.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Return on average tangible equity	16.8%	21.8%	18.0%	13.7%	12.5%	13.7%	12.9%

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#### **Selected Consolidated Financial Information of Seasons**

The following table sets forth certain consolidated financial information of Seasons. This information is based on, and should be read in conjunction with, the consolidated financial statements and related notes of Seasons contained in its annual report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2005 and in its quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2006, which financial statements appear elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus. Information as of and for the periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 is unaudited, but, in the opinion of Seasons management, contains all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of Seasons financial position and results of operations for such periods in accordance with GAAP. Seasons results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2006, are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that may be expected for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Seasons financial statements for the years presented ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 were audited by Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, independent registered public accounting firm. The amounts for the quarters ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 have not been audited.

		Three Months Ended March 31,		ears Ended
	2006	2005	2005	2004
		(In thousands, ex	cept per share da	ita)
Statement of Earnings Data				
Interest income	\$ 1,481		\$ 4,413	\$ 2,530
Interest expense	626	290	1,767	894
Net interest income before provision for loan losses	855	530	2,646	1,636
Provision for loan losses	110		396	303
FIGVISION FOR TOTAL TOTA	110	/1	390	303
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	745	459	2,250	1,334
Noninterest income	49		154	94
Noninterest expenses	756		2,557	1,934
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	38	(90)	(153)	(506)
Income taxes		(20)	(100)	(500)
Net earnings (loss)	38	(90)	(153)	(506)
Net earnings (loss) available to common shareholders	38	(90)	(153)	(506)
Per share data:				
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.10)	\$ (0.17)	\$ (0.55)
Diluted	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.10)	(0.17)	(0.55)
Cash dividends declared				
Book value at end of period	\$ 7.60	\$ 7.08	\$ 7.34	\$ 7.23
Balance Sheet Data				
Total assets at end of period	\$ 81,364	\$ 58,523	\$ 75,758	\$ 54,571
Cash and cash equivalents	1,351	699	1,185	1,656
Securities available for sale	6,608	6,475	6,176	6,617
Loans, net	68,972	47,082	63,594	41,757
Deposits	69,279	46,681	63,892	47,780
Other borrowings	3,900	5,200	4,400	
Stockholders equity	7,854	6,471	7,141	6,610
Total loans before allowance for loan losses	69,942	47,677	67,494	42,296

Allowance for loan losses	970	595	900	539
Nonperforming loans	684	4	17	22
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of period-end total loans	1.38%	1.25%	1.33%	1.27%
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of nonperforming loans	142%	14,875%	5,294%	2,450%
Total nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans	.97%	.01%	.03%	.05%
Total nonperforming loans as a percentage of total assets	.84%	.01%	.02%	.04%
Total nonperforming loans and real estate owned as a percentage of total assets	.84%	.01%	.02%	.04%

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#### Selected Consolidated Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Data

The following table presents selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information for Cadence and Seasons after giving effect to Cadence s recent offering of 2.76 million shares of common stock and the mergers of SunCoast and Seasons as if the transactions had taken place as of the beginning of the earliest period presented, and after giving effect to the pro forma adjustments described in the notes to the unaudited pro forma combined financial statements appearing in this proxy statement/prospectus beginning on page . The pro forma data in the tables assume that the merger is accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. See The Merger Accounting Treatment on page . The information in the following table is based on, and should be read together with, the pro forma information that appears elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus and the historical information we have presented in prior filings with the SEC. See Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information on page and Where You Can Find More Information on page . The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is not necessarily indicative of results that actually would have occurred had the merger been completed on the dates indicated or that may be obtained in the future.

#### CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

#### SELECTED PRO FORMA CONDENSED

#### CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year

	F	ee Months Ended h 31, 2006	Dece housands	Ended mber 31, 2005
Selected Balance Sheet Data:		(111 t	nousanu	5)
Total assets	\$ 1,	751,043	\$	1,715,078
Loans		050,444		1,039,196
Deposits	1,	332,293		1,302,411
Total Securities		468,358		459,173
Total Shareholders Equity		199,633		198,380
Selected Income Statement Data:				
Total interest income		24,249		84,729
Total interest expense		10,447		32,478
Net interest income		13,802		52,251
Provision for loan losses		589		2,854
Total Other Income		4,824		20,195
Total Other Expenses		13,318		50,369
Income before income taxes		4,719		19,223
Income taxes		1,303		4,881
Net income	\$	3,416	\$	14,342

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#### **Comparative Per Share Data**

The following table shows information, at and for the periods indicated, about Cadence s and Seasons historical net income per share, dividends per share and book value per share. The table also contains pro forma information that reflects the merger of Cadence and Seasons using the purchase method of accounting.

You should read the information in the following table in conjunction with the historical financial information and related notes contained in the annual, quarterly and other reports that Cadence has filed with the SEC. Cadence has incorporated its prior filings into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference. For information on how to obtain the reports Cadence has filed, please refer to the section entitled Where You Can Find More Information on page of this proxy statement/prospectus. You should not rely on the pro forma information as being indicative of the results that Cadence will achieve in the merger.

# Preliminary Pro Forma Comparative Per Common Share Data of Cadence and Seasons

	As Of a	nd For the	As Of and For the		
	Three Months Ended  March 31, 2006		Year Ended December 31, 2005		
Cadence		ŕ		Í	
Basic net income per common share:					
Historical	\$	0.40	\$	1.68	
Pro forma (1)		0.28		1.16	
Diluted net income per common share:					
Historical		0.40		1.68	
Pro forma (1)		0.28		1.16	
Dividends declared on common stock:					
Historical		0.25		0.98	
Pro forma (1)		0.25		0.98	
Book value per common share:					
Historical		14.44		14.31	
Pro forma (1)		16.09		16.01	
Seasons					
Basic net income per common share:					
Historical	\$	0.04	\$	(0.17)	
Equivalent pro forma (2)		0.25		1.03	
Diluted net income per common share:					
Historical		0.04		(0.17)	
Equivalent pro forma (2)		0.25		1.03	
Dividends declared on common stock:					
Historical					
Equivalent pro forma (2)		0.22		0.87	
Book value per common share:					
Historical		7.60		7.34	
Equivalent pro forma (2)		14.22		14.15	

<sup>(1)</sup> Assumes 2,760,000 Cadence shares issued in the recent offering for \$19.50, 892,000 Cadence shares issued for 55% of the total merger consideration of SunCoast Bancshares, Inc., and 568,000 Cadence shares issued for 55% of the total merger consideration of Seasons. This is calculated using an estimated 1,032,890 shares of Seasons stock outstanding at the effective date of the merger and an estimated average market price of Cadence stock of \$21.31.

<sup>(2)</sup> Assumes a relative value of Seasons stock to Cadence stock of 88.4%. This is calculated using the merger consideration of \$18.83 per share of Seasons stock and an estimated average market price of Cadence stock of \$21.31.

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## **Comparative Market Price and Dividend Information**

Cadence common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol NBY. The following table sets forth, for the indicated periods, the high and low sales prices for Cadence common stock as reported by the American Stock Exchange. There is no established public market for the Seasons common stock and the stock is not quoted on any stock exchange and is not traded over the counter. However, Seasons management is aware of isolated trades of Seasons common stock, and the high and low prices of such trades for the indicated periods are set forth in the following table.

Cadence had a total of shareholders of record as of , 2006, while Seasons had a total of shareholders of record as of that same date. The following table also shows the quarterly cash dividends declared per share of Cadence. Seasons has not declared or paid any cash dividends in the past.

	Seasons Co	ommoi	1 Stock	Cadence Common Stock			
	Price			Price		Dividend	
	High	Low		High	Low	Declared	
2006							
First Quarter	\$ 12.00	\$	12.00	\$ 24.97	\$ 22.89	\$	0.25
Second Quarter	12.00		12.00	23.33	20.04		0.25
2005							
First Quarter	\$ 13.00	\$	13.00	\$ 26.08	\$ 22.82	\$	0.24
Second Quarter	16.00		15.00	25.05	23.01		0.24
Third Quarter	15.00		15.00	25.42	23.06		0.25
Fourth Quarter	15.00		12.00	25.73	23.01		0.25
2004							
First Quarter	\$ 15.00	\$	11.00	\$ 27.14	\$ 25.54	\$	0.24
Second Quarter	14.00		14.00	27.06	23.11		0.24
Third Quarter	15.00		15.00	27.00	23.60		0.24
Fourth Quarter	15.00		15.00	28.60	25.20		0.24

As reported on the American Stock Exchange, the closing price per share of Cadence common stock on , 2006 (the last full trading day prior to the date of the merger agreement) was \$ . On , 2006, the latest practicable date prior to the mailing of this proxy statement/prospectus, the closing price per share of Cadence common stock was \$ .

See *The Merger What You Will Receive* beginning on page for an illustration of how the implied exchange ratio may change in response to fluctuations in the price of Cadence common stock.

Past price performance is not necessarily indicative of likely future performance. Because market prices of Cadence common stock will fluctuate, you are urged to obtain current market prices for shares of Cadence common stock.

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#### RISK FACTORS

An investment in Cadence common stock in connection with the merger involves certain risks, including, among others, the risks described below and the matters discussed under the section *Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements* on page . In addition to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus, we urge you to carefully consider the following risk factors in deciding whether to vote for approval of the merger agreement.

#### Risks Related to the Merger

Although you will receive fixed value in terms of any cash consideration that you receive in the merger, you will not know the exact amount of the Cadence common stock that you may receive at the time you vote on the merger or at the time you elect to receive cash or stock.

You will not know the amount of Cadence common stock that you will receive in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock at the time you make your election. Pursuant to the merger agreement, each share of Seasons common stock that is to be converted into Cadence common stock will be converted by the ratio of \$18.83 divided by the average closing price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger, subject to certain conditions. We currently expect that the merger will close during the fourth quarter of 2006. You will be required to make your election to receive cash or shares of Cadence common stock by 5:00 p.m., Central time, on October 18, 2006.

You may not receive the form of consideration that you elect for your shares of Cadence common stock.

The merger agreement requires that the aggregate cash consideration to be paid by Cadence as cash consideration to Seasons shareholders, including cash paid to holders of options to purchase shares of Seasons common stock, shall not exceed \$9,900,000. In the event there is an over-election of the stock consideration, each Seasons shareholder who elects to receive cash will receive some Cadence common stock in addition to cash consideration. Similarly, if there is an over-election of the cash consideration such that the aggregate amount of cash to be paid by Cadence is less than \$9,900,000, each Seasons shareholder who elects to receive stock will receive some cash in addition to stock. Thus, you may not receive exactly the form of consideration that you request and you may receive a combination of cash and shares of Cadence common stock even if you request all cash or all stock, which could result in, among other things, tax consequences that differ from those that would have resulted if you had received the form of consideration that you elected.

If the average market price of Cadence common stock the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger is less than \$20.05, the value of the stock consideration you receive could be less than \$18.83 per share of Seasons common stock that you own.

Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, the amount of Cadence common stock you will receive in exchange for your shares of Seasons common stock will be based on the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger. However, the merger agreement also provides that the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing cannot be less than \$20.05 or greater than \$27.13 per share. Therefore, if the average market closing price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing date of the merger is less than \$20.05, the consideration received by Seasons shareholders who receive Cadence common stock in exchange for their shares of Seasons common stock would be less than \$18.83 per share of Seasons common stock. If, however, the average closing market price of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day prior to the closing of the merger is greater than \$27.13 per share, the consideration received by Seasons shareholders who receive Cadence common stock in exchange for their shares of Seasons common stock would be greater than \$18.83 per share.

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Additionally, if the average closing market price per share of Cadence common stock for the full ten trading days ending on the third full trading day preceding the closing of the merger is less than \$18.87 and certain other market conditions are met, the board of directors of Seasons shall have the right to terminate the merger agreement if Cadence does not adjust the stock consideration to be given to shareholders of Seasons common stock. Seasons cannot predict now whether or not the Seasons board of directors would exercise its right to terminate the merger agreement if the above conditions are met. The merger agreement does not provide for a re-solicitation of Seasons shareholders in the event the above conditions are met and the Seasons board, nevertheless, chooses to complete the merger. Seasons board of directors has made no decision as to whether it would exercise its right to terminate the merger agreement if the above conditions are satisfied. In considering whether to exercise its right to terminate the merger agreement, Seasons board would take into account all relevant facts and circumstances that exist at such time and would consult with its financial advisors and legal counsel.

# You will have less influence as a shareholder of Cadence than as a shareholder of Seasons.

As a Seasons shareholder, you currently have the right to vote in the election of the board of directors of Seasons and on other matters affecting Seasons. The amount of Cadence common stock and/or cash you will receive for your shares of Seasons common stock will result in the transfer of control of Seasons to the shareholders of Cadence. If you receive Cadence common stock for some or all of your shares of Seasons common stock, your percentage ownership of Cadence will be significantly less than your percentage ownership of Seasons. Because of this, you will have less influence on the management and policies of Cadence than you now have on the management and policies of Seasons.

Cadence may fail to realize all of the anticipated benefits of the merger, and integrating our two companies may be more difficult, costly or time-consuming than we expect.

The success of the merger will depend, in part, on Cadence s ability to realize the anticipated benefits and cost savings from integrating the business of Seasons with the business of Cadence. If Cadence is not able to achieve these objectives, the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the merger may not be realized fully, or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected.

Seasons and Cadence have operated and, until the completion of the merger, will continue to operate, independently. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of each company s ongoing business, or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that could adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with customers and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits of the merger. Integration efforts may, to some extent, also divert management attention and resources. These integration matters could have an adverse effect on our business during the transition period.

The market price of Cadence common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those affecting Seasons common stock currently.

The businesses of Cadence and Seasons differ in certain respects and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of the combined company s shares of common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the independent results of operations of each of Cadence and Seasons. For a discussion of the businesses of Cadence and Seasons and of certain factors to consider in connection with those businesses, see the sections entitled *Information About Cadence* at page and *Information About Seasons* at page and the documents that Cadence has filed with the SEC.