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FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP INC

Form 425

December 13, 2001

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Filed by FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP, INC.  
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933  
and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12  
of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: People's Bancshares, Inc.  
Commission File No.: 0-07449

On December 13, 2001, FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP, INC., a Delaware Corporation, and People's Bancshares, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation, jointly issued the following press release:

FIRSTFED  
FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP, INC.

People's Bancshares

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NEWS - MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP, INC. AND  
PEOPLE'S BANCSHARES, INC. ANNOUNCE DATE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SPECIAL  
MEETINGS

Swansea and New Bedford, Massachusetts, December 13, 2001 -- FIRSTFED AMERICA BANCORP, INC. ("FIRSTFED," AMEX: FAB), and People's Bancshares, Inc. ("People's," NASDAQ: PBKB), New Bedford, Massachusetts, jointly announced today that their respective special meetings of stockholders to consider and vote on the proposed merger of People's with and into FIRSTFED will be held on February 4, 2002. Stockholders of record of each company as of December 17, 2001 will be entitled to vote on the proposal to approve and adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger entered into by the parties on October 1, 2001.

FIRSTFED has filed a registration statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on Form S-4 that contains a preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents concerning the merger. STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE DEFINITIVE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Stockholders will be able to obtain the documents free of charge at the SEC's website, www.sec.gov. In addition, documents filed with the SEC by FIRSTFED will be available free of charge from Philip G. Campbell, Vice President, Director of Marketing of FIRSTFED at ONE FIRSTFED PARK, Swansea, Massachusetts 02777, telephone (508) 235-1361. Documents filed with the SEC by People's will be available free of charge from Mary Ann Wilson, Assistant Vice President, Marketing Officer of People's at 545 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740, telephone (508) 991-2601. PLEASE READ THE DEFINITIVE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION CONCERNING THE MERGER.

FIRSTFED and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from FIRSTFED stockholders to

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approve the merger. Information about the directors and executive officers of FIRSTFED and their ownership of FIRSTFED common stock is set forth in FIRSTFED's proxy statement as filed with the SEC on June 22, 2001.

People's and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from People's stockholders to approve the merger. Information about the directors and executive officers of People's and their ownership of People's common stock is set forth in People's proxy statement as filed with the SEC on April 30, 2001.

Additional information about the interests of those participants may be obtained from the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed acquisition when it becomes available.

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For further information contact:

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