

**HOWE BARNES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR RECENT  
ADVISORY TRANSACTION**

INVESTMENT BANKING



**Howe Barnes acted as financial advisor to United Financial Corp. in its sale to U.S. Bancorp.**

U.S. Bancorp signed a definitive agreement to acquire United Financial (Nasdaq: UBMT) for \$74.5 million in an all stock transaction in which each United Financial share will receive 0.6825 U.S. Bancorp shares. United Financial shareholders will also receive a special dividend of \$0.50 per share prior to the completion of the transaction. At announcement, this represents total consideration of \$23.51 per share.

United Financial is the parent company of Heritage Bank. U.S. Bancorp will add 13 branches in Montana, earning a #4 ranking with an 8.3% share of the \$13.7 billion in total market deposits. Once the merger is completed, U.S. Bancorp expects to have more than 20 branch locations and total deposits of approximately \$1.1 billion in Montana.

The acquisition is expected to close in the first quarter of 2007, subject to shareholder and regulatory approval.

Deal Pricing		Financial Highlights (\$000)		
Deal Price / LTM EPS:	17.2x	United Financial Corp.		U.S. Bancorp
Deal Price / Book Value Per Share:	217.9%	Total Assets	418,071	216,855,000
Deal Price / Tangible Book Value Per Share:	227.6%	Total Deposits	311,116	120,961,000
Deal Price / Assets:	17.8%	Total Equity	33,183	20,926,000
Core Deposit Premium	16.0%	Tang. Equity / Tang. Assets	7.6%	5.6%
		LTM ROAA	1.06%	2.23%
		LTM ROAE	13.4%	23.0%
Financial Data as of September 30, 2006				

SOURCE: SNL Financial

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