

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

Northeast Bancshares, Inc.

holding company for



*has signed a definitive agreement
to be acquired by*

Patriot Bancshares, Inc.



Pending October 2006

**Howe Barnes acted as financial advisor to
Northeast Bancshares, Inc. in this transaction.**

Northeast Bancshares, Inc., of Mesquite, Texas, has signed a definitive agreement to merge with and into Houston-based Patriot Bancshares, Inc. Patriot currently has five banking offices and the transaction will give Patriot an additional branch in the Dallas metroplex.

The acquisition is expected to close on or before December 31, 2006, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

INVESTMENT BANKING

Financial Highlights (\$000)

	<u>Northeast Bancshares</u>	<u>Patriot Bancshares</u>
Total Assets	\$43,909	\$329,397
Total Equity	\$3,611	\$38,394
Equity / Assets	8.22%	11.66%
YTD ROA	1.20%	0.63%
YTD ROA	14.62%	5.37%

***Financials as of 6/30/06*

SOURCE: SNL Financial

INVESTMENT BANKING CONTACTS:

Dan Coughlin
(312) 655-2957

Steve Didion
(415) 538-5720

Brian Ytterberg
(312) 655-2979

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(312) 655-2983

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Bill Wagner
(919) 424-0101

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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

Deal Price / LTM EPS:	17.2x
Deal Price / Book Value Per Share:	217.9%
Deal Price / Tangible Book Value Per Share:	227.6%
Deal Price / Assets:	17.8%
Core Deposit Premium	16.0%

Financial Data as of September 30, 2006

Financial Highlights (\$000)

	<u>United Financial Corp.</u>	<u>U.S. Bancorp</u>
Total Assets	418,071	216,855,000
Total Deposits	311,116	120,961,000
Total Equity	33,183	20,926,000
Tang. Equity / Tang. Assets	7.6%	5.6%
LTM ROAA	1.06%	2.23%
LTM ROAE	13.4%	23.0%

SOURCE: SNL Financial

INVESTMENT BANKING CONTACTS:

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