

FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/  
Form 10QSB  
May 11, 2006

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**U. S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

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**FORM 10-QSB**

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**QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15 (D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED: MARCH 31, 2006**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 33-94288**

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**THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.**

(EXACT NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS ISSUER AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

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**MISSISSIPPI**  
(STATE OF INCORPORATION)

**64-0862173**  
(I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.)

**6480 U.S. HIGHWAY 98 WEST**

**HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI**  
(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)

**39402**  
(ZIP CODE)

**(601) 268-8998**

(ISSUER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE)

**NONE**

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(FORMER NAME, ADDRESS AND FISCAL YEAR, IF CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORT)

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INDICATE BY CHECK MARK WHETHER THE ISSUER: (1) HAS FILED ALL REPORTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED BY SECTION 13 OR 15 (D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 DURING THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS (OR FOR SUCH SHORTER PERIOD THAT THE REGISTRANT WAS REQUIRED TO FILE SUCH REPORTS), AND (2) HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO SUCH FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PAST 90 DAYS. YES  NO

ON MARCH 31, 2006, 2,375,200 SHARES OF THE ISSUER S COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$1.00 PER SHARE, WERE ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING.

TRANSITIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DISCLOSURE FORMAT (CHECK ONE): YES  NO

INDICATE BY CHECK MARK WHETHER THE REGISTRANT IS A SHELL COMPANY (AS DEFINED IN RULE 12B-2 OF THE EXCHANGE ACT): YES  NO

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## PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM NO. 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(\$ amounts in thousands)

	(Unaudited) March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 12,409	\$ 12,144
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	420	959
Federal Funds Sold	16,751	15,785
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>29,580</b>	<b>28,888</b>
Securities held-to-maturity, at amortized cost	14	14
Securities available-for-sale, at fair value	54,189	48,543
Other securities	2,371	2,103
Loans held for sale	3,685	3,319
Loans	206,798	196,991
Allowance for loan losses	(2,438)	(2,367)
<b>LOANS, NET</b>	<b>204,360</b>	<b>194,624</b>
Premises and equipment	8,262	8,331
Interest receivable	1,755	1,715
Cash surrender value	5,103	5,054
Other assets	2,118	1,799
	<b>\$ 311,437</b>	<b>\$ 294,390</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 56,896	\$ 49,585
Time, \$100,000 or more	51,933	49,876
Interest-bearing	150,180	142,488
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>259,009</b>	<b>241,949</b>
Interest payable	576	452
Borrowed funds	25,159	25,465
Subordinated debentures	7,217	7,217
Other liabilities	720	829
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>292,681</b>	<b>275,912</b>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY:</b>		
Common stock, \$1 par value. Authorized 10,000,000 shares; 2,401,694 shares issued at March 31, 2006 and 1,213,844 shares issued at December 31, 2005	2,402	1,214
Preferred stock, par value \$1 per share, 10,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding		
Treasury stock, at cost, 26,494 shares at March 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005	(464)	(464)
Additional paid-in capital	12,041	13,221
Retained earnings	5,073	4,695

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Accumulated other comprehensive income	(296)	(188)
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>	<b>18,756</b>	<b>18,478</b>
	311,437	294,390

## THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Unaudited)

(\$ amounts in thousands except earnings per share)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
<b>INTEREST INCOME:</b>		
Loans, including fees	\$ 4,041	\$ 3,020
Securities:		
Taxable	603	204
Tax exempt	50	42
Federal funds sold	149	36
Other		
	4,843	3,302
<b>TOTAL INTEREST INCOME</b>		
<b>INTEREST EXPENSE:</b>		
Deposits	1,412	714
Other borrowings	390	359
	1,802	1,073
<b>TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE</b>		
<b>NET INTEREST INCOME</b>	3,041	2,229
<b>PROVISION FOR LOAN LOSSES</b>	84	204
<b>NET INTEREST INCOME AFTER PROVISION FOR LOAN LOSSES</b>	2,957	2,025
<b>NONINTEREST INCOME:</b>		
Service charges on deposit accounts	272	318
Other service charges, commissions and fees	175	141
	447	459
<b>TOTAL NONINTEREST INCOME</b>		
<b>NONINTEREST EXPENSES:</b>		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,385	1,154
Occupancy and equipment expense	314	276
Other operating expenses	609	507
	2,308	1,937
<b>TOTAL NONINTEREST EXPENSES</b>		
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	1,096	547
<b>INCOME TAXES</b>	337	182
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 759	\$ 365
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC</b>	\$ .32	\$ .16
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE - ASSUMING DILUTION</b>	.30	.15
<b>DIVIDENDS PER SHARE</b>	.16	.10

## THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(\$ Amounts in Thousands)	(Unaudited)	
	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
NET INCOME	\$ 759	\$ 365
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	140	145
Provision for loan losses	84	204
Changes in:		
Interest receivable	(40)	(37)
Loans held for sale	(366)	1,454
Interest payable	124	77
Other, net	(427)	(163)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>2,045</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Maturities and calls of securities available for sale	6,624	1,205
Purchases of securities available-for-sale	(12,360)	(2,485)
Net increase in loans	(9,820)	(14,128)
Purchases of premises and equipment	(83)	(47)
Increase in cash surrender value	(49)	(35)
Increase in other securities	(268)	
<b>NET CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(15,956)</b>	<b>(15,490)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Increase in deposits	17,060	22,325
Net decrease in borrowed funds	(306)	(4,473)
Dividend paid on common stock	(380)	(234)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>16,374</b>	<b>17,618</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>4,173</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>28,888</b>	<b>7,146</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 29,580</b>	<b>\$ 11,319</b>
<b>CASH PAYMENTS FOR INTEREST</b>	<b>\$ 1,678</b>	<b>\$ 996</b>
<b>CASH PAYMENTS FOR INCOME TAXES</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>376</b>

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

NOTE A BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial statements and with the instructions to Form 10-QSB and Item 310(b) of Regulation S-B of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. However, in the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2006, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ended December 31, 2006. For further information, please refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2005.

NOTE B SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION

The First Bancshares, Inc., Hattiesburg, Mississippi (the Company), was incorporated June 23, 1995, under the laws of the State of Mississippi for the purpose of operating as a bank holding company with respect to a then proposed de novo bank, The First National Bank of South Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (the Hattiesburg Bank). The Hattiesburg Bank opened for business on August 5, 1996, with a total capitalization of \$5.2 million.

On August 10, 1998, the Company filed a registration statement on Form SB-2 relating to the issuance of up to 533,333 shares of Common Stock in connection with the formation of the First National Bank of the Pine Belt (Laurel Bank). The offering was closed on December 31, 1998, with 428,843 shares subscribed with an aggregate purchase price of \$6.4 million. On January 19, 1999, the Laurel Bank received approval from its banking regulator to begin banking operations, and the Company used \$5 million of the net proceeds to purchase 100% of the capital stock of the Laurel Bank. Simultaneously, the 428,843 shares subscribed to in the offering were issued.

In January, 2004, the two banks merged to become The First, a National Banking Association (The First). The banks were merged to take advantage of operating efficiencies and marketing opportunities. The First engages in general commercial banking business, emphasizing in its marketing the Bank's local management and ownership. The First offers a full range of banking services designed to meet the basic financial needs of its customers. These services include checking accounts, NOW accounts, money market deposit accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and individual retirement accounts. The First also offers short- to medium-term commercial, mortgage, and personal loans.

At March 31, 2006, the Company had approximately \$311.4 million in assets, \$210.5 million in loans, \$259.0 million in deposits, and \$18.8 million in shareholders' equity. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company reported a net income of \$759,000.

In the first quarter of 2005 and 2006, the Company declared and paid dividends of \$.10 and \$.16 per common share, respectively.

## NOTE C EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

Basic per share data is calculated based on the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the reporting period. Diluted per share data includes any dilution from potential common stock outstanding, such as exercise of stock options.

	For the Three Months Ended		
	March 31, 2006		
	Net Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Data
Basic per share	\$ 759,000	2,375,158	\$ .32
Effect of dilutive shares:			
Stock options		151,110	
Diluted per share	\$ 759,000	2,526,268	\$ .30

	For the Three Months Ended		
	March 31, 2005		
	Net Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Data
Basic per share	\$ 365,000	2,336,892	\$ .16
Effect of dilutive shares:			
Stock options		97,304	
Diluted per share	\$ 365,000	2,434,196	\$ .15

## NOTE D - STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Prior to January 1, 2006, the Company's stock option plans were accounted for under the recognition and measurement provisions of APB Opinion No. 25 (Opinion 25), Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related Interpretations, as permitted by FASB Statement No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (as amended by SFAS No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure) (collectively SFAS 123). No stock-based employee compensation cost was recognized in the Company's consolidated statements of earnings through December 31, 2005, as all options granted under the plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted the fair value recognition provisions of FASB Statement No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment (SFAS 123R), using the modified-prospective-transition method. Under that transition method, compensation cost recognized in 2006 includes: (a) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted prior to, but not yet vested as of January 1, 2006, based on the grant fair value calculated in accordance with the original provisions of SFAS 123, and (b) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted subsequent to December 31, 2005, based on the grant-date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 123(R). As of December 31, 2005, only 7,930 stock options were not fully vested and no stock options were granted during the three months ended March 31, 2006.



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As a result of adopting SFAS 123(R) on January 1, 2006, the Company's earnings before income taxes for the three-months ended March 31, 2006, are not materially different than if it had continued to be accounted for as share-based compensation under Opinion 25. As of March 31, 2006, the Company had 7,930 stock options not fully vested and there was \$9,216 of total unrecognized compensation cost related to these non-vested options.

The following table illustrates the effect on net earnings and earnings per share if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 to options granted under the Company's stock option plan for the three months ended March 31, 2005. For purposes of this pro forma disclosure, the value of the options is estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and is being amortized to expense over the options' vesting periods (in thousands, except per share data).

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2005</b>	
Net income, as reported	\$	365
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects		(1)
Pro forma net income	\$	364
Earnings per share:		
Basic - as reported	\$	.16
Basic - pro forma		.16
Diluted - as reported		.15
Diluted - pro forma		.15

NOTE E - COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The following table discloses Comprehensive Income for the periods reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income:

(In thousands)	Quarter Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
Net Income	\$ 759	\$ 365
Other Comprehensive Loss net of tax:		
Unrealized holding losses on securities during the period, net of tax	(108)	(117)
Comprehensive Income	\$ 651	\$ 248
Accumulated Comprehensive Loss	(296)	(113)

NOTE F STOCK DIVIDEND

During the quarter ending March 31, 2006, the company declared a two-for-one split of the common stock to be effected in the form of a 100 percent common stock dividend. The ex-split date was March 16, 2006. All per share data for previous periods have been adjusted for the stock dividend.

ITEM NO. 2 MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FINANCIAL CONDITION

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements relating to, without limitation, future economic performance, plans and objectives of management for future operations, and projections of revenues and other financial items that are based on the beliefs of the Company's management, as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to the Company's management. The words expect, estimate, anticipate, and believe, as well as similar expressions, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The Company's actual results may differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements, and the Company's operating performance each quarter is subject to various risks and uncertainties that are discussed in detail in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Risk Factors section in the Company's Registration Statement on Form SB-2 (Registration Number 333-61081) as filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The First represents the primary asset of the Company. The First reported total assets of \$309.7 million at March 31, 2006, compared to \$292.8 million at December 31, 2005. Loans increased \$10.2 million, or 5%, during the first three months of 2006. Deposits at March 31, 2006, totaled \$260.3 million compared to \$243.8 million at December 31, 2005. For the three month period ended March 31, 2006, The First reported net income of \$865,000 compared to \$432,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2005.

NONPERFORMING ASSETS AND RISK ELEMENTS. Diversification within the loan portfolio is an important means of reducing inherent lending risks. At March 31, 2006, The First had no concentrations of ten percent or more of total loans in any single industry nor any geographical area outside its immediate market areas.

At March 31, 2006, The First had loans past due as follows:

(\$ In Thousands)

Past due 30 through 89 days	\$	1,151
Past due 90 days or more and still accruing		261

The accrual of interest is discontinued on loans which become ninety days past due (principal and/or interest), unless the loans are adequately secured and in the process of collection. Nonaccrual loans totaled \$54,000 at March 31, 2006. Any other real estate owned is carried at fair value, determined by an appraisal. Other real estate owned totaled \$261,000 at March 31, 2006. A loan is classified as a restructured loan when the interest rate is materially reduced or the term is extended beyond the original maturity date because of the inability of the borrower to service the debt under the original terms. The First had no restructured loans at March 31, 2006.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Liquidity is adequate with cash and cash equivalents of \$29.6 million as of March 31, 2006. In addition, loans and investment securities repricing or maturing within one year or less exceed \$126.4 million at March 31, 2006. Approximately \$37.3 million in loan commitments are expected to be funded within the next six months and other commitments, primarily standby letters of credit, totaled \$1.8 million at March 31, 2006.

There are no known trends or any known commitments of uncertainties that will result in The First's liquidity increasing or decreasing in a material way. In addition, The First is not aware of any recommendations by any regulatory authorities which would have a material effect on its liquidity, capital resources or results of operations.

Total consolidated equity capital at March 31, 2006, is \$18.8 million, or approximately 6% of total assets. The Company currently has adequate capital positions to meet the minimum capital requirements for all regulatory agencies. The Company's capital ratios as of March 31, 2006, are as follows:

Tier 1 leverage	8.42%
Tier 1 risk-based	11.51%
Total risk-based	12.91%

On March 26, 2002, The First Bancshares Statutory Trust 1 (the Trust), a wholly-owned subsidiary trust of the Company, issued \$7,000,000 of redeemable cumulative trust preferred securities. The Trust used the funds to acquire floating rate subordinated debentures from the Company. The debentures bear an interest rate of the 3-month LIBOR plus 3.60%. The debentures have a maturity of 30 years but are callable 5 years after issuance. The trust preferred securities qualify as Tier 1 capital up to 25% of other components of Tier 1 capital. In accordance with FIN 46,

Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities the statutory trust is not included in the consolidated financial statements. Instead the subordinated debentures due to statutory trust are included in the consolidated liabilities of the Company.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The Company had a net income of \$759,000 for the three months ending March 31, 2006, compared with consolidated net income of \$365,000 for the same period last year.

Net interest income increased to \$3,041,000 from \$2,229,000 for the first three months ending March 31, 2006, or an increase of 36% as compared to the same period in 2005. Earning assets through March 31, 2006, increased \$75.4 million and interest-bearing liabilities also increased \$57.6 million when compared to March 31, 2005, reflecting an increase of 35% and 34%, respectively.

Noninterest income for the three months ending March 31, 2006, was \$447,000 compared to \$459,000 for the same period in 2005, reflecting a decrease of \$12,000, or 3%. Included in noninterest income is service charges on deposit accounts, which for the three months ended March 31, 2006, totaled \$272,000, compared to \$318,000 for the same period in 2005.

The provision for loan losses was \$84,000 in the first three months of 2006 compared with \$204,000 for the same period in 2005. The allowance for loan losses of \$2.4 million at March 31, 2006 (approximately 1.18% of loans) is considered by management to be adequate to cover losses inherent in the loan portfolio. The level of this allowance is dependent upon a number of factors, including the total amount of past due loans, general economic conditions, and management's assessment of potential losses. This evaluation is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant change. Ultimately, losses may vary from current estimates and future additions to the allowance may be necessary. Thus, there can be no assurance that charge-offs in future periods will not exceed the allowance for loan losses or that additional increases in the loan loss allowance will not be required. Management evaluates the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses quarterly and makes provisions for loan losses based on this evaluation.

Noninterest expenses increased by \$371,000 or 19% for the three months ended March 31, 2006, when compared with the same period in 2005. This increase is primarily due to the continued growth and the related services being offered.

#### ITEM NO. 3. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of March 31, 2006, (the Evaluation Date), we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined under Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under periods specified in SEC rules and forms.

There have been no changes, significant or otherwise, in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended March 31, 2006, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### PART II OTHER INFORMATION

#### ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

None

#### ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES

None

#### ITEM 3. DEFAULT UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None

#### ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

None

#### ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Exhibits

**Exhibit No.**

- 31.1 Certification of principal executive officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of principal financial officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of principal executive officer pursuant to 18 U. S. C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of principal financial officer pursuant to 18 U. S. C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

b) The Company filed three reports on Form 8-K during the quarter ended March 31, 2006.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

(Registrant)

/s/ DAVID E. JOHNSON

David E. Johnson,

Chief Executive Officer

/s/ DEEDEE LOWERY

DeeDee Lowery, Executive

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

May 10, 2006  
(Date)

May 10, 2006  
(Date)