



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE GULF COAST COMPLETES CLOSING
OF INITIAL CAPITAL INFUSION OF \$40 MILLION**

NAPLES, FL. April 29 – First National Bank of the Gulf Coast, a full-service community bank serving the banking needs of individuals and business owners throughout Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties, today announced that it has completed the closing of an initial infusion of \$40 million in capital pursuant to the previously announced agreements with private investors. This capital will be used to fund organic growth along the west coast of Florida.

The previously announced agreements with private investors contemplate a private placement of approximately \$148 million of committed capital. The remaining capital of \$108 million will be employed, subject to future regulatory approval, to fund other expansion opportunities within the Florida market. These opportunities include bidding on failed bank acquisitions through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and strategic bank acquisitions along the west coast of Florida.

Sandler O’Neill & Partners, L.P., supported by Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., FIG Partners, and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, acted as placement agents.

“We are delighted to receive these initial proceeds which will be used to support organic bank growth opportunities in Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties and the opening of loan production offices in Sarasota and Tampa,” said Gary L. Tice, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of First National Bank of the Gulf Coast. “Our management team has a proven track record in Florida and we believe that the market conditions are right for an independent community bank seeking to expand.”

Headquartered in Naples, Florida, First National Bank of the Gulf Coast currently has three full-service banking offices in Collier and Lee counties. As of March 31, 2011, total assets were approximately \$329.4 million; total loans, before the allowance for loan losses, were approximately \$115.6 million; and total deposit relationships were approximately \$302.4 million.

The foregoing does not constitute an offer for the sale of any securities.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION:

This press release contains certain statements that constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), and are covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as “anticipate,” “believes,” “budget,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “potential,” “predicts,” “project,” “should,” “will” and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding projected growth, future revenue, benefits of the merger, anticipated improvements in earnings and other financial performance measures, future expectations concerning available cash and cash equivalents, assumptions underlying or relating to any of the foregoing, and other matters. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements. We discuss these risks and other uncertainties in the periodic reports we file with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, including in particular “Risk Factors” disclosure. All forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. We assume no obligation to update the forward-looking statements, or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements.