



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 6, 2008
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**Happy Trails Riding Academy
Funded by Sierra Grant**

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a \$4,000 Sierra Grant awarded to the Happy Trails Riding Academy. Happy Trails is the only fully accredited program of its kind in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The academy offers “therapeutic horsemanship, equine assisted therapy, or vaulting” to persons with disabilities. The grant will allow the development of new programs such as “cart driving and equine facilitated mental health.” All of the activities promote individual growth, independence, and motor skills, leading to an improved quality of life.

“Programs dedicated to the health and well-being of the people in our community are deserving of our support. We are happy to make a contribution to the Happy Trails Riding Academy,” stated James C. Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch, or visit the bank web site at www.bankofthesierra.com.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.2 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 21 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

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