



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 22, 2009
Contact: Matthew Hessler, CFMP
Title: Director of Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Address: www.bankofthesierra.com

\$1,500 Sierra Grant Awarded to Newspaper Education Program

Porterville, CA —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to award a \$1,500 Sierra Grant to the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program. Through a partnership with the Porterville Recorder, NIE provides newspapers to 199 classrooms and educational sites throughout the year. The Recorder is used as part of the curriculum to promote life long learning. Funding will help provide more than 142,000 newspapers annually in the classroom. This program strives to provide possibilities and ideas to students who may not have had the opportunity before.

“At Bank of the Sierra, we are happy to help enrich the futures of the youth in our community through a grant awarded to the Newspapers in Education program,” stated James C. Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra. “We also commend the Porterville Recorder for the steps it has taken to support our youth through this program,” Holly added.

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 \$1.3 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 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

#####