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NEWS RELEASE

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STATE GRANTS NEW BANK CHARTER TO POCATELLO BASED CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK

The First Newly Chartered Bank in Pocatello in 64 Years

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin M. Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today announced the approval of a new bank charter for Citizens Community Bank. The bank received final approval from the state Department of Finance after receiving approval for federal deposit insurance from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The bank will officially open for business on June 26, 1997 at its office located at 280 South Arthur in Pocatello, Idaho.

Gee stated, "We are very pleased to approve a new community bank to serve Pocatello and vicinity as a locally owned and operated bank which will offer customers another option in selecting financial products and services. The favorable economic conditions in Southeast Idaho and the market opportunities created by the trends in the banking industry involving consolidation, out of state decision making and interstate branching will allow a community oriented financial institution to prosper." Citizens Community Bank plans to offer a full range of deposits, loans and related banking services to small and medium-sized businesses, professionals and retail customers by focusing on responsiveness, flexibility and local market knowledge.

The organizers raised \$3.6 million from investors to capitalize the bank. Members of the board of directors are Gary Blanchard, Richard Chase, Thomas Holmes, Stephen Hotchkiss, James Johnston, William Knick, James Lee, Diana Lyon, Gregory Maag, Douglas Norman, Kenneth Satterfield, Alan Stanek and Wayne Taysom. Mr. Holmes serves as chairman and Mr. Hotchkiss as president and chief executive officer. Mr. Hotchkiss has a diversified background of more than thirty years in the banking industry including experience with major banks, international banking, consulting and as the senior officer of several independent banks. Other bank officers include Dale Smith, Ralph Cottle, Amy Kawahara-Rhoads and Larry Bell. Many of the Directors were born in Pocatello, and all except Mr. Hotchkiss are long-time Pocatello residents.

While several other commercial banks have opened branch offices in Pocatello in recent years, Citizens Community Bank is the first newly chartered commercial bank in Pocatello since Idaho Bank & Trust Co. (I.B. & T.) was chartered there in December 1933. I.B. & T. was acquired in 1988 by KeyCorp, which changed the name of the bank to Key Bank of Idaho.

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