



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TRI COUNTIES BANK OPENS NEW BRANCH INSIDE
ANTELOPE WAL-MART SUPERCENTER ON MAY 17, 2006**

CHICO, CA – (May 11, 2006) – Tri Counties Bank, a subsidiary of TriCo Bancshares (NASDAQ: TCBK), will open its 11th branch in the Sacramento area inside the new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Antelope.

The grand opening in Antelope marks Tri Counties Bank's third branch inside a Wal-Mart Supercenter, following the very successful openings of branches inside Wal-Mart Supercenters in Roseville and Yuba City. The Antelope branch is the fourth of eight new Tri Counties Bank branches planned to open in 2006.

The new branch provides shoppers with access to their bank 7-days a week, combined with the convenience of one-stop shopping. "We attribute our success to our unique blend of service and convenience and Wal-Mart's ability to attract a large number of shoppers in the communities they serve," said Andrew Mastorakis, executive vice president of Retail Banking for Tri Counties Bank. "We continue to partner with retailers that make us accessible to shoppers who value service and convenience, and one-stop shopping and banking."

The bank will celebrate its grand opening in conjunction with Wal-Mart, offering festivities throughout the day and culminating in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. The branch will be open longer hours than any bank in Antelope; Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The branch is also open on most holidays.

"Wal-Mart is pleased to include Tri Counties Bank among the more than 300 independent financial institutions who operate over 1150 branches in our stores across the country," said Kent Reeves, Wal-Mart vice president, New Business Development. "The newest Tri Counties Bank branch in Antelope is a great addition to the one-stop convenience that our customers appreciate in all our Supercenters."

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Tri Counties Bank
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In addition to 7-days a week banking and expanded hours, the new Tri Counties Bank in Antelope will offer an exclusive charter package for new customers, which includes FREE checking and free checks for life, exclusive rates on savings and investment products, as well as premium pricing for equity lines of credit.

For further information about Tri Counties Bank, contact 1-800-922-8742 or visit www.tricountiesbank.com.

TriCo Bancshares and Tri Counties Bank are headquartered in Chico, California. Tri Counties Bank has a 31-year history in the banking industry. It operates 32 traditional branch locations and 18 in-store branch locations in 22 California counties. Tri Counties Bank offers financial services and provides a diversified line of products and services to consumers and businesses, which include demand, savings and time deposits, consumer finance, online banking, mortgage lending, and commercial banking throughout its market area. It operates a network of 58 ATMs and a 24-hour, seven days a week telephone customer service center. Brokerage services are provided by the Bank's investment services affiliate, Raymond James Financial, Inc. For further information please visit the Tri Counties Bank web site at <http://www.tricountiesbank.com>.

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