

# Media Release



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### There are 8% Fewer 5-Star Banks than Last Year, But Valley Bank is Still Tops

**April 2009: BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida** is proud to announce that **Valley Bank, Puyallup, Washington** has earned its highest 5-Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability. BAUERFINANCIAL, the Nation's Bank Rating Firm, has been analyzing and reporting on the nation's banks for over 25 years. The rating is based on the overall financial picture of the bank, and a 5-Star rating indicates that Valley Bank is one of the strongest banks in the nation. This is the 64th consecutive quarter that Valley Bank has earned this highest honor; only 9% of the nation's banks can claim this distinction.

"The number of 5-Star rated banks is diminishing", comments Karen L. Dorway, president of BAUERFINANCIAL, "but that doesn't mean they are extinct. Valley Bank is an excellent example of traditional, conservative banking. In this new era of 'back to basics' thinking, this is exactly what you should be looking for in a bank."

Valley Bank was established in 1973 and has been serving the banking needs of its neighbors and friends for 36 years. It operates through nine conveniently located offices in Auburn, Graham, Kent and Puyallup and can also be found on the internet at [www.vbwa.com](http://www.vbwa.com).

Valley Bank: "Still Local After All These Years."

BAUERFINANCIAL, INC., Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank and credit union rating and research firm, has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983. No institution pays for its rating, nor can it be eluded. Consumers may obtain star-ratings by visiting [www.bauerfinancial.com](http://www.bauerfinancial.com).

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