

# Media Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**To the Editor:**

## First Federal Rates Tops in Banking

**July 16, 2009: First Federal, Port Angeles, Washington** takes great pride in receiving a 5-Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability from **BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida**. 5-Stars is the highest rating attainable from BAUERFINANCIAL (the Nation's Bank Rating Firm for over a quarter of a century) and is based on the overall financial picture of the institution.

Earning a 5-Star rating indicates that First Federal is one of the strongest banks in the nation. In fact, this is the 63rd consecutive quarter that First Federal has earned this highest honor. Only 10% of the nation's banks can claim this distinction.

Given that, it is not surprising that Karen L. Dorway, president of BAUERFINANCIAL, has high praise for First Federal. "First Federal has avoided the lending and underwriting problems that have plagued much of the banking industry. It is clear that the staff of First Federal, under the direction of Ms Karen L. McCormick, CEO, remains diligent in adhering to sound banking principles and standards."

Established in 1923, First Federal has been serving the banking needs of its neighbors and friends for 86 years. It currently operates through nine conveniently located offices in Forks, Port Angeles, Port Townsend and Sequim and can be found on the internet at [www.ourfirstfed.com](http://www.ourfirstfed.com).

First Federal: "Making a difference. Together."

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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