



PRESS RELEASE

March 2, 2009

American National Bank Continues to Receive Special Recognition for its Strong Financial Condition

For two consecutive quarters, American National Bank has once again received the highest rating as a Blue Ribbon Bank from VERIBANC, Inc., an independent bank rating firm. Based on recent financial data supplied to financial regulators, VERIBANC qualifies banks for the Blue Ribbon Bank status using an eight level rating system based off financial data collected from the Federal Reserve Bank's Call Report, data maintained at the FDIC, plus satisfying additional safety related criteria.

Qualification for the Blue Ribbon status, bank's must receive VERIBANC's highest Green, Three Stars rating, including and evaluation of all six factors Federal regulators utilize in determining the government's "CAMELS" ratings – Capital strength, Asset quality, Management, Earnings, Liquidity, and Sensitivity to market risk. In addition, it must satisfy additional safety related criteria.

This Blue Ribbon Award is reserved for those highly rated financial institutions that demonstrate exceptional attention to safety, soundness and financial strength, and is the oldest national accolade presented to banks by private sector analysts.

“It’s always good to be recognized by outside financial analysts,” says Dennis Nathan, bank President and CEO. “We believe this designation reinforces our commitment to our customers and shareholders in maintaining our financial strength.”

American National Bank is a member of the Sturm Financial Group, Inc. Sturm Financial Group (SFG) consists of 40 community banks located in Colorado, Wyoming Kansas and Missouri and a Loan Production Office in Scottsdale, Arizona. SFG and maintains financial strength embodied in approximately \$2.1 billion in assets. The Banking Centers proudly offer personalized, quality service to their customers, with local staff and responsive, local decision-making. American National Bank offers a wide array of financial services for personal and business needs with traditional Checking and Savings products offered, e-Services for online banking needs, Cash Management Services, Wealth Management and Commercial, Consumer, SBA, and Mortgage Loans.

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