Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

To the Editor:

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Highpoint Community Bank Recognized for Exceptional Performance Indisputably One of the Nation's Strongest Banks

March 2020: Coral Gables, Florida, BauerFinancial, Inc., the Nation's Premier Bank Rating Firm, commends Highpoint Community Bank, Hastings, Michigan on its achievement of another 5-Star Superior Rating. Not only has Highpoint Community Bank earned Bauer's highest (5-Star) rating for financial strength and stability, it has maintained that top rating for 42 consecutive quarters, sailing through one of the most trying economic times of our lifetimes and giving it an added designation of *"Exceptional Performance Bank"*. This status is reserved for banks that have earned Bauer's highest rating consistently for at least 10 consecutive years. It also indicates that Highpoint Community Bank is indisputably one of the strongest banks in the nation.

"As the president of BauerFinancial, I am often asked what it takes to be a 5-Star bank," reflects Karen Dorway, president of the research firm. "Like so many other things in life, success in banking boils down to knowledge. Knowledge of banking, of course, but knowledge of its customers and the communities the bank serves are equally important. This intimacy enables the bank to steer clear of danger and work with customers for a common goal. It's what gets so many community banks, like Highpoint Community Bank, through the tough times unscathed."

Highpoint Community Bank was established in 1886 and has been working side by side with neighbors and friends for 134 years, helping to make the community what it is today. Currently, Highpoint Community Bank operates through seven conveniently located offices in Bellevue, Caledonia, Hastings, Marshall, Middleville, Nashville and Wayland and can also be found online at highpointcommunitybank.com.

Highpoint Community Bank: "Your Hometown Bank Since 1886."

Member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender.

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 can pay for or opt out of a BauerFinancial rating. Star-ratings are all available for free at <u>bauerfinancial.com</u>.

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