

Issues & Answers



June 2026

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The Long View: Why Judicial Races Matter



*By Duncan Taylor,
President and CEO,
Washington Bankers
Association*

While legislative sessions dominate much of our attention, some of the most consequential decisions affecting our industry are made elsewhere – in the courtroom. Over time, Washington Supreme Court decisions shape the legal and regulatory framework in which employers, consumers, financial institutions, and communities operate. And while headline-grabbing issues, like the new income tax, understandably command public attention, it is often the accumulation of smaller rulings over many years that quietly but significantly alter the banking landscape, gradually affecting our ability to operate and compete.

The Impact of Judicial Decisions – Vargas

One pressing example is the Vargas decision, which raises significant concerns across our industry. The ruling, just issued at the end of

April, calls into question when lenders may use Washington's non-judicial foreclosure process under the Deed of Trust Act. For many years, we've relied on this system to resolve defaulted loans efficiently and predictably while minimizing costs and delays. Decisions like Vargas may not generate the same level of public debate as major tax cases – the ruling has received almost no public attention – but its potential impact on lenders is substantial.

The concern is that Vargas could apply to a broad array of loans, potentially affecting a wide range of commercial and residential lending products. That likely includes many construction loans and other customized financing arrangements used by our banks. A broad interpretation of the decision could force lenders into lengthy judicial foreclosure proceedings rather than the established non-judicial process that has long underpinned Washington's lending framework.

Understanding the Role of Judicial Elections
Judicial elections differ significantly from traditional political campaigns in our state,

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1st Security Bank of Washington

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Autumn Roth, Managing
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Banking, JPMorganChase

Laurie Stewart, President &
CEO, Sound Community Bank

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On the Cover

*Wildflowers bloom on a foggy morning on Mt. Rainier.
Flowers on the mountain have a short growing season due
to the high altitude.*

Photo courtesy of Elke Peterson, flickr.com

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and many voters are unfamiliar with the mechanics involved. Strict ethical limitations regarding fundraising, political activity, and public advocacy bind the Supreme Court and candidates. Unlike legislative or executive candidates, judicial candidates are constrained in what positions they can publicly take on controversial issues and are expected to maintain independence and impartiality throughout the campaign process.

For that reason, engagement in judicial races looks very different. It is less about partisan politics and more about understanding judicial philosophy, professional temperament, experience, and approach to interpreting the law. While WBA does not endorse judicial candidates, we strongly encourage members to pay attention to these races and become informed about the candidates seeking to serve on the state's highest court. These individuals will eventually make critical decisions, such as whether the income tax is constitutional.

Candidates and Conversations Worth Following

As we look ahead to upcoming judicial races, several efforts are underway to encourage broader public engagement with the importance of the judiciary. One such organization is Full Court Press Washington, which has worked to raise awareness of Washington Supreme Court elections and the long-term impact of judicial decisions on the state's economic and legal climate.

Similarly, Sean O'Donnell is among the candidates running for the Court, and his background and perspective are worth examining closely. Judge O'Donnell was introduced to many in our industry by longtime banking advocate and current ABA President & CEO Rob Nichols, who encouraged conversations with him as he began exploring a run for the bench. Again, while we don't endorse candidates in these races, we encourage you to learn more about them because their decisions will shape our industry in the years to come.

Why Engagement Matters

For industries like banking, long-term advocacy is not limited to legislative sessions alone. Courts increasingly shape the operational realities that we face every day. That makes civic engagement around judicial races an important – and often overlooked – part of maintaining a healthy banking environment in Washington. We've seen the impact of this at the federal level and in our own backyard when we took the state to court in 2019.

The end goal is not necessarily political alignment. It is informed participation. Understanding how judicial philosophy influences legal outcomes, regulatory interpretation, and economic certainty is increasingly important for our members. The cumulative effect of judicial decisions matters, even when individual cases receive little public attention.

As we continue to strengthen the voice of Washington's banking industry, we encourage our members to stay engaged across all branches of government – legislative, executive, and judicial. This remains essential to maintaining a stable and competitive environment for our banks, so we can continue to support Washington families and communities with pride.

In service and with gratitude, huzzah!

Washington Supreme Court Limits the Use of Non-Judicial Foreclosures

By *Hugh McCullough, Brian D. Hulse, and Mike Tarantino, Davis Wright Tremaine*

At the beginning of May, the Washington Supreme Court in *Vargas v. RRA CP Opportunity Trust 1* determined that a lender could not employ the non-judicial foreclosure procedures set out in Washington's Deed of Trust Act because the obligation secured by the deed of trust was not a negotiable instrument. Although the court was only addressing certified questions concerning a home equity line of credit (HELOC) secured by residential property, its reasoning could apply to other secured obligations, including commercial loans. Prompt legislative action may be necessary to restore lenders' ability to pursue non-judicial foreclosures. Absent such a fix, lenders may be forced to pursue judicial foreclosures, which would impose additional costs on them and the courts while exposing borrowers to the risk of deficiency judgments.

Background

In 2005, Gabriel Marquez Vargas signed a HELOC agreement secured by a deed of trust on his house. The HELOC agreement was indorsed in blank and included language indicating it was a line of credit available over a specified draw period.

Vargas defaulted on the HELOC agreement. The trustee under the deed of trust served Vargas with a notice of default and a notice of trustee's sale. Vargas then filed an action in federal district court seeking to enjoin the non-judicial foreclosure sale and recover damages.

The district court certified two questions to the Washington Supreme Court:

(1) Whether a typical HELOC agreement that has a closed draw period and specified maturity date is a negotiable instrument under Article 3 of Washington's Uniform Commercial Code? If the Court answers this question in the affirmative, it need not address the remaining question. Alternatively, the Court may choose to answer only the latter question.

(2) Whether an alleged beneficiary under the Deed of Trust Act satisfies the requirement to show that it is "the holder of any promissory note or other obligation secured by the deed of trust," [RCW] 61.24.030(7)(a), by executing a declaration under penalty of perjury attesting that it is the holder of a HELOC agreement?

In an opinion dated April 30, 2026, the Washington Supreme Court answered both questions.

A HELOC Is Not a Negotiable Instrument

Addressing the first question, the court held that the HELOC agreement at issue was not a negotiable instrument.

Under Washington law, a negotiable instrument is an unconditional promise or order to pay a fixed amount of money, with or without interest or other charges described in the promise or order, payable to bearer or to order, payable on demand or at a definite time, and containing no additional undertakings other than those very limited ones permitted by statute.

The court concluded that the HELOC agreement failed this test because it was not a promise to pay a "fixed amount of money." The amount that Vargas might owe depended on whether, and to what extent, he drew on the line of credit. From the face of the agreement, it was impossible to determine the amount that might be borrowed and therefore the amount that Vargas would be required to repay.

The court contrasted a typical HELOC agreement with what it described as a "traditional mortgage note," in which a borrower promises to repay a fixed principal amount advanced to the borrower. According to the court, a typical HELOC agreement does not specify the amount that will be borrowed.

We therefore hold, in line with the majority viewpoint, that a HELOC agreement as defined in the certified question is not a negotiable instrument. Under Washington law, determining negotiability requires examining the specific terms of the instrument at the time it was issued. The fact that an agreement provides that the principal will become fixed at a future date fails to satisfy the "fixed amount of money" requirement.

Only the Holder of a Negotiable Instrument Can Deliver Required Declarations

Because the HELOC in *Vargas* was secured by residential property, the Deed of Trust Act required the beneficiary to execute a declaration stating that it was the "holder" of the obligation secured by the deed of trust. The Washington Supreme Court determined that the lender could not make such a declaration because, in the court's view, there is no such thing as a "holder" of a nonnegotiable instrument.

Although the Deed of Trust Act does not define "holder," the Uniform Commercial Code defines the term, with respect to negotiable instruments, as referring to the person in possession of a negotiable instrument payable either to bearer or to an identified person who is in possession. The court concluded that the same meaning should apply in the Deed of Trust Act. Because the HELOC agreement was not a negotiable instrument, it could not have a "holder" within the meaning of the statute.

As applied to *Vargas*, this reasoning meant that the lender could not certify that it was the holder of the obligation

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WBA Announces First WBA, Bankers Care PCBS Scholarship Recipients

In late April, the WBA announced the first recipients of the 2026 WBA Bankers Care Scholarship for the Pacific Coast Banking School, aimed at supporting the next generation of banking leaders in Washington State.

This year's scholarship recipients are Brooke Allan, senior vice president and digital products and services manager, and Jonathan Gozart, assistant vice president and credit analyst, both from 1st Security Bank of Washington. They were selected for their demonstrated leadership potential, dedication to the banking industry, and commitment to professional growth. The selection pool included a wide range of banking experience, areas of the bank, and deep industry knowledge.

The scholarship provides financial support to outstanding bankers attending the Pacific Coast Banking School, one of the nation's premier graduate-level banking leadership programs. Offered in partnership with the University of Washington Foster School of Business, PCBS has been preparing banking leaders since 1938 through a rigorous three-year program focused on leadership, strategic thinking, and financial management.

"Investing in future leaders is one of the most important things we can do for our industry," said Duncan Taylor, President and CEO of the WBA. "These scholarship recipients embody the strength and future of community banking in Washington, and we are proud to support their continued professional development through PCBS."

In her application, Allan noted that PCBS will "help me further understand the nuances of the financial industry so I can better serve those within my institution as a mentor, while also assisting those in the communities where we

operate. While I am excited for the opportunity to learn and develop as a banker, I also look forward to sharing my knowledge with my peers to collaborate on solutions and build lasting relationships within the industry." Allan is a graduate of the WBA's Executive Development Program and served as the past chair of the FinTech Security Workgroup.

Gozart brings 24 years of banking experience and is a graduate of the Executive Development Program and the Credit Analyst Development Program.

He stated, "I see PCBS providing me with the tools and pathways to leverage my experiences to become the best banker I can be. My career goals are to advance to a position within the bank where I can maximize my potential and make a positive difference."

Outside of his work at the bank, he volunteers as an advisor with Washington Business Week, where he helps students at Aberdeen High School learn about running a business.

The scholarship offers recipients financial support as they begin the program, starting with the 2026 resident session this August on the University of Washington campus in Seattle.

WBA's Bankers Care initiative emphasizes the banking industry's commitment to enhancing communities and supporting individuals who contribute to their success. Supporting leadership development through programs like PCBS is a vital aspect of that mission.

For more information about WBA's professional development programs and scholarship opportunities, visit wabankers.com.

To learn more about PCBS, visit www.thepcbs.org.

Industry News

New Hires

Matt Guchee
Business Analyst at Baker Boyer Bank

Heather Irvine-Porter
Business Banking Relationship Manager at U.S. Bank

Joel Arnold
Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer at Bank of the Pacific

Brigidd Gaucin
Business Banking Relationship Manager at U.S. Bank

Hannah Bamba
Customer Care Associate at Olympia Federal Savings

Angelica Calabitin
Customer Service Representative at Olympia Federal Savings

Kitty Jones-Davis
Assistant Branch Manager at Olympia Federal Savings

Bailee O'Leary
Loan Officer at Olympia Federal Savings

Kaia Rogers
Administrative Assistant at Olympia Federal Savings

Noah Lange
Loan Servicing Specialist at Washington Trust Bank

Chris Fenner
Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking at Heritage Bank

Angelina Contreras-Duran
Assistant Branch Manager at Olympia Federal Savings

Robert Mills
Chief Information Officer at Riverview Bank

Rob Woods
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Liberty Bank

Stephanie Musser
Commercial Banking Officer at Peoples Bank

Promotions

Travis Wittnebel
Regional Manager at Baker Boyer Bank

Basil Fassett
Wealth and Trust Advisor at Baker Boyer Bank

Jessica Johnson
Senior Business Advisor at Baker Boyer Bank

Marlena Ramirez
Private Banker at Baker Boyer Bank

Casey Kilborn
Senior Vice President and Chief Relationship Officer at Olympia Federal Savings

Sarah Caldwell
Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at Olympia Federal Savings

Nicole Montoya
Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at Olympia Federal Savings

Cory Swank
Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at Olympia Federal Savings

Board of Directors

Heather Burgess
Olympia Federal Savings

Pam Cleaver
Baker Boyer Bank

Retirements

Kathleen Bauknight
Olympia Federal Savings Board

Mary Gentry
Olympia Federal Savings Board

Have Industry News to share with WBA? Email megan@wabankers.com or call (206) 344-3472.

New Digital Innovation Development Program to Help Banks Navigate Fintech Partnerships

As financial institutions increasingly partner with fintech companies to deliver new services and reach customers in new ways, the need for strong governance, regulatory oversight, and operational frameworks has never been greater.

To help bankers successfully manage these partnerships, the Washington Bankers Association is launching a new Digital Innovation Development Program (DIDP) beginning in September 2026.

The program is designed for banking professionals responsible for building, managing, or overseeing fintech partnerships and digital innovation initiatives within their institutions. Participants will gain practical tools and insights for integrating fintech programs into their bank's strategy while maintaining the strong compliance and risk management frameworks expected by regulators.

Building Fintech Programs the Right Way

Fintech partnerships offer banks exciting opportunities to expand services, attract new deposits, and enhance their digital offerings. However, these partnerships also bring complex operational and regulatory responsibilities.

The Digital Innovation Development Program will provide bankers with a structured framework for developing and managing these initiatives. The curriculum focuses on how financial institutions can operate as fintech platforms while maintaining clear oversight and accountability.

Topics covered in the program include:

- Understanding the FI-Sidecar model and how banks can host fintech programs
- Establishing governance frameworks and board oversight
- Integrating fintech initiatives into a bank's strategic plan and risk appetite
- Managing payment rails and operational infrastructure
- Designing fintech underwriting and partner onboarding processes
- Maintaining compliance with BSA/AML, consumer protection, and other regulatory obligations

Throughout the program, participants will learn how to build fintech initiatives that move beyond experimentation and operate as disciplined, sustainable business lines.

Practical Learning and Peer Collaboration

The Digital Innovation Development Program emphasizes practical learning and real-world application.

Participants will complete assignments designed to apply the program's concepts directly to their own institutions. Each student will also be paired with an executive-level mentor within their bank to reinforce the learning experience and provide guidance as they work through the program material.

This structure encourages participants to collaborate with

The graphic features the Braid logo with the WBA logo to its right. Below the logos, the text reads: "Digital Innovation Development Program", "Our latest series aims to empower bankers to launch, manage, and scale fintech partnerships with confidence!", "Starts September 10!", and "Learn more: wabankers.com/didp".

colleagues and leadership while developing strategies that can be implemented within their organizations.

The program is delivered through live virtual sessions held from 8 to 11 a.m. Pacific Time, with recordings available for on-demand viewing through November 13, 2026.

Partnership with Braid

The program is offered in partnership with Braid, a fintech infrastructure provider focused on helping financial institutions modernize their operations and develop compliant fintech partnerships.

Instruction will be led by Kevin Johnston, Chief Banking Officer at Braid, who has extensive experience helping banks design and implement fintech programs that balance innovation with regulatory expectations.

Through this partnership, participants will gain insight into emerging models for bank-fintech collaboration, including approaches that allow banks to retain operational oversight while enabling innovative financial products.

Preparing Banks for the Future

As technology continues to reshape financial services, banks that successfully navigate fintech partnerships will be better positioned to compete and grow in the evolving financial landscape.

The Digital Innovation Development Program aims to equip bankers with the knowledge and confidence to lead these initiatives while ensuring strong governance, compliance, and operational oversight.

The program begins in September 2026, with registration open to members of state banking associations.

Learn more or register at wabankers.com/didp.

24 Bankers Graduate from Spring CADP

In mid-May, 24 students from across the United States celebrated the successful completion of the Credit Analyst Development Program (CADP). This year's graduating class, representing 10 different states, brought an average of 5.8 years of professional experience to the program.

The CADP is designed to equip participants with essential skills in credit risk assessment, financial analysis, and portfolio management. Through a combination of classroom instruction, case studies, and practical assignments, students gain hands-on experience in evaluating creditworthiness, interpreting financial statements, and understanding market trends.

Graduates leave the program well-prepared to take on credit analyst roles, contributing to stronger financial decision-making within their organizations. The diverse backgrounds of the participants underscore the program's appeal to professionals seeking to deepen their expertise and advance in credit analysis.

Congratulations to: Amber Melrose, Northwest Community Bank; Andrew Dion, Westfield Bank; Andrew Holliday, Somerset Regal Bank; Andria, Monette Westfield Bank; Anthony Seehafer, Farmer & Merchants Bank & Trust; Benjamin Paint-



er, Waukesha State Bank; Casey Campbell, Seattle Bank; Cesar Rodriguez, Fremont Bank; Dayne Loberg, Citizens State Bank of Loyal; Derek Fischer, Bank of Eastern Oregon; Eric Sipiorski, Greenleaf Bank; Evette Gonzalez, Wheatland Bank; Garrett Bacon, Westfield Bank; Jessica Mulvihill, Bank of Eastern Oregon; Kadeen Sawyers, Ives Bank; Matthew Nadeau, Franklin Savings Bank; Michael Burgoyne, Waukesha State Bank; Nathan Boucher, Westfield Bank; Samantha Bruce, First Bank of Wyoming; Sean Kyser, Haddon Savings Bank; Tracy Mullen, Five Star Bank; Trevor Agne, Union Savings Bank; Trevor Lee, Commencement Bank; and Will LaCroix, Mascoma Bank.

The fall session of the program will begin on September 17. More information is available online: wabankers.com/cadp.

Submissions Open for 14th Annual ABA Community Commitment Awards

The American Bankers Association Foundation is now accepting submissions for its 14th annual Community Commitment Awards, ABA's highest honors for extraordinary community engagement. Banks of all sizes are encouraged to enter successful community initiatives for the awards, which recognize innovative, high-impact bank programs that improve the quality of life for the communities they serve. The entry period for submitting nominations closes July 6.

"The ABA Foundation's Community Commitment Awards recognize the many meaningful ways banks are invested in the success of their communities and making a difference every day," said Rob Nichols, president and CEO of the American Bankers Association. "I want to encourage every bank in the country to submit a nomination and share the many innovative ways they are supporting economic opportunity, strengthening local communities and meeting the evolving needs of the people they serve."

Banks interested in submitting Community Commitment Award nominations can enter one of seven categories ranging from affordable housing to volunteerism, while the George Bailey Award recognizes an individual non-CEO bank employee demonstrating extraordinary commitment to their bank and community.

"Each year, the Community Commitment Awards shine a

light on banks that are stepping up to meet real challenges within their communities," said Lindsay Torrico, executive director of the ABA Foundation. "The banking institutions honored through this program illustrate how commitment, innovation and service to others can create lasting impact nationwide. They also provide a roadmap for others to follow."

Banks of all asset sizes are eligible to enter, and submissions will be judged by a panel of nationally recognized experts in each category. The categories are:

- Affordable Housing;
- Community and Economic Development
- Financial Education;
- Financial Inclusion;
- Protecting Older Americans;
- Supporting Military Families;
- Volunteerism; and

The George Bailey Distinguished Service Award, for non-CEO bank employees who demonstrate outstanding service to their bank and to the industry and community

Winners will be recognized at ABA's Annual Convention in Salt Lake City this October.

For an entry form or a list of past winners, visit aba.com/awards. For more information on applying, please contact Melissa Murray at awards@aba.com or 202-663-5440.

Engage Conference Draws More Than 140 Bankers

More than 140 banking professionals from across the Pacific Northwest gathered virtually on May 20 for the Washington Bankers Association's 2026 Virtual Engage Conference, a full-day event focused on leadership development, retail banking, human resources, succession planning, AI, and industry advocacy.

The conference opened with welcome remarks from WBA President and CEO Duncan Taylor, followed by leadership expert Ned Pauley, founder and president of The Signify Group, who presented "Some Assembly Required: The 3C Model for Growth and Development." Pauley shared actionable strategies for building connections, coaching, and challenging employees to foster engagement, ownership, and professional growth.

Paul Carney, founder of Ishtot Inc., followed with a forward-looking session titled "Return on Intelligence: Building Smarter Banks Through Human + AI Collaboration." Carney explored how banks can use AI to strengthen leadership pipelines, accelerate learning, and enhance organizational culture while shifting the conversation around AI from cost savings to capability building.

The conference also featured targeted breakout sessions for education, retail banking, and human resources profession-



als. Sherry Johnson Metz, chief learning architect at Lead Forward Consulting, discussed how leaders can adopt more coach-like conversations to improve employee ownership and engagement.

Retail banking leaders Charmaine Lighthouse of Riverview Bank, Kelli Nielsen of 1st Security Bank of Washington, and Todd Valley of Columbia Bank participated in a panel discussion examining how community banks are redefining retail growth strategies in today's competitive, digitally driven environment.

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Tri-State Agricultural Bankers Convenes in Richland

Over 90 Agricultural bankers from across the Pacific Northwest gathered April 29–May 1 in Richland for the 2026 Agricultural Bankers Conference, co-hosted by the Washington, Idaho, and Oregon bankers' associations. The three-day event brought together lenders, industry experts, and policymakers to examine the forces shaping agricultural finance and rural economies.

The conference opened on Wednesday with a golf outing at Columbia Point Golf Course, followed by a welcome reception at the Holiday Inn Richland on the River, giving attendees an opportunity to connect ahead of a full agenda of programming.

Thursday's sessions began with a legislative and regulatory outlook from Ed Elfmann, senior vice president of agricultural and rural banking at the American Bankers Association. Elfmann provided an update on federal policy priorities affecting rural lenders, including ongoing discussions on farm bill reauthorization, credit availability, and regulatory pressures on community banks serving agricultural markets.

Building on that policy foundation, Rob Newberry of Abrigo led a session titled "Plow into Profits," offering practical strategies for banks to strengthen agricultural lending portfolios. Newberry focused on balancing growth with risk management, emphasizing data-driven decision-making and proactive borrower engagement.

Regional agricultural dynamics took center stage in a presentation by Casey Chumrau, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission. Chumrau outlined key trends affecting Pacific Northwest producers, including global market volatility, input costs, and trade pressures, and how those factors influence borrower performance and credit needs.

Water infrastructure and its critical role in agriculture were addressed by Steve Barton of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Barton provided an overview of the Columbia-Snake

River system, highlighting current operations and policy considerations that directly affect irrigation, transportation, and long-term agricultural viability in the region.

In the afternoon, attendees could tour the Ice Harbor Lock and Dam for a firsthand look at infrastructure central to the region's agricultural supply chain. The day concluded with a group dinner at Tagaris Winery, where conversations among peers and industry partners continued.

Friday's program shifted to risk, economic outlook, and commodity markets. Stu Kerber of Western Farm Advisors opened the morning with a session on borrower risk, urging bankers to identify early warning signs and strengthen communication with producers to mitigate potential losses.

Economic conditions were addressed by Robert Spendlove of Zions Bank, who provided a 2026 economic overview. Spendlove discussed interest rate trends, inflation pressures, and the broader economic environment, offering insights tailored to agricultural lenders navigating a changing landscape.

The conference closed with a forward-looking commodity outlook from Brett Stuart of AgriTrends. Stuart highlighted the strength of beef markets and explored what lies ahead for producers and lenders, emphasizing the need for adaptability as market conditions evolve.

The conference concluded Friday morning with exhibitor drawings and closing remarks, followed by a debrief of the Idaho Bankers Association agricultural committee.

Throughout the event, attendees engaged with exhibitors, participated in networking opportunities, and exchanged insights on the evolving challenges and opportunities in agricultural banking. The tri-state collaboration continues to provide a valuable forum for bankers serving rural communities to stay informed, share best practices, and strengthen relationships across the region.

Farm Banks Remain Key Source of Credit for America's Farmers & Rural Communities

Farm banks continued to play a central role in financing U.S. agriculture in 2025, accounting for more than one-third of all farm lending nationwide while maintaining solid capital, profitability and employment levels, according to ABA's 2025 Farm Bank Performance Report.

Banks held nearly \$212 billion in farm loans at the end of 2025, representing 35.7% of total agricultural credit outstanding in the United States. The nation's 1,372 farm banks—defined by ABA as banks whose ratio of domestic farm loans to total domestic loans is equal to or greater than the industry average—accounted for \$122 billion of that total and remained a major source of credit for small and micro farms.

"Farm banks play an outsized role in supporting farmers, ranchers and rural communities," said Ed Elfmann, senior vice president, agricultural and rural banking policy. "This report shows they continued to extend credit responsibly in 2025 while maintaining solid capital levels and strong ties to the communities they serve."

Key Highlights

- Strong role in farm lending: Banks provided more than \$212 billion in farm loans in 2025, with farm banks accounting for \$122 billion, or 57% of all bank farm loans.
- Support for small and micro farms: Banks held more than 1 million small farm loans totaling \$71 billion, including over 630,000 micro farm loans worth more than \$14 billion.
- Solid capital levels: Tier 1 capital at farm banks increased 7.9%, or \$4.4 billion, reaching \$59.7 billion in 2025.
- Broad profitability: 98.2% of farm banks were profitable in 2025, with 73.1% reporting higher earnings than the prior year.
- Asset quality continued to normalize: Credit quality weakened modestly in 2025 after several years of historically low delinquency rates, though noncurrent agricultural loans remained low by historical standards.
- Growing rural employment: Farm banks added 2,037 jobs in 2025 and employed more than 76,000 ru-



ral America, marking a 23.6% increase in employment since 2015.

- Deep community roots: The median farm bank was 115 years old in 2025, reflecting longstanding ties to the communities they serve.

The 38 farm banks in the West region increased their farm loans by 3.40%, or \$161.84 million, from a year ago to \$4.92 billion in 2025. Agricultural production loans rose by 3.32% from a year ago to \$2.05 billion, and farmland loans rose 3.46% to \$2.87 billion.

To read the full report, visit www.aba.com/news-research/analysis-guides/2025-farm-bank-performance-report.

Credit Analyst Development Program

Join our engaging 6-part virtual program designed for bankers to elevate your skills and enhance your industry knowledge!

Starts September 17!

Learn more: wabankers.com/cadp



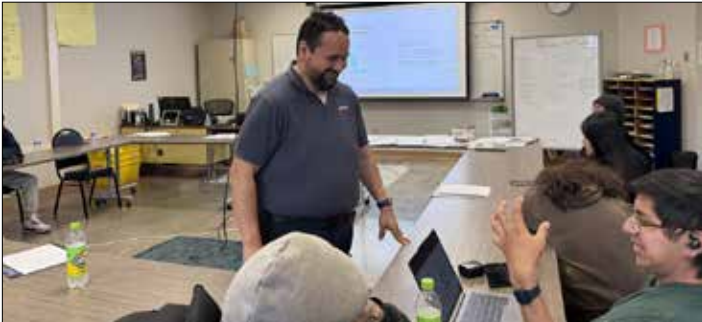
Timberland Bank Launches 2026 Shred Day Season with Strong Community Support

Timberland Bank kicked off its 2026 Free Community Shred Days in South Hill and South Aberdeen in early May.

The events collected over 6 tons of paper shreds during five seasonal events, along with more than 15 bags of food and \$1,300 in donations for local food banks.

The bank partnered with LeMay Mobile Shredding to host the events. It supported the Puyallup Food Bank, the Aberdeen Community Food Bank, the Ocean Shores Food Bank, and the Olympia Union Gospel Mission.

Timberland Bank thanked the community for its generosity, marking another successful Shred Day season.



KeyBank Hosts YouthCare Financial Literacy Session

KeyBank brought financial literacy to a group of young people at YouthCare, focusing on credit scores and smart spending habits.

Participants engaged actively and asked thoughtful questions during the session, which aimed to equip them with foundational tools for shaping their financial futures.



Commencement Bank Celebrates Olympia Branch Manager 40 Under 40 Honor

Commencement Bank announced that Olympia Branch Manager and Merchant Services Officer Ryan was named to

South Sound Business's annual 40 Under 40 list.

Each spring, the publication's panel reviewed numerous nominations to recognize outstanding young professionals making a significant impact in their communities.

The bank celebrated Ryan's achievement and expressed pride in having her on its team.



Bank of America Attends Ribbon-Cutting for Copperleaf Affordable Housing Opening

Bank of America celebrated the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Copperleaf Affordable Housing, highlighting its commitment to community investment and housing equity.

The event featured presentations by BRIDGE Housing Corporation and Community Roots Housing that out-

lined the project's vision, design, and impact. Bank of America helped fund the development, emphasizing the importance of expanding access to affordable housing.

Community leaders, partners, and future residents gathered in pride as Copperleaf officially opened its doors, symbolizing hope, stability, and opportunity for local families.



Heritage Bank Volunteers at Thrive2Survive Fair

Heritage Bank employees recently spent an afternoon volunteering with Thrive2Survive in Vancouver, Washington.

Staff members helped community residents navigate the process of obtaining IDs and driver's licenses, an essential step toward securing employment and housing. The initiative reflected the bank's commitment to community impact, offering employees dedicated time to give back.

KeyBank Hosts Emerging Entrepreneurs Workshop

KeyBank successfully delivered the Emerging Entrepreneurs Workshop to a group of young, career-focused individuals.

The event, hosted by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Entrepology and KeyBank, featured sessions on business banking to help participants build strong financial

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foundations.

Attendees are now preparing to present their business ideas at the Young Market Day at the Sammamish Farmers Market.



Bank of the Pacific Supports Taholah Health Fair

Bank of the Pacific participated in the recent Taholah Health Fair, highlighting its commitment to community health.

The bank expressed appreciation for the Taholah community and shared enthusiasm about joining similar events in the future.

Baker Boyer Celebrates Successful Golf for Grads Tournament

Baker Boyer thanked the community for making the Tri-Cities Sunrise Rotary's Golf for Grads tournament a success on Thursday.

The event at Canyon Lakes featured strong local support, sunny weather, and a hole-in-one on the course's signature 12th hole.

Olympia Federal Savings: Abby Ferrari Named Employee of the Quarter

Olympia Federal Savings named Abby Ferrari, AVP Learning & Development Manager, as Employee of the Quarter.

Selected by her peers, Ferrari was recognized for her outstanding contributions to employee development, organizational success, and community impact. Over the past year, Ferrari strengthened OlyFed's culture, led onboarding and compliance training, and supported professional growth across the organization. She advanced key initiatives, including the bank's mentorship program, specialized training across departments, and expanded community financial education efforts with local schools and nonprofits.

President and CEO Josh Deck praised Ferrari for her passion,

commitment, and lasting impact on both the organization and the communities it serves.



Mountain Pacific Bank Hosts Successful Everett Shred Day

Mountain Pacific Bank thanked the community after a successful Everett Shred Day.

Volunteers, Providence Children's Association, and residents contributed to the event's success.

The bank announced that the next Shred Day will serve the Bellingham community in Barkley Village.



Timberland Bank Celebrates Successful Weekend at Gig Harbor Paddlers Cup

Timberland Bank enjoyed a memorable weekend at the Gig Harbor Paddlers Cup, thanking the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team and the Gig Harbor Dragon Boat Club for hosting the event on the harbor.

The team expressed excitement for next year's competition.

KeyBank Celebrates New 48-Unit Affordable Housing Project

KeyBank Community Development Lending & Investment provided capital for the construction of Twisp Family Haven, a 48-unit affordable housing project in Twisp, WA.

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Events Calendar

June 22 – Banking AI Accelerator

June 29 - July 1 – 2026 Annual Convention, *Sunriver*

July 9 – Understanding Bank Performance

July 30 – ABA Virtual Women Who Lead Summit

August 18-20 – KBA Fraud Academy; *KY & Virtual*

August 20 – Commercial Lending Development Program

September 10 – Digital Innovation Development Program

September 21-23 – PNW Capitol Hill Visit, *D.C.*

September 29 – AI Native & Fintech Conference

September 30 – Credit, Lending & Compliance Conference

October 1 – Understanding Bank Performance

October 6 – AML/CFT Financial Crimes Workshop

October 7 – Retail Branch Manager Development Program

December 3 – CareerWork\$ Summit, Seattle

To register or to learn more about any of the listed events, please visit wabankers.com/calendar.

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The development served families and individuals earning 30–60% of Area Median Income, with 20 units dedicated to Permanent Supportive Housing.

Eight units received project-based Section 8 vouchers, and 12 units were reserved for households experiencing homelessness. Room One offered supportive services including case management, transportation, employment assistance, and counseling.

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington sponsored the project, and financing included a \$10.9 million construction loan arranged by Caleb Stephens.



WaFd Bank Participates in 32nd Annual Spring Conservation Fair in NE Washington

WaFd Bank celebrated its 32nd annual Spring Conservation Fair in Republic, WA, bringing together family, friends, and the community on a sunny day in Ferry County.

The event featured a series of positive activities highlighting the region's natural and community resources, supporting WaFd's commitment to local engagement and conservation.



1st Security Bank Celebrates Community Efforts to Preserve Affordable Housing

1st Security Bank of Washington joined community members in celebrating efforts to preserve affordable housing in Seattle.

The event, held on Thursday, May 7, recognized the work of Curtis, residents, and Brighton Communities' partners in reversing displacement.

Amazon was thanked for its \$3.5 million grant, and 1st Security Bank was honored as the lead sponsor.

Baker Boyer Bank Highlights Employees' Community Service During National Volunteer Month

Baker Boyer Bank honored National Volunteer Month in April by spotlighting employees who dedicated their time, expertise, and leadership to local nonprofits and community organizations.



The bank celebrated staff members serving on boards throughout the community, recognizing their commitment to being good neighbors.



Key Bank Participates in Artcorp's 25th Anniversary

Key Bank celebrated Artcorp's 25th anniversary last weekend at the Centilia Cultural Center at El Centro de la Raza.

The event, attended by board member Jared McConnell, featured a program highlighting creativity, community, and the organization's mission of removing barriers to youth art education.

The gathering showcased strong support from community partners, creating an uplifting evening of connection.



1st Security Bank of Washington Supports Healthy Kids Day in Silverdale

1st Security Bank of Washington's Silverdale Branch supported the Haselwood Family YMCA's Healthy Kids Day over the weekend.

Hundreds of families attended, enjoying games, prizes from local businesses, and demonstrations by YMCA staff and volunteers.

Washington Trust Bank Participates in Career Talks with Local Students

Washington Trust Bank engaged in insightful conversations

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with students about career opportunities.

The event was hosted by the Greater Vancouver Chamber and Evergreen High School, with Dani Reyes in attendance.



WaFd Bank Donated \$1,000 to Provide 200 Snack Packs for Kids This Summer

WaFd Bank made a significant impact on local children this summer by donating \$1,000 to the United Way of Pierce County's Sip, Serve & Celebrate initiative.

The contribution funded 200 snack packs, ensuring 200 kids received meals when school was out. Each snack pack represented a moment of relief and care for families in need.

WaFd Bank's support at the Advocate level encouraged other local businesses to join in making a tangible difference for the community.



Olympia Federal Savings and 1st Security Bank of Washington Volunteer with GRuB

Olympia Federal Savings and 1st Security Bank of Washington teams rolled up their sleeves in May to support the community.

Team members celebrated GRuB's 25th anniversary at the May There Be Gardens event by building raised beds to provide local families with fresh food.

Volunteers also participated in Rebuilding Together Thurston County's Rebuild Day, refreshing a home with painting, landscaping, and more.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Cascadia Tech Academy's ASPIRE Gala

Riverview Bank proudly sponsored the Cascadia Tech Academy's ASPIRE Gala, an event celebrating students and programs shaping the region's future workforce.

The bank supported the organization's mission to provide hands-on, real-world learning opportunities that help students discover passions and develop career-ready skills.

Cody Ritter, Riverview Bank's SVP and Commercial Real Estate Director, also served as Board Chair for the Foundation, further advancing its educational initiatives.



Bank of America Volunteers Celebrate Cinco de Mayo in Seattle

Bank of America's Seattle HOLA chapter and the BACCV team spent Cinco de Mayo volunteering at El Centro de la Raza's festivities.

The event featured music, food, and a vibrant tribute to Mexican heritage.

Volunteers highlighted the joy of seeing the community come together, and thanked El Centro de la Raza staff for their dedicated efforts.

Washington Trust Bank Supports SW Washington Community Events

Washington Trust Bank supported several community events in Southwest Washington in May.

In one weekend, the team supported a 5K for the Humane Society for Southwest Washington. Team members, including Cooper, continued with additional miles after the race.

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Later, the bank sponsored and supported Dave Cole and the Cascadia Tech Academy at the red-themed Aspire Gala. The event showcased students' accomplishments in the academy's CTE programs, impressing attendees.



expenses, while creating budgets and tracking spending. The event aimed to teach students how to make informed financial decisions, and the bank team enjoyed guiding them through the process.



Bank of the Pacific Celebrates Cowlitz Habitat's 26th Anniversary Brunch

Bank of the Pacific celebrated the 26th Anniversary Brunch for Cowlitz Habitat at the Cowlitz Event Center in Longview.

The event highlighted the construction of 16 affordable homes

for local families, with participants contributing sweat equity and developing financial skills.

Bank of the Pacific supported the occasion as a table sponsor, showing pride in the community effort and commitment to future volunteer work.



Timberland Bank Hosts Successful Community Shred Days

Timberland Bank recently wrapped up its Free Community Shred Days, drawing strong community participation in Ocean Shores, West Olympia, and Gig Harbor.

Held over two weekends, the events offered secure document shredding and encouraged donations to local food programs.

Community members donated generously to the Ocean Shores Food Bank, the Olympia Union Gospel Mission, and the Gig Harbor Midday Rotary Little Free Pantry Project.



First Fed Bank Supports Autism Awareness at Bowl 4 FUNdraiser

First Fed Bank's Ferndale and Fairhaven teams participated in the Ferndale Police Association's Bowl 4 FUNdraiser, supporting Autism Awareness.

Fairhaven bankers completed a trick shot challenge with a strike, highlighting the bank's commitment to community events and meaningful causes.



Olympia Federal Savings Supports Boys & Girls Club Breakfast

Olympia Federal Savings attended the Most Important Meal of the Year breakfast in May, which supported the Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County, marking an inspiring start to the day.

Cashmere Valley Bank Staff Volunteers at Financial Literacy Event

Cashmere Valley Bank employees participated in Westside High School's second annual financial literacy simulation, Sheena Town.

Students learned to manage housing, insurance, and vehicle

Riverview Bank Hosts Successful Community Shred Day

Riverview Bank hosted a Free Document Shred Day at its Stevenson branch and the Battle Ground Albertson's parking lot, drawing strong community participation.

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It's Hard to Lead the Discussion and Stay Objective the Whole Time

By Michael Kadel, Managing Principal, OneAccord

There's a dynamic that shows up in many planning conversations that leaders don't always talk about directly.

In many cases, the person leading the discussion is also deeply invested in where it lands.

Even strong leadership teams often have one leader playing multiple roles. They're guiding the conversation while also contributing to it, reacting to ideas, and helping shape the outcome in real time. And when you're that close to the outcome, it's hard to stay objective the whole time.

That subtle dynamic can quickly create an environment where others are more guarded and hold back what they're really thinking. They start reading the room and weighing how things will land. In the moment, the discussion can still feel aligned and productive. Heads nod, decisions get made, and the group moves forward.

Then afterward or on a break, different perspectives start to surface. Concerns show up in side conversations that never made it into the room. It's a sign that something about how the conversation is set up is causing people to hold back what they're really

thinking.

This pattern doesn't just affect what gets said in the room. It shapes the quality of the decisions that come out of it.

When people hold back what needs to be said, plans can look aligned in the moment but struggle to hold once the meeting ends. That's when strategic plans lose momentum or sit on a shelf.

This is why the structure of the conversation matters more than many teams realize.

When leaders are able to fully participate in the discussion without also carrying the responsibility of guiding it, important perspectives are far more likely to surface. And when that happens, decisions reflect more of what's actually on the table, and the plan is far more likely to move forward once the meeting ends.

As part of WBA's new partnership with OneAccord, Michael Kadel shares a perspective on a dynamic even strong leadership teams experience during strategic planning conversations. When the person leading the discussion is also deeply invested in the outcome, it can lead to people holding back what really needs to be said.

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secured by the deed of trust—a prerequisite to initiating a non-judicial foreclosure on residential property of up to four units.

Potential Implications of the Decision

The court's reasoning could have significant implications for lenders and other beneficiaries of deeds of trust.

First, the decision strongly suggests that lenders cannot use a non-judicial foreclosure to enforce a HELOC secured by residential property. That conclusion follows directly from the court's answers to the certified questions, which involved precisely that type of loan.

Second, borrowers may attempt to extend the court's reasoning to other types of residential loans. Many loan instruments contain provisions that could arguably render them non-negotiable. For example, a note that

incorporates by reference provisions contained in a separate loan agreement might be argued to fall outside the definition of a negotiable instrument.

Third, borrowers may contend that the court's reasoning applies not only to residential loans but also to commercial loans. Although the court focused primarily on provisions of the Deed of Trust Act that apply specifically to residential property, it stated that a "holder" under the Act means the holder of a negotiable instrument governed by Article 3 of the Uniform Commercial Code. If that interpretation were applied generally, it could mean that only the holder of a negotiable instrument may qualify as the "beneficiary" of a deed of trust because the Act defines "beneficiary" as "the holder of the instrument or document evidencing the obligations secured by the deed of trust, excluding persons holding the same as

security for a different obligation."

If lenders lack authority to pursue non-judicial foreclosures under the Deed of Trust Act, they may be required to resort to judicial foreclosures instead. A lender that proceeds with a non-judicial foreclosure without statutory authority may face liability for damages, in addition to injunctive and other equitable relief. It remains to be seen how trustees under deeds of trust will apply the ruling in the case and whether title companies will insure title after a non-judicial foreclosure without proof that the obligations secured by the deed of trust were evidenced by a negotiable instrument meeting the strict requirements of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Hugh McCullough is a partner in the litigation group in the Seattle office of DWT. Brian D. Hulse and Mike Tarantino are counsel in the real estate group, also in the Seattle office of DWT.

Three Questions Banks Should Ask About Moving Deposits Off the Balance Sheet

By H.D. Barkett, Senior Managing Director, IntraFi®

Deposit networks are often described as funding tools, enabling banks to access funds and depositors to access FDIC insurance on large amounts. But they are far more than that. Deposit networks can also be balance sheet levers—mechanisms that allow banks to manage timing, risk, and optionality without sacrificing customer relationships.

One crucial benefit offered by deposit networks is flexible liquidity management—including the opportunity to move deposits off balance sheet by selling them to network banks in exchange for fee income while retaining the customer relationship.

There are several reasons why your bank might consider moving deposits off balance sheet:

- Liquidity surges that outpace near-term loan demand
- Timing mismatches between asset growth and deposit inflows
- Heightened scrutiny of uninsured deposits and concentration risk following banking stress events
- Regulatory attention to large depositors and funding stability

When facing these circumstances, partnering with a large-capacity, established bank network to move deposits off balance sheet can give your bank a competitive advantage by creating flexible liquidity. By treating moving deposits off balance sheet as a strategic decision, rather than as a reactive outlet for excess balances, your bank can profitably retain control over future growth.

The question is not whether your bank should move deposits off balance sheet—but when, why, and under what constraints. That starts with three core questions:

Question #1: What Opportunities Can Be Created by Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet?

Your bank can profitably move deposits off balance sheet for a number of reasons, including

- Managing deposit concentration limits, especially tied to large commercial or municipal accounts
- Smoothing out seasonal or event-driven liquidity surges
- Controlling where the bank stands relative to key asset, reporting, or regulatory thresholds
- Compensating for temporary mismatches between deposit inflows and loan demand

Federal banking regulators have made clear that large depositors and uninsured balances warrant

prudent management.

Selling deposits to other banks in a deposit network allows your bank to retain the customer relationship while addressing balance-sheet, liquidity, and regulatory pressures—moving the funding, not the depositor relationship.

Question #2: What Economic and Pricing Guardrails Should Be Considered?

Are you getting paid appropriately to move deposits off balance sheet?

At its core, the economics hinge on three variables:

- 1) The rate paid to the customer
- 2) The applicable deposit sell rate
- 3) The resulting spread and fee income

Defining these up front, alongside the amount of deposits to be sold, helps ensure profitability.

Effective programs define clear guardrails, including minimum acceptable spread thresholds, and establish competitive monitoring to ensure pricing and market rate changes do not undermine the relationship. Market volatility makes static assumptions dangerous. As interest rates change, economics that once worked can quietly deteriorate unless actively reviewed.

Strong governance can position your bank to make strategic, rather than reactive, decisions to move deposits off balance sheet. A best practice is to establish clear ownership of pricing decisions—your bank's asset-liability committee is one possible owner—and a defined approval path for exceptions to ensure that your deposits are priced intentionally, not deployed reflexively.

Question #3: Are You Operationally Ready, and Able to Pivot back?

Regulators increasingly expect deposit programs to be repeatable and auditable. To ensure you can start moving deposits off balance sheet without issue, ensure your bank has assembled and codified the following

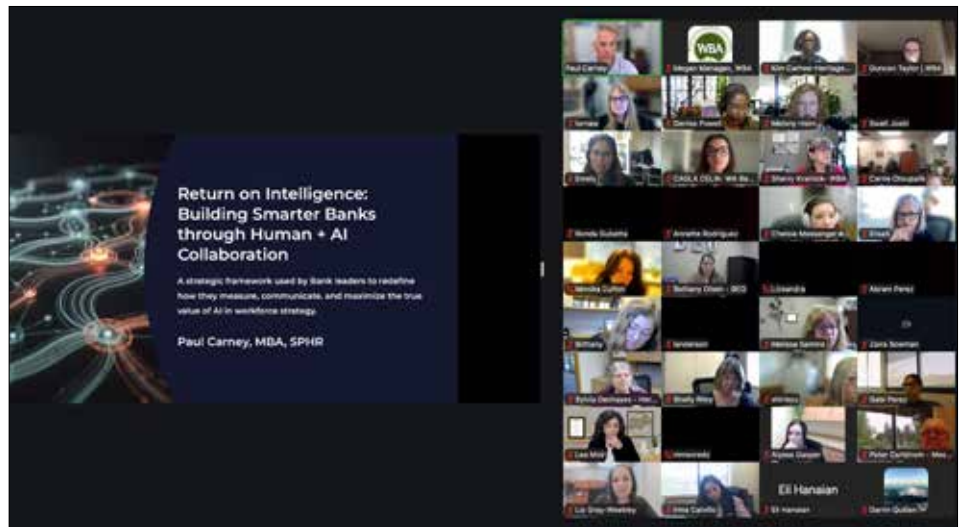
- Customer consent and disclosures
- Documentation and reporting accuracy
- Settlement and reconciliation workflows
- Clear ownership across treasury, operations, and relationship teams

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Human resources professionals attended sessions on the future of employee benefits and employment law developments impacting banks. A panel from USI Insurance Services explored trends in wellness, compliance, pharmaceutical management, and the growing role of AI in benefits planning. At the same time, Priya Vivian and Christine Thelen, partners at Ballard Spahr, provided updates on evolving employment law issues facing community banks in Washington and Oregon.

Additional sessions focused on succession planning, deposit growth strategies, and leading through organizational change. Michael Kadel, managing principal at OneAccord, shared practical tools banks can use to strengthen leadership pipelines through effective succession planning. Joe Sullivan, president of Market Insights, discussed changing deposit growth strategies amid rising rates and



digital disruption.

The conference concluded with Matt Gjertsen, founder of BUILT, presenting strategies to help teams navigate uncertainty and accelerate performance during periods of change.

During the afternoon, Taylor and Megan Managan, WBA EVP/Director of Public Affairs, provided attendees

with an industry and advocacy update focused on the banking landscape in Washington state and at the federal level.

Thank you to our conference sponsors, Abrigo, Cornerstone Advisors, and Strategy Corps, for their support in making the 2026 Virtual Engage Conference possible.

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Define the Trigger to Move Deposits Off Balance Sheet—before You Need It

Before moving deposits off balance sheet, clearly define the dollar magnitude of a given sell trigger, the consequences of keeping deposits on balance sheet, and the expected duration of funds moved off balance sheet—weeks, quarters, or a defined strategic window.

Plan Your Exit Before Entry

The most disciplined institutions define exit triggers in advance. These could include increasing loan demand, on-balance-sheet funding regaining strategic value, or other changes in liquidity or capital needs.

Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet Is a Powerful Option

When your bank needs more liquidity, it's much easier to redeploy deposits from existing customers than it is to source new relationship deposits. Deposit networks make that flexibility possible. Other cash management offerings for customers, such as money market mutual funds and wholesale funding, are less flexible and more expensive.

Ultimately, deposit networks (and using them to move deposits off balance sheet) are about control and timing. Banks that successfully use their deposit

network as a liquidity management tool consistently ask:

- 1) What issue are we solving?
- 2) Are the economics disciplined and defensible?
- 3) Can we execute cleanly—and exit deliberately?

Used well, an off-balance-sheet strategy can allow your bank to win relationships and manage risk today and preserve the option to fund growth tomorrow.

That optionality is the true value of a deposit network.

IntraFi operates a deposit network of 3,000+ members and offers the highest per-depositor and per-bank capacity in the industry. For more than 23 years, banks have relied on IntraFi's on-balance-sheet (reciprocal deposits and wholesale funding) and off-balance-sheet (One-Way Sell®) solutions to strategically manage liquidity, grow customer relationships, and increase profitability.

Deposit placement through IntraFi Services is subject to the terms, conditions, and disclosures in applicable agreements. IntraFi is not an FDIC-insured bank, and deposit insurance covers the failure of an insured bank. A list identifying IntraFi network banks appears at <https://www.intrafi.com/network-banks>. Certain conditions must be satisfied for "pass-through" FDIC deposit insurance coverage to apply.

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In partnership with the Lions Club & Foundation, the event securely shredded sensitive documents, including tax records, bills, and medical paperwork.

Attendees also donated cash, Venmo contributions, and non-perishable food items, benefiting The Treasure House and other local causes.



The initiative reflects the bank's commitment to addressing hunger and homelessness while strengthening local communities.

Team members Greg Hansch, Mario Garza, Carmen Goers, Chris Mann, Patrick Lloid, Robert Harvie, Pearl Thompson, and Stu Linscott attended the event.



JPMorgan Chase Participates in Carry The Load in Seattle

The Seattle JP-Morgan Chase team launched the Carry The Load event in Seattle yesterday with its VETS BRG team, honoring U.S. military members, veterans, first responders,

and their families.

The event, hosted by Sagar Gandhi, highlighted a time for remembrance and appreciation. Leadership team veterans Tsabetsaye and Orin Benjamin B. were thanked for their service, and Gandhi was thanked for his continued dedication to the annual event.



Olympia Federal Savings Attends 2026 Thurston Forward DEIB Summit

Olympia Federal Savings employees participated in the 2026 Thurston Forward DEIB Summit over the past weekend, joining local business and community leaders to discuss Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The event featured panels, storytelling, and collaborative discussions aimed at strengthening community connections in Thurston County.



1st Security Bank of Washington Supports Tacoma Community House Luncheon

1st Security Bank of Washington's team attended the Tacoma Community House annual luncheon, I Belong You Belong We Belong.

The event highlighted the organization's positive impact on the community, demonstrating the power of collective effort.

As a Community Sponsor, the bank reaffirmed its commitment to supporting programs that make a difference.

Washington Trust Bank Sponsors Vision House Luncheon

Washington Trust Bank proudly sponsored a luncheon hosted by Vision House in Tacoma, supporting its mission to provide transitional housing for families with children and break the cycle of homelessness.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Local Career Event for High School Students

Riverview Bank sponsored the Grade 13 Careers in Construction event, connecting local high school students with community construction businesses.

The program, held during National Small Business Appreciation Week, introduced students to potential career paths and strengthened ties between local businesses and future leaders.

Several Riverview Bank clients participated, offering students meaningful engagement and career insights.

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First Fed Bank Supports Ferndale Chamber's Flower Basket Gala

First Fed Bank supported the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce at this year's Flower Basket Gala, celebrating achievements across Whatcom County.

The event highlighted local businesses, organizations, and community leaders, bringing the community together to honor their impact.



Commencement Bank Supports Warm Hearts, Fundraiser

Commencement Bank team members participated in the Child Care Action Council's Warm Hearts Fundraiser yesterday.

The event raised funds to support high-quality early learning programs that benefit over 10,000 children and families in the community.



U.S. Bank Volunteers Help with Habitat for Humanity Build

U.S. Bank employees, led by members of the Women's Employee Resource Group, volunteered at the Cloverdale Habitat for Humanity site in Seattle-King & Kittitas Counties to construct an exterior wall.

The event marked the bank's continuing support of Habitat for Humanity, which it has sponsored for 40 years.

Volunteers spent the day hammering nails, lifting plywood,

and learning new skills, contributing to the goal of helping a local family achieve homeownership.

1st Security Bank of Washington Celebrates Literacy Source's 40th Anniversary

1st Security Bank of Washington proudly supported Literacy Source at its 40th-anniversary luncheon earlier this month.

The bank, committed to investing in organizations that drive meaningful community impact, joined Literacy Source's team and supporters to honor four decades of service.

Literacy Source has been a cornerstone in providing essential educational tools to help the community thrive.



KeyBank Supports Salvation Army Evening of Hope Gala in Seattle

KeyBank's Vice President and Regional Community Sales Manager, Michael Gartrell, represented the bank at The Salvation Army's Evening of Hope Gala in Seattle.

The event featured inspiring stories and successfully raised funds to support community programs across King County.

Danielle Martoch and I. V. Reeves, Jr. were also in attendance.



U.S. Bank Volunteers Celebrate Partnership at Junior Achievement

U.S. Bank volunteers gathered yesterday at Junior Achievement in Auburn, WA, for a day of community service and celebration.

The team marked the ribbon-cutting of the bank's refreshed branch at JA Finance Park, highlighting 23 years of partnership in supporting financial literacy programs.

Employees, including one who first started as a teller 40 years ago, enjoyed mentoring students while reflecting on the positive impact the programs have had on local youth.

Riverview Bank Sponsors Parks Foundation Luncheon

Riverview Bank sponsored the Parks Foundation of Clark County's annual "This Is Us" luncheon last week, celebrating

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local parks as spaces for community and memory-making. The bank expressed gratitude for the foundation's hard work and shared in an afternoon of inspiring stories and updates about ongoing projects in the county.



JPMorgan Chase Supports Bellevue LifeSpring Luncheon
JPMorgan Chase proudly attended the annual Bellevue LifeSpring Luncheon, supporting children and families in need.

The event featured stories from community organizations working with Bellevue LifeSpring, highlighting the real impact that compassionate, consistent support can have on a child's future.

JPMorgan Chase expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage with the community and reaffirmed its commitment to making a difference.\



US Bank Celebrates Women United Tea Party
US Bank hosted the Women United Tea Party, showcasing powerful women making meaningful contributions to the community.

The event featured inspiring conversations, dynamic leadership, and strong support from cofounders, panelists, a moderator, the CEO, sponsors, and attendees.

Riverview Bank Supports National Mortgage Women's Conference

Riverview Bank proudly participated in the National Association of Professional Mortgage Women's 62nd Annual National



Education Conference & Meet – IGNITE 2026: Find Your Focus, Fuel Your Success.

Bank President and CEO Nicole Sherman served as a featured speaker, while board member Lisa Burkard represented the bank.

The event delivered high-impact strategies, educational sessions, and networking opportunities for professionals in the mortgage, real estate, and housing industries.



Bank of the Pacific Celebrates Leadership Grays Harbor Class of 2026

Bank of the Pacific congratulated the Leadership Grays Harbor class of 2026.

The program, in partnership with Grays Harbor College, brought together professionals from various industries to develop leadership skills and strengthen community ties.

Bank of the Pacific recognized team members Samantha Talley and Kaitlin Daniel-Johnson for their achievements, alongside classmates Dan Kuenzi, Dustin Mead, and DeDe Hoerr.



Kitsap Bank Sponsors 27th Port Townsend Film Festival

Kitsap Bank returned as a proud sponsor of the 27th Annual Port Townsend Film Festival.

The nonprofit event aimed to spark connections through the power of film and to highlight diverse voices, helping keep the Olympic Peninsula's arts scene thriving.

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Bank of America Participates in Beat the Bridge Walk & Run

Bank of America participated in the Breakthrough T1D Beat the Bridge Walk & Run in Seattle, which raised \$2.7 million toward a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

The event, held on a beautiful May Saturday morning, brought together dedicated teammates and was generously sponsored by SanMar.



First Fed Volunteers Sort Food for Local Families

First Fed partnered with the Port Angeles Food Bank to host two Sorting Party events, where volunteers sorted three full pallets of food.

The items were immediately placed on shelves, giving local families more variety, including specialty items like salad dressings, boxed meals, and canned protein.

The effort reflected First Fed's commitment to supporting the community alongside organizations making a real difference.



Olympia Federal Savings Supports Child Care Action Council

Olympia Federal Savings proudly supported the Child Care Action Council during this week's Warm Hearts fundraiser, which raised funds for high-quality early learning programs benefiting local children and families.

OlyFed team members Amanda Crass, Vice President of the Board of Directors, and former board member Lindsey Bamba were recognized for their dedication and lasting impact in the community.



Cashmere Valley Bank Participates in Sunnyside Cinco De Mayo Celebration

Cashmere Valley Bank employees participated in the 2026 Sunnyside Cinco De Mayo festival, sharing banking information with residents while enjoying the city's vibrant festivities.

Washington Trust Bank Celebrates Another Successful Year at Bloomsday

Washington Trust Bank marked another incredible year at Spokane's iconic Bloomsday event.

The streets were filled with runners, walkers, volunteers, and

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HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Email it to megan@wabankers.com to be included in an upcoming *Issues & Answers*



ABA Fraud Contact Directory

Includes bank contacts for ACH, wire, RTP, FedNow and check fraud claims.

JOIN NOW



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families celebrating community, movement, and tradition. As the official T-shirt sponsor for over 20 years, the bank was proud to support the event once again. From start to finish, the city's energy was unforgettable, and Washington Trust Bank expressed gratitude to Spokane for keeping Bloomsday a beloved Northwest tradition.



Olympia Federal Savings Supports Women Build Effort
Olympia Federal Savings showed strong support at this year's Women Build. Team OlyFed joined South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity to lay the second-story flooring, raise walls, and unload a large delivery of flooring materials. The effort highlighted the bank's commitment to affordable housing and community building.



WaFd Bank Awards \$2,000 Grant to Cocoon House
WaFd Bank awarded a \$2,000 grant to Cocoon House through its foundation to support the nonprofit's mission to break the cycle of homelessness for youth and families. Cocoon House provided critical shelter, resources, and support to vulnerable young people, building stronger communi-

ties and brighter futures. The grant also supported the organization's Summer Essential Needs Drive, which supplied necessities to the youth they served.



First Fed Participates in Sequim Irrigation Festival
First Fed participated in the Sequim Irrigation Festival, with CEO Curt Queyrouze and team members joining Saturday's Grand Parade.

The bank celebrated the long-standing community tradition and expressed gratitude for being part of an event that highlights the spirit of the Olympic Peninsula.



KeyBank Honored for Economic Opportunity at Puget Sound Business Journal Event
KeyBank expressed gratitude to the Puget Sound Business Journal for hosting a gathering of businesses and nonprofits to celebrate corporate citizenship.

Arlene Hampton nominated the bank for its work in Economic Opportunity and its ongoing partnership with Treehouse. KeyBank congratulated fellow honorees and award recipients for strengthening communities and amplifying the impact of local nonprofits across the Pacific Northwest.



Timberland Bank Joins 19th Annual Summit Pacific Golf Championship
Timberland Bank team members participated in the 19th Annual Summit Pacific Medical Foundation Golf Championship on May 8 in Elma. The event successfully raised funds to support children in the community receiving medical care.

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Washington Trust Bank Recognized at PSBJ Corporate Citizenship Awards

Washington Trust Bank was honored at the Puget Sound Business Journal's 20th Annual Corporate Citizenship Awards, celebrating organizations and leaders making lasting community impacts.

The bank ranked #10 among large companies for corporate citizenship, reflecting its commitment to philanthropy, service, and community investment.

Washington Trust Bank expressed gratitude for the recognition and congratulated all companies and individuals dedicated to making a difference.



JPMorgan Chase Honored as 2026 Neighborhood Champion for Affordable Housing

The Puget Sound Business Journal recognized JPMorgan Chase at the annual Corporate Citizen Awards as the 2026 Neighborhood Champion for its work on affordable housing.

The firm, ranked #7 regionally for overall philanthropic efforts, accepted the award on behalf of its community partners.

The bank highlighted its approach to Washington's housing affordability crisis, combining catalytic philanthropy with financing, convening, and policy engagement to scale sustainable solutions.

JPMorgan Chase reaffirmed its commitment to expanding access to stable, affordable housing and economic opportunity across the state.



Sound Community Bank Sponsored 131st Sequim Irrigation Festival Parade

Sound Community Bank proudly sponsored the 131st Sequim Irrigation Festival Grand Parade.

Echo, Sounder, and members of the Sequim bank team enjoyed walking with the community and celebrating the long-standing tradition.



Riverview Bank Sponsors Careers in Construction Event for Second Year

Riverview Bank sponsored the Careers in Construction Grade 13 event for the second consecutive year, bringing together 20 local businesses to connect with youth.

The event focused on helping students build confidence, professional skills, and career readiness.

Board Director Jon Girod led the bank's participation, as the team shared guidance on financial tools and introduced students to Riverview Bank's services and resources.



Chase Hosts Financial Literacy Workshops with UW Foster Scholars

Chase partnered with the UW Foster School of Business Scholars of Finance over the past several weeks to provide financial literacy workshops and career-focused programming for students.

As part of the April Speaker Series, a JPMorgan Chase representative spoke with students about budgeting, credit building, and online safety.

The series concluded with a career panel featuring Meredith Heestand, Viriya Reichersamer, and Cynthia Hwang, offering insights into diverse career paths in financial services.



Baker Boyer Team Participates in Yakima Race

Baker Boyer employees in Yakima participated in the Never Say Never Half Marathon & 10K to support Nathan's Place.

A few staff members traded work shoes for running shoes, going the extra mile to back an organization helping local youth.

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KeyBank Hosts Financial Literacy Workshops for Youth-Care Participants

KeyBank concluded its first Key@Work financial literacy workshop series for young adults at YouthCare, with an emphasis on debt management and building healthy financial habits.

The sessions provided education, guidance, and real-life discussions to boost financial confidence.

Later in the day, KeyBank met with YouthCare's management team to introduce the program and plan future workshops for upcoming groups, continuing its commitment to financial wellness in the community.



Washington Trust Bank Celebrates Viking Night at WWU

Washington Trust Bank participated in Viking Night at Western Washington University in May, celebrating community, school

spirit, and support for student athletes.

The event brought together a large crowd to cheer for the athletes' hard work and leadership, reflecting the community's strong commitment to their success on and off the field.

The evening's highlight included earning second place in the popular Desert Dash competition.

Riverview Bank Supports Bright Futures at Annual Luncheon

Riverview Bank attended the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools' Bright Futures Annual Luncheon, expressing admiration for the organization's dedication to creating opportunities for students.

The event showcased the impact of strong community partnerships in helping students reach their potential.

Sound Community Bank Employees Volunteer for Park Cleanup

Sound Community Bank demonstrated its dedication to community engagement by having members of the Mountlake Terrace team volunteer for a local park cleanup.



The effort showcased the bank's commitment to making a positive impact in the neighborhoods it serves.

Washington Trust Bank Supports Lydia Place

Washington Trust Bank served as the bag sponsor and provided volunteers for the Barkley Wine Walk, an event held to support Lydia Place.

The evening brought the community together to help provide safe housing and hope for women, children, and families.



Riverview Bank Supports Educational Opportunities for Children and Families Event

Riverview Bank celebrated alongside Educational Opportunities for Children and Families (EOCF) at its annual Color Their Worlds gala and fundraising event.

The evening featured live music, dinner, beverages, and both live and children's art auctions. Funds raised support free preschool, early childhood education, reliable childcare, and family support services for qualifying families in Southwest Washington. Denise Barr, the bank's SVP/Marketing Strategist, serves on EOCF's board to help guide the organization's community mission.



KeyBank Celebrates Highline Schools Foundation

KeyBank attended the Highline Schools Foundation Gold Star Breakfast, where the team honored outstanding educators, staff, and volunteers from Highline Public Schools.

The event recognized the dedication of individuals com-

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mitted to fostering a community of belonging and inclusion, ensuring every student had the chance to thrive.



U.S. Bank Volunteers at Community Homes

U.S. Bank employees spent Thursday volunteering at Community Homes in Bellevue, Washington, alongside leader Lindsay Thompson.

The team gave back to the community by cleaning up a yard and doing other work, demonstrating their commitment to supporting local initiatives and fostering teamwork.



Banner Bank Leads Housing Hope Fundraiser

Banner Bank's Kevin Daniels, a branch manager, recently emceed the Housing Hope fundraiser before an audience of 600 people.

The bank's team represented the institution at the event, supporting efforts to provide affordable housing in Snohomish County.

Serving on the board and contributing to the fundraiser were described by the bank's representatives as meaningful experiences.



U.S. Bank Volunteers Support Habitat for Humanity in Spokane

U.S. Bank's Eastern Washington Volunteer Team spent the day assisting Habitat for Humanity-Spokane, contributing to affordable housing efforts in the community.

Volunteers participated in a variety of tasks, including paint-

ing and flooring, as they worked together to make a meaningful impact on local families.

The event provided an opportunity for team members to give back and witness firsthand the positive results of their work.

KeyBank Hosts Business Planning Workshop

KeyBank delivered a workshop on Developing a Business Plan to the Seattle Housing Authority's Lake City community last Wednesday.

The session, part of Small Business Month, aimed to help aspiring entrepreneurs transform their ideas into actionable plans.

The event highlighted KeyBank's ongoing partnership with SHA to provide financial education and support local business development.



Riverview Bank Supports Student Stride for Education

Riverview Bank's team volunteered at the Student Stride for Education, helping raise funds for Washougal students through teacher grants from the Washougal Schools Foundation.

The event brought together hundreds of students, families, and local businesses to promote healthy lifestyles while supporting public education.

Riverview Bank sponsored the event, which funded programs and projects that would not have been possible otherwise.



U.S. Bank Volunteers at Walk For Rice Event

U.S. Bank employees spent the weekend volunteering at the WalkForRice event, connecting with the community while promoting healthy, active living.

The team supported the meaningful cause, showcasing the company's commitment to giving back.

Colleagues expressed pride in working for an organization that encourages community involvement and plans to bring family and friends to future events.

Riverview Bank Honors Jessica Clifton with Making a Difference Award

Riverview Bank announced that Jessica Clifton won the Q4 Making a Difference Award. Clifton, who joined the bank

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from MBank in 2017, played a key role in the BSA Compliance program.

Known for her expertise and positive leadership, she guided her team through a successful audit while managing her regular duties.

Colleagues praised her willingness to take on extra tasks and her infectious positivity in both the bank and the Vancouver community.

Baker Boyer Bank Supports Walla Walla Exchange Club Efforts

Baker Boyer Bank business associate Harrison Laschinger expressed gratitude for being part of the Walla Walla Exchange Club Foundation, which raised over \$100,000 this year through ticket sales and prizes.

Laschinger, who serves as Director of Community Activities & Finance for the Exchange Club, praised the dedication of its members and noted the warm welcome he received as the youngest participant.



Cashmere Valley Bank Participates in “Your Canyon for a Day” Bike Tour

Cashmere Valley Bank, in partnership with Yakima County Crime Stoppers and the Yakima Sheriff’s Department, successfully sponsored the “Your Canyon for a Day” Bike Tour.

The event brought together the bank’s Yakima and Union Gap branches to support the community. Riders enjoyed breathtaking canyon views and were greeted with smiles along the route.

Volunteers and participants helped make the day a memorable success, and the bank expressed gratitude for the strong community turnout.



Sound Community Bank Supports Neighbors Feeding Neighbors Event

Sound Community Bank sponsored the Neighbors Feeding Neighbors event, which successfully raised \$11,223 to help eliminate school lunch debt

in the Edmonds School District.

The event exceeded its \$8,000 goal, with contributions coming both from attendees and early donors. After event expenses, over \$10,000 was provided to the district.

The bank also contributed a \$500 grant to support the cause.



Timberland Bank Supports Annual Flower Basket Program

Timberland Bank partnered with the city to support this year’s flower basket program, helping make Gig Harbor bloom.

Twiggy and the Timberland Bank team contributed to the effort, while Public Works crews loaded and installed the baskets early in the morning.

The city’s watering team also worked behind the scenes to keep the displays thriving, showcasing a community-wide commitment to keeping Gig Harbor beautiful.



JPMorgan Chase Volunteers Support Local Families at Hopelink

JPMorgan Chase employees spent a productive day last week volunteering at Hopelink, where they sorted donations and prepared support bags for families in need.

The event, organized with the help of Market Director Nicole Perfette, brought the team together beyond the workplace to give back to the community.

The initiative highlighted teamwork with a shared purpose and made a meaningful impact on local families.



Heritage Bank Partners with Thrive2Survive

Heritage Bank NW partnered with Thrive2Survive and several local non-profits for a day of impactful community service. Led by Charles Hanset Jr., the collaborative effort brought

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together volunteers, including Kelli Montei and Matthew, to support those in need.

The event highlighted the bank's commitment to corporate social responsibility and its ongoing support of community engagement initiatives.



WaFd Bank Honors Teacher with Classroom Makeover

WaFd Bank closed out its final Classroom Makeover of the school year by recognizing Mrs. Farley at Ki-Be Middle School in Benton City, Wash.

The celebration highlighted Mrs. Farley's dedication to her students and her willingness to go above and beyond in the classroom.

WaFd Bank emphasized that investing in the community includes supporting the educators who shape the next generation.

First Fed Bank Joins Great Olympic Peninsula Duck Derby

First Fed Bank and team members, including Ollie, the bank's mascot, enjoyed participating in the Great Olympic Peninsula Duck Derby, which benefited the Olympic Medical Center Foundation.



The community event gathered residents for a day of fun, supporting local healthcare programs and services across the Olympic Peninsula.

Participants competed for exciting prizes, and organizers congratulated the winners while thanking all who contributed to the meaningful cause.

Timberland Bank Supports Greater Grays Harbor Awards

Timberland Bank attended the Greater Grays Harbor Leaders' Banquet & Business Recognition Awards, where the bank joined in celebrating the achievements of local businesses.



The evening highlighted the dedication and success of companies across Grays Harbor, making it a memorable night for the community.



WaFd Bank Hosts Successful Charity Golf Tournament Despite Rain

WaFd Bank held its annual Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, May 15, successfully raising funds for the Olympia Union Gospel Mission and the Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center.

Despite uncooperative weather, participants stayed the course, helping to make the day a success for both charities.



Sound Community Bank Supports Your Money Matters Fundraiser

Sound Community Bank demonstrated strong support for Your Money Matters at the organization's annual fundraiser held on Friday, April 24.

The bank sponsored the event, donated items for the silent auction, and team members Patrick and Dulci ran the 50/50 raffle. Dulci also spoke on the bank's behalf during sponsor recognition.

The evening proved to be YMM's most successful fundraiser to date, coming within \$1,000 of its goal. Employees, including Patrick, Erica, Dulci, Jeremy, Jay, Laura, and Erin, helped make the event a memorable success.



1st Security Bank of Washington Opens New Kennewick Branch

1st Security Bank of Washington officially opened its new full-service Retail Banking branch in Kennewick, WA, last week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber.

Community partners and local leaders attended the event to

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celebrate the bank's expansion into the Tri-Cities.

While the bank's Home Lending team has long served local families, the new branch marks its formal entry into full-service retail banking, offering personal and business accounts, business lending, and home lending.



Baker Boyer Bank Supports Annual Cancer Crushing Breakfast

Baker Boyer Bank participated in the 26th Annual Cancer Crushing Breakfast, demonstrating its commitment to local cancer care.

The event, hosted by the Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation, highlighted the organization's role as a vital community resource that has saved thousands of lives through comprehensive cancer treatment and support.

Sound Community Bank Supports Pike Place Market Foundation

Sound Community Bank proudly sponsored the Pike Place Market Foundation's Celebrate the Market event.



Pod members Kris and Cecily attended the gathering, which supports the foundation's mission to nurture the Pike Place Market community.



Banner Bank Supports Hope Builders Luncheon

Banner Bank sponsored the annual Hope Builders Luncheon hosted by Habitat for Humanity-Spokane.

The bank served as the premier sponsor of the event and helped raise funds for affordable housing projects throughout the year.

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