

Hello Bank Slaters!

I'm not going to lie ... this is going to be a short intro. I am finally getting some downtime, cruising up and down the Pacific Coast Highway through the weekend.

With that in mind, I want to note the importance of self-care. I'll use my space today to encourage everyone, especially when first-quarter earnings wrap up, to take a day or two off and go somewhere to decompress and step away from everything.

The last few days have been invigorating because, among other factors, I haven't scheduled anything. Give it a try; it will be good for your soul.

Here are this week's headlines.

M&A

- Prudential Bancorp had to [negotiate the settlement of a legal issue](#) as it finalized an agreement to sell to Fulton Financial. Fulton stipulated as part of merger talks that Prudential needed to resolve all outstanding issues tied with borrower litigation, according to a [regulatory filing](#) associated with the [pending acquisition](#).
- The Minnesota Department of Commerce [rejected the sale](#) of Lake Area Bank in Lindstrom, Minn., to Royal Credit Union in Eau Claire, Wis.
- Pinnacle Financial Partners in Tennessee [fully acquired](#) an commercial equipment leasing company.
- National Bank Holdings in Denver has [agreed to buy](#) Community Bancorp. in Provo, Utah, for \$136 million of cash and stock in a deal expected to close in the second half of this year.

Arrivals/Departures

- Pathfinder Bancorp in New York named James Dowd [interim president and CEO](#), succeeding Thomas Schneider, who resigned to become the company's director of capital markets and corporate strategy. Pathfinder said Schneider wanted "a less time-consuming role due to recent health issues and personal loss."

Fintech

- MainStreet Bankshares in Virginia said Avenu, its Banking-as-a-Service division, [plans to go live](#) with an initial beta customer in the fourth quarter.
- Piermont Bank in New York has created a [two-year program](#) to train employees to become commercial real estate or fintech lending analysts.
- Central Pacific Financial in Honolulu said Swell Financial, its first BaaS client, is on [pace to launch this summer](#).

Miscellaneous

- Colony Bankcorp in Georgia [plans to lower annual expenses](#) by \$3 million starting in the third quarter. The company will close two branches and eliminate 25 positions in its banking division, among other changes.
- Amerant Bancorp in Florida [disclosed that it sold](#) of \$57.3 million of loans in New York City.
- Fidelity Bank in Pennsylvania is buying a new headquarters building as part of [a \\$20 million project](#).
- Triumph Bancorp in Dallas has designated 15 branches in Colorado and Kansas, along with \$81 million of non-transportation factored receivables and \$10.4 million of related customer reserves, as [held for sale](#). The company also [moved some executive roles](#) around.

There you have it. Enjoy your weekend. You deserve relaxation and a chance to step away from it all. Feel free to reach me at paul.davis.mba@gmail.com.