

Good afternoon Bank Slaters!

I hope you're having a great start to your weekend (a three-day break for many of you).

Before I get into the Bank Slate headlines, I thought I'd share highlights from a piece I wrote for SRM on the Fed's thoughts for a central bank digital currency (CBDC). As many of you know, the Fed put out a lengthy report on the issue, touting a number of benefits with the caveat that it wouldn't act unless it gets legislative guidance.

The Fed also decided to seek comments. I outlined a number of concerns in [a recent blog](#). Here's a synopsis.

A US CBDC "could create an unpopular competitor to the existing financial system and it will be challenging to structure [it] in a way that doesn't compete with what is currently in place. Another unanswered question involves the type of blockchain to use."

A CBDC "could lead to more deposit outflows and liquidity issues for banks and credit unions, and financial institutions would likely have to change how to settle transactions. A final possible concern that could arise in the responses would involve the government's track record when it comes to timely innovation."

We've been encouraging people to weigh in on the concept. You have until May 20 to submit comments [here](#).

Let's take a look at the bank headlines from the past week. There were a lot of nonbank deals, along with some interesting hires and departures.

M&A

- M&T Bank in Buffalo, N.Y., and People's United Financial in Bridgeport, Conn., have [extended the deadline](#) to complete their \$7.6 billion merger in a move that reflects delayed Fed approval. The companies pushed the date back from Feb. 21 to June 1.
- Truist Financial in Charlotte, N.C., [agreed to buy](#) Kensington Vanguard National Land Services, a title insurance company. Truist, which did not disclose the price it will pay, expects to close the deal by the end of March.
- Zions Bancorp. in Salt Lake City is [buying three branches](#) in northern Nevada, along with \$480 million of deposits and \$110 million of loans, from Royal Bank of Canada. The deal should close in the third quarter; Zions did not disclose the price it will pay.

- Peoples Bancorp in Marietta, Ohio, is [buying Vantage Financial](#), a national provider of equipment financing, for \$54 million in cash. Peoples will also pay off \$21 million of debt for Vantage. The deal should close next month.
- Webster Financial in Stamford, Conn., [plans to buy Bend Financial](#), a cloud-based platform tied to health savings accounts. Webster, already a big HSA player, is buying a company that helps employers and individuals manage and track their accounts. The price wasn't disclosed.
- Longview Capital in Newman, Ill., has [agreed to buy](#) Farmers Bank of Mt. Pulaski in Illinois. The price of the all-cash deal wasn't disclosed.

Arrivals/Departures

- Solera National Bancorp in Lakewood, Colo., which had six CEOs between 2008 and 2015, is [again in the market for a leader](#). The company said Kreighton Reed had resigned (in late January) and that its chief credit officer has been gone since mid-December.
- Middlefield Banc in Ohio will have [a new CEO in a few weeks](#). The company said James Heslop II, its chief operating officer, will become its president on April 1. He will succeed Thomas Caldwell, who is retiring.
- Live Oak Bancshares in Wilmington, N.C., hired an executive to oversee its [embedded banking efforts](#). Jake Tupa, the company's new head of head of embedded banking, previously worked at Choice Financial and Citigroup, where he managed fintech partnerships, technology innovation and digitization efforts.
- Mastercard [plans to hire more than 500 people](#) to expand its data and services division in a move that includes the creation of consulting groups for open banking and cryptocurrency. The payments company will also form a consulting group to focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

Other Happenings

- MVB Financial in Fairmont, W.Va., is set to [discuss its next three-year plan](#) (and expect fintech to be a big part of that effort). The company will talk about the plan at an investor day in Las Vegas set for March 14-15.
- Capitol Federal Financial in Topeka, Kan., is [set up upgrade its core back-office system](#) at it nears \$10 billion of assets. The company plans to complete the conversion in September 2023.

- Veteran turnaround artist Tom O'Brien continues to [right the ship](#) at Sterling Bancorp in Southfield, Mich. The company is selling a \$57 million pool of commercial real estate loans backed mostly by hotel properties. Sterling will receive \$4.4 million in excess of the loans' carrying amount.
- We forgot to note last week that former banker Stephen Calk was [sentenced to just over a year in prison](#) after he was convicted in a bribery case involving former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Calk, who once led Federal Savings Bank of Chicago, was also assessed a \$1.25 million fine and will be required to perform 800 hours of community service.

That should do it for this week. Please tell your friends and associates about our website and newsletter. Excited about the early traction we're getting, and we know things will only get better and better from here! And remember to share press releases and announcements (and provide feedback) to paul.davis.mba@gmail.com.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your profile](#) | 2105 Mimosa Drive, Greensboro, NC 27403