

THE DAILY PULSE

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PAYMENTS • BANKING • LENDING



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COVERAGE WINDOW: OCTOBER 21–28, 2026

THIS WEEK IN BRIEF



The OCC cleared Ripple's national trust bank and pressed community banks toward stablecoins, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren pushed supervisors to restore examiner authority. In the business of banking, SoFi posted double-digit growth, while Citi moved to paying more for stickier deposits.

BANKING & REGULATION

[Ripple gets OCC's unconditional charter approval](#)

Banking Dive · Oct 27

The OCC gave Ripple final approval to launch a national trust bank, about a year after conditional approval alongside four other crypto firms, Banking Dive reported. The charter lets Ripple offer fiduciary custody of digital assets, manage reserves for its RLUSD stablecoin and serve as collateral trustee, but “a national trust charter does not allow Ripple to take deposits or lend commercially.” Ripple also announced expanded work with BNY on custody and tokenized trade finance and said RLUSD became available on Robinhood Chain and Bitstamp.

WHY IT MATTERS

An unconditional national trust charter gives a crypto-native firm federally supervised standing to hold reserves and custody assets — a template other applicants will cite. It narrows the competitive gap between crypto firms and banks in digital-asset custody and stablecoin plumbing.

BANKING & REGULATION

[Warren urges Fed, OCC, FDIC to restore bank examiner powers](#)

Banking Dive · Oct 26

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) asked the Federal Reserve, OCC and FDIC to roll back recent policy changes she says weaken examiners' ability to issue warnings and take enforcement action, Banking Dive reported. She objected to the Fed's September update to its supervisory principles and to an August OCC/FDIC change narrowing when a practice counts as “unsafe or unsound.” Citing a Texas Bankers Association survey in which most banks reported more cyberattacks, Warren argued the limits weaken banks' incentives to fix cybersecurity gaps, and warned regulators would “share responsibility for the potential harm wrought by future cyberattacks on the banking system.”

WHY IT MATTERS

The letter crystallizes a widening fight over how hard supervisors should lean on banks under a lighter-touch regime. If the agencies hold their ground, examiners' informal warnings — long a quiet driver of bank behavior will carry less weight. A notable point: the senator assumes that on the ground regulators are savvy enough to understand broad and strategic risks. This has been repeatedly rebutted in the past as the

regulators could not get out of the weeds to focus on strategic risks. Think SVB and many other failures in the past 10 years, that happened when the regulators were supposedly focused on “unsafe and unsound practices”.

BANKING & REGULATION

[Citi targets deeper client ties with savings rate boost](#)

Banking Dive · Oct 26

Citi is offering higher savings rates to customers who also hold a checking account and meet direct-deposit or investment-balance requirements, Banking Dive reported. The tiered rates are 4.35% for Citigold Private Client, 4% for Citigold and 3.5% for Citi Priority. Retail banking head Kate Luft called the program “a disruptor to stop money in motion,” and said Citi plans a larger marketing push next year plus a small-business revamp in the second half of 2027.

WHY IT MATTERS

Citi is paying up for primary-bank relationships rather than chasing rate-shopping balances, betting that bundled checking, savings and investing is stickier. Traditionally banks that have grown deposits with interwoven value propositions tend to have stickier deposits, as compared to promotional offerings. However, Citi, like other banks are quickly realizing that in an emerging world of agentic banking, paying close to nothing on deposits will likely be relegated to the history books.

BANKING & REGULATION

[SoFi Reaches 17.1 Million Members](#)

PYMNTS · Oct 27

SoFi reported third-quarter 2026 GAAP net revenue of \$1.385 billion, up 44% year over year, and net income of \$241 million, PYMNTS reported. The company ended September with 17.1 million members, up 35%, and product count grew 44% to 26.7 million, with more than half of the quarter’s new products opened by existing members. Financial Services revenue rose 25% to \$525.1 million, and SoFi raised full-year guidance to \$5.04 billion in adjusted net revenue.

WHY IT MATTERS

SoFi’s growth shows a digital-first bank compounding members and cross-sold products without a branch network — the model incumbents most fear. A raised guidance again suggests the deposit and fee engine, not just lending, is carrying the story. SoFi continues to prove that cross-selling in a digital world is as, if not more powerful than banks with branches.

LENDING & CREDIT

[Synchrony’s CareCredit Launches Installment Loan for Healthcare Expenses](#)

PYMNTS · Oct 21

Synchrony’s CareCredit launched a revamped “one-time-use installment loan” for elective health and wellness costs that insurance doesn’t cover, PYMNTS reported. The product, CareCredit Pay Later, carries set monthly payments, a fixed payoff schedule and a fixed APR, and launched at nearly 20,000 provider locations spanning dental, cosmetic, vision and audiology practices. It is offered alongside CareCredit’s revolving credit card, giving eligible customers two payment options.



WHY IT MATTERS

Fixed-rate installment lending at the point of care lets Synchrony meet borrowers who want predictability over revolving credit. This is a defensive move as Fintechs and BNPL players have successfully penetrated this segment with fixed payments, and has become a clear threat to the more traditional revolving cards from CareCredit.



WHAT TO WATCH

[OCC calls on community banks to enter the stablecoin payments market](#)

CoinDesk · Oct 26

Stay ahead of what's moving markets, regulation, and the business of banking.
