



Invested in You.
Washington State Bank

**Fall
2023**

Staff Spotlight



Nichole Robertson

Retail Banker

Nichole (Nikki) grew up in North Liberty and Cosgrove, Iowa where she attended Iowa City West. After high school, Nikki worked in road construction paving asphalt, then in the dry cleaning business for 17 years. In 2019, she began working in Teller Services at our Columbus Junction location and has since moved into her current role as a Retail Banker. Nikki lives on a farm in Gladwin with her husband, Roy, and two boys, Griffin-13 and Weber-9. In her free time during the warm weather months, she enjoys fishing and hiking with her family. During the colder months, Nikki loves to shop with her mom, read novels and watch scary movies with her boys. Nikki said, "The relationships I have with my coworkers and volunteering in the community are truly the most enjoyable things about working at Washington State Bank".

Your Role in Cybersecurity: Help Us Keep Your Money Safe

Identity theft and cyber scams will continue to be a threat that all consumers face, especially as technology continues to evolve. While banks implement robust security measures to protect consumers' finances, it is crucial that consumers do everything they can to protect themselves from becoming a victim.

The following are five simple strategies all consumers can implement that will help minimize your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or other cyber scams.

- 1. Create a strong first line of defense** — The first step in protecting your finances is to use strong passwords that utilize both uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters to create a powerful first line of defense. Utilizing multifactor authentication will give you an extra layer of protection.
- 2. Keep track of your finances** — It's important to check your financial accounts regularly to ensure there has been no suspicious activity. If you see anything out of the ordinary, report it to your financial institution right away so they can help you address the issue.
- 3. Don't share your information** — Personal data should be kept personal. Be cautious with whom you share this information. Make sure you also properly dispose of bank statements and other documents that contain personal information. A small document shredder is a useful tool that can reduce your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.
- 4. Know how to spot phishing scams** — Cyber criminals use phishing tactics to try to trick you into giving up personal information, including usernames and passwords. Do not click on links in emails or text messages, and never download attachments from unknown sources. If you are unsure if the message you received is legitimate, contact the company directly to verify its legitimacy, especially if the message you received is requesting sensitive information.
- 5. Check your credit report annually** — You can access your free credit report by visiting AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 877-322-8228. Check your report each year for inaccuracies and take steps to clean up any errors you find.

Preventing cyber scams and identity theft may sound intimidating but, working together with Washington State Bank, you can significantly reduce your risk. Stay vigilant and remember that prevention is the best defense against identity theft.

These tips were provided by the Iowa Bankers Association.

Invested in You - Washington, Fairfield, Columbus Junction, Pella



WSB Celebrates Back-to-School

To help welcome our local educators back-to-school, WSB delivered yummy breakfast pizzas to 12 district buildings across our 4 communities and helped pay for donuts and pastries at another building. On the left, Landon Thiele and Ryan Shields (middle) are shown after dropping off their delivery to Pella Christian Grade School in August.

Ca\$h Mob Makes Coffee Shop Stop

Our Ca\$h Mob stops rotate between our locations each month during the season and we were excited to showcase Bard Station Coffee House, a new shop located on Main Street in Columbus Junction! The first 50 orders that morning received \$2 off their purchase and the coupons went fast! Shown on the right are Esmeralda Aleman, Lisa Hills, Teresa Boots, Doris Mougin, with owners- Keenan and Allie Todd.



Fun on the Farm in Fairfield

Each year the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce hosts their Barnyard Bash event at Maasdam Barns outside of town and our staff works hard to come up with a fun activity for the children. This year's activity was "Feed the Pig", a bean bag game fit for all ages. On the right image, you can see Odin "Odie" Spurgeon participating in the activity. On the left are Krista Fulton, Jessica Anderson, Garrett Ikerd, and Spencer Peterman.

Homecoming in Washington

Our staff braved the heat to be a part of the parade and throw out mini footballs in the afternoon, and then worked a very busy concession stand in the evening. We're happy to report the Demons earned the "W" as well!



4 Locations To Serve You!

Washington - 121 S Marion Ave. | Fairfield- 1706 W Burlington Ave.

Columbus Junction- 134 Main St. | Pella - 703 Main St.

(800)-714-2287 washsb.com

