



**Invested in You.**  
Washington State Bank

**Spring  
2026**

## **Staff Spotlight** **How AI is Fueling a New Wave of Scams Targeting Older Adults**



**Angela Finke**

*Teller Services*

Angela Finke began her career at Washington State Bank in March of 2025 at our Washington branch. She began working at both our Motor Bank and Main Bank before transitioning to her current role at our Columbus Junction branch in Teller Services. Prior to her time at the Bank, Angela worked as a CNA at Colonial Manor and then spent 5 years at a local car dealership working in sales and accounting.

A graduate of Lone Tree High School, Angela and her husband (Joe) have called the outskirts of Columbus Junction home. They have two children, Deira and Aiden. Outside of work at WSB, Angela enjoys watching her children play sports, gardening, and spending time with family & friends. As a family, they enjoy being outside; going boating and fishing on the river.

Angela stated she enjoys the challenge of learning all the different aspects of banking. She looks forward to continuing to strengthen her relationships with our current Columbus Junction customers and welcoming new customers to WSB.

Scammers know how powerful and realistic artificial intelligence (AI) has become – and they’re using it to their advantage. It is estimated that seniors in the U.S. lose \$2.9 billion each year to financial exploitation and scams. Scammers are using AI to make their schemes even more convincing, so knowing the warning signs is vital.

At WSB, we encourage you to help protect yourself and older adults in your life by learning the following common types of elder fraud and how scammers are using AI to exploit:

**Romance scams** – Fraudsters use AI to create highly-realistic fake profile photos and create deepfake videos to deliberately convince an elder to trust them. Over time, the scammer builds trust with the older adult and may eventually ask for money with fake emergencies and travel costs. It’s important to maintain open communication with the older adults in your life, and to pay attention to any new love interests.

**Grandparent scams** – These scams are particularly malicious because fraudsters use AI to replicate the voice of a family member using clips pulled from social media and online videos. The scammer often poses as a child or grandchild and claims to be in immediate financial need. Establish a family “code word” to verify emergencies. Having a family code word ensures the person on the other end of the phone line is truly a family member in distress.

**Government impersonation scams** – According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), losses to business imposter and government imposter scams of \$10,000 or more were twice as likely to be reported by older adults. Scammers are using AI to create convincing personalized phishing emails and calls impersonating Medicare, the IRS, Social Security, law enforcement and even the FTC. The scammer claims there’s suspicious account activity, such as misuse of a Social Security number or government benefits being at risk and then pressure the older adult into sending money in the form of gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.

Everyone is susceptible to fraud, but older adults have become a popular target. Our hope is that through education, we can all work together to combat those dear to us from falling victim to these crimes. If you believe you have become a victim of a scam, please visit <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>.

*These tips are provided by the Iowa Bankers Association.*

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

## Full STEAM Ahead!

Lincoln Elementary in Washington hosted their annual family STEAM Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) back in March. Washington State Bank was proud to sponsor the free dinner for the evening as well as host an enriching activity for students and their family members to partake in. Savannah Huston (pictured) and Desi Hesseltine helped the attendees play "The Price is Right" game where students had to guess the price of grocery store items and then count out the correct amount of currency.



## Treats for Tax Preparers

Every spring, our staff looks forward to showing appreciation to our local accountants and law offices by delivering meat and cheese trays. This year, we distributed 27 trays across our four communities! We know many of these offices look forward to our annual gesture and we enjoy thanking them for all the time they put in to meet those deadlines. Pictured on the left are Debbie Bruty and Larry Fishback delivering to Washington Law Office.

## WSB Easter Bunny Returns

Our favorite Easter Bunny made it's annual appearances in Columbus Junction and Washington this year! We were able to take the bunny to see our friends at Colonial Manor in Columbus Junction, 4 daycare centers in Washington, and welcome visitors into our Washington Lobby before the holiday! Pictured on the right are our staff at the Columbus Junction branch with the WSB Easter Bunny.



## Financial Literacy Fair for Washington County 8th Grade Students

Kirkwood's Workplace Learning Connection hosted another successful Financial Literacy Fair in April! Terry Engelken, Dawn Ledger, and Mike Greiner volunteered as 'Financial Advisors' for the day. They helped students with budgeting after they chose a career, were given a salary, and made decisions on things like transportation, living situations, and insurance.

## 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 [washesb.com](http://washesb.com)

