COMMUNITY BANKING

Newtek tops SBA lender list. Its next hurdle: gaining investor trust

By John Reosti

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Miami-based Newtek boosted loan approvals by 70% during the SBA's just-completed 2024 fiscal year to rank as the nation's top dollar-volume 7(a) lender, according to agency statistics. *Libby Greene*

In a fiscal year that saw the Small Business Administration's flagship 7(a) loan guarantee program increase approved loans more than 13%, to $31.1 billion, it's no surprise a number of high-volume lenders recorded outsized gains.

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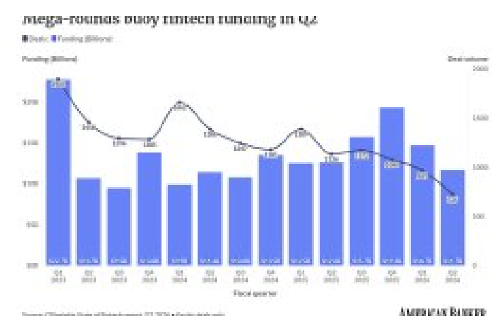

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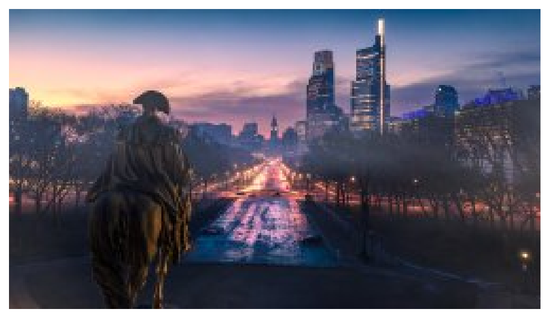

The Texas Ratio, which tracks banks with underwater loan portfolios, is a reality check for the health of community banking.

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