



# BRUNING BANK

SPRING 2023

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## Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to many ears is the sound of one's own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you want to have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as though everything you do is pleasurable.
6. Have a genuine interest in people. People like to be noticed and appreciated.
7. Be generous with praise, be cautious with criticism. Overcome them with goodness.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Try walking in their shoes.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. Respect their viewpoints.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.



FRED D. BRUNING

The Ten Commandments of Human Relations reminded me of the relationships we all build with others in life. It was shared with me in a bulletin at church one Sunday. We feel these ideas are also important to our bank team in all of our locations.

A friend of mind from Kearney had asked me to stop and have lunch with him sometime when I was in town visiting our bank. It was on my bucket list of things I needed to do as his personality was one that follows the list. Then it happened. I read his obituary online and had that feeling of life is way too short, hit me. Take time when a friend asks to come to lunch, spend extra time with family as time flies by way too fast.

At night, I think and pray for friends and family who are dealing with cancer and other health issues. The number of people keeps growing every day. We all have friends that are of different religions and political ideas, raise their children differently and the list could go on and on. However I still respect them and consider them my friends. It is important that we take time to think of the Ten Commandments of Human Relations.

*-Fred D. Bruning, Chief Executive Officer*

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"Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right and forgive the ones who don't."

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Anonymous



JERRY CATLETT

Please help me welcome our new Bruning Bank Grand Island location team. You'll see their names and pictures on the insert inside this newsletter.

We are very fortunate to have recruited a very cohesive team. The introduction to this team came via past working relationships and friendships. Many of our current team, John Boehler and Kyle Anderson (Holdrege), Jim Scott and Kim Schipporeit (Broken Bow), Ken Mehlin (Kearney), and Sonny Manley (Hebron) worked with the new Grand Island leadership team when they were all employed at another Nebraska based bank. They worked well together, respectful, very professional, forward looking, making the bank better at all levels.

In addition to the staff listed above, a huge "thank you" to our entire staff! When we've added locations and people over the years it takes everyone working together to get a plan executed. We have a plan and we are working hard to get everything done. We have received regulatory approval from the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance (NDBF) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). As of this writing, we have not announced the exact opening date at the new site 3032 West Stolley Park Road in Grand Island. We'll do so on social media when we are closer.

I've used the word "team" a few times above, yet, I may not be using it enough. Our people are the most important internal asset and tool we have, externally the most important asset is you, our great customers! Thank you for your loyalty and support. We appreciate the business you do with us, whether large or small. Our internal team is very focused on delivering great service and products to you. Our people make the infrastructure of Bruning Bank. Of course, technology is also important.

We have challenges and we are not perfect. When we bring on a new location, the single most important factor to success is the people's culture fit. Thankfully, we have been able to achieve that again in Grand Island. When you have the right people, just about any challenge can be overcome. People that care about each other and care just as much about the well-being and success of the customers we are serving is what we strive for. When that fits like a glove, it shows happy customers and happy staff. As you know, some days are better than others!

On January 25, 2023, I'm not sure how this happened so quickly, I celebrated my 30th year with Bruning Bank. Thank you to all that responded to the social media postings or reached out in other ways. It was truly humbling. I've worked with awesome ownership and management during the first 30 years and with talented co-workers along the way. I'm not sure there is enough pages in this newsletter to list all the people that have mentored, encouraged, provided constructive criticism (that I learned from) and great family support, especially from my bride of nearly 36 years, Jill. Over my 40 year+ banking career I've gotten to know and become friends with many customers and community members, what a blessing!

With all that being said, I know that I did not do anything alone. The blessings come and continue to be from our Lord! He has provided wonderful opportunities and has been there in all the challenges, gently guiding.

- Jerry Catlett, President, COO

## Home is Where the Heart is



from and for the people around you. Home is not a place, home is

Growing up I would often hear my mom say, "Home is where the heart is." When I was young I never understood what she meant. Then, as I grew older, I began to understand, especially when I headed off to college. This phrase is a way of stating that your home is not necessarily where you have a roof over your head and all the comforts of life. Home is where you feel the most affection

relationships.

Today's world is full of hustle and bustle, uncertainty, and things we cannot control. Yet one thing we can do is to stop and reflect on the simplicity of life and reflect on the relationships with our people who are home. Those people in our past are our home and those people right now are our home.

So take a moment, sit on the park bench, enjoy peace and calm, reminisce, and be thankful for those people who are your home. No matter where you are right now or what is going on in the world around you, you can always go home.

- Sonny Manley, President- Hebron

## Help the Bank, Help You!



The debit card purchase worked.

Here are 3 reasons why you should call Bruning Bank and make sure we have your latest contact information:

**1. Fraud Protection:** Customers visit lots of websites a day and make online purchases with their bank debit cards. Not having a physical debit card present gives fraudsters an opportunity to exploit. Having your current address gives us a tool to protect you!

Recently, we had a customer call and say that their debit card was not working while trying to purchase fuel at the pump. Having this trouble prompted the customer to call the bank. Through troubleshooting, we decided it was the zip code that did not match what the bank had on record. The customer had moved! We updated the customer's address and had the customer try the charge again.

**2. Current Address for Confidential Information:** An address change at the post office does not mean bank statements and other confidential information will be forwarded. The bank needs to be notified. Check and see if the bank has your current address, phone number, and email. Important mailings, such as debit cards and bank statements could fall into the wrong hands.

**3. Important reminders and updates:** Not updating your contact information means you are missing out on important reminders and other time-sensitive information. Updating your contact information is important when you do not receive a paper statement.

Calling the bank to make sure that they have your latest contact information only takes a few minutes. A few minutes of your time could be worth a headache down the road.

- Lacey Stroup, Deposit Services Coordinator- Holdrege

## New Employee Spotlight



ANGIE HASS

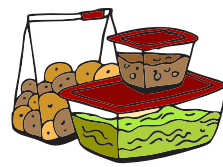
Angie was born and raised in York, NE. Angie attended Kansas Wesleyan University where she received her Bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy and later her Master's in Business Administration. She has been on the mortgage side of banking for the last 10 years and is joining Bruning Bank as a Loan Administrator. She currently lives in York with her two cats, Bella, and Giovanni, and her 12 house plants. Angie enjoys reading, knitting, watching movies, baking, gardening, and spending time with her family.



Please start endorsing your check(s) with **MOBILE DEPOSIT BRUNING BANK**, if it is not endorsed with the exact wording, it will be rejected. Also, list **ACCOUNT NUMBER, DATE,** and **SIGN** the check.

If you have any questions, please call your Bruning Bank location and we will be happy to assist you!

# Leftovers



Being a father of toddlers of almost two years old, we get a lot of little leftovers from going out to eat with them. If you have children, I am sure you know the experience. Guess what they will eat, they fill up on crackers waiting for it, the food comes and they take two bites, they throw it at each other and it gets all over, they get down from the table and eat it off

the floor. After that, someone usually comes up to the table and tells us how cute our kids are with the mac and cheese in their nose and ketchup in their hair. Then you look at the three chicken nuggets or whatever is still safe for consumption and tell yourself that we need to take this home because we paid money for it and can't waste it. Being a single guy in my 30's, I used to be a master at repurposing leftovers. Now when I look through the fridge, I feel like an archaeologist trying to carbon date the food and justify if it is still edible. My wife is pregnant as of writing this, so she has me smell everything and like my mom said, "If in doubt, throw it out." In these moments of cleaning out the refrigerator and not only trying to see how old things are, also remember where you were and who you were with when you had that meal. That grilled cheese sandwich with one bite out of it was from the time we met our friends and their family and talked about wedding planning. Those two meatballs are from the lunch we had after church with a new family that came to town and my girls made the sauce look like war paint.

Looking around my office I have similar things that remind me of people or events. Not talking about food lying around, just little trinkets or things I have collected to remember something or someone. My wife calls it clutter; I call it conversation pieces. Losing grandparents and going through their house you find lots of 'leftovers' that probably meant a lot to them. Ticket stubs, pictures, jewelry, letters, things you wonder why they kept, but you knew there had to be a story behind it. My dad Fred recently went through his father's office and it took a while. Not just to box up, but to try and reflect on the meaning of everything and why it was there. There are a couple of things we have no clue what they are and I could use some help identifying them if you ever stop by my office in Bruning.

What I have learned from all these exercises in life is that it is not usually the most expensive things in life that bring meaning to your life.

*"The most beautiful things are not associated with money; they are memories and moments. If you don't celebrate those, they can pass you by."*

- Alek Wek -

This quote also reminded me of all the pictures we found of Frank and Mary Bruning, my grandparents who have passed. My dad made a comment, "It looks like they partied all the time." Looking at these pictures you would see groups of people smiling, dressed up appropriately for the season and occasion, enjoying food, beverages, and most of all each other's company. They celebrated everything, from birthdays, a new shed being built, years at a job, and sometimes it was just getting together for no reason but to look at the cows and talk about old times. I remember being in the room with them as they talked about experiences together, past friends, and of course the same old jokes they repeated. These were their happy leftovers that reminded them of where they were and who they were with. They weren't discarded, they kept getting replayed like the old records on the turn table and every scratch meant something along the way.

This has been a good lesson for me and my growing family. Celebrate everything you can. My wife has a 'party drawer' full of hats, candles, plates, and napkins. Last night, we stuck a candle in a candy bar as my twin daughters sang happy birthday to me with their 'happy' hats. We have pulled these items out from time to time for an impromptu birthday party for friends of ours that didn't plan on doing anything for their birthday. It was a bit embarrassing at first for them, but it gives you something to remember. And you cannot stop a toddler from singing happy birthday, it makes anyone smile. The most memorable things in my life have been lunch, or dinner with old friends talking about our times together. Most of the time it was something we thought was completely uneventful or silly, but it was out of the ordinary and it marked a time in our past.

The next time you clean out your fridge make sure you take a moment to reflect on where that moldy half eaten chicken strip came from. I am sure you will have a story about it.

*"We didn't realize we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun."*

- A.A. Milne -

- Adam Bruning, Loan Officer

# Wish List For 2023 and Early 2024



This list is very random, but these are my thoughts!

**1. Health!** I wish my family, your family, our bank family, and our community would be in good health! The older I become the more health becomes a bigger deal! Be safe and God Bless!

**2. Fiscal responsibility.** I am very discouraged by our government and their spending. They have forgotten who they work for. Decisions have been made by our federal government to keep giving out more and more while our federal deficit grows and grows. Our poor grandkids! We have been selfish. It is time to talk about how we start cutting spending and reducing our debt so that they do not inherit a mess we have created.

**3. Bowl game.** It is time for the Nebraska Cornhuskers to go to a bowl game. Nebraska football needs to win six or more games in 2023 to qualify for a bowl game and return Nebraska fans sense of pride in their team. I would guess that there will be so many fans attend because it has been so long that it will be a crazy atmosphere. I think it can be done next season!

**4. NCAA tournament bid.** In 2023/2024 the Nebraska men's basketball team needs to go to the NCAA tournament and win a game. Nebraska is the only major college team never to win a NCAA tournament game. It is time!

**5. Volleyball-**The Nebraska volleyball team make it to the Final Four in 2023! They have been wonderful over the years!

**6. Income taxes.** With the federal government deficit so high I can only see taxes going up! How else to they pay for this mess!

Pay more now during the good times.

**7. More people entering the workforce again.** Businesses, farmers, healthcare, education, and the list goes on. We need more workers everywhere. Businesses are closing because they can't find help. During Covid, for many reasons, workers disappeared. I hope they come back to the workforce again.

**8. World Peace.** Not sure we will ever have lasting peace all over the world, but with some of the world leaders with nuclear capabilities, I hope peace is somewhere in their minds. I pray cool heads prevail!

**9. Prayer.** May prayer become a daily habit! What is more important? Find a quiet place and pray with your heart. Read scripture or a book that can guide you closer to God. Imagine yourself in the presence of God. Thank him for all you have. It is His not ours. Pray for those in need, there are so many!

**10. Lose weight.** I love to eat, and I am sure most of you do too, but in my case, it makes this goal difficult.

**11. Being Mentally Tough.** That would help with No. 10 for sure! I challenge everybody and that includes me to be more mentally tough. Mentally tough people don't make the same mistakes repeatedly. Mentally tough people do not resent other people's success. Mentally tough people do not give up after failure. Mentally tough people do not think the world owes them anything. Mentally tough people do not expect immediate results. I will work on this. I hope you do too!

In closing, I wish each and every one of you reading this a wonderful, healthy, and prosperous 2023!

-John Boehler, President- Holdrege

## Mark Your Calendar

### MARCH:

- **15** - Sales closing for 2023 Multi-Peril (Row Crop) Insurance
- **21** - National Ag Day
- - National Ag Day turns 50 years old this year!
- **21** - Farmers & Ranchers College, Cow/Calf College
- - Clay County Fairgrounds, Registration begins at 9:00 AM

### APRIL:

- **18** - National Tax Day
- **22** - National Teach Children to Save Day

### MAY:

- **2-6** - Teacher Appreciation Week
- **6-12** - National Nurses Week
- **12** - Mother's Day flowers available in the lobby or drive-up
- **29** - CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day

## BUILD AND MAINTAIN YOUR WEALTH

### AGRICULTURE, COMMERCIAL & PERSONAL BANKING

*We are here to help you build, grow and thrive. Let's work together.*

**Bruning • Hebron • Broken Bow • Holdrege • Kearney • Grand Island**



KATHY ROBERTS  
 KRISTEN MONTEFORTE  
 ALLISA WALLER-SWANSON  
 SARA JO KUNERT  
 ASHLI SOUKUP

## Do You Have a Home-Based Business?

Our country has a strong history of entrepreneurs.

We've all heard stories about people who started a business in their garage - then expand to an office or building - and then become a multi-million-dollar company franchised across the country. These stories are exciting, but they are the exception. Most home-based businesses stay just that; home-based. Working from your home is convenient for the owner. They can work when they want, and overhead is lower since they don't have to buy or rent office space. They already own or rent their home, and they are paying for utilities anyway. It's a win-win, right? **Well...MAYBE!**

Whether it is a multi-level marketing company like Pampered Chef or Mary Kay, in-home day care, a photographer, an artist or crafter that sells their work; your homeowner's insurance may not provide coverage for your business. Homeowner's policies typically limit or exclude coverage for business ventures. It is estimated that about half of home-based businesses don't have enough or any coverage.

### First: Consider the investment in the business.

Equipment and inventory, etc. are considered business personal property. The standard home insurance policy has a \$2,500 coverage limit for business personal property. Therefore, if you lose the equipment or inventory during an incident at your home, you may not have enough coverage to replace your business property. Customer's property in your care that is lost or damaged is also not covered

### Second: If a loss to your home requires that you relocate...what about your business?

Would relocating cause a loss of income? Your income is not protected by your homeowner's policy.

### Third: Arguably, the most important...consider your liability exposure.

If you are operating a home-based business, your homeowner's policy could exclude coverage if the claim arises from your business operations. For example...a delivery person is dropping off a box of inventory, and he slips on your ice-covered porch. He sues for his injuries since you didn't have your porch scooped & the ice cleared. Your homeowner's insurance may not cover his injuries because he was there delivering for the business.

Whether you're renting a house as an Airbnb, altering/mending clothing for customers, or baking cookies, if you earn money from activities completed at your home, then you need to verify that you have coverage. Chances are, if you started your own business, then you are doing something you are passionate about. You may not consider it a "job". However, if you earn money doing it, your insurance company considers it a business. In addition, if you work for someone else, but are working from your home, then your homeowner insurance may not provide the coverage you "think" you have.

The old adage about begging for forgiveness rather than asking permission, doesn't work when you're dealing with legal ramifications. You cannot protect yourself from every scenario, but you can at least cover your bases.

Forget the old adage! **Don't be blind-sided!** Ask the questions - know where you stand - be prepared!

Give us a call to discuss your home-based business to see if coverage can be added to your homeowner's policy or if a business policy is needed.

- Kathy, Kristen, Allisa, Sara Jo & Ashli  
 Bruning Insurance Agency

Not FDIC Insured. Not a guarantee of the Bank. Not a deposit of the Bank. Not insured by any federal government agency. May go down in value.



## Crop Insurance

The 2023 SPRING crop insurance season is here again!

What will Mother Nature dish out this year?

Multi-peril crop insurance sales closing date is **March 15, 2023.**

Do you have the coverage you need for 2023?

- Are all your crops – in all counties - covered?
- Any marital status changes or changes in entity?
- Is your level of coverage and unit structure correct for 2023?

Planting season will be here very soon. Keeping your non-irrigated corners separate?

- Remember to create & maintain a discernible break between the irrigated field and non-irrigated corners.
- Remember to harvest the non-irrigated corners separately. Separate load records/scale tickets are required in a claim situation.

### Important Plant Dates

	Corn	Grain Sorghum	Soybeans
<b>Nebraska</b> (Fillmore, Jefferson, Nuckolls, Saline & Thayer counties)	Initial Plant Date: 4/10 Final Plant Date: 5/25 20-day late plant period ends: 6/14	Initial Plant Date: 4/16 Final Plant Date: 6/15 20-day late plant period ends: 7/10	Initial Plant Date: 4/25 Final Plant Date: 6/15 20-day late plant period ends: 7/10
<b>Kansas</b> (Republic & Washington counties)	Initial Plant Date: 4/5 Final Plant Date: 5/25 20-day late plant period ends: 6/14	Initial Plant Date: 4/26 Final Plant Date: 6/25 20-day late plant period ends: 7/20	Initial Plant Date: 4/25 Final Plant Date: 6/20 20-day late plant period ends: 7/15

Don't forget to ask about hail and wind insurance coverage!

Contact us for all your crop insurance needs.

- Kathy & Jeff  
 Crop Insurance Agents

Not FDIC Insured. Not a guarantee of the Bank. Not a deposit of the Bank. Not insured by any federal government agency. May go down in value.

# Want to Keep Your Low Rates? We Can Help!



Have you recently refinanced or purchased a home and locked in a historic low rate on your first mortgage? If so, you are not alone. Over the past couple years, we have been very busy with many borrowers refinancing or purchasing homes and securing themselves a very low rate. Now, we are seeing some of these borrowers' needing funds for various

purposes but are hesitant to get a mortgage as they fear, in doing so, they will lose that incredibly low rate. Lucky for our customers, Bruning Bank, has a variety of mortgage products available, one being a long-term fixed rate Second Mortgage!

On a second mortgage we can fix your rate out to 20 years. This option has allowed our borrowers to use the equity in their home for a loan and have an affordable payment. We service these loans here at Bruning Bank so you will always know who to call with questions. We have a quick turnaround time with an on-staff underwriter! We also have a variable and fixed rate Home Equity Line of Credit option.

I recently had a borrower wanting funds to put a building up next to his home. He has put it off because he thought he would have to refinance his current mortgage and lose his 2.875% interest rate. When I explained our second mortgage options, he was pleased to hear that he could do this new project and keep his current first mortgage loan terms.

If you are looking for a loan option that will not jeopardize your current rate, please do not hesitate to give any of our locations a call. Our qualified mortgage staff is ready to discuss your options.

- Annemarie O'Connor, Mortgage Officer (NMLS #416351)

**Get prequalified online!**  
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## Home Loan Experts

### BRUNING & HEBRON



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### KEARNEY



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## The Right People For The Right Job



Do you ever see a recipe on Pinterest and instantly think you are Martha Stewart? Or does a video on YouTube make you think you can build your own house overnight? Maybe an advertisement on TV promises you can be filthy rich tomorrow?

The different media channels constantly fool me into thinking I have

skills that I most certainly do not possess.

Recently the shower head started leaking in the bathroom of my family's farmhouse. After several minutes of watching YouTube videos about how to fix a shower, I was an expert plumber and was fully ready to replace a shower cartridge. I gathered the tools I would need, gave the kids a bath (you know, just in case something went wrong) and started taking my shower faucet apart. What YouTube had me believe was a simple three step process ended with the water turned off to the entire house. Somehow in the process, I broke the cartridge off inside the shower valve, instead of fixing it. I had accidentally created what

most people would consider a luxurious bathroom feature, a jetted shower.

The only problem was the hot water was coming out of the shower head and the cold water was jetting out of what was previously the faucet handle. Needless to say, my husband wasn't thrilled when he had to take a shower that night. He kindly reminded me this is the second time I have attempted to take over the plumbing industry and failed horribly. The plumber was called the next day and the water was rightfully restored to the shower and the entire house.

I was again reminded that I'm not a plumber and to leave the plumbing to the experts. I called a plumber that I trusted to fix my mistake. That same plumber trusts Bruning Bank to take care of his finances. He trusts us to offer financial advice to help him grow his business and plan for his financial future. He knows we are not an advertisement on TV making promises we can't fulfill. We are a community bank with real people you can talk to who care about your business. While we can't fix your leaky faucet, we can help grow your business, and we are just fine with that.

-Shantel Daake, Loan Officer (NMLS #1550238)

## Technical Currency



Technical currency means how current your technology stack is in relation to the latest version available. It is important in today's world in order to keep up with the times and to keep information safe.

An example of why technology needs to stay current would be Southwest Airlines in December 2022. There are differing opinions on what caused Southwest Airlines to cancel so

many flights, but ultimately, it was due to a technology failure of sorts.

Most major airlines use a hub-and-spoke method, which gives a holistic view of flights. Southwest uses a point-to-point method, which is leaner in the day-to-day, but also adds complexity to scheduling. So, when things start to go sideways, they can spiral out of control quickly. A lot of the cancellations were attributed to not knowing where flight crews were.

To help explain how different these two systems differ, here are some statistics:

On December 26th, Southwest cancelled **66% of their flights**. The next closest was **9%**. On December 27th, Southwest cancelled **72% of their flights**; the next closest was **3%**. Then, on December 28th, **Southwest cancelled 63%**; the next closest was **1%**.

We don't live in a perfect world, so utilizing technology that is dated and doesn't account for real world scenarios is a dangerous gamble. You can lose money using outdated software, customer information security can be compromised, and reputation is at stake.

So, how can you be sure you don't fall victim to outdated tech? Plan. These scenarios I discussed are avoidable. Proper planning and monitoring ensure we don't run into these scenarios.

Patching. Software patches are pushed out periodically to all machines to ensure they always have the most current updates available.

Invest. Updating software is not cheap by any means, but you save money in the long run! As new threats are posed, it requires updates to software, enhancements to software, and sometimes new software altogether. The key is to be informed, pay attention, and have a plan.

-Andy Hill, Chief Information Officer



### Recession in Sight



DAVE FROOM, CPFA®  
VICE PRESIDENT &  
LPL FINANCIAL PLANNER

I know I'm kicking a dead horse, but we're talking about your hard-earned savings and assets, so it bears repeating, *we are heading toward a recession*. With the trillions in government stimulus in 2020-2022, Americans spent a lot of money that they normally would not have (maybe you didn't, but we're talking the general population). In the second half of 2022 consumer spending showed signs of weakening as the stimulus morphine wore off. However, the stimulus caused a spike in inflation and in an effort to counteract, the "Fed" hiked rates much more than economist's consensus believed they would. As these dynamics work through the system, we're already seeing a slowdown in homebuilding due to a decrease in demand. Consumer spending will continue to decline and manufacturers will eventually slow down production resulting in layoffs and subsequent decreases in consumer spending on non-essentials. Normally, this type of economics is simply part of the economic cycle (it can't go up forever – at some point the economy and the financial markets search for equilibrium – fair market values). It's never good to see layoffs – they hurt. But as

investors, we need not fear recessions, but to the contrary, we should take advantage of them. I've said it before, when the markets are down, stocks are on sale and it's the best time to buy (or at least hold). If the Fed slows down the rate hikes (as they should) we should see the bond market recover from the disastrous 2022. That will help portfolios normalize (normally when stocks are down, bonds help by being down less than stocks or even increasing value). Stay the course. Buy low if you can. Stick to your plan. Be patient. As always, we're here to talk. Remember these words of wisdom, *"Waiting helps you as an investor and a lot of people just can't stand to wait. If you didn't get the deferred-gratification gene, you've got to work very hard to overcome that."* ~Charlie Munger; and *"The stock market is a device to transfer money from the impatient to the patient."* ~ Warren Buffett.

Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This material may contain forward looking statements and projections. There are no guarantees that these results will be achieved. It is our goal to help investors by identifying changing market conditions; however, investors should be aware that no investment advisor can accurately predict all of the changes that may occur in the economy or the stock market.



### RYAN KRANTZ

We are excited to announce Ryan Krantz joined Bruning Wealth Management at the end of 2022 as a Financial Advisor Assistant. He grew up in Ansley and was neighbors with Jerry Catlett and Jim Scott (Jim used to pick up Ryan for school!). Ryan's mom, Dee, worked for Bruning Bank at our Broken Bow location before retiring.

Ryan earned a BS and an MBA in Business Administration from UNK. He's been in banking and mortgage lending for over 20 years. His desire to help people through Financial Planning led Ryan to embark on a new finance adventure. Ryan will spend January – April studying for his licensing exams that must be passed to become an LPL Financial Advisor. He already holds a Life Insurance License so he's a step ahead. Ryan will also participate in LPL's Financial Advisor Core Skills 18-week training program.

Ryan will be an excellent addition to our team. With Ryan being such a great culture fit for Bruning Bank and Bruning Wealth Management, and his wealth of financial experience, I know you'll enjoy working with him.

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### Tax Refund Season!



Make sure that your tax refund arrives as quickly and safely as possible this year, as well as keeping your personal identity and information safe this tax season.

Once your taxes are completed and you know that you have a refund coming, the fastest way to get your refund is to have it directly deposited into a checking or savings account.

You can still receive your refund in the form of a paper check, but there are advantages to direct deposits, including:

- Not only is it faster, but it is also more secure.
- Refund checks sent through the mail can be lost, stolen, or returned to the IRS if undeliverable.

If you don't already have a checking or savings account, this would be a good time to open one to have your refund directly deposited into. However you choose to receive your refund, you can track the status of it any time through the IRS website.

Once receiving your refund, you need to decide what to do with it. Many times, people use it to make large purchases. It also provides an opportunity for savings or paying down debt. The following are just a few ways that you could use your refund:

- The IRS allows you to divide your tax refund into different accounts. You could split your refund and put some into an account that allows you to spend part of your refund and have some put into a savings account.

• You might want to deposit it all into an emergency savings account. Having an emergency savings account gives you a "war chest" to fall back on if something unexpected happens. The amount to have in your emergency fund depends on your household, but the general rule of thumb is to save three to six months' worth of expenses should your income decrease for any reason.

• Do you have credit card debt? Think about using your refund to pay it down or pay it off. This can help you save money by not paying interest each month and free up the money that you were using to pay off your credit card.

This tax season be wary of phone calls and emails from anyone claiming to be from the IRS. Identity thieves have been known to pose as IRS agents, providing a fake name and IRS badge number. Thieves will often threaten people with audits and other legal action or promise checks for unclaimed funds. The IRS typically does not send emails to individuals asking for personal information. Watch out for tax preparers who advertise with fliers or posters promising large refunds, special inside knowledge, or are pushy about coming to your home. These scammers try to make money by stealing your personal information for later use and collecting preparation fees.

- Todd Clabaugh, President- Kearney





## Deep Roots Support New Growth

It's hard to believe that we are already through a good portion of the winter, and it won't be long until spring is upon us. One of the first signs of spring is when the trees begin to bud and blossom. Fruit trees offer some of the most beautiful blossoms. Something I have always been amazed with is the technique of grafting. Grafting is the art of putting together different parts of trees to propagate new varieties, or repair an injured or damaged tree. There are two main advantages of grafting over other alternatives. First, most seeds will not grow true to the variety of fruit they are from. Second, cuttings of trees will not easily root. The best time of year to graft fruit trees is late winter or early spring.

Bruning Bank is grafting a new location in Grand Island. The planning for this new location began this past fall when I reached out to John Boehler, President of the Holdrege location to inquire if Bruning Bank had ever thought about adding a location in Grand Island. John and I worked together at United Nebraska Bank, and I have always followed and admired the growth Bruning Bank has experienced over the past two decades. Through John, we were able to meet Fred, Jerry, and the management team of Bruning Bank. As we discussed culture, philosophy, and people, things fell quickly and smoothly into place. In November the decision was made to move forward with the Grand Island location.

There are several reasons why we chose to "graft" to Bruning Bank. The most important being that Bruning Bank has deep, strong roots in Nebraska and a track record of building and

growing customer relationships. The roots have enough strength (capital) and capacity (liquidity) to support growth of a sixth location. Bruning Bank has also had success in grafting other locations. Hebron, Broken Bow, Holdrege, and Kearney have all been locations that were grafted in a similar manner. These locations have blossomed into pillars of their communities.

Why did Bruning choose to proceed with Grand Island? For a new location to be successful, you must have the right team of people. The team we've assembled in Grand Island has over 125 years of experience in community banking with more than a dozen great financial institutions. We're passionate about building customer relationships and helping them achieve financial success. Our team also has a diverse background beyond banking in agriculture, small business ownership, education, and retail sales. We love to serve others and volunteer in our community.

We will soon be opening our full-service location at 3032 West Stolley Park Road. This spring construction will bring a drive thru and ATM lanes to the south end of the building, enhancing customer service. The staff has met some existing customers of Bruning Bank and we invite you to stop by to meet the new team and see our new location. The highest compliment we can ever receive is a referral of your family and friends. If you have someone in the Grand Island region we can assist, it would be an honor and privilege to do so. Lastly, to those we have worked with in the past, we are very grateful for the relationships that have been developed and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

- Dave Richardson, President- Grand Island



### DAVE RICHARDSON

Dave joins Bruning Bank as President of the Grand Island location. He has been in community banking since 2002, all in Grand Island and Central Nebraska. He is a 2001 graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, as well as the Commercial Lending School of Banking, the Ag Lending School of Banking, the Advanced School of Banking, and Southwest Graduate School of Banking. Richardson currently serves as Treasurer of the Stuhr Museum Foundation Board, Treasurer of Trinity Lutheran Church, and serves on the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation. He and his wife, Rachel, have three children and reside in Phillips. Dave enjoys golfing and cooking for family and friends.



### PHIL WIECK

Phil Wieck is a lifelong resident of Grand Island, NE and joins Bruning Bank in Grand Island as a Loan Officer. His 10+ year career in banking began upon graduating from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Phil and his wife, Britni, have two young children. In his free time, Phil enjoys volunteering, traveling, and the occasional round of golf.



### BILL MCLELLAN

Working in the banking profession for the past 50 years has exposed Bill to nearly every facet of the business. Success in banking is measured by the number of lasting relationships earned over time, while guiding and supporting the needs and dreams of clients. Bill is looking forward to the satisfaction of moving long-term customers to our new Bruning Bank location in Grand Island.



### JACI PUENTE

Jaci Puente joins Bruning Bank as a Loan Administrator at the Grand Island location. Jaci has 15 years banking experience and is excited to be a part of the new location opening in Grand Island. She was born and raised in Grand Island only leaving to live in Lincoln to attend UNL for her bachelor's degree in Business Administration before returning to Grand Island. She is married to her husband, Sam, and they have two children, Boston (8) and Harper (5). Jaci is an avid Red Sox fan and follows Husker Volleyball. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and travel.



### BRADLEY KEASLING

Bradley joins Bruning Bank as a Relationship Banker at the Grand Island location. He grew up in Harvard, NE and moved to Grand Island in 2008. Bradley attended Central Community College in Hastings and Bellevue University for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He is married to his wife Katie (16-years), and they have two daughters, Chloe and Ellie. Bradley enjoys golfing, serving in his church and spending time with family and friends. He is excited to start at Bruning Bank location in Grand Island, NE.



### HAILEY DIXON

Hailey joins Bruning Bank in Grand Island as a Relationship Associate. Hailey is from Aurora, NE. She graduated from Wayne State College in December of 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry Health Sciences. In her time outside of work she enjoys going on walks, working out, painting, watching Netflix, and hanging out with friends and family.



### MARESA DRAKE

Maresa grew up in St. Paul, NE and moved to Wood River, NE in 2020. She attended Central Community College in Grand Island where she graduated with an Associate's degree in Business and attended Bellevue University where she graduated with a Business Management/Administration Bachelor degree. Maresa is married to her husband, Chad, and they have one son, Miles, and two daughters, Emberlyn, and Theo. She enjoys attending her kids' sporting events and her daughters' dance competitions. Maresa also enjoys going to the lake, camping, and boating with friends and family. She is very excited to be part of the Bruning Bank team!



### BRANDY JENNEMAN

Brandy Jenneman was born and raised in Grand Island, NE and she has joined the Bruning Bank team in Grand Island as an Operations Associate. She has been in banking for 20+ years. Brandy and her husband, Wes have two children Kaden (10) and Sage (6). In her spare time, she enjoys baking and spending time outdoors with her family.



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# NATIONAL AG DAY TURNS 50!

National Ag Day officially turns 50 this year! Bruning Bank is committed to Agriculture. From crop insurance to attaining a loan for equipment, Bruning Bank is here to help! Agriculture has and always will be important to us.

- Real Estate Loans
- Machinery/Equipment Loans
- Operating Loans
- Crop Input Loans
- And more!

**National Ag Day:**  
**March 21, 2023**

