



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**EMILY KELLAMS JOINS BANTERRA BANK AS BANKING CENTER MANAGER
OF BANTERRA'S NEW BRANCH IN EAST PRAIRIE, MISSOURI**

OPENING AUG. 17TH / GRAND OPENING AUGUST 27TH

East Prairie, MO – Emily Kellams recently joined the Banterra team as Banking Center Manager for their new East Prairie, Missouri facility located at 99 Prairie Drive. The new branch is set to open on Monday, August 17th with a grand opening celebration slated for Thursday, August 27th. Kellams brings more than seven years of financial experience to the Banterra team.

“Emily’s familiarity with the financial industry and excellent customer relations skills will enable her to manage our new banking center very well,” said Brad Keck, Assistant Market Executive for Banterra Bank. “Emily knows the Southeast Missouri region well, and her passion to serve customers as well as her leadership traits will greatly benefit our growth in the East Prairie market.”

A current resident of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Kellams has served the past four years as Financial Services Representative for First Community Bank in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where she also served as Insurance Agent with the bank for the past two years. She is accustomed to working with new clients and introducing them to the proper products and services to meet their needs. Prior to that, she spent almost four years as a teller at First Midwest Bank in Jackson, Missouri.

Kellams studied Business Administration and Accounting at Southeast Missouri State. She also received her Associate of Arts at Three Rivers Community College. Emily is in the process of moving to East Prairie.

Banterra’s East Prairie branch will have two drive-thru lanes, ATM and features a design tailored to the industry latest known as “dialogue banking.” Teller transactions will no longer be behind a wall separating customers and employees, but at table-top pods, allowing stronger opportunities for conversation with customers. The pods are equipped with a vault, offering stronger security measures. Staffing is enhanced as well with addition of “Concierge Bankers” who are trained to fulfill multiple customer needs rather than passing the customer on to another bank employee.

Banterra invites the public to participate in its grand opening celebration on Thursday, August 27th from 3-7 p.m. with free food, prizes and giveaways.

Banterra Bank began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois in July of 1975. Today, Banterra is the largest, locally-owned bank in the region with more than \$1.3 billion in assets and 36 locations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri. For more information, contact us at 866-BANTERRA (226-8377), or go to www.banterra.com.

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