

January 14, 2026

In today's edition of "what occurred at forum this week" there are several items of note. Invoices will be sent out on 1/15/26 and remittance is requested within 30 days. Chris Lambert made a motion that the forum begin to address political issues (this is a complete falsehood) and we learned geography lessons with Dick and Fritz. In unrelated news, Phil shared a new service Chris is offering; delivery of watches for repair to Brad.

TK presented on life lessons of an entrepreneur, and if Dave Lombard took the forum to church last week, TK took us to school this week! It was awesome!

Please find the tip session notes and notes from TK's session below. Attached is TK's PowerPoint for reference.

- Kim Ward – usual business
- Jim Matthews – usual business- Copy Solutions, and Lassus
- Dick W. - retired
- Fritz A. – retired – Micro Tech Welding
- Jimmie S. – usual business – Lassus, Paris
- Mark A. – usual business
- Jason P. – usual business
- Dave A. – usual business
- Brent S. - usual business
- Todd L. - usual business
- Brad G. – Dinner at Guadalupe's was great!
- Chris L. – Third party to Mike S. – Phil T. got a new Sport Coat. Daughter is in MN on the front lines helping children and families, if you would like to learn more about how you can help, reach out to Chris.
- Hank K. – usual business

- Tony T. – usual business – Invoices are going out from Jim Matthews tomorrow 1/15/26.
- Don S. – retired
- Dan A. – enjoyed beautiful travel lately to “New Haven”
- Dick F. – thank you to Jimmie, business from SPS and Kurt Schmidt
- Melanie C. – Delivered at 27 weeks and 2 days, was in the hospital for 1 month, Reid is home and healthy and gaining weight. Chris offered encouragement. He was 3lbs 5 oz when he was born and filled out!
- Kathy R. – usual business
- Wendy D. – business with Bradley Gough, working with Kathy, and their family business is doing lots with the members of the group.
- Paris M. – Guadalupe’s, Kelley’s, Copy Solutions
- Mike S. – Chris thank you for the third party
- Rick S. – Thank you all for the response about the Train at the Zoo. Upcoming fun news, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions has just named the zoo as one of the best organizations with the best training programs in the world. They are up against 3 others (a theme park in Hong Kong is one).
- Morrie S. – retired.
- Steve Z. – great inquiries coming in to start the year, hopeful they turn into projects.
- John U. – thank you for renewing with GFW
- Mark D. – thank you to Kathy and John, graduation rates continue to climb in FWCS.
- Phill T. – work with Star Bank, slight injury and working with Trent and now I’m able to walk. He got me in right away. He is going to get his watch to Brad G. Suggestions have been given to Chris about limiting his customer list.

- Zach K. – Great experience at Kelley Automotive, Connor installing new store fronts, Dan Votaw’s team is doing a great job.
- Connor R. – usual business
- Cassidy Y. – thank you to several individuals in the group for their ongoing support.

TK Herman

5 lessons in 5 years

Reflections from an entrepreneur in transition

Entrepreneur whole life, last paycheck from someone else was when he was 26, he’s 54 now.

Main business was Aptera

Co-Owned – 3 Sky Zone Trampoline Parks, terrible during covid, and exited in 2021

Started indoor pickleball business

Spin off from Aptera called Factor (SAS)- which just sold in July of 2025

Joined Tigger 21

After selling Aptera, joined Tiger 21 (fee based networking group) – nationwide, similar to YPO, in some ways. Every meeting someone stands up and does a “portfolio defense”

- Biggest Takeaways
 - It showed me how small I thought, therefore, how small I played
 - While I’m the poorest person in the group by a long shot, I believe I’m the richest on the inside (personal growth and development commitment)

The Helicopter Dream – TK's passion is Aviation

- Got lessons in 2019 at Sweet Aviation in a Helicopter
- Got the rating in 2020
- When he sold the business he bought a helicopter
- Got to embrace the feeling of being fearful yet pushing through
- Sold helicopter and the image he painted was there were about 100 windows open in the browser of his brain and he needed to shut some things down, to bring focus and presence

The Pickle Ball Disaster

- Opened up in the old Speice fieldhouse
- The worst experience of his entire life
- 16 months of horrible
- Franchise, business partner, and landlord issues
- Sept. 2024 – he's 2.3M into this business and dumping money into the business
- This stress was spilling out into his relationships and other areas of his life
- Woke up and decided he needed to pull the ripcord, and he orchestrated a deal with the franchise for them to buy him out.
- Learning- sometimes the hardest lessons aren't to keep going it's to WALK AWAY
- I knew I was forcing something to happen and I knew in my gut I shouldn't

Proving it to Myself

- We all have stories in our heads that we have to live to prove or disprove
- Worked to collect evidence that counter my bullshit stories

The Shedding Season

- Evaluating what's important and what's not
- I don't want stress
- I want to close tabs on things that are just taking up space and not adding value
- Ex: moved down to the Pearl
- Ex: sold SAS business
- Ex: selling house
- Making space on what's new to come
- Evaluating where do I choose to put my energy – my marriage, my kids, the businesses I desire to

5 Lessons

- Put yourself in rooms where you are low man on the totem pole
- Trust your gut, especially when it tells you no
- Collect evidence against your own head trash
- Let go of things that no longer serve you – even your dreams
- Invest in being rich on the inside

What's next?

- Working to build a portfolio of 6-8 businesses
- Halycon Forum – group he started
- A company will never out-perform the internal subconscious beliefs of the CEO
- EOS – implement in all portfolio businesses – get certified as an EOS implementer in FW- will be doing training in FL for bootcamp
- Critically Irrelevant – book he's working on
- Leading Beyond Limits – second book he's working on

Questions:

- Wife has a popular podcast

- There are a lot of courses on entrepreneurialism, how much do you believe it can be taught.
- o I think there are things that you can be taught, but I believe you are either born with some of the key components or NOT
- What did your parents do?
 - o Dad was teacher and HS football coach, and then he got out and joined the corporate world
 - o Mom was a teacher
- Is there a sibling hierarchy that you have uncovered any common traits with?
 - o Not really
- Not good enough, smart enough, lazy, imposter – this is his head trash.....
- o Story – got cut from middle school football- later in life found out the coach cut him to save him from his dad pushing him to play

Winner:
Brad Gough