

Women in
BUSINESS

2025 Cherokee County

TAHLEQUAH
DAILY
PRESS



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TAHLEQUAH
DAILY
PRESS

Women in Business 2025 Edition is produced by the Tahlequah Daily Press. All questionnaires were answered by each individual and edited for correct spelling and grammar only. We encourage the community to join us in celebrating our Cherokee County Women in Business by supporting these women and their places of business.

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2025 Cherokee County Women In Business

Megan White

Name: Megan White

Name of Business: The Palms Massage & Wellness

Type of Business: Massage therapy and wellness services

Title: Owner and licensed massage therapist

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I've been a licensed massage therapist for over 25 years. I help people understand their stress and pain, teach them how to care for themselves, and create space for healing. It's incredibly rewarding to empower others to slow down and reconnect with their bodies.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company?

My mother and I opened The Palms in October 2004. We just celebrated 20 years in business. I am now the sole owner and incredibly proud of how far we've grown.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work? I love gardening and creating stained glass art in my studio. I also teach beginner stained glass classes at ICTC.

Do you have a vacation memory or upcoming travel planned? My favorite trip was camping along the Shoshone River with my family. We visited Yellowstone National Park, Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole. It was breath-



WHITE

taking — one of the most magical places I've ever been.

What's the best concert or music event you've attended? This is such a hard question because I live for live music and have had so many epic concert moments. But one of my all-time favorites was for my 14th birthday: About 20 of us piled into an old school bus and road-tripped to Dallas to see Pink Floyd. We made a whole weekend out of it, and it was absolute magic. The show? Mind-blowing."

If someone handed you \$100 right now, what would you do with it? I'd probably save it

— I'm pretty frugal. But I also might renew my Kroger and Bear membership before it expires.

What would you like to instill in future female leaders? Success isn't hustle culture — it's a calm nervous system, purpose-driven work, and healthy boundaries. Of course, success can look different for everyone, but we must define it for ourselves and not let others decide it for us. Know your truth, own your power, and protect what matters.

Fill in the blank: "Family is ____" ... why I do what I do. They're the reason I keep going when things get tough.

Teresa Williams

Name: Teresa Williams

Name of Business: Threadz Consignment

Type of Business: Resale Clothing Store

What is your title? Owner/founder

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I oversee day-to-day operations, manage staff members, communicate with consignors, monitor inventory and appointments, and ensure that customers have the absolute best in-store experience.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I opened Threadz in February 2019, so we

are about to celebrate seven years of business in beautiful downtown Tahlequah.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I love attending music festivals and local live music events. I also enjoy kayaking and camping.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? I will be



WILLIAMS

heading to Savannah, Georgia, in November for a long-awaited vacation with my old high school and college girlfriends.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? Definitely it was attending the Elephant Revival concert at the Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater in Colorado several years back.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do

with it? Depends on the week, but if no bills needed to be paid, I would take my honey out to a nice restaurant for a fantastic meal.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Awareness and compassion in regard to the needs of the local community. It all starts at homebase.

Fill in the blank: "Family is ____" ...my rock and my everything.

Laura Hathaway

Name: Laura Hathaway

Name of business: Conquer the Paradox

Type of business: Escape Room

What is your title? Owner

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I design the rooms. I also help run the rooms when I can. I started this venture in hopes of spending more time with my son. He and his father run things during the week when I can't be there. I am still an over-the-road truck driver during the week.

How many years have you been with the company, or when did you start your company? We opened the doors Labor Day weekend of this year. We actually took the lease out in April 2024. It took 17 months to get it open. I was only home one day per week to work on it.

My husband was mentally drained every day after work. So we just weren't getting it done. Putting up the inner walls is what took us the longest. I thought I wanted an open space so we could build to our liking. Looking back, I think I would find space with rooms and modify the design of the escape room to fit the existing walls. Thankfully, we are open.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? Between our escape room and my other full-time job, I don't really have time for other activities, but when I do, I like to



HATHAWAY

play escape rooms.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? I have had three vacations that were so great and I can't decide which one was the best. My top three vacations were Italy, Alaska and Hawaii. We are just so busy now. I have no idea when we will have time or finances to take a vacation. At this point, I would love to have the time to go to Eureka Springs or even attend one of the festivals here in Tahlequah.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? I enjoyed watching Alan Jack-

son. During my teens, I liked the energy of Corey Hart.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I would probably deposit it to pay one of my many bills.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Be kind. You can make or break someone's mood. A simple smile goes far.

Fill in the blank: Family is ____: ...Why I opened the escape room. I wanted to spend more time with my family. I also hope families in the community will enjoy it as a way to spend more quality time with their own families.

Jeri Fleming

Name: Jeri Fleming
Name of Business: Grand River Dam Authority

Type of Business: Energy provider/state agency

What is your title? Environmental Compliance and Grants in the Ecosystems and Watershed Management Department

What do you do there or what does that title mean? My title doesn't accurately reflect what I do on a day-to-day basis. I provide environmental education for people of all ages. I work to help them understand their impact on water quality and how simple changes can make a difference. I also oversee special projects. One of the big projects that I am proud to have helped start is a statewide program to replace failing septic systems near waterbodies. We have helped replace over 30 failing septic systems in 19 counties. This not only improves water quality but has helped people with limited income stay in their homes. I have also conducted training for contractors and municipal stormwater staff to help them understand erosion and sediment control permit requirements. As for the grants part of my title, I helped write and implement one successful

EPA grant on environmental education and implemented a second grant to develop a working group to pull together a watershed plan for Grand Lake. Additionally, I work with communities like Tahlequah to find grant opportunities for a variety of projects. Specifically in Tahlequah, we worked with the parks department and two nonprofits to get a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant to help pay for a rain garden at Mission Park to reduce flooding and attract pollinators. Normally, environmental compliance would involve ensuring the company is following all regulatory guidelines, and I do that to a limited extent, but have been able to craft my job to fit my experience, expertise and passion.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I have worked for GRDA for four years but have been working in the environmental field for about 20 years. Prior to working with several environmental agencies and two universities, I co-owned a veterinary clinic in my hometown.

Now that we know where you work and



FLEMING

what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I love to travel to new places to experience other cultures, food and the beauty of their land. I also love to bake.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? It's hard to come up with just one, but a few of my favorites include whitewater rafting down a glacial-fed river in Switzerland — I think it was the Arve River — and hiking the Kilau-

ea volcano and Diamondhead in Hawaii with my son and grandkids.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? I think the thing I want future

female leaders to know is to not be afraid to take risks; try new things, support each other and remember it takes everyone in a company to achieve success so be mindful of how you treat everyone in your organization. You never know who you will meet and what that can lead to, so again, be mindful of how you treat people, as you never know who might just offer you your next opportunity or job. I do think it is important to love what you do and to find something within your job that you enjoy. We all have frustrations at work, but find that one thing you like and try to build on or go back to it after a difficult day or conversation. Also, don't be constrained by your education. I have a law degree and a communications degree, but I talk about science a lot. Another important thing to remember is to never stop learning new things.

Brandi Pilcher

Name: Brandi Pilcher
Name of Business: Celeste Looney Insurance

Type of Business: Insurance Agency

What is your title? Owner

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I'm a former English and creative writing teacher who, for the past 20 years, has been an insurance agent. I don't know anyone who said, "I want to own an insurance agency when I grow up."

I know I didn't. My father didn't. My grandmother didn't. But we all have contributed to the fiber that makes up Celeste Looney Insurance. We each had other professions first and wove our experiences into the office and its culture that has endured since 1947. I like to think of our business as a cozy blanket — a place of comfort where people can feel safe. A job title is not my identity, but because of my job, I get to help my community, lead a team of leaders, and grow as an individual. I educate people on protecting and preserving what matters to them. Insurance agents help people sleep better at night. We also have fun along the way, sharing life with others in our community.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? When I'm not working, cheering on a kid or attending a church function, I love exploring new places, attending live productions, discussing books and ideas, playing the piano, playing games



PILCHER

and lingering over meals with loved ones. I find peace beside any body of water, but don't splash me, please.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? Oklahoma always feel good to come home to, but I absolutely treasure time to travel with family and friends and am usually up for an adventure.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? The Eagles concert was a gift from my husband that still makes me smile when I remember all those guitars playing so beautifully onstage.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? If I didn't buy something for my kids or my team, I'd probably donate to one of our local nonprofits. So many options: Help in Crisis? Feed My Sheep? Soroptimist International of Tahlequah? Then again, a massage might be nice.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Power fuels power by building up and working together, not by putting down and tearing apart.

Fill in the blank: Family is ____: ... a blessing.



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2025 Cherokee County Women In Business

Genesis Roybal-Schreiner

Name: Genesis Roybal-Schreiner
Name of Business: Grand River Dam Authority
Type of Business: Public Power Electric Utility
What is your title? Health and safety specialist
What do you do there or what does that title mean? I get to collaborate with amazing teams that are experts in their craft, learn what they do, identify what risks they are potentially exposed to, and implement methods to help protect our team members from that risk. This is a field where your voice, your intuition, and your care can really help to make an impact to an organization.
How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your com-

pany? I started at GRDA as an intern when I was an undergraduate. After graduating, I was offered a full-time role and have been with GRDA for a little over three years, gaining valuable experience and growth, and been given the opportunity to contribute to meaningful projects in a very supportive environment.

What are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? My favorite things to do outside of the workplace are spending time with my family or at home reading a good book. It helps me relax and learn. It's the simple things that help keep me grounded.
Do you have a fond vacation memory,



SCHREINER

or are you preparing for upcoming travels? Last fall, my husband and I went to Ouray, Colorado for our honeymoon. The mountains were beautiful and getting to spend time in the natural hot springs was relaxing.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? The best concert I have been to so far is Halsey. I went with my husband and one of my best friends, which made it even more special.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I would probably save it for a purpose I haven't seen yet.

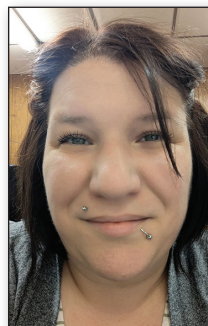
What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? You don't have to be perfect or have all the right answers. Growth and confidence come from embracing and navigating challenges and learning through experience. True leadership and resilience are built in times of uncertainty.

Fill in the blank: Family is __: ... everything, and it's why I get to do what I do in the health and safety field. Our top priority is protecting our team members, so they can protect what matters most: themselves, one another and their families. At the end of the day, we all have one goal: Everyone goes home to their families safe.

Christina Yocum

Name: Christina Yocom
Name of Business: Cablelynx-Tahlequah
Type of Business: Telecommunications
What is your title? Team lead
What do you do there or what does that title mean? It means something different every day: solving customer issues, admin work, bookkeeping — just a little bit of everything. Multitasking is key to running any office.
How many years have you been with the

company or when did you start your company? Three years and it's absolutely my favorite job so far.
Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? Reading at home with my husband and my cats.
Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for



YOCUM

upcoming travels? Probably the first time I saw the Statue of Liberty; it still makes me tear up over 10 years later.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? That's hard, but I think it would be the last time I saw Violent Femmes play at Cain's Ballroom.

If someone handed you a

\$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? Buy the office lunch, of course.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Never feel like you have to compromise your principles for anyone or anything. You have to be able to stand by your beliefs.

Fill in the blank: Family is __: ... having someone to love you, no matter your mistakes or faults.

Trena Payton

Name: Trena Payton
Name of business: Armstrong Bank
What do you do there? I am market president for our Tahlequah and Stilwell markets, which entails overseeing branch operations and performance for both markets. I am also involved in team leadership, business development, and community engagement.
How many years have you been with Armstrong Bank? Just over one year, but I have been in the banking industry for more than 20 years.
What made you gravitate toward banking? How did you get your start? I've always had a passion for helping people, and I enjoy working with numbers. The banking industry

allows me to combine these two skills to assist people with their financial goals and build relationships.
Tell us about your home life: My husband, Jesse Payton, and I have three children: Caleb and his wife, Lindsey, and Lauren and Hailey.

As a female leader, what has been the most significant barrier in your career? Have you been confronted with gender-related roadblocks? The largest obstacle early in my career was navigating work-life balance with young children. I have been for-



PAYTON

tunate to work with some amazing people in my career who have been very accommodating in this area. Now that my children are older and the balance isn't as difficult to manage, the experience has helped me, as a leader, understand the struggles other employees may be facing so I can be more flexible as we all strive for continued success.

What are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? Playing golf and spending time with my family. I also enjoy volunteer work and am involved with Soroptimist of Tahle-

quah, Kiwanis Club, Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce and the NEO Health Board.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? Our family travels to Florida once a year. It's a trip we always look forward to and enjoy together.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I would likely save the funds or donate to a nonprofit that I am involved with.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Dream big, work hard, believe in yourself, never give up and anything is possible. Do not be afraid to push boundaries or to use your voice.

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CHEROKEE COUNTY MARKET PRESIDENT

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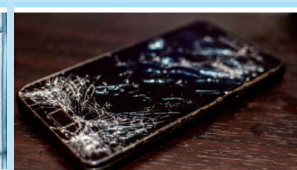
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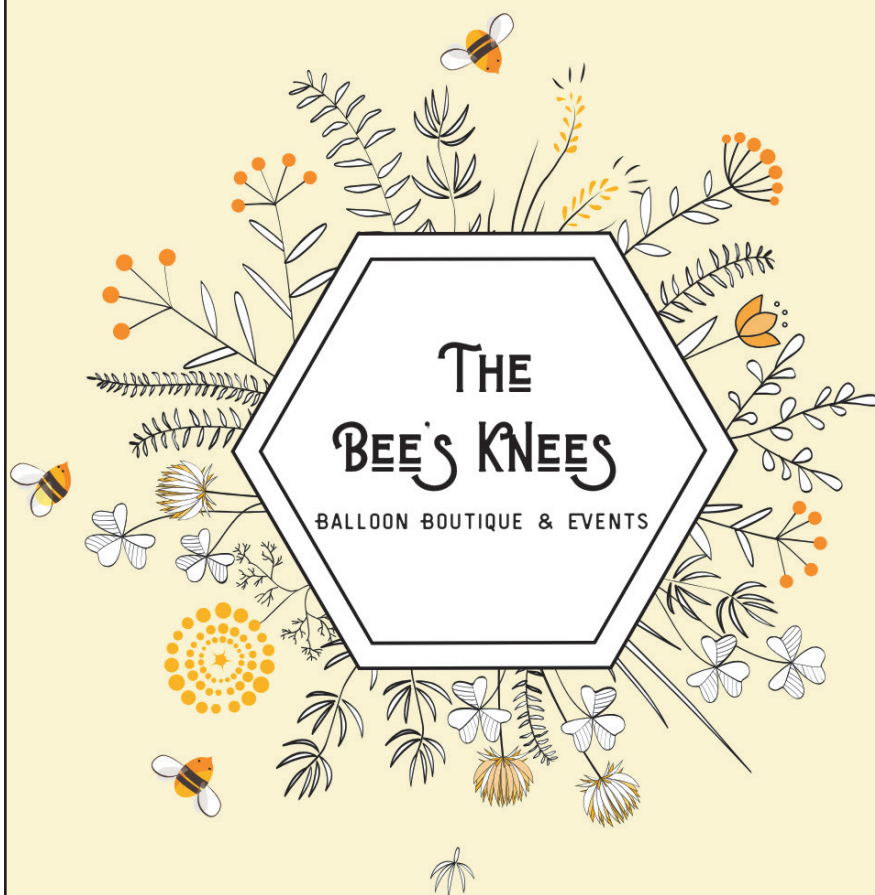
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Elected in February 2023, NSU alumna **Mayor Suzanne Myers** combines her real estate experience and dedication to community service to help lead Tahlequah forward.



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Sarah Swayze - Firefighter

Street Department

Vicki Johnson - Secretary

Parks & Recreation

Tiffany Coones - Laborer
Debora Coyote - Laborer
Tiffany Sien - Recreation Coordinator
Jaide Wilks - Laborer

Cemetery

Jennifer Cruwell - Coordinator

Managerial

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Asthin Hummingbird - Executive Assistant
M'Lynn Pape - Human Resource Director
Amber Payton - Cashier
Rebecca White - Encumbering Clerk
Karen Murphy - Communications Director

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Hannah Cavin - Deputy Court Clerk

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Paige Harjo - Planning & Development
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Pam Bell - Detective
Misty Burke - Dispatcher
Della Combs - Dispatcher
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Jessica McClure - Patrolman
Alisson Rodriquez - Dispatcher
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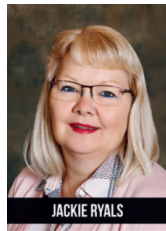
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Women in Business*

For the past seven years, Rian has led A Bloom Flowers & Gifts with creativity, heart, and a love for growth—in both flowers and people. Her favorite part of owning a business is mentoring young women & helping them build the confidence and skills to thrive in their own careers. Join us in celebrating Rian and all of the incredible Women in Business!

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Rian Cragar - Owner & Lead Designer



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Celebrating 

WOMEN IN BUSINESS





The Grand River Dam Authority and the Tahlequah Public Works Authority honor women in business for their significant contributions across industries.

By highlighting their achievements, these organizations celebrate women's roles and inspire future generations to pursue their professional and entrepreneurial goals.

2025 Cherokee County Women In Business

Annie Kingcade

Name: Annie Kingcade

Name of Business: Carson Community Bank

Type of Business: Financial Institution

What is your title? EVP, Cherokee Co-Market president

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I am responsible for the strategic, financial and operational performance of bank activities within the Cherokee County market. This role combines executive oversight with community-focused leadership, ensuring the bank meets its growth, profitability, and service goals while maintaining strong community relationships and regulatory compliance.

How many years have you been with the

company or when did you start your company? I have been with Carson Community Bank for two years and bring over 25 years of experience in the banking industry.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? Outside of work, I enjoy spending time in the community and being part of local events and volunteer efforts. I'm passionate about giving back and staying involved in projects that strengthen the community and bring people together. When at home, I enjoy reading and



KINGCADE

spending time with my family.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? One of my favorite vacation memories was taking a road trip with my daughters. We drove to Fort Walton Beach, enjoyed the sun, sand, food and ocean views, and then made our way up to Nashville. We had such a great time exploring both places — from relaxing by the water and visiting local shops, and then staying at Opryland Resort and watching a concert at The Grand Ole Opry.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right

now, what would you do with it? Give it to my daughter for her wedding.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? The one thing I would like to instill in future female leaders is that knowledge is power. Never stop asking questions or seeking to understand the bigger picture. Gaining a deep understanding of how different roles connect within an organization not only strengthens your leadership, but also equips you to educate and empower others. Continuous learning is the key to growth, confidence and long-term success.

Fill in the blank: Family is ___: ... a blessing.

Paula Young

Name: Paula Young

Name of Business: Young Foot and Medical Clinic

Type of Business: Primary Care and Foot Care

What is your title? Owner/CEO

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I oversee the daily operations of the foot and medical clinic. I interact one on one with patients involved with their treatment plans and help to improve their quality of life.

How many years have you been with the company/when did you start your compa-

ny? The company was founded in 2017. We are still located at the same location, 1607 S. Muskogee Ave. in Tahlequah.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I enjoy travel and hiking.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? I recently traveled to Nice, France a couple



YOUNG

months ago, one of my "dream" destinations, and it was beautiful. Lots of good memories.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? Chris Stapleton

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I love to give, so I would give the money to a person in need.

What's one thing you'd like

to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? My advice would be to the next generation of female leaders is to be strong and resilient in order to overcome adversity. Play upon your unique qualities. Be true to yourselves, your values, and your voice. Don't be afraid to take risks with grace and kindness. Understand that hard work will get you through the long road ahead to the top.

Fill in the blank: family is: a sense of belonging, support and unconditional love.

Mindy Quirk, Christie Campbell and Lanie Sanders

Name: Mindy Quirk, Christie Campbell and Lanie Sanders

Name of Business: The Bee's Knees Balloon Boutique and Events

Type of Business: Event planning and balloon décor boutique

What is your title? Co-owners and creative designers

What do you do there or what does that title mean? We bring ideas to life. From balloon installs to full event setups, we love turning moments into memories. Every event tells a story and we get to be the ones who make it sparkle.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your compa-

ny? We started The Bee's Knees in 2022 with a shared passion for creativity, community and celebrating life's special moments right here in downtown Tahlequah.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? We love spending time with family, exploring local shops, brainstorming new ideas over coffee, and supporting other women-owned businesses in our community.

Do you have a fond vacation



QUIRK, CAMPBELL AND SANDERS

memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? We're big on girls' trips — lots of laughs, good food and inspiration. Those getaways recharge us and spark ideas for our next big event theme.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? Hands down, Reba. She's a powerhouse and such an Oklahoma icon. It reminded us what strong women can do with passion and grit.

If someone handed you a

\$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? Probably head to Hobby Lobby or a local boutique — we'd find a way to make something beautiful with it. Or donate to a local NFP foundation such as Help In Crisis.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Believe in yourself and your ideas. Community over competition will take you farther than you can imagine.

Fill in the blank: "Family is ___" ... our heart. They're why we hustle, dream big and celebrate every little win together.

Margaret Cook

Name: Margaret Cook

Name of Business: M. Cook Law, PLLC

Type of Business: law office

What is your title? Owner, attorney

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I am the owner and sole attorney of M. Cook Law, PLLC. Historically, the firm has specialized in civil law, immigration, disability, family law and estate planning. More recently, I have narrowed my focus to estate planning and probate while acting as guardian ad litem in some custody cases.

How many years have you been with the

company or when did you start your company? M. Cook Law, PLLC was established in 2017 and has been since then, and continues to be, a successful law practice.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I've never met an animal I didn't like and am a registered wildlife rehabilitator. I enjoy the fiber arts, such as embroidery, crochet, knitting and



COOK

baking for friends and family.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? I have several fond memories of traveling and camping with my family as a child, but my most recent trip was in August, when I took a 10-day solo road trip of over 1,500 km through Southern Italy.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attend-

ed? I tend to avoid in-person music events.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? Pass it on to someone who needs it.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Believe in yourself, that you can do anything you want to do, and then go do that thing you want to do.

Fill in the blank: Family is ____: ...everything.

Rian Cragar

Name: Rian Cragar

Name of Business: A Bloom Flowers & Gifts

Type of Business: A Bloom is a retail florist and gift shop that also specializes in weddings, banquets and other special events.

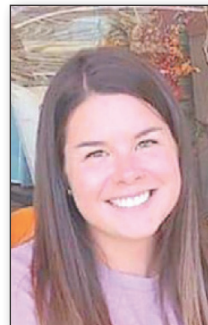
What is your title? Owner and Lead Designer

What do you do there, or what does that title mean? Being the owner means doing a little bit of everything. While I'm lucky to have an amazing team, if something needs to be done and no one else can do it, it's up to me. That might mean opening or closing the shop, taking orders, posting on social media, washing buckets, running deliveries, ordering inventory, or processing flowers. At the end of the day, as a small business owner, the respon-

sibility to make sure everything gets done ultimately falls on you.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I started working for A Bloom as the manager in July 2017 and purchased the shop from the original owner, Josh, in May 2018.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work? I have a pretty diverse set of hobbies outside the shop. I love being outdoors — spending time at Lake Tenkiller, taking my three dogs on hikes, going for SXS rides, or relaxing in the backyard, watching sports and grilling. I also love quiet evenings in my reading room with a good book, a glass



CRAGAR

of wine and my dogs curled up at my feet.

Do you have a fond vacation memory or any upcoming travel plans? I definitely have wanderlust in my soul. I love exploring new places and going on adventures with my fiancé, Brian. We tend to gravitate toward off-the-beaten-path destinations and are working our way through the countries of Central America. So far, we've checked off Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama.

What's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? Without a doubt, Taylor Swift's Eras Tour. I was lucky enough to attend opening night, and it still lives rent-free in

my head. I'll stop there before this Swiftie gets carried away.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? Go shopping in downtown Tahlequah.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Loyalty — to your team, your values, and yourself. Stay true to who you are, even when it's hard.

Fill in the blank: Family is ____: ... sometimes blood and sometimes not — it's all about who you can count on to show up for you, and who you show up for in return.

Molly Tebow

Name: Molly Tebow

Name of Business: Tahlequah Family Vision Clinic

Type of Business: Optometry

What is your title? Owner/operator

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I operate the business, as well as provide care to the community.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I have been an optometrist for 11 years. I graduated from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2014. I received the Indian Health Service Scholarship and spent my first four years in practice serving the Cherokee Nation through NSUOCO. I

then made the transition to private practice and eventually purchase my practice in 2020.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? My family is my No. 1 priority. My children love sports and animals and we always seem to have something going on. I am involved in my church and enjoy traveling.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? Speaking of traveling, I've had the opportunity to visit several countries,



TEBOW

as well as explore the U.S. My next adventure will be to Cheyenne Days in Cheyenne, Wyoming, next summer.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? My taste in music covers a wide variety. I grew up with a mixture of rock and country, but also love Christian and pop music. My most recent concert was the Jonas Brothers and next up is T-Pain.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? If someone handed me a \$100 right now I

would probably pick up a frozen Coke and go buy basketball shoes for my son.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? One thing I'd like to instill in the future female leaders is that you can do it all without compromising your values and integrity. Build your family, business and friend groups to be faith centered and supportive. Lead with a genuine desire to better yourself and the people around you and you can't go wrong.

Fill in the blank: "Family is ____" ... everything.

2025 Cherokee County Women In Business

Lisa Wells

Name: Lisa Wells

Name of Business: The PC Landing Zone

Type of Business: Technology

What is your title? Owner

What do you do there or what does that title mean? We do all kinds of technology: managed services, network management, business phone services, website hosting and development, structured cabling, Managed Detection and Response systems, cyber security monitoring and more. Our team currently has five female employees and four male employees, and I am always excited to see females applying for positions at our company. Women are definitely getting more involved in technology, and I love to see our women succeed and grow when they represent our business.

How many years have you been with the

company or when did you start your company? I have owned The PCLZ since August 2020, so just over five years. It was originally established in 2013, so we have a strong and loyal customer base.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I like to boat on Fort Gibson Lake in the summers with my family, have dinner with friends, spend lots of time at the gym and read mystery/horror novels. James Patterson and Stephen King are my two favorite authors.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels?



WELLS

My husband and I traveled to Italy a couple of years ago, and it was so much fun. We expected the food to be out-of-this-world Italian, which it was, but just not in the way we expected. We both agreed we like American pizza better. But the place itself has so much history, so many people and buildings in the past with such interesting stories. I find traveling enlightening, and feel its important to experience other cultures, how other places in the world operate and function. Seeing what is out there in the world can be such a wonderful learning experience, and I love learning new things. Our next vacation is going to be Las Vegas this month.

Assuming that everyone likes music, what's the best concert or music event you've ever attended? I went to Paramores concert in Tulsa a couple of years back with some friends. Hayley Williams puts on a pretty good show.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I'd go straight to TJ Maxx to buy something fun that I don't need.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Keep going and growing, be consistent in your efforts, and never lose your grit. Perseverance and consistency in all things will always bring success.

Fill in the blank: Family is ___: ...unconditional love.

Christie Kirk

Name: Christie Kirk

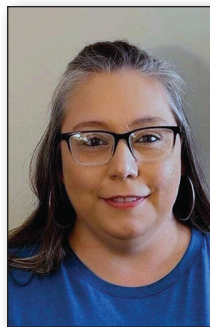
Name of Business: UKB Office of Child Care/Henry Lee Doublehead CDC, Tahlequah, and Keetoowah CDC, Stilwell

Type of Business: Child care/child care subsidy

What is your title? Child Care Programs director

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I am responsible for the overall operation of the entire UKB Child Care Department. My department consists of two childcare centers - Henry Lee Doublehead CDC in Tahlequah and Keetoowah CDC in Stilwell - and the tribe's Child Care Subsidy Office, which assists families with payment for childcare and contracts with childcare providers to provide childcare services to our CCDF families. These programs are partially or entirely funded by the tribe's Child Care Development Fund Grant, of which I am the administrator.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I have been employed at the UKB for 17 years and 10 months. I began my career with



KIRK

UKB childcare first as a teacher, then a master teacher, lead master teacher, and I have been the Child Care Programs director since October 2016.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? Spending time with my hubby, going to the movies, going out to eat, maybe getting my nails done, or shopping.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? I don't travel much. My idea of a vacation is to be home with my family.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? Probably pay a bill or get special groceries that I normally wouldn't buy.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? Always stay true to yourself and make sure you remember to take time for yourself and your personal well-being.

Fill in the blank: Family is ___: ...my most valued treasure.

Lisa Pinnick
Loan Officer



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2025 Cherokee County Women In Business

Lisa Pinnick

Name: Lisa Pinnick

Name of Business: UFFC Mortgage/Lisa Does Loans

Type of Business: Mortgage lender/broker

What is your title? Senior loan officer

What do you do there or what does that title mean? I help people and families go from "I'd like to own a home" to "I'm a homeowner." I guide them from the first conversation about how to qualify, and how to match up their goals and budget with the right loan program. Then I quarterback the process so all the moving parts line up and we close on their home. Then moving forward, I can help them build a strategy for making their biggest asset - their home - work for them and their financial goals.

How many years have you been with the company or when did you start your company? I've been in this business for almost a decade, and it is a perfect fit for my skills and personality. I've had all kinds of jobs throughout the years, from emergency services to nursing,

and even marketing and sales. All of those skills I built over the years ultimately led me to this career, which fits me like a glove.

Now that we know where you work and what you do, what are your favorite things to do outside of the workplace? I like to be involved with my community. I am on the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the secretary for the board. I am an active volunteer with Tahlequah Main Street. You can often find me at nearly any event that is going on, pitching in however I can. I like volunteering for things like Habitat for Humanity, Feed My Sheep and other organizations that impact the community and make a difference. I'm also a fourth-generation rancher. My husband does the bulk of the work, but I pitch in where I can. I love a horse or bull sale. My husband jokes that



PINNICK

some women shop for purses and shoes, but I come home with horses and new bulls. I also have three adorable granddaughters and I love spending time with them. They might be with me while doing any of the things above, or just kicking around the kitchen at home.

Do you have a fond vacation memory, or are you preparing for upcoming travels? This question always makes me laugh. My

"vacations" are for hay season or roundup. I don't ever go anywhere. I take off the regular job to work on the side jobs. I've also been known to take a long weekend for spring cleaning. There's nowhere I'd rather be than right here at home.

If someone handed you a \$100 bill right now, what would you do with it? I'd put it in the bank. Money is not a motivating factor for me, and I'm not one who really wants to spend

it. I like knowing I can pay my bills and purchase the tools and resources I need to support the life and legacy I'm sustaining.

What's one thing you'd like to instill in the future female leaders of this city, state and country? There is no such thing as perfect. That is just an illusion. Do not wait for the perfect time; do not wait for the perfect situation, person, place, etc. When opportunity presents, jump in. Commit to yourself and your family and be the best you can be every day. Just show up, and show up with the work clothes on. There is very little that hard work and consistency can't accomplish. Always have goals, small ones and big ones, and know your "why." Then show up and get things done, always asking yourself, "Does this get me closer to that goal?" We aren't promised tomorrow, so make today count.

Fill in the blank: Family is ____ ...my reason for everything and greatest love.

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Hulbert, OK

NSU Medical Center

(918) 444-2126

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

529 N. Oak Ave.

Tahlequah, OK

Tahlequah Extended Care

(918) 456-0011

Monday-Friday 7AM-7PM

Saturday 7AM-3PM

1500 E. Downing St. #214-A

Tahlequah, OK

Hulbert Pharmacy

(918) 772-2727

Monday-Friday

8:30AM-12:30PM,

1PM-5PM

131 E. Main St.

Hulbert, OK

Tahlequah Family Practice

(918) 708-3570

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1500 E. Downing St. #101

Tahlequah, OK

Salina Family Medical Center

(918) 434-7440

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

101 E. Ferry St.

Salina, OK

Behavioral Health NSU Medical Center

(918) 444-2126

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

529 N. Oak Ave

Tahlequah, OK

NeoHealth Women's Care Center

(918) 456-2496

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1500 E. Downing St. #208

Tahlequah, OK

Muskogee Medical Clinic

(918) 683-0470

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

922 N. York St.

Muskogee, OK

Tahlequah Health Center

(918) 431-0202

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1500 E. Downing St. #214

Tahlequah, OK

Tahlequah Pediatrics

(918) 456-7700

Monday-Friday 7AM-7PM

Saturday 7AM-3PM

1310 E. Boone St.

Tahlequah, OK

Tahlequah ENT

(918) 453-9002

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1203 East Ross Bypass

Tahlequah, OK

NeoHealth Pediatrics

(918) 207-0773

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1500 E. Downing St. #102

Tahlequah, OK

Westville Family Medical Center

(918) 723-3997

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

1779 Buffington Rd.

Westville, OK

Pryor Family Medical Center

(918) 981-5000

Monday-Friday 7AM-7PM

Saturday 7AM-3PM

5319 S. Mill St.

Pryor, OK

Salina Pharmacy

(918) 434-7442

Monday-Friday

8:30AM-12:30PM,

1PM-5PM

103 E. Ferry St.

Salina, OK

Tahlequah Pharmacy

(918) 708-3585

Monday-Friday

8:00AM-12:00PM,

1PM-5PM

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Tahlequah, OK

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