Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



31st Annual Powwow

See more pictures of dancing and activities from this year's Powwow!

October 2025

Ponca Express receives U.S. Department of Transportation Regional Ridership Award

Ponca Express was recently presented with an award recognizing Highest Total Ridership Among Tribal Transit Systems in the Midwest Region. This award, presented by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) at the 2025 Midwest Transit Conference, recognized the invaluable services the Ponca Express has provided over the past year, providing 17,433 rides in the communities served.



"The Ponca Express is a critical service, connecting natives of all tribes and non-natives across our service delivery area to critical destinations like healthcare, jobs, daily needs, and family," said Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Chairwoman Candace Schmidt. "We thank the Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration's recognition of the Ponca Express and applaud our dedicated staff for their commitment to providing high-quality, safe, and reliable transportation."

Ponca Express currently operates transportation services in Norfolk, Niobrara, Omaha, Lincoln, and Sioux City, providing on-demand transportation within a three-hour radius of each city on a first-come, first-served basis. The service is open to native and non-native community members alike, and can be used for transportation to health appointments, public social services, education, recreation, and more.

For more information, please visit https://www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/ponca-express/ or call your local Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Office. To schedule a ride, call:

Ponca Express Rural (Norfolk and Niobrara): 1-877-769-3111

Ponca Express Metro (Omaha, Lincoln, and Sioux City): 1-855-766-22395

Need a lift?

Ponca Express provides public transportation on a first-come, first-served basis.

PONCA EXPRESS

Rural Services: 877.769.3111
Up to 30 miles - $2/stop | 31+ miles - $10
Office Hours 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Transporation 7:30 am-5:30 pm

Metro Offices: 855.766.2239
FREE transportation!
Office Hours 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Transporation 8:00 am-4:30 pm



Driving a safer, sustainable future for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and their members.

On the cover: Head Man Tristan Legate-Lewchuk leads Grand Entry at the 31st Annual Powwow.

Chairwoman's Corner

"The drums will always beat loudly in our hearts even through the noise of the world, and every time your feet touch Mother Earth our souls will feel the pull of those who walked before us."

Thati'a relatives,

It has certainly been a busy couple of months for all of us! It was wonderful to gather with so many of you at our Annual Powwow in Niobrara.

As our Ponca students have returned back to school, I hope everyone is settling back into the rhythm of learning and enjoying a wonderful start to the school year. I look forward to seeing all the great things our young people will accomplish.

Recently, members of our Tribal Council traveled to Washington, D.C. for our Annual Fly-in, where we had the opportunity to meet with federal partners and representatives from both the House and Senate. These trips are crucial in advocating for our tribe and ensuring our voices are heard at the national level.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Ponca Heights, our new Elder Housing Development in Omaha. Featuring 20 units and a shared Community Center, it's set for October 1st.



Members of Tribal Council in Washington D.C.

Also mark your calendars for the Restoration Powwow in Norfolk on October 25th. This year we are celebrating 35-years since our recognition and we have so much to be proud of!

With fall upon us and the holidays just around the corner, there are many exciting activities planned in every district. I'm looking forward to all the ways we can come together as a community. Until next time,

continued on page 2



Tribal Council Members with Omaha Mayor John Ewing, Jr. (cntr).



Tribal Council members with Ralston Mayor Donald Groesser (cntr).

Chairwoman's Corner (cont.)

continued from page 1

take care and stay connected!

The following are some additional highlights of Council activity for the last couple of months.

· Weekly Tribal Council meetings

· Meetings with local, state, and tribal officials

· Federal briefings and consultations

· Great Plains meetings

· NCAI Unity Impact Days

· Annual Powwow Celebration in Niobrara

· UTTC Tribal Leader Health Summit

· Buffalo Harvest

· D.C. Fly-in

· ED Work session

· Ponca Corn Harvest

wíbđahà (thank you),
Chairwoman
Candace Schmidt
candaces@poncatribe-ne.gov (402) 860-1497

Member Spotlight: Hunter Oestreich



Playing basketball from high school through college and now in pro apart of the ABA (American Basketball Association) has taught me invaluable lessons about dedication, teamwork, and resilience. In high school, I learned the importance of discipline and practice, understanding that consistent effort is key to improvement. College basketball pushed me to develop mental toughness and strategic thinking, as I had to adapt to faster-paced games and higher competition levels. Playing pro has further refined my skills and taught me the significance of perseverance, as I balance basketball with other responsibilities. Throughout this journey, I've learned that success on the court comes from hard work, collaboration with teammates, and maintaining a positive attitude even in challenging moments. Overall basketball has been a blessing and having the support from friends and family has been huge especially from my mom Rhonda Oestreich who taught me almost everything about the sport and I wouldn't be where I am today mostly because of her.

Unclaimed Monies

The Bureau of Trust Funds Adminstration currently holds $80 million in trust for thousands of beneficiaries with no known address.

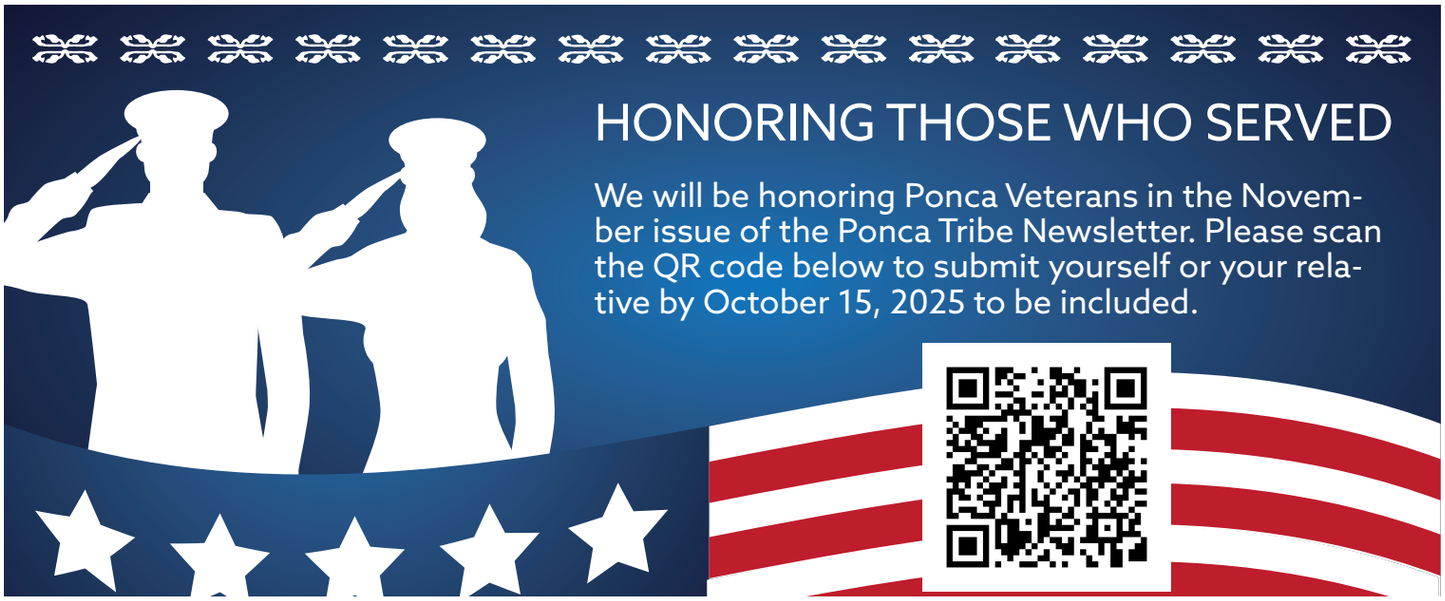
Visit our website for a list of Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members that have unclaimed money: **www.poncatribe-ne.gov/unclaimed-monies/**

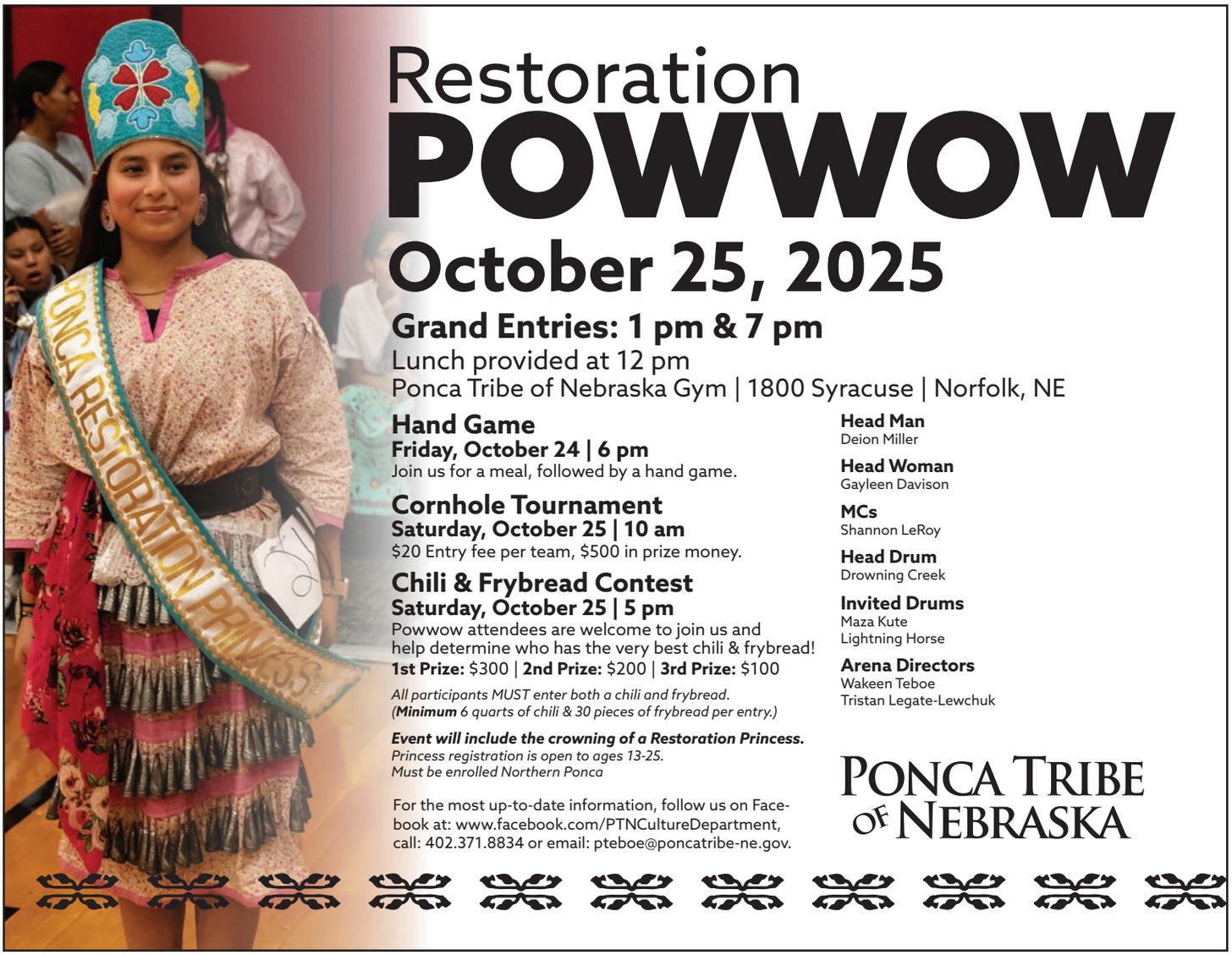


PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Elder Photos

ATTENTION ELDERS!
If you had your photo taken at the Annual Powwow this year, **your photos are ready**, and can be accessed by scanning the QR code on this ad, or by visiting https://unscriptedphotographers.com/joshcarlsonfilms/ponca-tribe-powwow-portraits-2025


HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED
We will be honoring Ponca Veterans in the November issue of the Ponca Tribe Newsletter. Please scan the QR code below to submit yourself or your relative by October 15, 2025 to be included.


PONCA RESTORATION PRINCESS
Restoration
POWWOW
October 25, 2025
Grand Entries: 1 pm & 7 pm
Lunch provided at 12 pm
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Gym | 1800 Syracuse | Norfolk, NE
Hand Game
Friday, October 24 | 6 pm
Join us for a meal, followed by a hand game.
Cornhole Tournament
Saturday, October 25 | 10 am
$20 Entry fee per team, $500 in prize money.
Chili & Frybread Contest
Saturday, October 25 | 5 pm
Powwow attendees are welcome to join us and help determine who has the very best chili & frybread!
1st Prize: $300 | 2nd Prize: $200 | 3rd Prize: $100
All participants MUST enter both a chili and frybread.
(Minimum 6 quarts of chili & 30 pieces of frybread per entry.)
Event will include the crowning of a Restoration Princess.
Princess registration is open to ages 13-25.
Must be enrolled Northern Ponca
For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PTNCultureDepartment, call: 402.371.8834 or email: pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.
Head Man
Deion Miller
Head Woman
Gayleen Davison
MCs
Shannon LeRoy
Head Drum
Drowning Creek
Invited Drums
Maza Kute
Lightning Horse
Arena Directors
Wakeen Teboe
Tristan Legate-Lewchuk
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Waníť à

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

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The next few months will be words describing parts of the body. This month describes the head and face.

Šą́t'ągà - Wolf

Mąščíge - Rabbit

T'ą́xtì - Deer

Šą́ge - Horse

T'atágà - Larger Deer

T'ačúge - Antelope

Šą́nudà - Dog

Mąču - Grizzly Bear

Mą́šca - Crawdad

Įštíp'a - Opossum

Mą́ga - Skunk

Įčą́t'ąga - Rat

Įčą́ga - Mouse

Mąžą́hà - Redfox

Míkasi - Coyote

answers on page 25

Interested in obtaining your GED?

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offers members a $250 incentive upon successful completion of the program plus $60 to be applied toward testing fees.

For any questions or to obtain an application, please contact Aubrey or Pat in Education at 402.371.8834 or you may email them at aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov or pate@poncatribe-ne.gov.



INVITATION TO OUR ELDERS

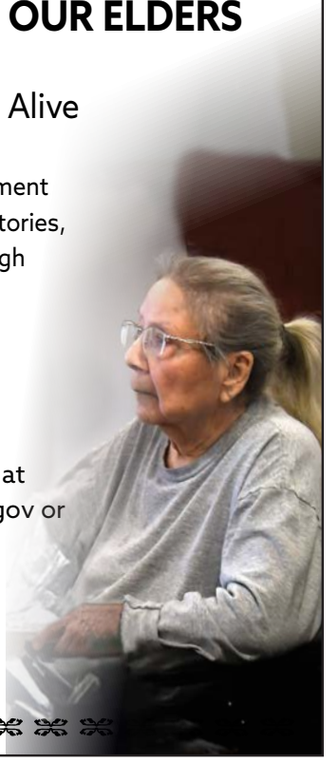
Share Your Stories –
Keep Our Traditions Alive

The Ponca Culture Department invites you to share your stories, wisdom, and history through Oral Storytelling.

Interested?

Schedule a time and place that works for you!

Contact Patience Teboe at pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov or 531.301.4655.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Hand Game brings fun, laughter, and friendly competition

Friday morning of the Annual Powwow kicked off with a Hand Game in the Powwow arena, filling the air with music, cheers, and laughter. Drowning Creek kept the beat as Host Drum, while Game Facilitators Malcolm Tyndall and Dorothy Wells guided the action with energy and enthusiasm. Districts faced off against one another in a spirited battle of skill and luck, each game ending



with a victory dance—Wacigaxe—that had everyone smiling. Everyone came out a winner.

After the competition, Tate Bair, District 1 Ponca Youth Council representative, presented the winners with trophies and custom t-shirts.The Language and Culture Committee provided a delicious meal to round out the morning, making it not just a competition but a time of sharing and community. It was a perfect blend of tradition, fun, and friendly rivalry—an event that brought people together in the true spirit of Ponca culture.












District 2

Virtual Costume Contest

Calling all District 2 ghosts & goblins! You are invited to join us for a virtual costume contest for Halloween! The contest will be split into age groups. 1st place winner from each age group will receive a $100 Gift Card, and the 2nd place winner will receive a $50 Gift Card!

The contest will run from **October 1 to November 3**. Please scan the QR code to be entered into the contest. All photos need to be submitted to our Formstack by **no later than 11:59 pm on November 3rd**.

For more information, please contact District 2 Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.

Scan Me!

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

***All participants must be actively enrolled at the time the enrollment list is pulled. Winners will be announced online and contacted directly. All submissions will be featured on PTN social media, and winners will be featured in the December newsletter. By submitting your picture and information, you agree to allow us to post your photos.*



Festive F

Check out the many opportunities for District members to have fun this fall across the Service Delivery Area and beyond!

District 2 SDA

Pumpkin Patch Tickets

This year, District 2 Tribal Council Representatives are excited to announce we are offering three different Pumpkin Patch** options!

- Bellevue Berry Farm – Day/Night Passes Available
- Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch
- Vala's Pumpkin Patch

Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. One ticket per member. Must be on the enrollment list to be eligible. You can only pick up tickets for members of your household.

Please stop by the front desk of the Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center and see Shannon Malone starting **September 15, 2025**. For more information, please contact Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.

***Skinny Bones and Vala's are not accepting cash payment for anything on site. Only debit and credit cards may be used for purchases at the pumpkin patch, so plan accordingly. Bellevue Berry Farm is accepting cash payments.*

District 3 SDA

Roca Berry Farm Tickets for Members

Roca Berry Farm (16531 S 38th St, Roca, NE) tickets are available to District 3 SDA Ponca Tribal Members, starting **September 22nd**. Tickets can be picked up at the Lincoln office (1600 Windhoek, Lincoln, NE) front desk from Mary Robertson.

Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis and are good for any daytime admission through their season. (2 and under admitted free.)



***Tickets are for active enrolled District 3 service delivery area Ponca Members at the time the list was pulled from enrollment, no exceptions. One ticket per member. You may only pick up tickets for members of your household, unless prior authorization has been given.*



Fall Fun

District 1

All District 1 youth ages 0-17 will be receiving a gift card to help purchase Halloween costumes or pumpkin patch tickets.

District 2 SDA

Trunk or Treat Event

October 10, 2025 | 6 – 8 pm

Ralston Cabinet Building
5811 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

All District 2 Ponca Tribal members, D2 Staff members and their families are invited to dress up in your Halloween costumes for a spooky good time! Come and join us for a trunk or treating event. Each child attending the event will be provided a Trick or Treat Bag.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



District 3 SDA

Trunk or Treat Event

October 22, 2025 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Ponca Health Services – Lincoln
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

District 3 Ponca Tribal members and their families are invited to dress up in your best Halloween costumes, and join us for a trunk or treating event in the North parking lot. PTN staff will be decorating their trunks and handing out candy and treats! There will be a dinner served in the Community Room.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



District 4

Halloween Trunk or Treat

October 29, 2025 | 6-8 pm

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Transit Building
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

District 4 Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to join us for a Halloween event, trick-or-treating in the Transit building. There will be a costume contest and other games and contests. A take-home meal will be provided.

For more information, please contact Kyle Taylor at 402.750.4299.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA





The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's **Native American Youth Enhancement Program**

This unique program is open to Native American youth, ages 13-18. This program is being offered primarily online via Google Classrooms and offers a unique opportunity for our Native youth build confidence and discover your strengths in a supportive and empowering environment. This isn't your average classroom—it's a chance to connect with your peers from across the country, share your stories, and learn powerful tools for life. We'll explore topics like:

- **Self-Esteem and Self-Awareness:** Learn to recognize your worth and celebrate what makes you, you. We'll provide you with practical skills to boost your confidence and build a strong sense of self. Dive deep into understanding your emotions, thoughts, and values. This knowledge can help you navigate challenges and make choices that align with who you are.
- **Native American History:** Discover the vast rich history of the Native American people, how we lived and who we are.
- **Native American Contributions:** Learn about the many ways Native American people have contributed to the culture, from games and place names to laws and business.
- **Cultural Traditions:** Connect with your heritage and see how your culture is a source of strength. We'll explore the incredible resilience and wisdom of our ancestors, helping you find pride in your identity.
- **Native American Role Models; both past and present:** You will find Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratovich, Little Priest, and Winona La Duke and many others at the NAYEP!

Ready to start this journey? Sign up today!

Contact: Amber Appling at 402.371.8834 Ext. 2037, or aappling@poncatribe-ne.gov
(Make sure to include your email and phone number with your application as well as proof of lineal descendancy, or proof of enrollment in another type of Indian program).

Opportunities abound for Ponca members through the Education programs

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Education Department serves enrolled Ponca Tribal members, with multiple avenues for Ponca students to receive tuition assistance and other incentives to further their education and secure a bright future for themselves and their families.

The Youth Initiatives Program encourages and rewards the achievements of K-12 students nationwide. The program rewards different areas of achievement, including art and literature, attendance, a student of the month award for middle and high school students, and a senior incentive that provides $500 to graduating high school seniors. The deadline for all Youth Initiative program awards is July 31 of each year.

For learners pursuing a less traditional education path, the Education Department also provides a $250 incentive for students completing their General Education Diploma (GED) along with $60 to assist with testing fees.

The Adult Vocational Training (AVT), Higher Education (HIED), and Graduate programs assist



Ponca members attending school for higher education or vocational training, providing tuition assistance up to twelve credit hours per semester. Funding can be applied for on either a semester or quarterly basis: Fall Quarter/Semester - August 15, Winter Quarter - November 15, Spring Quarter/Semester - December 15, and Summer Quarter - May 15.

While most of the programs provided by the Education Department are limited to enrolled Ponca members, they also have some programs that support students from any federally recognized Native American tribe. Currently, the Education Department is offering the Native Youth Enhancement Program (NAYEP) for students between the ages of 13-18.

This program promotes self-esteem and improves self-awareness for Native American youth, provides them with an accurate picture of Native American history and culture, acknowledging the contributions of Native Americans and providing current and historical role models to inspire Native students. The program is available in-person and online, and provides incentive bonuses for program completion.

The Ponca Tribe Education Department participates n the Johnson O'Malley Program, which provides supplementary financial assistance to meet the educational needs of all eligible Native American pre-K-12th grade students living in the Madison County area of Nebraska.

In addition to the direct funding provided by the Education Department, they also administer four scholarships for Ponca members, including the Adam Way Memorial Scholarship, the Building for the Future Scholarship, and new this year, the Dream Catcher Scholarship, and the White Buffalo Girl Scholarship.

Funding provided by the Education Department continues to expand and grow, with funding this fiscal year at an all time high. Each dollar spent by the Education Department through these programs is an investment in the future of the Tribe and its members!

All Education Department applications and program information are available online on our tribal website at https://www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Working to stand with survivors, always

Rebecca Wright
Domestic Violence Training and Outreach Specialist

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is recognized every October. This year's theme for DVAM is: With Survivors, Always. Such a simple, yet powerful sentence. This theme allows us to explore what it means to be in partnership with survivors for safety, support, and solidarity. Survivors deserve safety. Survivors deserve support. Survivors deserve solidarity.

This brings us to the question, what is domestic violence exactly? Domestic violence can be defined as a range of behaviors used by one person to maintain power and control over another person. These can be between intimate partners, other familial relationships such as parents and children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren etc. These behaviors can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or financial. Domestic violence affects millions of people each year, regardless of gender, age, race, or social status.

Domestic violence acts amongst Native Americans are heartbreaking. According to the National Institute of Justice, Native Americans experience domestic violence at a staggering rate, higher than any other race. 84% of Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime. 43.2% of Native American men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. Furthermore, 56% of Native American women have experienced some form of sexual abuse.

What can we do to end domestic violence? Awareness, education, and support of survivors. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program provides an array of awareness activities during the month of October. This may include educational workshops, movie nights, awareness days, and much more. Support for survivors of domestic violence is vital in their journey to safety and recovery. There are several ways to provide support, including offering a non-judgmental listening ear, offering resources, and fighting for change. Let's work together to make a difference, and remember to stand With Survivors, Always.

Child Care Development Fund

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska uses the Federal government's Child Care and Development Fund to provide assistance to families who need child care due to work, work-related training and/or attending school.

In order to qualify for this benefit program:

- You must be a parent or primary caregiver responsible for children under the age of 13 years of age, or under 19 if incapable of self-care or under court supervision who needs assistance paying for daycare
- In order to qualify you must be either employed or enrolled in a training or education program
- You must reside in one of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Service Delivery Areas
- Your daycare provider must have their business in one of the tribe's Service Delivery Areas
- Once you have confirmation from the State of Nebraska showing denial for their Child Care Subsidy Program, you are eligible to be considered for our Child Care and Development Fund program.

For more information or to see if you qualify for acceptance into the program, contact the program coordinator:

Stephanie Pospisil, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE 68512
531-248-3030 x 1108 | spospisil@poncatribe-ne.gov



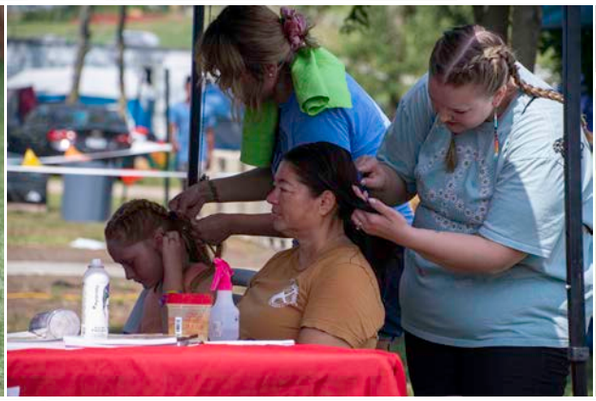
Archery range at Powwow draws young and old alike

This year at the Annual Powwow, attendees had three opportunities to participate in archery over the weekend. This non-competition program welcomed all ages and skill levels, from novice to advanced






















CLEANING
CREW










Youth Council hosts breakfast and bingo for Elders

This year marked the fifth successful year of the Elders Breakfast and Bingo, thanks to Ben Schott, who spearheaded the annual event hosted by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Youth Council!



On Saturday morning, August 10, the Youth Tribal Council was up early and hard at work preparing breakfast for our respected Elders. The menu included scrambled eggs, sizzling sausage links, fresh-cut fruit, juice, hot coffee, and a wide assortment of donuts and pastries.

After breakfast, the fun didn't stop—it was Bingo time! The Youth Council hosted several rounds of Bingo, with the Elders excited to play for a chance to win a wide variety of prizes. Thanks to generous donations from Prairie Flower Casino and many kind individuals from the community, prizes included everything from bags of groceries, popcorn, and coolers to kitchen tools and other household goodies!

This event has grown bigger and better each year, with a count of 94 elders this year. The event has become a beautiful way to honor our Elders, bring the generations together, and share food, laughter, and connection. A big round of applause to Ben Schott and the rest of the Youth Council for their hard work, warm hospitality, and commitment to making this tradition one of the highlights of Powwow weekend!



Elder's Committee Meetings

October 6 | 10 am
5805 S. 86th Cir. | Omaha, NE

November 3 | 10 am
1800 Syracuse | Norfolk, NE

Elder's Lunch Gift Card Drawing

The Ponca Elders Committee is excited to offer a new way to make our weekly Elders meals even more rewarding. Ponca Elders who attend the weekly meals at each Ponca office will be entered into a drawing for a Visa gift card.

Each office will give away one gift card twice a month during the meal. Elders can only win once per month.

Join us for good food, great company, and your chance to win. We are excited to see you there!



Cornhole tournament has another successful year!








Contestants pitch some shoes at Annual Powwow!







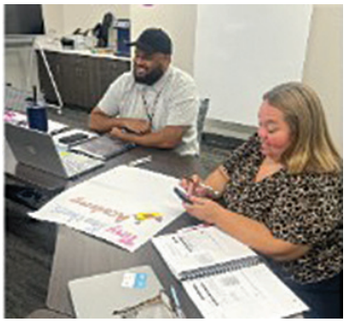


PEDCO staff certified in ONABEN's Indianpreneurship® training

ONABEN trainers were onsite at our Lincoln Windhoek office on Tuesday, September 9, and Wednesday, September 10, providing two full days of small business training for the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) staff. The training was focused on ONABEN's Indianpreneurship® Program, which equips participants with the skills to support and guide Native entrepreneurs.

Following the training, the following PEDCO team members are now certified to teach the Indianpreneurship® small business curriculum:







Greg Moser, PEDCO Director

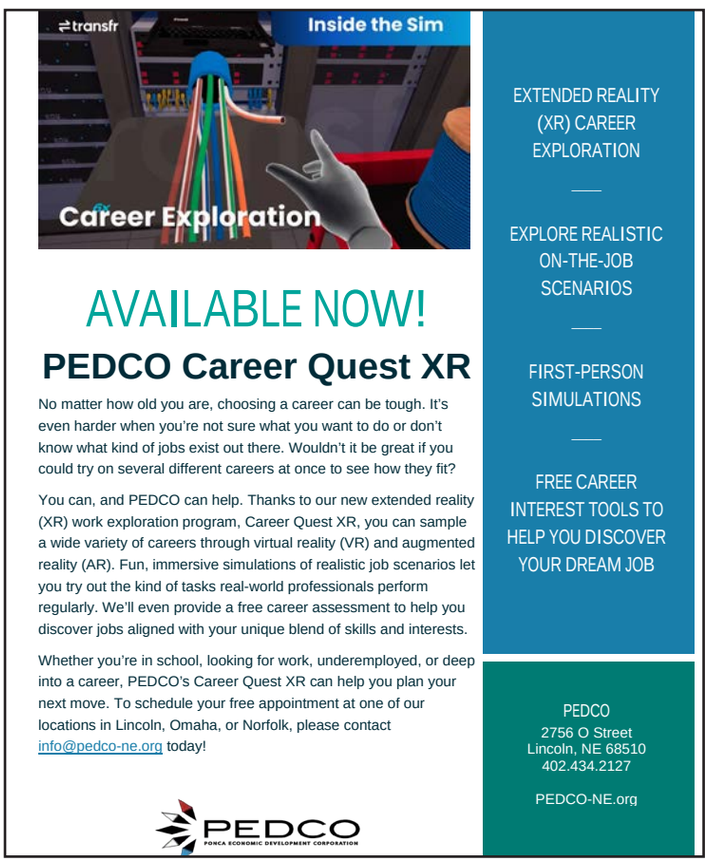
Tom McCauley, Grant Manager

Rheadina Foster, Business Development and Project Manager

Troy Spencer, Office Mgr

We are excited to see the positive impact this program will have on Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members as they explore and grow their small business ventures.

For more information or to get started, please contact PEDCO at info@PEDCO-ne.org.





Upcoming financial literacy courses for Ponca members

The Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) is excited to announce that Oweesta's Building Native Communities Financial Literacy Courses will be available to all Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members beginning in Quarter 1 of 2026.

This Native-focused program is designed to help strengthen financial knowledge and skills in areas that matter most. The course consists of six engaging sessions:

Session 1: Building a Healthy Economy

Session 2: Developing a Spending Plan



Session 3: Working with Checking and Savings Accounts

Session 4: Understanding Credit and Your Credit Report

Session 5: Using Credit

Session 6: Being a Smart Consumer

Dates and times will be announced soon. Please watch for an announcement in future newsletters and on our website at PEDCO-NE.ORG

Members may choose to attend one, some, or all sessions based on their interests and needs. Courses will be available online, and if there is enough interest, onsite at a local Ponca Tribe of Nebraska office site.

Courses will be taught by certified PEDCO staff who are trained in Oweesta's Building Native Communities curriculum.

For more information or to express interest, please email: info@pedco-ne.org.

PONCA YOUTH AGES 14-24:

Complete PEDCO's needs assessment survey for a chance to win a $50 Visa gift card!



Share your needs in the areas of education, job training, and career exploration and help us develop our Workforce program to better serve Ponca youth!

Scan attached QR code and take the survey for your chance to win a $50 Visa gift card. Contact: Greg Moser, PEDCO Director at 402-434-2127 Ext. 7.

Calling all Ponca Artists

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to sign up to sell their handmade items at the Niobrara Market.

Please scan our QR code or visit **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_artists_niobrara_market** to sign up. For more information, contact Rebecca Sullivan at bsullivan@osniponca.com.

NIOBRARA MARKET

Thank You to summer intern, Rio LaPointe

We would like to extend our gratitude to tribal member Rio LaPointe for completing a summer internship with Osni and PEDCO. Rio is returning to Portland State University, where he will be a sophomore pursuing a BFA major with a minor in Japanese Studies.



During his internship, Rio dedicated much of his time and talent to graphic design, enhancing our websites and increasing engagement across our social media platforms. He worked under the supervision of tribal member Rheadina Foster, Osni/PEDCO Business Development and Project Manager, who guided his professional development throughout the summer.

We are proud of Rio's contributions, wish him continued success in his higher education, and look forward to the possibility of working with him again in the future.

Ponca Tribal Code Series

The Ponca Tribal Court and the Domestic Violence Program are working together to host the Ponca Code Series. This series is a training being held to assist tribal members, staff, legal professionals, human service professionals, and members of the indigenous community to better understand the Ponca Tribal Code.

Adoption
October 22, 2025 | 12 – 2 pm
Ralston Transit Facility
5701 S 85th Cir | Omaha, NE

Probate
November 25, 2025 | 12 – 2 pm
Sioux City Offices
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

The series will go over one section of the code per event and is taught by the Honorable Patrick Runge. Lunch will be provided.

This flyer was produced by the Ponca Tribe of NE under two grants: Grant # 90CS52045 TCIP, and grant #15POVC-21-GG-00928-TVAG, awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Program, and U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this flyer are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TRIBAL COURT



PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NOW AVAILABLE! FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Anyone can do it—but there are certain things you need to know first. Fortunately, you can now access a free entrepreneurship program geared specifically for Native Americans, thanks to our partnership with the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC). NICC's Indianpreneurship curriculum provides comprehensive information on the most important aspects of starting a business, including planning, accessing capital, bookkeeping, human resources, problem-solving, and marketing. Equip yourself with the skills you need to take your business idea from daydream to launch. To learn more and enroll, please visit https://www.thenicc.edu/career-services/TCSBA-Indianpreneurship.php.

Nebraska Indian Community College
TCSBA
Indianpreneurship

INDIANPRENEURSHIP®

FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

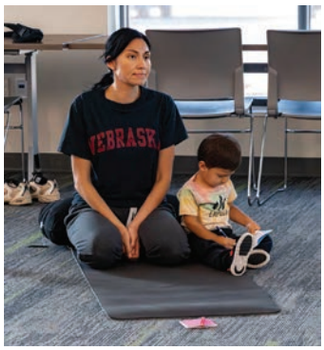
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTERESTED? CONTACT
Anthony Warrior
sanawarrior@thenicc.edu
402-241-5943

Circle of Health hosts a moment of zen with yoga retreat

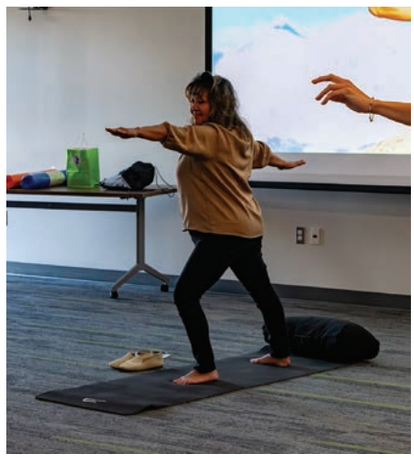
On August 26th, the Circle of Health team hosted an afternoon of yoga for the community. This retreat focused on stretching, meditation, and connection as part of holistic wellness. The yoga retreat was available to all ages and skill levels.











Join Us for Lunch!

Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

October 17 | 12 – 1 pm
Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive

November 21 | 12 – 1 pm
Norfolk Housing Authority
1501 W Michigan Ave

December 19 | 12 – 1 pm
Virtual Meeting
Link sent out before meeting

To RSVP, please scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/meet_and_greet**. For more information, questions, or to request a link to join virtually, please contact Ben Schott at bschott@poncatribe-ne.gov.



Tribal Home Visiting participates in community baby fair

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Home Visiting program, along with the Malone Center and Bryan Health, sponsored a Birth & Baby Fair for the community on August 30th. Celebrating Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, and Black Breastfeeding Week, the event included a wealth of resources for new and expecting mothers. Attendees also had chances to win baby supplies like pack and plays, strollers, and more. While moms were getting great information from over 10 community agencies and vendors, the kids had the opportunity to enjoy snow cones and frozen custard.

Watch of the Tribal Home Visiting Community Baby Shower in December for more great resources for moms!









Youth Mentoring Progam

Behavioral Health is happy to announce that we will be offering a mentoring program for all Native youth ages 13 to 24 in our service delivery areas. Our focus is to help young relatives gain knowledge as they navigate life.

Our mentors are here to provide guidance, support, and encouragement as you work toward your personal, academic, or professional goals. Your well-being matters to us, and we're here to support you in the ways we can.

For more information, contact our team:

Norfolk & Niobrara:	Leah Franklin	531.269.0279
Lincoln:	Joe Bad Moccasin	531.739.2107
Omaha & Sioux City:	Zach James	402.689.6142

SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

October 8, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm

Sioux City Office
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

October 16, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm

Norfolk Gym
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Lincoln Community Room – North Entrance
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St | Niobrara, NE

Cabinet Building Garage
5813 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

Please bring Tribal ID or proof of enrollment for you or the child in need to participate.

Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760
Fax: 402-857-3771 or enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov

ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER REQUESTING ADDRESS CHANGE:

_____

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

_____

_____

_____

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

_____

_____

_____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

_____

_____

_____

PHONE NUMBER:_____

ALTERNATE/CELL NUMBER:_____

E-mail: _____

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT:_____

To provide better services to Ponca tribal members, this information will be shared with all PTON Departments as needed. Any service may be suspended until this information is corrected and/or updated.

_____ _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED DATE

(Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)

TRIBAL MEMBERS
(please print)

NAME:_____DOB:_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____

_____ PHONE: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING):

_____

_____

EMAIL:_____

VETERANS ONLY: MILITARY BRANCH:_____

*****Service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department if you are requesting a military seal.**

**FOR A PHOTO ID PLEASE SIGN AND FILL OUT THIS PAGE.
DON'T FORGET TO SEND (EMAIL) YOUR PICTURE AS WELL**

Photo ID Instructions

1. **Signature**
   Please completely fill in the information on the bottom of the signature page. With a **black** felt tip marker please sign your name in the middle of the top of the signature page. **(Please note that children do not require a signature for theirs.)**

2. **Clear readable copies of the following must be submitted:**
   a: State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID card
   (It **must** have your picture and signature on it)

   b: If you are **not** an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe, but your child is, you must still submit a copy of your State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID and a copy of your child(s) Social Security Card and Tribal Enrollment Card for proof of enrollment.

3. **Photo Options:**
   You must submit a current photo without filters and a solid colored background. You can email it to enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov or you may mail documentation and current photo to:
   Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Enrollment Department, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760-0288
   *****Please note that we can/will NOT use a photo from your state ID or driver's license.**

4. **Military Seals:**
   Military branch seals are available for veterans. Military service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department to show proof of veteran status.

HELP US UPDATE OUR MEMBER INFORMATION!

Hello Members,

The Enrollment Department is doing their best to keep our members information current and up to date but we can't do it without your help. If you've moved or need to report a death please contact us to let us know.

Below is a list of members that are inactive. **This means that we do not have a current address for them on file or maybe a death was never reported or documents were never received.** If you see the name of someone you know who has moved please contact them and tell them to update their information with us. If there is the name of someone you know who has passed please contact us. We need a death certificate or document on file in order to change their status.

You may contact the Enrollment Department at enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov, or contact the Niobrara office. We appreciate your help!

INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 10/1/2025

Adams, Zachary Thomas
Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Aungie,
Mariah Keeley Shaye Madison
Bachmeier, Tristan Chad
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Skylar Dominick
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley
Bear, Jace Ryan
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Beaver, Jason Chaska
Beaver, Jason Eugene
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Tyller Randell
Bell, Darian Patrick
Bell, Shaune` Kay
Birdhead, William Randolph
Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon
Blowe, Dominick Adams
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick
Blowe, Tyrone Richard
Boettger, Dakota Birdhead
Bonge, Stevie Lorene
Bonge, Todd Joseph
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg, Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief, Uriah Jordan
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carlson, Emma Rose
Carter, Amber Lynn
Chwalowski, Kaitlin Martika
Courtright, Michael Todd
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Detoffoli, Emily Nicole
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae
Droescher, Savannah Jo Anne
Ebeltoft, Jacob Joel
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Eilers, Richard James
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fegan, Maria Christina
Feldhaus, Christopher Joseph
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Flagg, I I I., George Albert
Flowers, Joseph
Flyinghawk, Landon Alan
Foley, Michael Joseph
Freeman, Xavier Lee
Glenn, John Allen
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn
Goss, Mamie L.
Govia, Isaiah Lee
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo
Grant, I I I., Jesse Clarence
Green, Brooklyn Marie
Grist, Robert Carlyle
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hagler, Joshua James
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Horse, Neveah Rosemarie
Howard, Truman Ardell
Howe, Richard H.
Huber, Christopher Lee
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Keeling, Lamont Terrill
Kellogg, Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kelso, James Alan
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis
Lea, Tychicus James
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Leal, Amanda Maria
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Gisele Marie
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
Lieb, Donovan Joseph
Lieb, Sylas Vittorio
Lindenberg, David Charles
Little, Jeromy Todd
Loftis, Timothy James
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco
Maben, Jessica Paige
Mann II, Steven Michael
Mann, Desiree` Leann
Mann, Sydney Desiree`
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
Mc Cray,
Jallen Christopher Leonard
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
McGraw, Rowan Bay Leigh
McKeen, Juanita Rose
Mercier, Jade Sharice
Mullen, Deven Miles
Mullins, John Frederick
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Muscutt, Jr., Gordon Dean
Myers, Doron Helmut
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Petersen, Kevin Lee
Phongsavat, Tia Arianna
Picotte - Felde, Diamond Rose
Picotte, Braden Bardo
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Pittman, Sharon Kay
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Rhoden III, Enoch Clay
Rhoden IV, Enoch Clay
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rodas, Christian Jayce
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Schmidt, Dylan Andrew- Philip
Schmidt, John Thomas Carl
Schmitz, Jennifer Joy
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman, Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Sage Mae
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith VII, William Thomas
Smith, Analicia Shanon
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, Vi, William Thomas
Snoozy, Ben Michael
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Marko Tulio
Stastny, Rachel Colleen
Stegman, Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe, Colt Everett
Suverkrubbe, Nathan Fernando
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Taylor, Ka`ili Brianna
Teboe, Temperance Tayen
Thomas, II,
Scott Richard Herbert
Thomas, Jenny Anne
Thomas, Natana Lynn
Thomas, Robin Diane
Torrez, Jr., Lawrence DeWayne
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Vanderlinden, Desiree Lynn
VanDervoort, Lucius Kain
Vaughan, Linda Lou
Veals, Clifford James
Velder Jr., Jason Lee
Voss, Joshua Le Roy
Voss, Michael Roy
Waters, Deon Koleen
White, Abrianna Aliya
Williams, Andrea Michelle
Wilson, Samantha Tyre
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright, Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Howard Floyd
York, Gregory Allen



Welcome!

Our little girl duo made their debut on August 19th, 2025!

Amelia Rae Carpenter - 1:17pm | 5lbs 6oz, 18 inches
Caroline Elizabeth Carpenter - 1:18pm | 6lbs 12oz, 19.5 inches

We already can't imagine life before them and their big siblings are obsessed as well! Our hearts are full and our family is complete!

Carpenter Family of 7!

Parents: Shanna and Matt Carpenter
Big brother Beckham, big sister Henley, and big brother Creighton
Grandparents: Shelia and Shannon Wolff and Gary & Linda Carpenter
Great Grandparents: Bruce and JoAnne Robertson
Great Great Grand parents: Ernest and Amelia (Babe) Iron Thunder

MEMBERS NEEDED

GAMING COMMISSIONER

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for Gaming Commissioners as there will be a term expiring. Commissioners are paid $250 per meeting and $100 for training work days, plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip and applicable per diem is paid.

The Ponca Gaming Commission was established to regulate gaming on Ponca Indian Lands by enforcing the Ponca Gaming Ordinance.

This includes:

- Enforcing all NIGC and FBI requirements for Fingerprint background checks and approving all licenses for all KEY, PMO and Non-Gaming employees.
- Enforcing all NIGC and Gaming Commission Internal Controls for each department's policy and procedures.
- Approving all Department's Policies and Procedures to ensure compliance with the NIGC and state compact regulations.
- Granting the Facility license for any building that has gaming, ensuring that the Federal, State and Tribal building codes are enforced to protect the health and safety of the employees and the guests.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 25 years of age and must not be a gaming-related employee, contractor of the Tribe or a member of the Tribal Council. Any appointment will be temporary, pending completion of a background investigation. No Commissioner may have committed a gambling or bribery offense, had a felony conviction, or have any financial interest in, or management responsibility for, any gaming activity governed by the Ordinance, including a Management Contract.
- Must complete all Levels of the NIGC Commissioner Training and Master Class within the first year.
- Must complete the FBI's Level III Security Awareness Training and obtain a certificate prior to accessing any FBI Criminal History Reports to make licensing decisions.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov. Deadline is November 8, 2025 .

THANK YOU!

I want to thank all who supported my journey to the Ponca Pow Wow Celebration in White Eagle, Oklahoma! I participated in the Hethuska/Warrior Society and for a 2nd year in a row The World Straight Dance Championships! Once again I thank you all who supported me!

- Charlie Iron Thunder





Congratulations



Our family is so proud to share that Ponca member Angie Bessmer has recently been voted onto the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers Board of Directors. This is such a well-deserved honor.

She is also serving our Tribe as Chair of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Judicial Nominating Committee.

Earlier this year, Angie completed Leadership Nebraska through the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, a program that brings together leaders from across the state to build stronger communities and a brighter future for Nebraska.

Angie's dedication to her Ponca heritage, her community, and her professional work inspires all of us. We are so proud to see her representing in such meaningful ways and making a difference both here at home and across the state.

Congratulations, Angie! Your family and your Ponca relatives are cheering you on.



The Ponca Tribe would like to acknowledge Patty Bauer from Brush Colorado for her generous donation of $2,000. Patty has donated in the past as well, and these contributions to the Tribe are very much appreciated. Thank you Patty.

Tee-Time For Members!

Tatanka Golf Club

53138 NE-12 | Niobrara, NE

Ponca Members can now request one tee-time per day for one foursome of golfers at the Tatanka Golf Club. **Some exclusions apply.

To book a tee-time, please book with the QR code For more information, please contact Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@poncatribe-ne.gov

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word search answers from page 4

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIOBRARA 68760

Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3391
Fax: (402) 857-3736

Enrollment
2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3391
Fax: (402) 857-3771

Cultural
P.O. Box 288
Ph: (402) 857-3519
Fax: (402) 857-3652

LINCOLN 68512

Administration
1600 Windhoek Dr.
Ph: (402) 438-9222
Fax: (402) 438-9226

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln
1600 Windhoek Dr
Ph: (531) 248-3030

Osni Ponca
2756 O Street
Ph: (402) 434-2127
Fax: (402) 434-2128

NORFOLK 68701

Administration Building
1800 Syracuse Ave.
Ph: (402) 371-8834
Fax: (402) 371-7564

Gym Building
1800 Syracuse Ave.
Ph: (402) 371-8834
Fax: (402) 379-0988

Ponca Hills Clinic
Ph: (402) 371-8780
(402) 371-5726
Fax: (402) 379-4291 - Pharmacy
(402) 379-4293 - Registration
(402) 371-4094 - Medical Lab

Ponca Express
Ph: 877-769-3111

Northern Ponca Housing Authority
1501 Michigan Ave.
Ph: (402) 379-8224
(800) 367-2320
Fax: (402) 379-8557

Purchased/Referred Care
Ph: (800) 405-0365
Fax: (402) 371-0176

OMAHA 68107

Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic
2602 "J" Street
Ph: (402) 733-3612
Fax: (402) 733-3487

Administration
5805 South 86th Circle, 68127
Ph: (402) 315-2760

Dental
2602 "J" Street
Ph: (402) 733-1325
Fax: (402) 733-3487

Northern Ponca Housing Authority
10635 Birch., 68134
Ph: (402) 505-3055
Fax: (402) 505-3066

SIOUX CITY 51103

Administration
125 6th Street
Ph: (712) 258-0500
Fax: (402)939-0297

OTHER RESOURCES

Child Abuse Hotline
800-652-1999 (Nebraska)
800-362-2178 (Iowa)
877-244-0864 (South Dakota)

National Child Abuse Hotline
800-422-4453

National Suicide Hotline
800-273-8255

Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888

National Problem Gambling Helpline
800-522-4700

Elder Abuse Hotline
800-252-8966

Boys Town Crisis Line
800-448-3000

Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline
877-726-4727

Nebraska Family Helpline
888-866-8660

Veterans Crisis Line
800-273-8255

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska.
Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, jhitchcock@poncatribe-ne.gov.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.gov