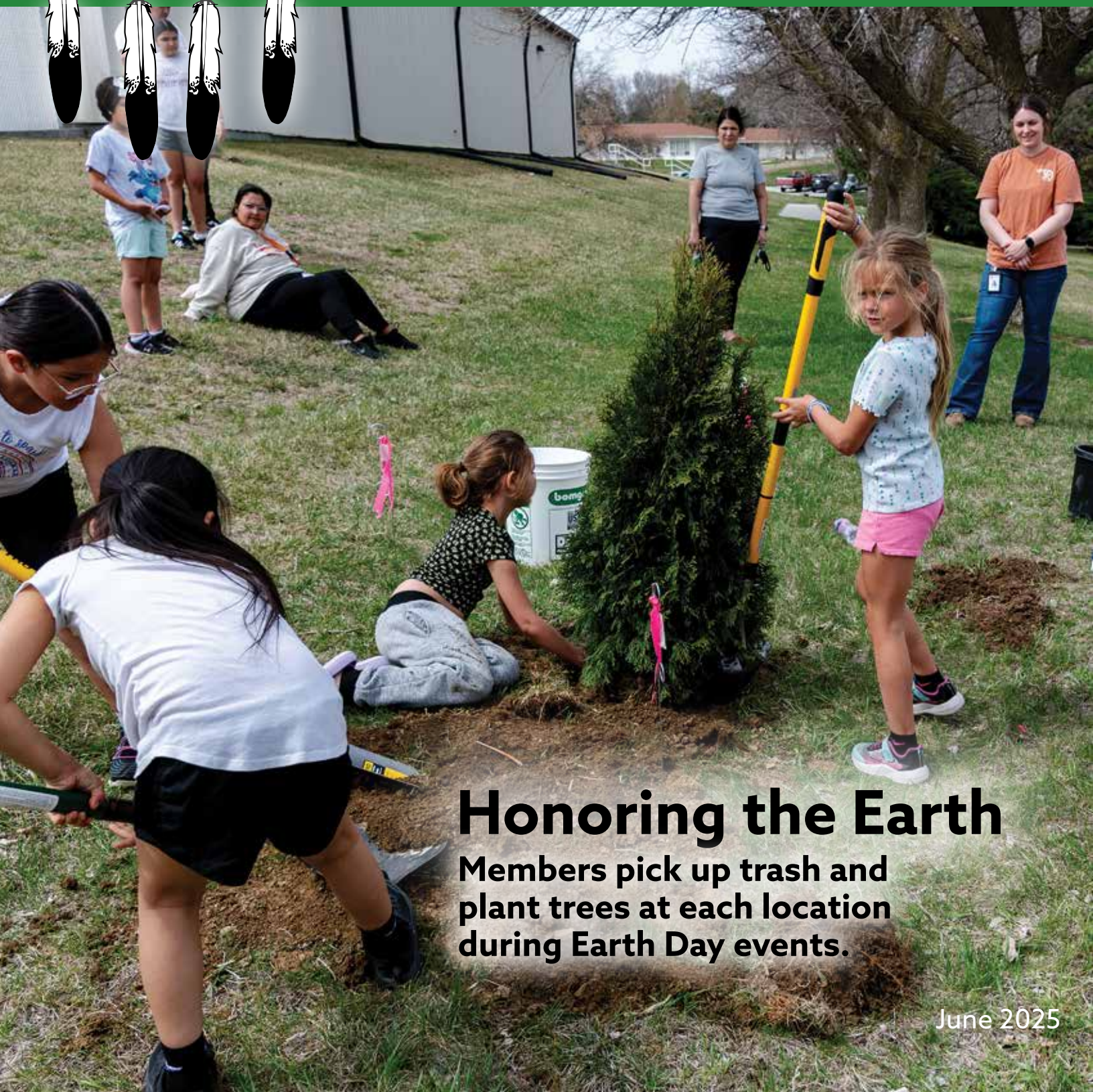
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



Honoring the Earth

Members pick up trash and plant trees at each location during Earth Day events.

June 2025

31ST ANNUAL
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
POWWOW
August 7-10, 2025

Grand Entries: Thurs- 7 pm
Fri & Sat - 1 pm & 7 pm | Sun - 1 pm
Meals provided 1 hour before each Grand Entry
All Dancers and Spectators Welcome.
Drums by invite only!

Head Man
Tristan Legate-Lewchuk

Head Woman
Rebecca Wright

Head Boy
Braxton Bear

Head Girl
Ella Smith

Arena Director
Stan Smith

MC
Shannon Leroy

Head Drum
Drowning Creek

Invited Drums
Red Creek
Omaha White Tail
Lightning Horse
Elk Soldiers

Senior Princess
Destiny Rich

Junior Princess
Alizay Ironheart

Little Miss
Rowan Taylor



Hand Game
August 7 | 10 am

Diabetes Fun Run
August 8 | 5 pm

Cornhole Tournament
August 9 | 10 am

Horseshoe Tournament
August 10 | 10 am

Team Dance Contest

Golden Age Special

Archery Range

Security and First Aid Provided. Restrooms, Running Water, and Limited Camping on Site.

Elders receive priority parking, additional parking provided near grounds, with shuttle.

PTN POWWOW GROUNDS DIRECTIONS:

One mile West of Niobrara on Highway 12. Turn left at the Ponca Sign, located across from the Niobrara State Park. Follow the pavement to the Powwow Grounds.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL
With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council.

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PTNPowwow, call: 712.258.0500 or email: aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Chairwoman's Corner

"In the embrace of nature, we find clarity and renewal; it teaches us patience, perspective, and the profound interconnectedness of all living things, guiding us towards inner peace and resilience."

Thati'a relatives,

My hope is this message finds you well. I'd like to start with a shout-out to all the staff and committee members who stepped up to ensure the Convening of the Four Winds Conference attendees felt welcomed and engaged last month in the homelands. Our second annual Sacred Corn Planting was held in Niobrara in conjunction with the event, which included our southern relatives. It was heartwarming to gather once again, engaging with each other and learning from Mother Nature in her beautiful embrace. The spirit of community was palpable as we welcomed hundreds of visitors to our homelands, some traveling from as far as Canada.



L-R: Casey Camp-Horinek, Sr. Ponca Princess Destiny Rich, Julia Horinek, and Chairwoman Candace Schmidt at the 4th Convening of the Four Winds, held at the Agency Grounds in Niobrara May 17-18.

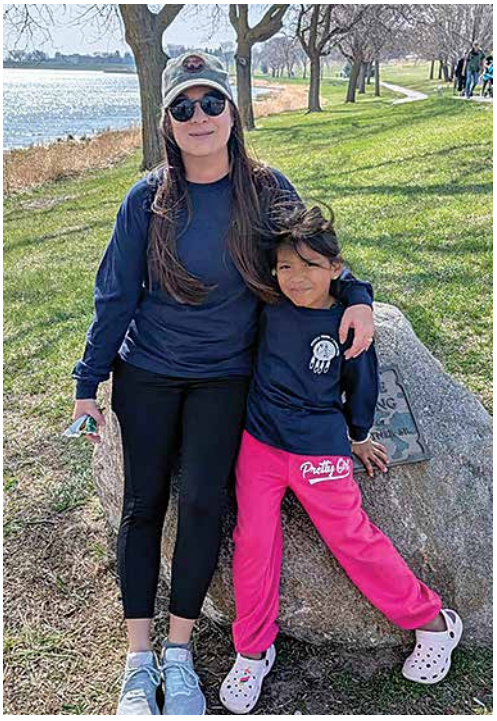
I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Prairie Flower Team members, Alex and Annette, for being recognized as employees of the year last month. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing all the wonderful remarks of your colleagues. Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed—thank you for your commitment to our community!



Looking forward, we are eagerly anticipating the Ponca Youth Camp, scheduled for July 13-17. It promises to be a wonderful week filled with fun and learning. We can't wait to see our youth in the homelands.

Below are some additional highlights from the past couple of months. Thank you for taking the time to read this update and for all those that reach out with your warm messages. Until next time, take care.

- Tribal Council Health Subcommittee meetings
- Weekly Tribal Council meetings
- Meetings with local, state, and tribal officials
- Tribal Leaders Townhall and Roundtables
- Diaper Distributions at all office locations open to all tribal members



Chairwoman Schmidt and Junior Ponca Princess Alizay Ironheart at the Diabetes Walk/Run April 12,2025.

continued on page 4

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Hađe - Clothing

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

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Get dressed for success with these words for different types of clothing!

Háđe - Clothing

Nídeuđíšį - Pants

Ųnážį - Shirt

Ųnážį t'ągà - Coat

Ųnážį čéška - Jacket

Ųnážį zizigè - Sweater

Hįbé - Shoes

Hįbe t'ągà - Work Shoes

Hįbégawįxè - Socks

Waté - Dress

Wađáge - Hat

Wabáxte - Bag

Axíbè - Bracelet

T'éska basí hįbé - Cowboy Boots

Nídeuđíšį čéška - Sports Shorts

answers on page 6



Weekly Ponca Language Classes!

5:30-7:00 pm each week!

Norfolk | Mondays
Omaha | Tuesdays
Lincoln | Wednesdays
Sioux City | Wednesdays
Niobrara | Thursdays

Or join us online in real time via Lifesize!

This is a great opportunity to connect with our Ponca language and culture. For more information, or the virtual class link, contact your area instructor.

Sioux City: Deion Miller
402.929.1908
deionm@poncatribe-ne.gov

Omaha: Ruby Wright
402.860.6604
rubyw@poncatribe-ne.gov

Niobrara: Britnie O'Keefe
402.860.3787
bokeefe@poncatribe-ne.gov

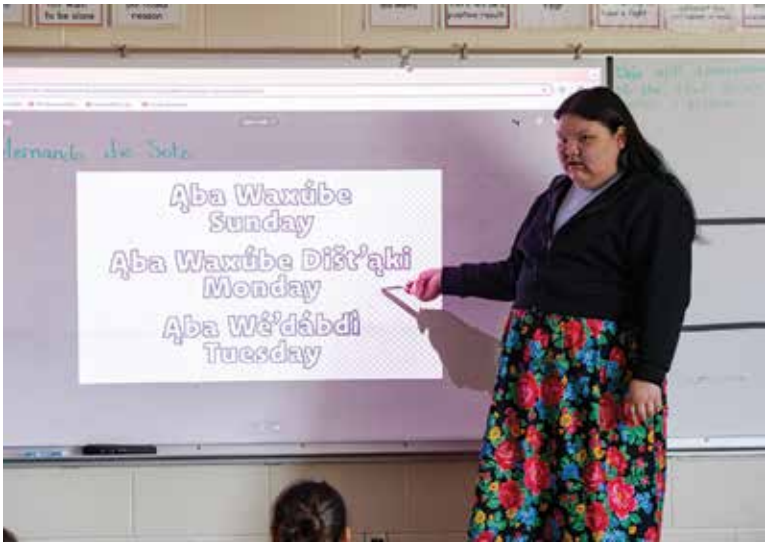
Lincoln: Steve Laravie, Sr.
402.405.3875
slaraviesr@poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Language team shares knowledge with area students

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Language Department continues their efforts to provide education on the language and culture of the Ponca Tribe. Recently, Language Program Coordinator Steve Laravie, Sr., and Language Instructor Ruby Wright visited Everett Elementary in Lincoln, Nebraska. They taught students some facts about the Ponca people, presented a short language lesson, and answered questions. Their visit helped this third grade class put a modern face to the history unit the children had just finished, emphasizing the vibrant, living culture of the Ponca Tribe and all indigenous peoples. This is just one of many such educational visits the team has made this year.





Culture Teachers Wanted!

Are you in the Omaha and Lincoln area? Are you interested in sharing Ponca culture and knowledge with others? The Culture Department is seeking Ponca members interested in teaching various aspects of Ponca culture (regalia, beading, singing, dancing, food, etc.) and offering classes throughout the coming year.

To be considered, please send a sample of your work (video, picture, etc.) to Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs, Alexcia Boggs at aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov or 712.258.0500 ext. 1005



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 Alexcia Boggs at aboggs@poncatribe-ne.gov or 712.258.0500 ext. 1005.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

CONT: Chairwoman's Corner



continued from page 1

- Farmer's Market events at all office locations open to all tribal members
- Federal briefings and consultations
- Chief Standing Bear Museum and Cultural Center planning meetings
- NICWA Training
- Tribal Home Visiting Playscape Ribbon Cutting
- Demo of Ralston facility
- PFC Team Member of the Year Event
- Executive Team Meetings
- Diabetes-Healthy Living Walk/Run
- Great Plains meetings
- Healthy Living Powwow
- Earth Day Cleanup
- ICWA meeting
- Intertribal Ag Council mtg
- Archbishop Installation Invite Event
- Nebraska Intertribal Coalition Meeting
- Native Goverence & Nebraska Native Nations meeting
- Meeting with BIA and Tour
- Ponca Sacred Corn Planting
- General Membership Meeting
- Convening of the 4 Winds

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

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

District 1

El Riad Shrine Circus Tickets

June 20 | Yankton County 4-H Building

District 1 has tickets to the Yankton El Riad Shrine Circus for children 12 years old and under. Tickets are on a first-come, first-serve basis, and can be picked up from the Niobrara office.

Tickets can be used for ONE show at 1pm or 7 pm

For more information, please contact Cheryl Kitto at 402.857.3391 Ext. 5011

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

District 2 SDA

Summertime at FunPlex for Members

Free FunPlex Tickets for all **District 2 SDA Ponca members**! Good for one admission for the 2025 season and available for pickup at Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center starting on June 2nd.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Samantha Gallagher at sgallagher@poncatribe-ne.gov or Falon McAlpin at falonm@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Tickets are for actively enrolled District 2 Service Delivery Area PTN members at the time the list was pulled from Enrollment, with no exceptions. One ticket per member. Lost tickets will not be replaced. Tickets are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets will be mailed or saved. You may only pick up tickets for members of your household unless prior authorization has been given.

Fun-Plex WATERPARK & RIDES PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

District 1 hosts Easter celebrations














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word search answers from page 2

Traveling Alice painting in Sioux City in June!



Ponca members and descendents of Grandma Alice will be able to view the painting at each office location at the following dates, and have an opportunity to write a story or memory they have of Grandma Alice. A memory notebook will be set up next to the artwork.

Traveling Alice Tour Dates:
June - Sioux City Office
July - Lincoln Office
August - Ralston Admin

District 2 SDA

Drive-In Fun for District 2!

District 2 is offering $20 gift certificates to Quasar Drive-In for D2 SDA members, good for any time during the 2025 season. Starting June 2, certificates will be available for pickup from Shannon Malone at Fred LeRoy.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Samantha Gallagher at sgallagher@poncatribe-ne.gov or Falon McAlpin at falonm@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Certificates are for actively enrolled District 2 Service Delivery Area PTN members at the time the list was pulled from Enrollment, with no exceptions. Lost certificates will not be replaced. Certificates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. No certificate will be mailed or saved. You may only pick up certificates for members of your household unless prior authorization has been given.



Language & Culture Ponca Fashion Show

June 21, 2025 | 12 – 4 pm
Norfolk Gym
1800 Syracuse Avenue | Norfolk, NE

Join us for a fashion show hosted by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Language and Culture Committee, highlighting Ponca designers and models!

For more information, please contact Stacey Zephier at szephier@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
Language and Culture Committee

Elders and youth get a chance to share

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Behavioral Health Youth Program recently launched monthly Elder/Youth socials in Norfolk, Niobrara, and Sioux City. These events give Elders and youth a chance to gather together, socialize, share stories, and learn more about each other. Watch for additional upcoming opportunities for Elders and youth!













Circle of Health incorporates Powwow protocol as part of spiritual wellness

On April 29th, Ponca Health Services, in partnership with Circle of Health, held a presentation on Powwow Protocol. Ponca members Charlie IronThunder and Kari Hinman talked about how they get ready and their own Powwow experiences. This event is part of the Circle of Health Spiritual Wellness learning series, incorporating culture and tradition as a part of overall health.







AVAILABLE NOW!

CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING WITH PEDCO & UNO

Hackers are getting more sophisticated, and they strike randomly. This is true even in Agriculture. Understand your options and prepare for the possibility you could be the next victim of a cybercrime. PEDCO offers free Cybersecurity in Agriculture training in partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Training will be available online or in-person if requested, and training sites will be available in any of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offices throughout the Service Area upon request.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY PEDCO & UNO

IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL

FREE TWO-HOUR TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

INTERESTED? CONTACT
Tom McCauley
Grants Manager
PEDCO
tmccauley@pedco-ne.org
402-499-1202

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



Tribal Home Visiting debuts new playscape in Lincoln

The Tribal Home Visting Program recently unveiled a new addition to Ponca Health Services - Lincoln. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held April 29th opening a new natural playscape for the families and children that utilize Ponca Health Services and the Tribal Home Visiting Program. All of the playscape features are made of natural wood, reflecting the community's ties to the natural wood.

"The big motive was just to get more community involvement in our program and for more members to come attend appointments with their clinic staff, but also have a place to hang out with their family and just be well," Abbi Miranda-Carreto, the Executive Director of the Tribal Home Visiting Program said.







WIOA Resume & Job Search Workshops

June 10 & 11 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

The WIOA Program will be hosting workshops on resume building and searching for jobs. Attend both workshops and receive a FREE interview outfit!

***Participants must be WIOA eligible to receive interview outfit.*

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA WIOA





3rd Annual

Camp Creator's Game

June 19 – 20, 2025

LNK Community Room | 1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE
Tierra Park | 2800 Tierra Drive | Lincoln, NE

Please save the date for the Third Annual Camp Creator's Game! We will have a team bonding dinner at the Lincoln Community Room on June 19. On June 20, Edison Rednest will host a presentation on the importance of the Creator's game. Youth will get a chance to participate in the game afterwards. For more information, please contact Sarah Lehl at slehl@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Ponca Health Services
Bryan Health
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Behavioral Health
Nebraska
Lincoln Lacrosse
Native Futures
Tobacco Free Lancaster County
Indian Center Inc.

Recognizing the signs of Elder abuse

Katie McDonald
Domestic Violence
Elder Specialist

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15th. We recognize Elder Abuse Awareness in America and worldwide on this day.

Elder Abuse is a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to a person aged 55 and above.

The older adult population is growing faster in the United States than are younger populations. Abuse, including neglect and exploitation, is experienced by about 1 in 10 older adults who live at home (www.cdc.gov)

Elders deserve honor and respect, but unfortunately, many elders are not given the honor and respect they deserve.

Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence are NOT a Native American Tradition.

Please note the 6 common types of Abuse:

Physical: Hitting, pushing, slapping, or threating behavior



Emotional: Calling names or yelling, withholding affection, ignoring or isolating from friends or family. Intimidation

Sexual: forced or non-consensual sexual contact of any kind

Spiritual: Denying participation or manipulating, or exploiting one's beliefs or practices

Financial: illegal, unauthorized, or improper use of resources for the benefit of someone other than the elder

Neglect: Withholding medication or access to healthcare; denying sufficient nutrition and hygiene care

Warning signs of Elder Abuse can include the following:

- Sudden changes in behavior or finances
- Physical injuries, dehydration, or malnourishment
- Extreme withdrawal, depression or anxiety
- Absence of basic care or necessities
- Kept away from others
- Unsanitary living conditions
- Personal items missing

The Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Program offers services for survivors of abuse. The Elder Program serves individuals who are 55 and older, enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, those who have children or dependents who are enrolled members, or have a partner who is an enrolled member. To qualify for the Elder Abuse program, individuals must be experiencing a crime against them.

Services We Offer:

- Moving expenses
- Legal aid
- Community resource referral
- Counseling referrals
- Legal and court advocacy
- Limited Financial assistance
- Medical advocacy
- Phone cards
- Protection orders
- Safety planning
- Support groups/talking circles
- Toiletries
- Transportation
- Victim/survivor advocacy

Important Phone Numbers:

Ponca Domestic Violence/ Elder Abuse Office Numbers:
Lincoln: 531.248.3030
Niobrara: 402.857.3391
Norfolk: 402.371.8834
Ralston: 402.315.2760
Sioux City: 712.258.0500

Adult Protective Services (APS) #800-652-1999

When making a report to Adult Protective Services please have the information below:

- The reason you suspect abuse
- Vulnerable adult's name and identifying characteristics
- Location of where the abuse is taking place
- Your information (you can stay anonymous)

MMIR remembrance and awareness event held

On May 4th, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Domestic Violence Program partnered with the Indian Center, Inc., Nebraska Tribes Addressing Violence Coalition - NETAV , and the Nebraska Attorney General's MMIP Liaison on a MMIR remembrance dinner, luminary lighting for those still missing, and a presentation from NETAV.











Planning Your Future:

Wills & Power of Attorney Clinic

June 13, 2025 | 11 am – 3 pm

Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

Do you need help creating a will, living will, or power of attorney document? Join the Community Health Workers and Legal Aid - Native American Program for a free legal clinic. Attorneys will be available to assist eligible individuals with important life planning documents. For more information, please contact your local CHW.

Legal Aid of Nebraska | Native American Program
Native American AccessLine 800-729-9908

Community Health Worker Program
Ponca Health Services

SAVE THE DATE!
Diaper Distribution

June 8, 2025 | 12 – 4 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

June 24, 2025 | 11 am – 3 pm

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

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

THV event showcases traditional foods for budget friendly meals

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Home Visiting Program (THV) held and event for participant families featuring traditional foods, and demonstrating how to use those foods to help create healthy meals for families without spending a lot of money.











Calling all Ponca Veterans!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) is working to create a comprehensive list of all Ponca veterans for present and future recognition of service. As such, the THPO is respectfully requesting members who are veterans, or those who have family that have served, help provide information, including:

- Branch of service
- Dates served
- Details or a story from that service
- Wars served
- Photographs

This information will be featured on a veterans honor wall in the Ponca Tribe Museum, and will be used to honor veterans.

To submit veteran information, please contact Theresa Foley, THPO via email (tfoley@poncatribe-ne.gov) or via mail:

Theresa Foley, THPO
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
5805 S 86th Circle
Omaha, NE 68127



Class of 2025

Ugášibè mášè Udą Škáxè!

(Congratulations, Graduates!)



Vincent Armetta

Westside High School

Future Plans: Become an Electrician

Family: Rhiannon Pitzl (Mother), Joe Pitzl (Step-father), Joe Armetta (Father), Grandmother Rhonda Clausen-Leblanc, brothers Jacob, Gavin, Ethan and Jesse.

Vinny is an enthusiastic and engaged student who truly enjoys learning. He earned a place on the honor roll his senior year, graduating Magna Cum Laude. A well-rounded athlete, Vinny has a passion for basketball, baseball, and golf. Outside of school and sports, he values spending quality time with his friends and making the most of his senior year.



Venezia Bacco

New Palestine High School

Future Plans: Flight Attendant for Delta Airlines.

Family: Franco and Stephanie Bacco (Parents), Franco Bacco and Cathie Russell (Grandparents), Donna Weber

Nessa, we feel proud as parents! We believe in you and we have all the reasons that you will do great things in life. Remember what we always shout to you every time you leave the house and "MAKE GOOD CHOICES"

Javaris Beauvais

Norfolk Senior High School

Associate's of Business Management

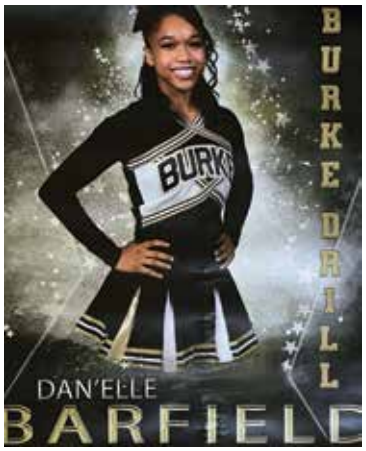
Go to Northeast for 2 years then transfer to a 4 year college for a Bachelors Degree

Nicole Beauvais (mother)

Janice Beauvais (Grandmother)

We are so proud of you and the person you've become. We have no doubt that you'll achieve great things in the future. The sky is the limit, Congratulations.





Dan'Elle Barfield

Omaha Burke High School

This fall, Dan'Elle will attend Iowa Western Community College in her first steps towards becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Mother: Prenisha Barfield, Mom
Grandfather: Prentiss Barfield Sr.

You did it baby girl! DanElle is beginning her journey toward becoming a Nurse Practitioner — with a heartfelt mission to serve and uplift the Native American community through culturally competent, compassionate healthcare. We are honored to share this milestone with the Ponca Tribe and thank you for your support as Dan'Elle prepares to walk in her purpose and give back to her roots.



Blake Bobier

Wayne State College
West High School

Future Plans: CDL

Parents: Rustin & Nicole Bobier

We are so proud of you son!



Colin Bogacz

Millard North

Future Plans: Studying Kinesiology at UNO

Family: Marci & Eddie Bogacz (Parents), Don & Brenda Bogacz (Grandparents)



Bayla Bodnar

Ralston High School

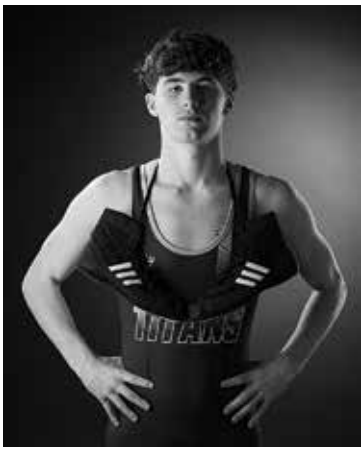
Future Plans: Study Criminology at Bellevue University. She was offered a full ride athletic scholarship to play softball there.

Family: Katie & Pat Bodnar (Parents), Lucy Bodnar, Benny Bodnar (siblings), Brenda & Don Bogacz (Grandparents)

Our baby did it! The pride we feel is indescribable! Our girl was born knowing exactly who she wanted to be and exactly who she didn't want to be. She's so many things, but we're most proud that she's honest, intelligent, strong and kind.

We love her so very much and know without a doubt that she will continue to surpass her goals and continue to astound us with her incredible abilities! Congratulations our Babe!!!!

- Love Mom and Dad



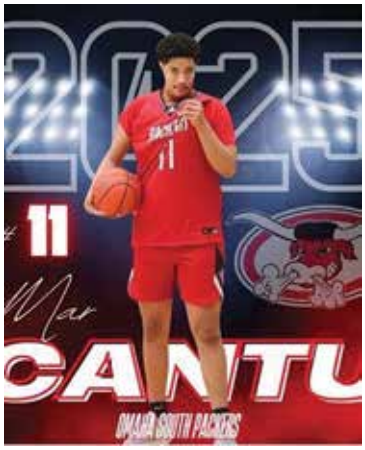
Jaxon Brewer

Lewis Central High School

Future plans: Work toward becoming a plumber or electrician.

Family: Don & Juli Brewer (Parents), Fred & Jo Brewer/Bill Hartman & Kay Rockwell (Grandparents), Carolyn Huerta/John & Ann Powers (Great-Grandparents)

We're filled with so much pride watching you reach this milestone. Your hard work, dedication and most of all perseverance in the face of a major tragedy, have led to this moment. We are so incredibly proud of the man you are becoming. As you move forward into this new chapter, know that we will always be here to encourage and support you. We believe in you and your dreams. We love you. xoxo



Marrius Cantu

Omaha South High

Future Plans: Marrius is going to college to play basketball. So be looking for the Cantu name out there on the court coming near you.

Family: Elva Cantu-Pilcher/Luella Edson-Halloween (Great-Grandmothers), Sam Edson (Grandfather), Cantu-Edson (Grandmother), Kristina Cantu-Valentine (Mother), Tyreise Valentine (Stepfather), Travis Cantu (Uncle), Emy Solorio (Aunt), Marcela Cantu and Marcelo 'Sam' Cantu (Siblings), and all of his cousins who look up to Marrius.

Hey Son,

You did it. I'm so proud of you and your accomplishments. You're going to do great things. I love you so much and We are only going to the top from here. Your papa would be so proud of you right now. Just like we all are. Love mom



Levi Craig

Claremore High School

Future Plans: Pre Engineering, Carl Albert State College

Family: Nickolas & Jennifer Craig (Parents), Coleby Craig (Brother)

Congratulations! We are so very proud of you! Keep chasing your dreams. We can't wait to see what the future holds. All our love, Mom & Dad



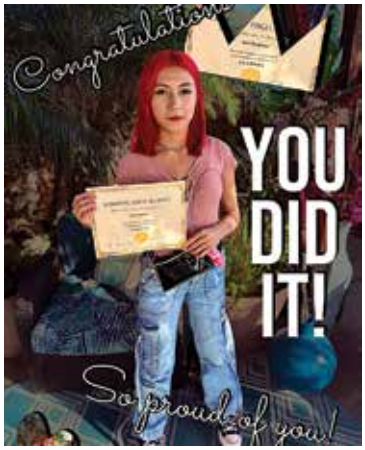
Yandel Cruz

Conroe High School

Future Plans: Become a Computer Software Engineer

Family: Antonio Cruz & Kortney Trierweiler (Parents), Denise Cline (Grandmother) Michael & LaVonne Fitzgerald (Great Grandparents)

We are so proud of you! Love you so much!



Ave Drapeau

Lemoore HS

Future Plans: Cosmetology School

Family: Gregory & Hector Drapeau (Dads), Genelli Knudsen Drapeau, (Grandma), Galen Drapeau Sr. (Grandpa), Audrey Knudsen (Grandma), Starling Knudsen Sr. (Grandpa),

Our Beautiful Daughter, Hehaka Waste' Ste' Winyan,

Today, we lift you up in honor and pride. You have walked this path with strength, humility, and a good heart, carrying the teachings of your grandparents/ family. As you step forward into this new journey, know that you are never alone—our love, our prayers, and the spirit of our people walk beside you always. Stand tall, my girl. The world is waiting for your medicine. Congratulations, Ave! - With love and honor, Your Ate's (ah-tay) Dad/ Father



Shaydance Droescher

Norfolk Senior High School

Parents: Cesar and Lacy (Bear) Figueroa & Erich Droescher

We are so proud of you and can't wait to see where you go next. We love you!



Devin Everhart

Newark Charter High School

Future Plans: Attend the University of Delaware to pursue a Vocal Performance major.

Family: Jeff & Megan Everhart (Parents), Reuben & Louise Ducker (Grandparents)

Very proud of the young adult you've become and look forward to seeing you continue to flourish. Love mom and dad.



Lacy Figueroa

Northeast Community College | Norfolk, NE
Associates Degree | Human Services

Parents: Valerie and the late Richard Bear

Congrats from your husband and kids! We love you!



Luz Fuentes-Cope

Elk Mound High School

Family: Bonnie & Carlos Fuentes (Parents), Bob & Linda Cope, Eustolia & Romulo Fuentes (Grandparents), Dale and Bonnie Smith (Great-Grandparents)

We are beyond proud of you!!! You are the brightest Light in our lives!!!!



Kylee Mae Sayuri Garrett

St. Francis High School

Future Plans: Attending The Univeristy of the Pacific on a Softball Scholarship and studying Heath and Exercise Science.

Family: Jackie Moormeier & Justin Garrett (Parents), Nancy, Craig, Sharon & Ron (Grandparents), Shirley, Frank, Norm, Betty, Chiyo & Shigeo (Great-Grandparents), Josh, Joanne & Chris (Aunts and Uncles)

Kylee, we are all so proud of you and what you have accomplished over your softball and school life. You'll do such great things in the future! Love you pumpkin!!!



Rorin Glenn

University of California San Diego

Bachelors | Molecular Biology

Future Plans: Becoming a Dentist

Family: Cory & Ivonne Glenn (Parents). Edward & Ginger Glenn (Grandparents), Mardell Glenn (Great-Grandparent).

We are so proud of you, Rorin, for reaching this milestone! Your hard work, determination, and kindness have brought you here, and we can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll do next. Congratulations!



Dailan Skye Gonzales

Cibola High School

Future Plans: Attend college, fall 2025

Family: Daisy Gonzales (Mother), Debbie Ross (Grandmother)

Dailan Skye,

My Awesome son, your high school journey is coming to an end, but your future and all your dreams are just beginning. I have watched you grow from my little MJ dancing and singing your heart out into this authentic, considerate, caring, and handsome young man you are today. Congratulations on graduating high school, next stop college, and adulthood.

Son, follow your dreams, the world is yours. I am beyond Proud of you.

Love you to the moon and back- Mom.



Sophia Howell

Omaha Skutt Catholic High School

Future Plans: Go to hair school and become a stylist

Parents: Rob & Crystal Howell

Your such a beautiful young woman and we are so proud of you. Congratulations on your graduation and we can wait to see what the future holds for you! We love you! Mom and Dad



Sophie Humphrey

University of South Dakota
Masters | Business

Future Plans: Human Resource Manager

Family: Mandy & Travis Humphrey (Parents), Rhonda & Loren Oltjenbruns (Grandparents), Marchita Bair (Great-Grandparent)



Lanee Johnson

Wayne State College | Bachelors | Business & Marketing

Future Plans: Plan to open a clothing boutique, Iron Thunder Tuf, in Norfolk

Family: Connie Johnson (Guardian), Kristen Iron Thunder (mother), Margaret Iron Thunder (grandmother)

I am beyond grateful and humbled to have graduated from Wayne State College. All praises to God for guiding me through this journey and giving me the strength to persevere everything. I also want to thank my grandma for her unwavering support and love throughout my education. I couldn't have done it without her. I want to give a special shoutout to Benjamin Benton with the NBDC at Wayne for his guidance and support in developing my business and helping me get it off the ground. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in my success.



Brendan Kennedy

Marin Catholic High School

Future Plans: Attending University of California - Davis, Majoring in Geology / Minor in Construction Management.

Family: Son of Matthew and Teresa Kennedy, Granddaughter of Herman and Donna Franklin Kennedy, Great Granddaughter of Gordon and Gladys Franklin and a descendant of Mele Lacharite Sherman.

U'da' wadi'a! We are very proud of you!



Hunter Koenig

Castle Rock High School

Family: Jessica Koenig (Mother), Kathy Horsley (Grandparent), Jasmine Gundersen (Sister)

We are all so proud of the man you are becoming. Can't wait to see what you do with your future. We love you.



Calissa Linn

Future Plans: Going to college at Northwestern College in Organge City, Iowa

Congratulations Calissa!

You have grown up to be a smart and driven young woman. We are so proud of you and the obstacles you have overcome in life and excited to see what you do next. Continue to impact the life of those around you. We love you



Millyzient McClure

Hastings College
Bachelor's | Physics & Math

Future Plans: Creighton University, Medical Physics

So proud of you Millyzient! Your family loves you so much and is rooting for your success.



Jenna O'Hara

University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Masters | Speech Language Pathology

Future Plans: Become a Speech language pathologist

Family: Michelle Nightser (Mother), Mark & Maryann Nightser (Grandparents)

Jenna, we are so proud of all your accomplishments. You did it, Queen! Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it.



Maggie Meyer

Blair High School

Future Plans: Attend Universiry Nebraska of Lincoln in the Masters of Animal Science & Agricultural Production Management

Family: Justin & Jennifer Meyer (Parents), Donald Meyer/Rhonda Meyer/Bruce & Ingrid Owens (Grandparents)

She's five generations of blazing a trail. Through barbed wire valleys and overgrown dells. She's barefoot and bareback and born tough as nails. Pushing like a daisy through old sidewalk cracks. We are so proud of you Boogie. Chase your dreams and more!



Hannah Morinishi

Aloha High School in Aloha, Oregon

Future Plans: Hannah will be attending Oregon State University to study Environmental Science in the Fall.

Family: Kent & Becky Morinishi of Aloha, Oregon (Parents), Barbara Kintz of Forest Grove, Oregon (Grandparent), descendent of Mele LaCharite Sherman.

In high school, Hannah was active in Honor Society and Key Club, earned four varsity soccer letters, and attended national level indigenous environmental science camps.



Christian Nightser

Papillion LaVista High School

Future Plans: Attend college at Fort Lewis in Durango, CO

Family: Matthew & Anna Nightser (Parents), Mark & Maryann Nightser/ Laurel Wiley/the late Peter Wiley (Grandparents)

So proud of you and your accomplishments! You have grown into such a wonderful human being. We can't wait to see all of your success! Love you so much!



Cole Ruden

Tea Area High School

Family: Shelley Johnting/ Tim Ruden (mother & father), Sharon Ideker (grandmother)

We are so proud of you. You will continue to do great things in your future! Congrats, Cole!



Florentino (TJ) Salinas

Wellington High School

Future Plans: attending Amarillo College.

Family: Shauna & Tino Salinas of Wellington, TX (Parents), Dawn and Queta Thomas & Florentino Ramos of California and the late Hermelinda Salinas Villegas (Grandparents), the late Susan Wright Crutcher and Carl Crutcher (Great-Grandparents)

Son,

We are all so proud of you and your accomplishments and can't wait for your next step in life no matter what that may be. Keep making us proud! We love you so much!

Love,

Mom, Dad, BooBoo and Jando



Jaden Sanchez

Cedar Ridge High School

Future plans: Welding at TSTC

Family: Robin Sanchez, Salvador Sanchez Jr, Jaxon Sanchez, Leonard Branstiter

We are extremely proud of all the hard work and perseverance you showed to reach graduation! We now have the pleasure of watching you build your future and life, wherever it may lead.

Love, Momma, Dad, Jax, & Ellie

Adelaide Paige Sherman Emerson

Western Oregon University

Master of Science
Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling

Future Plans: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the State of Oregon

Family: Bret Lewis Sherman Sr. (Parent), Amelia "MeLe" Lacharite (3rd-great grandmother)



Abigail Sherman

Western Oregon University
Bachelor's in Psychology

Future plans: Pursuing a career making a meaningful impact by supporting others

Family: Misty Sherman (Mother), Bret Sherman SR/Kassie Sherman (Grandparents), Bradley Porter, Carmen Johnson (siblings), Bret Sherman JR, Nicole Sherman, Danielle Weston, Adelaide Emerson, Sarah Sherman (Uncle & Aunts), Lots and lots of cousins

We are all so proud of you & your accomplishments!



Emma Smiley

Cordova High school

Future Plans: Attending community college to continue my education and begin my path toward a career in social work.

Family: Christy Perez (Mother), Ben Smiley (Father)

A four-year varsity cheerleader and two-year captain, Emma helped lead her team to a state championship this year. She completed her school's Business Academy and is active in the Native community. As the student representative, for the native American parent advisory committee in her school district, she played a key role in bringing the Native American education program to her district and spoke at several school board meetings about the importance of Native representation within the schools.



Anthony Smith

Niobrara High School

Future Plans: Go to Wyotech and become a mechanic

Family: Tina Motacek (Grandmother), Donald Smith (Uncle), Rocky Smith (Father), Jerry Motacek (Grandfather), Talthia Duncan (Mother)

Keep up the good work and congrats. Can't wait to see what you do in life!



Precious Torrez

North High School

Future Plans: Successful career in Architecture

Family: Santana Torrez (Mother), Chanin Buffalo Chief (Grandmother), Lillian Torrez/Lawryn Torrez (Aunts)

Precious Lola is the heartbeat of our family, and we are all so overwhelmingly proud and blessed to have witnessed everything she has overcome and into the ambitious Graduate she came to be today. Her strong will and perseverance will take her as far as she wants to go in this wonderful puzzle of life. I want to wish her the world and all the pieces!!



Shelby Wendzillo-Gracey

Warrensburg High School, Warrensburg, MO

Future Plans: A career in the Dental Field

Family: Mona Wendzillo (Mother), Jo An Schlotman (Grandmother), Donna Wendzillo (Great-Grandmother)

Congratulations Shelby on all your hard-earned achievements! You've worked diligently in both academic and extracurricular activities. We are proud of your National Honor Society and Honor Roll memberships, as well as achieving Eagle Scout, earning both Bronze and Silver Girl Scout Awards and being elected Venturing Crew President. We are proud of all you've accomplished and look forward to seeing what the next chapter holds for you!



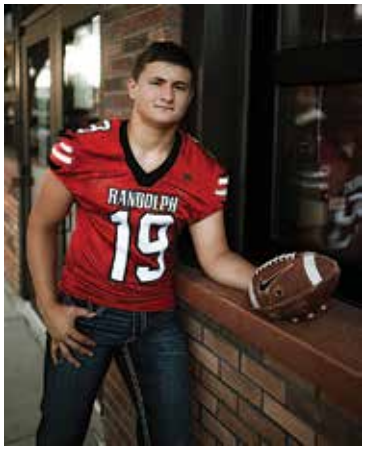
Lily Paulina Weston

Millard West High School | Omaha, NE
High School Diploma and Certified Nursing Assistant Certification

Future plans: Majoring in Health Sciences at UNL this fall, then furthering her education in Nursing.

Family: Scott Weston (Father), Rhonda Free (Mother), Mary Johnson (Davidson) of the Umo'ho' tribe (Grandmother), Fred LeRoy (Grandfather), Gerine Davidson (Woodhull) and Irene Peniska (Great Grandparents)

Lily, may the Creator and those who walk in spirit always be with you, to guide and protect you. May you always know how much you are loved. We are so very proud of you and all your accomplishments!



Gavin Wortman

Randolph High School

Future Plans: Intern at Randolph Farm Supply

Family: Danielle & John Bauer (Parents), Shelly & Mark Wortman (Grandparents), the late Barbara & Danny Beavers (Great-Grandparents), the late Geneva Arrow (Great- Great-Grandparents

Proud of you everyday! Excited to see what your future has in store for you my beautiful boy. Love Mom



Alawnah Yunker

Verdigre Public High School

Future Plans: Attend college for sports medicine

Family: Bill & Dana Yunker (Parents), Barry & Rita Pitzer - paternal grandmother (Ponca)/Sam & Cheryl Kitto - (Sisseton & Santee), the late Ernest & Amelia "Babe" IronThunder/ Chester & Vera Anderson/ the late Alvin "Bud" & Elizabeth "Betty" Twiss/ Franklin & Gladys (O'Rourke) Ferguson (Great-Grandparents)

Mom & I know you are bound for greatness. We are so very proud of all your accomplishments throughout your high school career, but try to remember, the best is yet to come. We can't wait to see where life takes you.



Did you know?

Our PTN Education programs are open to members nationwide!

- Need based funding in our Higher Education, Adult Vocational Training, and Graduate programs at the post-secondary level.
- K-12 Youth Incentive Program
- GED Incentive Program and GED testing fee assistance

For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Education Department at 402.371.8834, via email at pate@poncatribe-ne.gov or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov, or via mail:

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Department of Education
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE 68701

Building for the Future

Ponca students nationwide are invited to apply by August 15, 2025 for this need-based scholarship focusing on career development.

Eligibility:

- The student must be enrolled in some type of Adult Vocational Training Program or working toward a bachelor's degree.
- The student must provide proof of enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- The student must provide proof of graduation from high school or completion of their GED.
- The student must complete and submit the following forms: Application, Contract, and Financial Need Form by the August 15 deadline.

Requirements:

- The student must maintain satisfactory academic progress with an accumulative GPA of 2.5 or better for the term funded.
- If the student does not maintain the required 2.5 GPA, they must refund the scholarship.
- The student must also submit an official transcript to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Department of Education for the term funded.

Scholarship amount is $1,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 402.371.8834, or via email at pate@poncatribe-ne.gov or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Education Deadlines:

HIED- Fall: August 15th, 2025
Adam Way Scholarship: June 15, 2025
Building for the Future Scholarship: August 15

Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after **EACH** term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding. Students must apply each school year.
Fall 2025 deadline: August 15, 2025
Winter 2025 deadline: November 15, 2025
Spring 2026 deadline: December 15, 2025

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2024-2025 school year are eligible to receive a $500.00 Graduation Incentive!
- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/Poetry, and Student of the Month. **Winners may receive $100.00 for 1st place, $50.00 for 2nd place, and $25.00 for 3rd place.* Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)
- Perfect Attendance $100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), $50.00 (.5-3.49 days absenteeism), and $25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

Deadline to apply for the 2024-2025 school year is July 31, 2025.

All Education Department Applications and Program Information are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov. **Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs**

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS 13-18:



Available online and nationwide for a limited time only!

- ★ **Improve your self-esteem!**
- ★ **Gain a better understanding of your roots and culture!**
- ★ **Learn an accurate depiction of Native American history!**
- ★ **Learn about the many contributions made by Native Americans!**
- ★ **Learn about Native American heroes and role models!**
- ★ **Earn incentives for program participation and completion!**

Sign up for the Native American Youth Enhancement Program today!

For more information, or to sign up, contact Amber Appling at 402.371.8834 Ext. 2037 or by email at aappling@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Adam Way Memorial Scholarship

AWARD: $1000

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Must currently reside in Nebraska
- ★ Enrolled Ponca members aged 18 – 45 years old
- ★ Preparing to enroll or currently enrolled in a college (2 or 4-year accredited institution), graduate, trade, or professional school whose eligibility is determined by the Scholarship Selection Committee

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ An essay explaining how the educational opportunity will be used to help the Tribe
- ★ Three written character references (Respondents need to be ***non-family members***)
- ★ A completed financial need form

Scan Me!

To start the application process, scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/adam-way-memorial-scholarship/**. Applications are due **June 15, 2025**. Applicants will be notified by **August 1, 2025**.

This scholarship opportunity is available through the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Education Department.

Earth Day Events: Planting, protecting, and connecting throughout the month of April

by Kayla Vondracek,
Water Quality Coordinator

In celebration of Earth Day, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Environmental Department hosted community events across five tribal office locations—Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, Niobrara (Nebraska), and Sioux City, Iowa. These gatherings brought together tribal staff, elders, and community members to honor the shared responsibility of caring for the land and water.

Each site held a trash pickup around the tribal office grounds, where volunteers worked to clean up litter and debris. After the cleanup, a ceremonial tree planting took place. At each location, a flat-leaf cedar tree—a sacred plant to the Ponca people—was planted. Once mature, these trees can be harvested for ceremonial use. They also serve as living reminders to care for the land and improve access to culturally significant plant species, especially in the Tribe's more urban locations.

Elders and other event volunteers were invited to add soil to the freshly planted tree and take part in a group photo. These photos were later added to a mat board signed by all the volunteers, then framed and hung in each office as a tribute to the event.

To thank volunteers and helpers, a grill-out lunch was hosted at each site, offering food and fellowship. The events were made possible with support from the Tribe's Community Health Workers, Tribal Council, Tribal Communications, and the Environmental Department staff, who traveled across the state to lead and participate in these meaningful Earth Day celebrations.

continued on next page















EARTH DAY: Youth learn about pollution and the environment

continued from page 24

Later in the month, the Environmental Department was honored to participate in a Family Night in Norfolk, NE—an event centered on connecting with Ponca families. A table was set up with a small potted plant station that allowed kids to plant seeds and decorate pots to take home. Several different coloring books, word searches, and brochures were available as well.

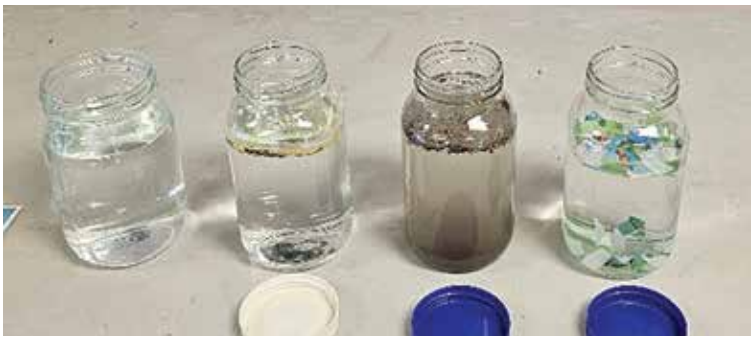
The department's Water Quality Coordinator led an interactive pollution-awareness activity titled "What Doesn't Belong?", a hands-on game where children removed images of pollution from a natural scene to learn about environmental stewardship. This activity was designed with the younger children in mind, giving them a simple and engaging way to connect with the concept of pollution.

Another activity, using simple household supplies, encouraged the older kids at the event to think critically about pollution. It began with a single question:

"When I say the word pollution, what comes to mind?"

"Trash!" someone called out.





"Bags?" added another.

"Cars that pollute?" offered an older kid in the group.

The following activity asked the kids to help "clean up pollution." The youth were presented with four jars, representing four different lakes:

- Lake 1 was polluted with trash (torn pieces of paper). Using tweezers and spoons, the kids tried to remove the debris but quickly realized how time-consuming it was.
- Lake 2 had heavy soil runoff (garden dirt), caused by a lack of trees and vegetation. As they tried to scoop out the soil, it stirred up sediment and clouded the water again.
- Lake 3 had an oil spill (vegetable oil). Although they could scoop some out, much of it spilled or remained in the water.
- Lake 4 held clean, clear water.

The kids were then asked to name which lake they would want to swim in, illustrating how protecting the environment benefits everyone.

After the activity, the children received custom Environmental Department stickers as a thank-you for their hard work cleaning up pollution. Working with a Ponca Language Department staff member, the Water Quality Coordinator designed special "Water is Sacred" stickers that also included the same words in the Ponca language: Ní' aké' waxúbe.

Additional giveaways included coloring pages of the water cycle, water filtration straws, purification tablets, and UV SteriPens—supplies provided by the Tribe's Social Services Department to give families some tools for emergency water preparedness.

These events reflect the Tribe's ongoing commitment to environmental protection, cultural preservation, and community resilience. We are grateful to all who participated and helped make these celebrations of Earth and water so meaningful.

Ponca Tribal Court expands hours

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Court has expanded their hours to better accommodate the needs of Tribal members who may not be able to make it to the Court offices in Norfolk during the regular business day. Beginning June 2nd, Tribal Court staff and notaries will be available Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-6:00 pm at the Norfolk office, 1800 Syracuse Ave.

For Tribal members residing in the Ponca Service Delivery Area, Ponca Tribal Court provides a method to resolve civil matters, such as a name change, child custody, adoption, protection orders, child support, and domestic relations like marriage licensing, annulment, separation and divorce.

For more information on services provided by the Court, email tribalcourt@poncatribe-ne.gov

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.

Tribal Court 101
June 12, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm
Norfolk Conference Room
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Divorce
July 10, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm
Ralston Transit
5701 S 85th Circle | Omaha, NE

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 # 90C52045 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

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!

June 20 | 12 – 1 pm
Norfolk Housing Authority
1501 W Michigan Ave

July 18 | 12 – 1 pm
Ralston Transit Building
5701 South 85th Circle

August 15 | 12 – 1 pm
Sioux City Offices
125 6th Street

September 19 | 12 – 1 pm
Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive

October 17 | 12 – 1 pm
Ralston Transit Building
5701 South 85th Circle

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

December 19 | 12 – 1 pm
Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street



To RSVP, please scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/meet_and_ greet**, or by contacting LaTia Young, 402.315.2760, ext. 4119 or lyoung@poncatribe-ne.gov

Exciting internship opportunity with Osni Ponca LLC!

Are you looking to build your portfolio and gain real-world experience? Osni Ponca, LLC is seeking motivated individuals for internship opportunities in website development and photography.

This is a great chance to showcase your skills, contribute to a meaningful project, and expand your professional portfolio while working with a



Native-owned business. Whether you're a student, recent grad, or self-taught creative, we want to hear from you!

Opportunities available:

- Website Design & Development
- Photography & Visual Content Creation

Interested or know someone who might be? Reach out to us at rfoster@osniponca.com

Let's build something great together!





COMING SOON! ROBOTIC ARM AND DRONE TRAINING!

PEDCO is partnering with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska Innovation Studio to offer free Robotic Arm and Drone training for Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members. These training sessions rapidly equip members with a skill set that translates into in-demand jobs.

July 21, 2025 to July 22, 2025 - Drone Training

July 28, 2025 to July 31, 2025 - Robotic Arm Training

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ROBOTIC ARM AND DRONE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY PEDCO & UNL INNOVATION STUDIO

IN-PERSON

ACCELERATED TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

INTERESTED? CONTACT
PEDCO
Info@pedco-ne.org
402-434-2127

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

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.



AVAILABE NOW! PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The PEDCO Workforce Development program provides our members access to services designed to help nurture self-sufficiency, assist in eliminating barriers to employment, and provide members a means to achieve professional success. This program is available to all members 14+ wanting pre-employment assistance, to further their career, or to advance professional skills. Please contact info@pedco-ne.org to sign up for our e-Newsletter!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CAREER EXPLORATION

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

CAREER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

PEDCO
2756 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-434-2127

Pedco-ne.org

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

I I

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.

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

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 6/1/2025

Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Aschinger, Shelby Nicole
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Skylar Dominick
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley
Banuelos, Christa Rose
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Bear, Max Starr
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
Boone, Lola Belle
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg, Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief, Uriah Jordan
Burgon, Jeremy Edward
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carter, Amber Lynn
Castulo,
Cheryl Francisca Katherine
Chwalowski, Kaitlin Martika
Courtright, Michael Todd
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae
Droescher, Savannah Jo Anne
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Engles, Donna Antonette
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
Fua, Kayla Ciara
Glenn, John Allen
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn
Goodteacher, Rebeca Lynn
Goss, Mamie L.
Govia, Isaiah Lee
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo
Grant, I I I., Jesse Clarence
Green, Brooklyn Marie
Gutierrez, Vincent Clarence
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hagler, Joshua James
Harris, Paul Joseph
Hart-La Londe, Kaedyn Mikael
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Henritze, Joseph Dale
Henritze, Karen June
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Howard, Truman Ardell
Howe, Richard H.
Huber, Christopher Lee
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Keeling, Lamont Terrill
Kelso, James Alan
Kettula, Ruby Jean
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Larson, Scott Andrew
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Gisele Marie
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
Lieb, Donovan Joseph
Lieb, Sylas Vittorio
Lindenberg, David Charles
Little, Jeromy Todd
Loftis, Timothy Duane
Loftis, Timothy James
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco
Maben, Jessica Paige
Mann II, Steven Michael
Mann, Sydney Desiree`
Marlow Anderson, Saidra Lea
Marlow, Chance Alan
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
McGraw, Rowan Bay Leigh
McKeen, Juanita Rose
Mercier, Jade Sharice
Miodowski, Jesse Thomas
Mullen, Deven Miles
Mullen, Michael Thomas
Mullen, Owen Dean
Mullins, John Frederick
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Muscutt, Jr., Gordon Dean
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Petersen, Kevin Lee
Pfundstein, Nathan Alexander
Picotte - Felde, Diamond Rose
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Queen, Anthony Scott
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rodas, Christian Jayce
Rowe, Crystle Anette
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Schmidt, Dylan Andrew- Philip
Schmidt, John Thomas Carl
Schmidt, Jr., Karl Michael
Schmitz, Jennifer Joy
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman, Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Lloyd Lynn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Sage Mae
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith, Danial Ray
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, Vi, William Thomas
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Daniel Skye
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
Taylor, Samantha Rose
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, Emmi Clarine
Vaughan, Linda Lou
Veals, Clifford James
Velder Jr., Jason Lee
Velder, Tristen Leo Spencer
Voigt, Mitchell Henry
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, Eric David
Wright, Howard Floyd
Wright, Jacob Martin
York, Gregory Allen
Zephier, Cameron Dawn

INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS.
THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

What is this about?

A $3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by June 30, 2025. More details are available on the website.

Here is what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or
- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.



A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate's Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds can be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

LEARN MORE

CobellSettlement.com
800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement
c/o Kroll Settlement Administration
P.O. Box 5324
New York, NY 10150-5324

YOU MUST ACT QUICKLY | THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2025.

MEMBERS NEEDED

ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Enrollment Committee to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on 2/1/27. Members are paid $250 stipend per meeting and mileage will be paid for a maximum of 410 miles round trip. All meetings are held in Niobrara, NE.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov Deadline for applications is July 1, 2025.

Should you want information on the specific duties of this Committee, you may request through Candace Repenning.

Elder's Committee Meetings

June 2 | 10 am

Norfolk Transit | Norfolk, NE

July 7 | 10 am

PTN Headquarters | Niobrara, NE

MEMBERS NEEDED

ELECTION BOARD

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Election Board for the At-Large and District 3 positions. Members are paid $250 per meeting and mileage will be paid for a maximum of 410 miles round trip at the federal government approved rate. Most meetings are held in Niobrara, Nebraska.

To be qualified to be appointed to the Election Board, a person shall:
1. Be an enrolled member of the Tribe.
2. Be a resident of the voting district from which they are appointed.
3. Be eligible to vote in the election for which they will serve as Election Board Member; and
4. If convicted of a felony, have completed his sentence requirements, including any parole, at least two (2) years prior to appointment.

No individual shall be permitted to sit as an Election Board member who:
1. Has been convicted of a crime involving the theft of funds or property of the Tribe in any court of any jurisdiction regardless of any pardon or restoration of civil rights for said offense.
2. Currently holds elective office in the Tribe.
3. Is or plans to be a candidate in any election during his or her term.
4. Has an immediate family member who is currently a member of the Tribal Council, or who is or plans to be a candidate in any election during his or her term.
5. No Ponca Tribe of Nebraska employees may serve on the Election Board per the PTN Employee Handbook.

A criminal background check will be conducted.

Please submit a letter of interest and application form 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 June 24, 2025.

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