Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



New Beginnings

NPHA celebrates milestone with grand opening of Ponca Heights!

November 2025

Member Card Design Contest

Ponca Tribe members are invited to submit their original designs for a chance to **win $200**, and have their design featured on the front of the 2026 member birthday cards! Three winners will be chosen!

Must be a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to submit a design. Only one submission allowed per member. Designs must be submitted by 11:59 pm, December 1, 2025. Please include member name, age, and any additional notes about the design when submitting. All design submissions must be large, full color, high-resolution images to be considered (no cell phone photos, high-resolution scans are fine).



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

To submit your design, email **crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov**. For more information, please call Candace Repenning at 402.857.3391.

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!

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

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

Scan Me!

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.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 15, 2025 | 10 am

At any office location, or online via Lifesize

Tribal members are invited to attend the second General Membership meeting of 2025 at any PTN office location (Niobrara, Sioux City, Ralston, Lincoln Clinic, Norfolk), or online via Lifesize. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at each office location.

Please RSVP by November 10 if you plan to attend at one of the office locations. Questions submitted by **November 10** will be addressed first. Tribal members wishing to participate virtually must contact Candace Repenning. To submit questions, or to RSVP, please contact Candace Repenning at 402.857.3391 or crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov.

On the cover: Justine Knapp presents Alex Villalpando with blanket during Ponca Heights Grand Opening

NPHA opens new Ponca Heights Housing Community

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, in conjunction with the Northern Ponca Housing Authority, held a grand opening ceremony of the Ponca Heights Housing Community on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, at 11AM in Omaha, NE. Ponca Heights is a 20-unit community offering affordable housing to Ponca Tribal Elders.

The complex, located at 8401 White Eagle Court (just off of 84th and Q) consists of eight duplexes and one quadplex, along with a community gathering space and walking trail. Located near the future site of the expanded Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center, this complex offers safety and convenience to Tribal Elders.

The $15 million investment in affordable housing for Tribal Elders is a result of federal Indian Housing Block Grant funding, Indian Community Development Block Grants, and Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Transportation Program dollars.















Ą́ba zizík'a wáđatè

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

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The next few months will be words describing holidays. This month describes the Thanksgiving.

Zizík'à - Turkey

T'anúka s'á'đe - Ham

Šé'užégđà - Pie

Núbaxđíđi - Mashed Potatoes

Wahába - Corn

Núskiđe - Sweet Potatoes

Waníde - Gravy

T'abési - Football

Wé'baxap'i - Fork

Hįbđíge waníde - Greenbean Cassarole

Ą́ba zizík'a wáđatè - Thanksgiving

Waháe - Pray

Wak'ą́da wađahą - Prayer





We want your feedback!

Share your thoughts about the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Language Program. What you love, what works, what doesn't, and how we can make it better!

Your feedback helps shape the future of our language revitalization efforts. As a thank you, you'll be entered into a drawing for a beautiful blanket or shawl!

Both youth and adults are encouraged to participate, your perspectives make a difference!

Scan the QR code below to share your voice today!

YOUTH 13-20

ADULTS 21+

Corn Harvest: Planting Prayer, Harvesting Hope

Wíbđahà (Thank you) to all the relatives and friends who made the journey to join us for this year's Annual Sacred Corn Harvest. We are filled with deep gratitude for each of you who came to share in a day of ceremony, community, and remembrance.

From the morning prayers to the final steps of the round dance, every moment honored the spirit of the sacred corn and the ancestors who guide us. The Horse drum group filled the air with powerful songs, grounding us in tradition and unity.

We were honored by the presence of Tribal Council members Angie Starkel and Susie Baker, as well as Honorary Tribal members Art and Helen Tanderup, who shared the story of how the sacred corn became a symbol of resistance.

For more than a decade, corn has been planted in the path of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline - on Art's farmland and beyond - as a living act of protection for the land, water, and future generations.

From harvesting together in the fields, to breaking bread during a community meal sponsored by the Language and Culture Committee, the day was a celebration of resilience and connection. We ended in joy with a powerful round dance, led by the Horse Drum Group, uniting hearts and feet in prayerful movement.

Wíbđahà to everyone who stood with us in ceremony and celebration. Your presence strengthens our purpose and carries the sacred story of the corn forward.









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



Ponca youth join Elders in Buffalo Harvest

In partnership with the Nature Conservancy, PTN held a traditional buffalo harvesting for Ponca members of all ages on September 13-14, 2025. All who helped both days were able to take home buffalo meat. Thank you to Lisa and Arlo Iron Cloud for the guidance, information, and support they provided.











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!



Affected by the Federal Government Shutdown?

Scan the QR code below to complete a brief survey on the impact of this shutdown on our members.

If you or your family are experiencing any direct disruption or hardship due to the federal government shutdown, please contact the Tribe via our dedicated emergency email address: **membersemergencies@poncatribe-ne.gov.**

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Ponca Youth Fund helps youth grow and thrive

The Ponca Youth Fund is designed to support Ponca youth ages 0-20 years old by providing funding to break down barriers to opportunities, experiences, and resources that will help them grow, thrive, and succeed.

The Ponca Youth Fund program, revamped in 2024, is available to all eligible Ponca youth. To be eligible, youth must be enrolled Ponca and have a current address on file with Enrollment.

The program provides $400 to each Ponca youth, disbursed annually. Disbursements are sent automatically from a third-party provider (FSA TPA) via direct deposit, reloadable Visa/Mastercard, or paper checks, depending on preference. Youth who meet eligibility requirements on October 1st will receive funding in the first round of payments in December, while a second round of funding will be distributed in June to those youth who become eligible between October 1st and April 1st.

This program is designed to meet the unique needs of every Ponca youth. It is up to each legal/custodial guardian or youth to decide how best to use the funds to support their personal growth. Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to: sports equipment, outdoor gear, new regalia, music lessons, school clothes, graduation expenses, and more.

Funding may ***not*** be used for household expenses (rent, utilities, groceries), illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco (except for when required for ceremonial purposes), or any items or activities that do not directly relate to or benefit the development of our youth.

Periodic audits may be conducted to ensure funds are being used appropriately, requiring youth or their legal/custodial guardians to submit a report on how funds were used, and the impact on that youth's growth and development.

To ensure your child's eligibility, verify contact information for yourself and your children with Enrollment. They can be contacted via email at enrollment@ponca-tribe-ne.gov. To update your information with FSA TPA, or to sign up for direct deposit or reloadable card, please visit ponca.macrim.net, call 844.969.8777 or email customerservice@fsatpa.com.



District 2 SDA

Family Movie Outing

November 28, 2025 | 11:30 am
Village Pointe Cinema
304 North 174th Street | Omaha, NE

District 2 SDA Ponca tribal members and their immediate family members are invited to a showing of ***Zootopia 2***. Doors open at 11:30 am and movie starts at 12:00 pm. Small combos of popcorn and a drink will be provided for each attendee. First come, first served. Everyone must check in at the PTN table upon arrival.

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



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Join the District 1 and District 4 Facebook groups for more information on fall fun and celebrations!

District 1

District 4

District 2 SDA

Thanksgiving Gift Cards

This year, District 2 Tribal Council will be providing Village Inn gift cards to all Heads of Household in the District 2 service delivery area to help with their holiday meal preparations. Members must be actively enrolled in the tribe (all information current with Enrollment when information is pulled) to qualify. Cards will be given out on a first-come, first served basis.
One card per household.

All cards can be picked up starting **November 3** with Shannon Malone at the Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallager at 402.213.2058.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Member Mailing Questions



Have questions about tribal mailings (gift cards, checks, etc.)? Please reach out to your District Representatives!

District 1
Angie Starkel
402.922.0436

Patrick Lamoureux
712.899.8563

District 2
Falon McAlpin
402.208.0297

Samantha Gallagher
402.213.2058

District 3
Shanna Carpenter
402.805.0883

Susan (Susie) Baker
925.788.0649

District 4
Alex Taylor
402.750.2045

Kyle Taylor
402.750.4299

Ponca SDA* Youth ages 14-18:

Sign up online now for Toys for Teens to receive a gift from the Youth Council!

Scan the QR code to complete your application. Deadline to apply is **Tuesday, November 19th, 2025, at 11:59 pm.**

Participants will be responsible for picking their gift up at their local PTN office. Gifts will be available for pickup starting December 15th-19th.

MUST LIVE WITHIN THE SERVICE DELIVERY AREA!

SCAN ME!

Ponca SDA* Elders 60 years and older:

Sign up online now for our Senior Secret Santa to receive a gift from the Youth Council!

Scan the QR code to complete your application. Deadline to apply is **Tuesday, November 19th, 2025, at 11:59 pm.**

Participants will be responsible for picking their gift up at their local PTN office. Gifts will be available for pickup starting December 15th-19th.

MUST LIVE WITHIN THE SERVICE DELIVERY AREA!

SCAN ME!

District 3 SDA

Holiday Pie Distribution

November 24, 2025 | 3 – 6 pm

Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

This year, District 3 Tribal Council will be distributing pies to help with holiday meal preparations. Pies will be available for pick up on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or at shannac@poncatribe-ne.gov or Susan Baker at 925.788.0649 or at sbaker@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



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.





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

This unique program is open to Native American youth, ages 13-18, nationwide. NAYEP 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 program is a dynamic path to success, culture, and community. As you move through the program, you'll find many ways to earn incentives that reward your dedication and achievements. We've structured NAYEP into five engaging units :

- **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 take your first step? 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).

Native American Role Model: Nicole Aunapu Mann



Nicole Aunapu Mann is an American test pilot and NASA astronaut. She was born to Howard and Victoria Aunapu and grew up in Penngrove, CA. She is married to Travis R. Mann, with whom she has a son.

After completing high school, she graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, Stanford University and the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

Her degrees include a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. She has logged over 2,500 flight hours in 25 types of aircraft, made 200 carrier landings, and has flown 47 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2015, she completed astronaut training, becoming the first female commander of a NASA Commercial Crew Program launch. Her space flight launch in October 22, 2022, made her the first Native American woman in space. On the space flight, she took a dream catcher with her that her mother gave her when she was very young.

As part of the flight, she will be serving as the Spacecraft Commander with her crew scheduled to live on the International Space Station for six months. She is the second indigenous astronaut in space and is currently in the running to be the first woman on the moon in 2025.

Mann has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. As a student at the Naval Academy, she was distinguished as Academic All American, a Trident Scholar, and a Distinguished Graduate. She was the Honor Graduate in her U.S. Naval Test Pilot School class.

During her military career, she received two Air Medals, two Naval and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. In addition, she received the NASA 2015 Stephen D. Thorn Safety Award and the 2017 Jerry Yeagley Award for Exceptional Personal Achievement.

Education Deadlines:

HIED - Winter: November 15th, 2025

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.

Winter 2025 deadline: November 15, 2025
Spring 2026 deadline: December 15, 2025
Summer 2026 deadline: May 15, 2026

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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 school year is July 31, 2026.

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**

Domestic Violence: How to Help in November

Heather Oberg
Domestic Violence Training and Outreach Specialist

Domestic violence (also known as intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, or family violence) refers to a pattern of abusive behaviors used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another partner in an intimate relationship.

Domestic violence can include:

- Physical Abuse (hitting, slapping, choking, etc.)
- Emotional Abuse (insults, threats, manipulation, isolation)
- Sexual Abuse (non-consensual acts, coercion, assault)
- Financial Abuse (controlling finances, preventing employment)
- Digital Abuse (monitoring phone or internet use, online harassment)
- Psychological Abuse (gaslighting, intimidation)
- Cultural Abuse (weaponizing cultural identity, forbidding cultural practice)

Signs of Domestic Violence

Some signs you can watch for in your own or a loved one's life include:

- Unexplained injuries or frequent "accidents"
- Fear of partner
- Nervousness or withdrawal
- Financial Abuse (controlling finances, preventing employment)
- Limited access to money, phone, or transportation
- Constant communication or checking in with partner
- Isolation from friends or family
- Changes in behavior, self-esteem, or confidence

Causes and Risk Factors of Domestic Violence

Abuse is always the responsibility of the abuser. Some risk factors to consider include exposure to violence in childhood, substance abuse, mental health issues, unemployment or financial stress, and/or cultural or societal norms that support power imbalances.

The Impact of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence affects victims, their children, and their communities. Victims find themselves faced with PTSD, depression, anxiety, physical injury, and even death. Children experience emotional trauma, behavioral issues, and the risk of perpetuating the cycle of abuse in the future. Communities face economic costs, and intergenerational cycles of violence.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

On November 25, 2025, this globally recognized day sponsored by the United nations focuses on ending all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and emotional abuse for women and girls.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which run from November 25 until December 10, 2025 (December 10 is International Human Rights Day).

During these 16 days, organizations worldwide hold awareness events, marches and protests, fundraisers for shelters and survivors, and emotional and policy advocacy programs.

Movember Movement

During the entire month of November, what started as a campaign for men's health (including prostate and mental health) has broadened its horizons and now includes raising awareness of male victims of domestic violence, encouraging healthy masculinity, and discusses how violence affects men and boys (both as victims and as perpetrators).

How to help in November

This November, you can help educate friends, family, and community members by sharing facts about domestic and gender-based violence on social media. You can support survivors by donating or volunteering at shelters and advocacy groups. You can also advocate by calling your government representatives to establish stronger laws and support systems.

You can participate by joining events during the 16 Days of Activism. Finally, you can reflect by considering how your own community or workplace can prevent and respond to domestic violence.

Every Child Matters Walk held in Lincoln

On September 30, 2025, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence program hosted the 3rd Annual Every Child Matters Walk in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Capitol Building with the Lincoln Indian Center. Participants were encouraged to wear orange to raise awareness. After the walk, a lunch was hosted by Tribal Home Visiting at the Ponca Health Services Lincoln location.



















Robin Bair, E-5
US Army
Afghanistan/Syria
Service: 1986-1996

I did my basic training and AiT training in Ft. Benning, GA. I then was Stationed in Fort Drum NY, 10th Mountain Division 2/22 Light Infantry Cohort Unit. 2nd Platoon Bravo Company. Been to central America 4 times. Panama twice for jungle training and Honduras twice to guard Tiger Island and do mountain training. Also Middle East to a peacekeeping force in Tel Aviv 3 times. Preparing for desert warfare. Been to many training places across the United States. Been to the Gaza Strip and Holy Lands. Walked up Mount Sinai and Cairo, Egypt.

Antonio Blue-Gamble, SPC
Army
2 tours in Iraq apart of Operation Iraqi Freedom
Service: 2005-2010

Combat Action Badge , Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal



Parris Buffalochief, Retired Master Sergeant
USAF
Service: 1987-2011

With 24 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, Parris dedicated his career to aircraft maintenance and operations, specializing in Electrical and Environmental Control systems across five airframes — F-111, F-15, F-16, A-10, and C-130. Rising to the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7), he supervised maintenance and production for 25 F-16 aircraft and was recognized as a subject matter expert and certified "Red X" technician authorized for aircraft flight release. He deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and participated in international exercises in countries including South Korea, Turkey, Australia, Spain, and Japan. His leadership and expertise made a lasting contribution to Air Force readiness and mission success.

Picture from 2007, featuring his children, Saeka Buffalochief and Tatsuya Buffalochief.



Stephanie Sydnor
USN
OIF and OND
Service: 1994-2014

Matthew Maxfield
USMC
Service: 2014-2020



Gerald Swope
USMC
Service: 1957-1960

Daniel Hamilton, TSGT
USAF
Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Southern Watch
Service: 1984-2004



Todd Carlisle, CTM2
US Navy
Gulf War
Service: 1986-1995



Brian Christiansen
Army
Service: 1992-2001



Jennifer M. Phelps, SGT (JP Pretty Bull)
Army
Iraq
Service: 1997-2005



Daniel Perez
USMC
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Service: 1996-2004



Joseph Tate, SRA E-4
USAF
Cold War
Service: 1980-1986



Clifford C. Taylor
Army
Korea



Bruce Franklin, Staff Sergeant
USAF
Service: 1980-1989

I learned a great trade working on aviation electronics (avionics) in the Air Force. Continued doing avionics work for another 35 years until retiring this year



Elven J Hamilton
Army
Service: 1946-1948



Vernon Howe, A2C
USAF
Vietnam
Service: 1961-1967



Ernest Iron Thunder
Army
WWII



Mark Peniska
USN
Vietnam
Service: 1969-1970



Michael D. Porter, ABE-2
USN
Vietnam
Service: 1964-1967



Marshall Prichard
USMC
Vietnam
Service: 1964-1965

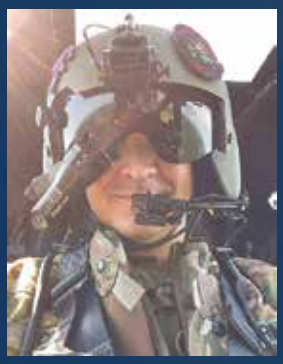
Last assignment regimental landing team, 26th Marines. Honorable discharge



Duane Richards, SH1
USN
Vietnam
Service: 1958-1978



Gaylen Standsblack
USMC
Afghanistan
Service: 2/11-10/11



Andrew Rowe, CW3
US Army
Afghanistan/Syria
Service:2007-Present

Serving as an Attack Helicopter Pilot. Currently stationed at Fort Rucker, AL as a flight school instructor pilot and safety officer.



Thomas Clark (Tony) Wright
Army
Vietnam



Kenneth Zarlingo, PFC
US Army Reserves
Service: 2008-2012



James Christiansen
USMC
Service: 1979-1990

Mona Wendzillo, SMSgt/E-8
USAF
Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom
Service: 1989-2015

Air Force Achievement, Commendation amd Meritorious Service Medals. Good Conduct, Longevity Service, Korean Defense, National Defense, Short OverseasTour and Professional Military Education Medals/ Awards.

PEDCO Attends 2025 SMCo Annual Thrift Store Conference

In preparation for the launch of the Ponca Pathways Thrift and Career Center, PEDCO Director Greg Moser, Grants Manager Tom McCauley, and Business Development Specialist Rheadina Foster attended the 2025 SMCo Thrift conference in Knoxville Tennessee held September 22-24.

The team gained valuable insights into key operational strategies for running a successful thrift store, including donation intake, sorting processes, and pricing items for retail. These learnings will support the upcoming e-commerce phase of the Ponca Pathways Thrift and Career Center.

Starting October 21, 2025, donations such as clothing, shoes, hats, jewelry, and purses can be dropped off at 1001 Fort Crook RD N, Suite 201. Donation hours are:

Tuesday through Thursdays
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday and Saturday
11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

All proceeds from sales will benefit the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, supporting economic empowerment and workforce development opportunities for the Tribe.

Donation bins will be coming soon and will be located at the



Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center, the Ralston Administration Building, OSNI Ponca/PEDCO, and the Lincoln Health and Wellness Center. Community donation drives are also coming soon – stay tuned for updates!



COMING THIS JANUARY!
FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION CLASS

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to make ends meet? You are not alone. Millions of Americans feel stressed by money. In fact, MarketWatch estimates 57% of households live paycheck-to-paycheck. Fortunately, help is here. Starting January 2026, the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) will offer **Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families**, a culturally relevant financial literacy curriculum developed by Oweesta Corporation specifically for Natives.

When: **Session 1: Developing a Spending Plan, Working with Checking & Savings Accounts** **Monday, Jan. 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
Session 2: Understanding Credit & Credit Reporting, Using Credit, and more **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Where: **Lincoln Health and Wellness Center Community Room, 1600 Windhoek Drive Lincoln, NE 68512**

FREE supper both nights! Participants completing all sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

Building Native Communities empowers tribal members to adapt traditional skills to their financial lives, including wise budgeting, credit use, economic citizenship, and smart consumer behavior. Due to high demand, space is limited—please contact PEDCO today to reserve your free spot!

Can't make it this time? Additional trainings will be offered at other Tribal offices throughout the year.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

FREE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MEMBERS

IN-PERSON (Virtual options will be available at future dates)

FACILITATED BY PEDCO

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

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

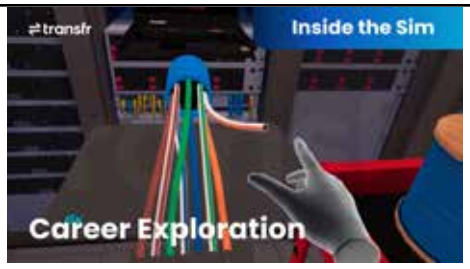
PONCA YOUTH AGES 14-24:

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.



AVAILABLE NOW!

PEDCO Career Quest XR

No matter how old you are, choosing a career can be tough. It's even harder when you're not sure what you want to do or don't know what kind of jobs exist out there. Wouldn't it be great if you could try on several different careers at once to see how they fit?

You can, and PEDCO can help. Thanks to our new extended reality (XR) work exploration program, Career Quest XR, you can sample a wide variety of careers through virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Fun, immersive simulations of realistic job scenarios let you try out the kind of tasks real-world professionals perform regularly. We'll even provide a free career assessment to help you discover jobs aligned with your unique blend of skills and interests.

Whether you're in school, looking for work, underemployed, or deep into a career, PEDCO's Career Quest XR can help you plan your next move. To schedule your free appointment at one of our locations in Lincoln, Omaha, or Norfolk, please contact info@pedco-ne.org today!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

EXTENDED REALITY (XR) CAREER EXPLORATION

EXPLORE REALISTIC ON-THE-JOB SCENARIOS

FIRST-PERSON SIMULATIONS

FREE CAREER INTEREST TOOLS TO HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR DREAM JOB

PEDCO
2756 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.434.2127

PEDCO-NE.org

Wellness Warriors workout with the Circle of Health Team

On September 29, 2025, the Circle of Health team hosted a workout class at the Lincoln Ponca Health Services' gym. Highlights from the night included low impact workouts, a few rounds of basketball knockout, a healthy meal made by the PTN Diabetes Team, A1C testing, and blood pressure checks.











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

November 5, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm

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

November 19, 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.

Tribal programs promote healthy living at Annual Health Fair












Open Enrollment for Medicare, Medicai

MEDICARE

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period will begin October 15, 2025, and go through December 7, 2025. Medicare participants who currently have active Medicare Part B and/or Medicare Advantage can make changes to their health and drug plans for 2026.

Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage participants can make any of these changes to their current plan.

1. Switch from Medicare Advantage back to Original Medicare
2. Dis-enroll from Original Medicare and enroll in Medicare Advantage
3. Change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another
4. Sign up for a Part D prescription drug plan
5. Change from one Part D prescription plan to another
6. Cancel your prescription drug coverage

If you opted out of Medicare Part B in your initial enrollment period and would like to sign up for benefits in 2026, open enrollment period for Medicare Part B will begin January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, and coverage will begin the next month. A 10% penalty fee in addition to the annual Medicare Part B premium may apply.

NEBRASKA & IOWA MEDICAID

Thinking about changing your Managed Care Organization Plan with Medicaid? Open Enrollment begins November 1, 2025, through December 15, 2025.

For participants who currently have active NE or IA Medicaid can change their 2026 plans. Each Managed Care Organization (MCO) offers added benefits: Healthy Reward Programs, Athletic Memberships, GED Programs.

Nebraska Managed Care Organizations

- Molina Healthcare of Nebraska
- Nebraska Totalcare
- United Healthcare Community Plan

Iowa Managed Care Organizations

- Iowa Totalcare
- Molina Healthcare of Iowa
- Wellpoint of Iowa

Don't Have Medicaid?

If you have experienced any changes in your household income, such as lost jobs, decreased hours, switched jobs and/or added a new member to your family, you may now qualify for Medicaid. Medicaid offers several programs based upon income and household size.

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

The health insurance marketplace Open Enrollment and Annual Redetermination period will begin November 1, 2025 and go through January 15, 2026. Enroll by December 15, 2025 for coverage to start January 1, 2026.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

Individuals who don't have health coverage through a job, Medicare, Medicaid, or another source that provides qualifying health coverage can apply for healthcare coverage.

What is qualifying health coverage?

Qualifying coverage refers to any health insurance plan that is considered minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

What is minimum essential coverage?

Health insurance that satisfies the ACA's individual mandate.

Is the Indian Health Services considered qualifying healthcare coverage?

No, Indian Health Services alone does not meet the minimum essential coverage defined by the ACA, therefore is not considered qualifying health coverage.

d, and Marketplace open for 2026 plans

If I am eligible for Purchased/ Referred Care (PRC), isn't this considered my health insurance coverage?

No, PRC is not an entitlement program. It is not insurance and cannot guarantee payment. PRC funds are meant to compliment and supplement other health care resources available to eligible patients. To ensure compliance, an individual must apply for and use all alternative resources that are available.

How much does health insurance through the Marketplace cost?

Premiums are based upon your annual income and household size. Some individuals may have the option to utilize their annual tax credits to pay their monthly premium, which can result in no upfront, out-of-pocket premium cost for them.

Are there multiple plans available?

The Health insurance marketplace offers several different plans, ranging from Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) to Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) with little to no cost for deductibles, out-of-pocket, copay and coinsurance costs.

Can I continue to receive my healthcare services Ponca Health Services?

Yes, we accept insurance plans offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace. This allows us to bill the insurance plan for our services, and will provide third party revenue to our facility so we may offer for additional services in the future.

I already applied for the Marketplace in 2025. Do I need to reapply again?

Participants who are currently enrolled in a Marketplace plan will need to reapply to determine their eligibility for 2026.

Can I change my current healthcare plan with Marketplace?

Yes, after submitting your 2026 marketplace application, applicants have the option to remain in their current healthcare plan or choose a new plan that better suits their healthcare needs.

Get assistance with your Medicaid, Marketplace, or Medicare today!

Schedule an appointment with one of our Patient Benefits Coordinators over the phone or in person to discuss the plans and options that best fit your needs!

FRED LEROY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Sylvia Allen-Lopez
402.738.3151
sallen-lopez@poncatribe-ne.gov

Michelle Hallowell
402.738.3177
mhallowell@poncatribe-ne.gov

LINCOLN HEALTH CENTER

Michelle Runyan
531.248.3030 ext. 1144
mrunyan@poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA HILLS HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Andrea Burbach
402.371.8780 ext. 2012
aburbach@poncatribe-ne.gov

Services Expanded for Diabetes Awareness Month

Meghan McLarney
SDPI Project Director

The Ponca Diabetes Program is growing, bringing a wealth of new resources to our communities!

We invite you to connect with our team to learn more about preventing and managing diabetes as we launch fresh programs, classes, and services for the coming year.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Native Americans face the highest rates of diabetes and related complications of any ethnic group in the U.S. Of the 5.7 million Native people in the U.S., nearly 15% have some form of diabetes. The impact of colonization, forced relocation, loss of traditional food ways, and ongoing issues with discrimination and lack of access to care contribute to poorer health outcomes Native people. In 2017, Native people were 2.5 times more likely to die from diabetes complications than the average American.

November 14th is World Diabetes Day. The blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes, representing unity in the fight against this chronic condition. Wearing blue is a powerful way to show support and raise awareness for the millions of people affected by diabetes around the world.

- Wear blue clothing or accessories on November 14th
- Share a photo on social media with hashtags like #WorldDiabetesDay and #BlueCircle
- Encourage your workplace or school to join in with a blue-themed day
- Light up landmarks or homes in blue to show solidarity

Foot Care Clinics

Keeping your feet healthy is incredibly important to anyone with diabetes. The Diabetes Program is excited to now offer Foot Care clinics in Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk, Niobrara, and Sioux City.

To schedule an appointment, contact Michelle Alloway or reach out to Scheduling.

Cooking Classes

Healthy eating habits are essential to helping control and manage diabetes. Learn more about how to eat healthy on a budget, and incorporate traditional food ways into your modern diet. Diabetes Cooking classes are offered on a monthly basis in Omaha, and periodically at other office locations. Upcoming classes include:

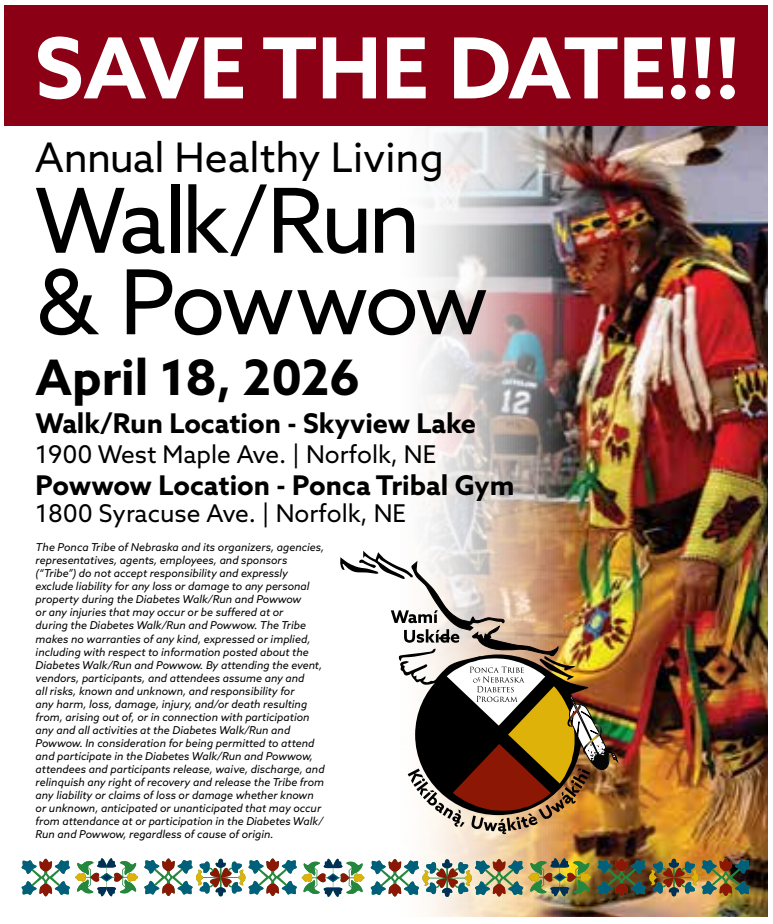
- **Norfolk –** November 14th
- **Niobrara –** November 25th

We look forward to working together throughout the coming year to build healthier futures. Reach out to your Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes team today for support, education, and empowerment, and more!

Contact us today to schedule an appointment:

Meghan McLarney
402.738.3178
mmclarney@poncatribe-ne.gov

Michelle Alloway
402.733.3183
malloway@poncatribe-ne.gov



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)

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.

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

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
Dedicos, Heather Maria
Detoffoli, Emily Nicole
Dodd, Sara Rae
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
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
Grist, Robert Kay
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hagler, Joshua James
Hendren,
Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Horse, Alexander Bruce
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, Desireè Leann
Mann, Sydney Desireè
Marlow, Skyler Jade
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
Mc Cray,
Jallen Christopher Leonard
Mc Cray, Johnny William Melvin
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
Phongsavat, Tia Arianna
Picotte - Felde,
Diamond Rose
Picotte, Braden Bardo
Picotte, Desireè Rosetta
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
Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon
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

Ponca Dental gives back to Veterans



The Third Annual Nebraska Veterans Mission of Mercy was held on September 26th & 27th 2025, in the Nebraska National Guards Readiness Center in Yutan, Nebraska.

This year we could not send staff to help on the clock, but Kathi Narlock PHRDH in the Omaha clinic, volunteered her own time provide hygiene care. The Ponca Dental Clinics were able to provide our radiology equipment once again for the mission.

This year's mission was able to help about 400+ patients who do not qualify for the Veteran Administrations dental program receive the care they need without worry about payment for services.

The Ponca Dental Clinic looks forward to participating in the 2026 Nebraska Veterans Mission of Mercy.

Deborah Bernadette Spotted Wood (October 7, 1957 – September 29, 2025)





Deborah Bernadette Spotted Wood, age 67, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones in her home on Monday, September 29th, 2025 after a long battle with cancer.

Deborah, the daughter of Evelyn Wright, was born October 7th, 1957 in Wagner, SD. She graduated from Yankton Public High School in 1976 and is a North East Community College, Norfolk, NE, graduate with her LPN. She then started working at the Norfolk Regional Center, a career which lasted for the next 20 years. After that she sat on the Northern Ponca Restoration Committee Inc. where she helped with the restoration of the Ponca Tribe in 1990. After the Ponca Tribe was reinstated, she got voted on as a chairwoman. Following her time as a chairwoman, she became the tribal health director. She was a proud Ponca Tribal member and she loved her time working there. She eventually went back to what she loved, which was helping and caring for others. She continued working as a private duty nurse up until the end of her career.

Deborah married Eugene Theodore Wright in 1980 in Norfolk NE, where they shared a long and happy marriage. Deborah had many hobbies and was very active in her community. She loved macrame, painting, ceramics, sewing, quilting and tending to her plants. She also enjoyed cooking and she became a master in making frybread. Music, laughter, and good energy was always in her house, which she opened to everyone.

Deborah liked to stay busy, by either spending time with her grandchildren, participating in the Ponca Tribe activities, or attending pow-wows. She also donated her time to the Johnson-O'Malley program, where she sat on the committee that provided supplemental educational services to American Indian students to help them succeed academically and culturally.

Deborah is survived by her 6 children, 4 girls and 2 boys, Wenda Sue Wright, Tyler James Wright, Genessa Lynn Wright, Kendra Rae Arcoren, Jeanette Theodora Wright, and Eugene Theodore Wright Jr.; as well as 5 sisters and 1 brother. She also had many nieces, nephews and grandchildren, that she loved dearly and treated like her own children.

She was loved by so many, and will be remembered for her boundless compassion and unwavering dedication to her loved ones. Deborah's devotion to family was a cornerstone of her life.

Elder's Committee Meetings

November 3 | 10 am
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

December 1 | 10 am
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

Welcome, Baby Ireland!

Ireland Lou Hansen was born on August 27th, 2025, weighing in at 7lbs 8oz. This is the first grandchild of Crystal Mundorf.

Parents: Ian Hansen and Presley Marnach
Grandparents: Crystal Mundorf and Scott Hansen
Great Grandmother: Rozlyn (Boettger) Barta
Great-Great Grandmother:
Maxine (Birdhead) Boettger

Congratulations on your newest addition to the family!



Congratulations, Jessica!

We wanted to give a HUGE shout out to Jessica Hitchcock who graduated from her Executive Public Information Officer (EPIO) course from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on September 19th, 2025.

Jessica is one of two EPIO's in the state of Nebraska and the only one who works for a Tribal nation.

Congratulations, girl! You did it and we are so proud of you.

– Mary Robertson & the Lincoln Office



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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 8th of each month. In the event the 8th falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Shea VanCleave, sthompson@poncatribe-ne.gov.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.gov