Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



Merry and Bright

District events bring joy to members across the Service Delivery Area!

January 2026

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!

January 16, 2026 | 12 – 1 pm
Virtual Meeting
Link sent out before meeting

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

Scan Me!

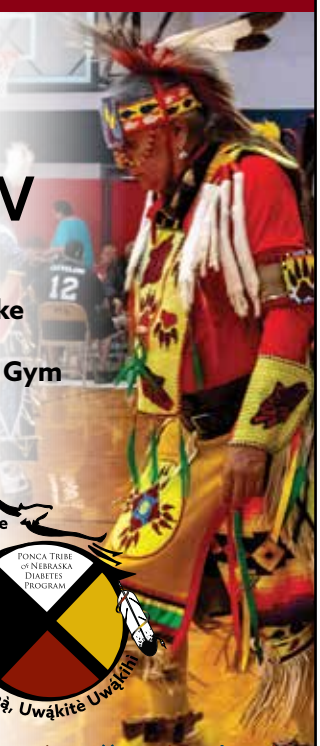


PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Annual Healthy Living
Walk/Run & Powwow
April 18, 2026

Walk/Run Location - Skyview Lake
1900 West Maple Ave. | Norfolk, NE
Powwow Location - Ponca Tribal Gym
1800 Syracuse Ave. | Norfolk, NE



The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and its organizers, agencies, representatives, agents, employees, and sponsors ("Tribe") do not accept responsibility and expressly exclude liability for any loss or damage to any personal property during the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow or any injuries that may occur or be suffered at or during the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. The Tribe makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including with respect to information posted about the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. By attending the event, vendors, participants, and attendees assume any and all risks, known and unknown, and responsibility for any harm, loss, damage, injury, and/or death resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with participation any and all activities at the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. In consideration for being permitted to attend and participate in the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow, attendees and participants release, waive, discharge, and relinquish any right of recovery and release the Tribe from any liability or claims of loss or damage whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated that may occur from attendance at or participation in the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow, regardless of cause of origin.

Wamí Uskíde
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes Program
Kikibaną, Uwąkitę Uwąkiti

Tribal Council Meetings

January 5 | 4:30 pm
Local Offices & Lifesize

January 12 | 4:30 pm
Local Offices & Lifesize

January 20 | 4:30 pm
Local Offices & Lifesize

January 26 | 4:30 pm
Local Offices & Lifesize

SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

January 7, 2026 | 10 am – 6 pm

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

January 13, 2026 | 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.

On the cover: Santa comes to town to visit families attending the District 4 Christmas party


Year in Review
U.S. Capitol Visitor Center
2025

Rockin' around at District 1's Christmas Parties












Artists Wanted!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to submit art for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow t-shirt, to be used for this year's Powwow. The artist whose design is selected will be compensated $300 for their art, and have their art credited on the t-shirt and poster. Artists may submit previously submitted art.

Designs MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026. Scan the QR code below to submit your artwork!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. All artwork must be high resolution, scalable to poster and/or t-shirt size. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. and Mrs. Claus visit District 2's Christmas Party








District 2

Membership Meeting

January 25, 2026 | 10 am – 12 pm

Ralston Transit Facility
5805 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

Join us for District 2 membership meeting! This will be a potluck style meeting and your D2 representatives will provide the main dish. Can't join us in person? No problem! Join us virtually on Lifesize at **https://call.lifesizecloud.com/22243458**.

This will be the first of several informational sessions. We'll begin with a Social Services overview, followed by member questions, and closing with open dialogue to help prepare for our next D2 meeting! For more information, please contact Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA







Big bingo winners at District 3's Christmas Party











Cooks Wanted!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is seeking Ponca members to apply for Head Cook for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply, and, if selected, be able to attend up to two Powwow Committee meetings at the Committee's request.

Applications MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026. Scan the QR code below to submit your application!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Santa stops his sleigh in Norfolk for District 4's Christmas Party










Cleaning Staff Wanted!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is seeking Ponca members to apply for cleaning crew for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply. Prospective cleaning crews must be made up of at least 6 members. **Applications MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026.** Scan the QR code to submit your application!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA




District 2's movie night full of wild laughs at *Zootopia 2*

From shopping to football, to the cold and post-Thanksgiving food coma, nothing could stop these District 2 party animals from seeing Zootopia 2 on November 28th, 2025.











ICWA Qualified Expert Witness Training

January 28, 2026 | 10 am – 4 pm
January 31, 2026 | 10 am – 4 pm
Ralston Transit Facility | 5805 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

February 7, 2026 | 10 am – 4 pm
Virtual Meeting | Link sent out before meeting

Scan Me!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will be hosting an ICWA Qualified Expert Witness training. This training session is designed for tribal social workers or advocates that represent tribes in Indian Child Welfare Act cases.

Spaces are limited so registration is required. To register, scan the QR code or visit **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/qew_training**.

For more information, please contact Tiffani Spencer at tspencer@poncatribe-ne.gov

***Travel costs may be reimbursed for participants outside of the Omaha area*



Ponca Courses at NICC!

CLASSES START JAN. 20, 2026

TAKE FOR COLLEGE CREDITS OR PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

BOTH PONCA COURSES ARE ONLINE

ONLY $1 PER CREDIT HOUR

CREDITS TRANSFERABLE TO OTHER COLLEGES

Ponca History	Ponca Language 1
Tuesdays & Thursdays	Mondays to Thursdays
9:00 - 10:30 am	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Online: Microsoft Teams	Online: Microsoft Teams
3 Credit Hours	4 Credit Hours

Instructor: Angie Starkel

Apply to Nebraska Indian Community College
https://www.thenicc.edu/admissions/
NICC 1111 HWY 75 Macy, NE 68039
NICC: 844-440-6422 Angie Starkel 402-922-0436

This Puzzle is Un-BEE-lievable!

by Patience Teboe, Culture Director

Y V P O P R G C Ú Č T Á Z G J Á A M T W H F Q È W
Q G X È G A C È È A Á É K O Á Č I D S Á O B Š Ú X
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À H Q Į Í N M Ą A N Š A Į F E Š J J V A Ú Á W Q À
V Z X N Č S R U C X L D S W G Z Q M Á L J K Á Č E
Á C Ð K Ú R A Í W B N R H Ą À N H K G Č M Y L O L

Wagᵭíškà – Bug

Sį'gᵭè – Cricket

Hą́t'egà – Fly

Mąᵭika'šibè – Worms

K'igᵭą́'xè – Bee

U'ᵭískè – Spider

Wanáxąxą – Lightning Bug

Náhąge – Mosquito

Wačíninik'à – Butterfly

He ´– Lice

U'ᵭískè sábe `– Black Widow

Įgᵭé babút'à – Dung Beetle

K'igᵭą́' xèsnedé – Wasp



Member Mailing Questions



Have questions about tribal mailings? 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

Return to your roots

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

Are you a Native youth between the ages of 13-18? An exciting opportunity awaits you! For a limited time, you could earn $100 in incentives and a certificate of completion when you participate in this enriching program. 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**
- **Native American History**
- **Native American Contributions**
- **Cultural Traditions**
- **Native American Role Models: Past & Present**



Ready to take your first step? Sign up today!

Contact Amber Appling at aappling@poncatribe-ne.gov or at 402.371.8834 Ext. 2037, or visit www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/

(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).

Education Deadlines:

HIED - Summer 2026: May 15th, 2026

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.

Summer 2026 deadline: May 15, 2026
Fall 2026 deadline: August 15, 2026
Winter 2026 deadline: November 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 2023-2024 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

Protect your home and health from radon gas during National Radon Action Month

Cody Barta
Environmental Specialist

January is National Radon Action Month! Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive and odorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Radon is naturally found in high concentrations in Nebraska. 59% of homes tested in Nebraska have concentrations ABOVE the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level deemed “safe”!

Radon gas raises the risk of lung cancer for all people, but it is especially dangerous for smokers, as it exponentially multiplies the risk of lung cancer in smokers.

Since you can't see or smell radon, the only way to know if your home has a problem is to get tested. Thankfully, homes with high radon levels can be fixed with a procedure called radon mitigation.

Currently, the PTN Environmental Protection Department offers FREE radon testing for tribal members within the PTN service delivery areas that own their residence and those who are in Northern Ponca Housing Authority housing.

Please email Cody Barta to schedule a free radon test at cbarta@poncatribe-ne.gov , or send a text to (402) 358-6290.





Mental Health Services
- Mental Health Counseling
- Individual & Family Therapy
- Anger Management Counseling
- Psychological Evaluations/Testing
- Psychiatric Services
- Diagnostic Interviews
- Dual-Diagnosis Treatment

Substance Use Services
- Individual Substance Use Therapy
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Outpatient Treatment
- Substance Abuse & Chemical Dependency Evaluations
- Medication Therapy for Opioid Use & Alcohol Use Disorder
- Treatment Planning & Chemical Dependency Education

Wetąbedį · T'ąwągdąk'i · Waška
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Behavioral Health

Case Management & Peer Support Services
- Coordinate services across PTN departments and external agencies
- Assist with benefit enrollment and applications (Medicaid, SSI, Tribal Enrollment, etc.)
- Support clients in achieving recovery goals and serve as a supportive role model
- Collaborate with Behavioral Health Department and Ponca Health Services to integrate substance abuse prevention services in various systems

Youth Services
- Talking Circles (Adolescent/Teens)
- Cultural Activities: Language, Beading, Regalia Making & Traditional Dancing
- Field Trips & Summer Youth Camps
- Arts & Crafts

Serving all Native Americans regardless of tribal affiliation.

Emerging Contaminants: What are PFAS?

Olivia Pospisil
Environmental Hazards Specialist

PFAS are man-made chemical compounds that have been used in industry and consumer products. The term PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are also described as "forever chemicals."

PFAS were made to resist water, heat, and any other process that could degrade it. Because of this, PFAS are very hard to break down, and could take thousands to millions of years to naturally decompose.

Examples of where PFAS can be found are:

- Household products and dust (non-stick cookware, cleaning products, paints and varnishes, stain and water-repellent used on fabrics)
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss, and cosmetics)
- Fire extinguishing foam
- Food packaging (grease resistant paper, fast food containers, candy wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes)
- Food (fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS)
- Contaminated drinking water in public water systems and private drinking water wells
- Pesticides and fertilizers

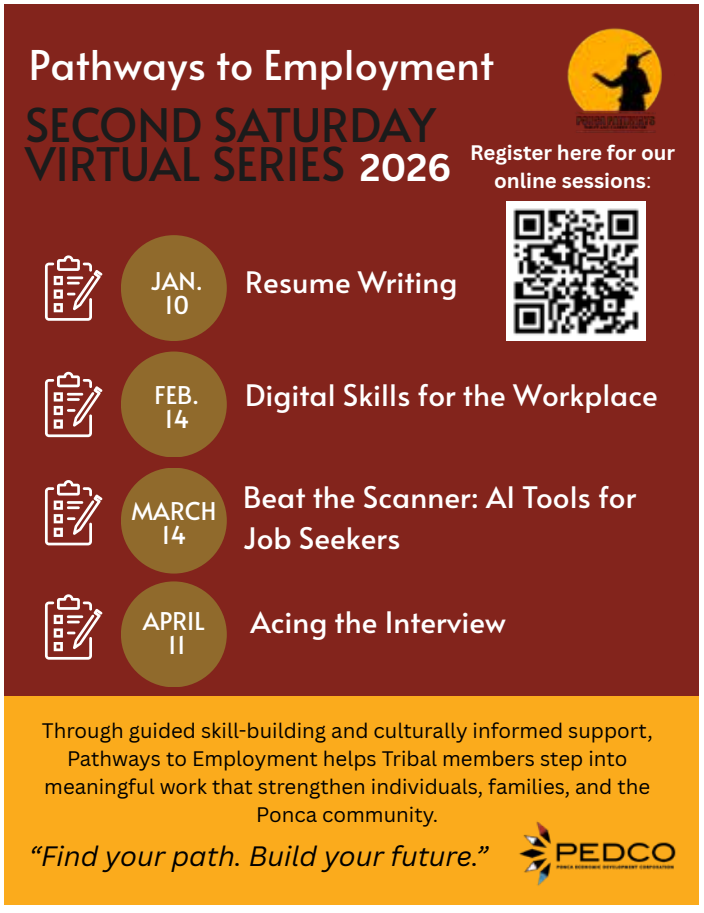
PFAS have found their way into plants, which then works its way up the food chain and accumulates in bigger organisms, including humans.

The research on PFAS is growing fast, and the understanding of it is becoming increasingly widespread. The full effects of PFAS to humans are unknown but have proven deadly to certain organisms, especially aquatic life.

Join us for future editions for more on these emerging contaminants, and ways to reduce their impacts on you, your family, and the environment around us.

For more information, contact the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Environmental Department or visit the EPA's website on PFAS: www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained.





Registration opening soon for Ponca Youth Camp!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is excited to host our second annual Mąt'ánąhà Đéwadè (Into the Wild) Youth Camp, June 7-11, 2026. We are inviting Ponca youth ages 12-18 to Ponca homelands in Niobrara to connect with their culture, the outdoors, and each other.

Last year's camp offered activities like archery, fishing, swimming, and horseback riding, and opportunities to learn about the natural world, including foraging and working together to build beaver dams!



Campers also learned conservation work and careers with hands-on presentations exploring nature photography, wild-land firefighting, astronomy, water quality testing, air quality monitoring, and more!

Throughout the camp, campers created new friendships, strengthened existing ones, and explored more of what it means to be Native. Culture was woven throughout the week with language lessons and cultural crafts and activities.

Registration will be opening soon for Ponca youth. To be notified when registration opens, please scan the QR code on the camp ad on this page to be added to the notification list. Spots are limited, so early sign-ups are encouraged.









Get Started with CredibleMind

The One-Stop Shop for Mental Wellbeing Resources

CredibleMind is the free online platform that brings together expert rated and vetted videos, podcasts, apps, books and articles all in one easy to use place.

Confidential and available 24/7, with CredibleMind you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment and browse our library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

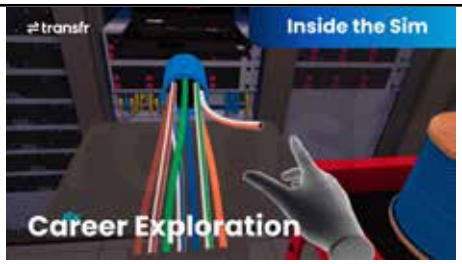
To find support and resources, visit
pedco.crediblemind.com

Here, you can find:

- **Resources covering over 100 topics**
- **Real-time practices and activities**
- **Courses to learn and grow**
- **Assessments to learn more about your strengths and challenges**
- **Local Resources**

♥ *Free, confidential, expert vetted health and wellbeing resources*

PEDCO CredibleMind



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

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





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

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

Ponca Pathways Community Donation Drive

The Ponca Pathways Community Donation Drive on November 22nd, 2025, was a tremendous success, thanks to the generosity of our community and partners.

We saw an incredible response on social media, with strong engagement and digital awareness helping amplify their mission of creating workforce opportunities for Ponca Tribal members. The turnout, the donations, and the online support demonstrated just how deeply our community believes in the impact of this work.

Ponca Pathways employees and volunteers were on hand to help collect both clothing and non-perishable food donations. This event has laid the foundation for what will become a staple annual effort as we move into 2026, strengthening our ability to Feed the Buffalo and uplift the entire Ponca community.



We here at Ponca Pathways wanted to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who donated, shared information online, spread the word, and stood in support of this growing initiative. Wíbđahà (Thank you)!

Contact us today at: poncathrift@pedco-ne.gov

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.

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

Stalking Awareness Month and how you can help

Brook McCurdy
Domestic Violence Outreach Specialist

January is an incredibly important month for awareness, including both Stalking and Human trafficking awareness. To be good relatives, we must learn about both, including current statistics, and what we can do as a community to combat stalking and human trafficking in our communities.

National Stalking Awareness Month helps identify and put an end to stalking. Stalking affects 13.5 million people in the U.S. each year. Approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the U.S. experience stalking. Stalking is defined as a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, or contact directed at a person, causing them fear or emotional distress. Perpetrators often engage in behaviors that seem harmless, or maybe even appear romantic to outsiders, which can lead to victims feeling isolated in their fear and fewer early interventions.

All stalkers can be dangerous, but intimate partner stalkers, on average, pose the greatest threats to their victims. Stalking and Domestic violence often go hand in hand, as abusers may follow, track, watch, excessively contact, gather information about, threaten, and/or otherwise scare their intimate partner. This may happen before, during, and/or after a domestic violence relationship.

If you are being stalked:

- Try to avoid the person stalking you
- Keep any evidence received from the stalker, (text messages, voicemails, letters, packages, emails) but do not respond
- Inform family, friends, supervisors, and property management of the situation
- Consider reporting the stalking to local law enforcement
- Contact an advocate to create a safety plan and get support

January is also Human Trafficking Awareness month, educating the public on how to prevent and respond to human trafficking. Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. While Human trafficking affects all ages, races, genders, sexes, ethnicities, and socioeconomic classes, it is especially prevalent in our American Indian/Alaska Native communities. In the U.S. and Canada, an average of 40% of the women who were victims of sex trafficking identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, some red flags of trafficking include:

- A would-be employer collects fees from a potential worker for the 'opportunity' to work in a particular job
- A person is showered with gifts or money or otherwise becomes involved in an overwhelming, fast-moving, and asymmetric (e.g., large difference in age or financial status) romantic relationship
- Developing a relationship that seems too close with someone known only from social media
- Someone living with a parent or guardian shows signs of abuse
- Being offered a job opportunity that seems too good to be true

If you believe you are a victim of human trafficking or have information about a potential trafficking situation, please contact the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911.

As we enter January, the community is invited to watch for awareness and educational activities facilitated by the DV department. Survivors of stalking and human trafficking are also invited to share their stories with the Outreach and training team. Your lived experience can facilitate awareness and provide hope to those currently involved in trafficking. Personal accounts can be as anonymous as the survivor is comfortable with.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available through these services:

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
800-799-SAFE (7233)

StrongHearts Native Helpline:
844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

National Sexual Assault Hotline:
800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline:
866-331-9474

All services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or reach out to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program to access the support or resources needed.

Second annual Tribal Home Visiting Baby Shower













Creation stories with the Circle of Health team















Dental modular aides dental staff at Fred LeRoy

On November 21st, 2025, a modular building was delivered via a heavy machinery crane to the west parking lot at Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center, sitting next to the Dental Clinic.

The building was purchased from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where it was used as a modular COVID-19 testing site during the re-entry of students to campus. This one-of-a-kind building was built custom on campus with heat/AC, spacious rooms, and large windows. This building will take the place of the occasional Mobile Dental Unit deployment at Fred LeRoy campus.

Once fully equipped, this building will assist the dental clinic by increasing the number of treatment chairs from three to four chairs, with the intent in the near future to add a fifth chair, making the clinic more accessible to clients.

After the first year of opening the building, all patients will still check in at the normal dental clinic check-in location and then will be informed where to access the building. We are excited to utilize this new clinic to offer our patients high-quality dental care!

With the placement of the building, there will be alterations to the parking structure at Fred LeRoy, similar to when the mobile was deployed there. There are two blocked stalls closest to the modular that will be used for cars heading east to loop around and exit the parking lot to the west.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Cameron Aitken, Chief Dental Officer at (531) 248-5010.







Elder's Committee Meetings

January 5 | 10 am
1800 Syracuse Ave. | Norfolk, NE

February 2 | 10 am
1600 Windhoek Dr. | Lincoln, NE





Above: Proposed parking changes and flow at FLHWC

Ponca member Dr. Rebecca Lechner completes professional certification aimed at helping PHS clients

Ponca Health Services is proud to announce that Dr. Rebecca Lechner, APRN, FNP-C, Chief Medical Officer of PHS, has completed an 18-hour Geriatric Summit and is now a Certified Geriatric Care Professional. This achievement strengthens our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, culturally responsive healthcare for our elders and families.

This advanced training enhances our ability to recognize and manage the unique healthcare needs of older adults, including fall prevention, medication safety, chronic disease management, memory concerns, and caregiver support. It also reinforces a holistic approach to care that honors the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social aspects of aging.

Culture is deeply rooted in Dr. Lechner's approach to care. As a proud member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the granddaughter of the Tribe's eldest male member, Theodore Branstiter, she understands the significance of protecting and honoring the health of our elders.

"It truly is an honor to give back to the Tribe as a buffalo doctor. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue growing as a healthcare provider and to use this knowledge and training to care for our community," says Dr. Lechner.

"We see highly complex healthcare needs every day, and certifications like this help ensure we continue providing the highest quality, culturally sensitive, and safe patient care for our elders and families."

For the community, this certification means safer care, improved coordination across services, and expanded support for elders and caregivers. It reflects Ponca Health Services' dedication to continuous learning, leadership development, and excellence in patient care.

Ponca Health Services remains committed to strengthening healthcare for our community – today and for generations to come.

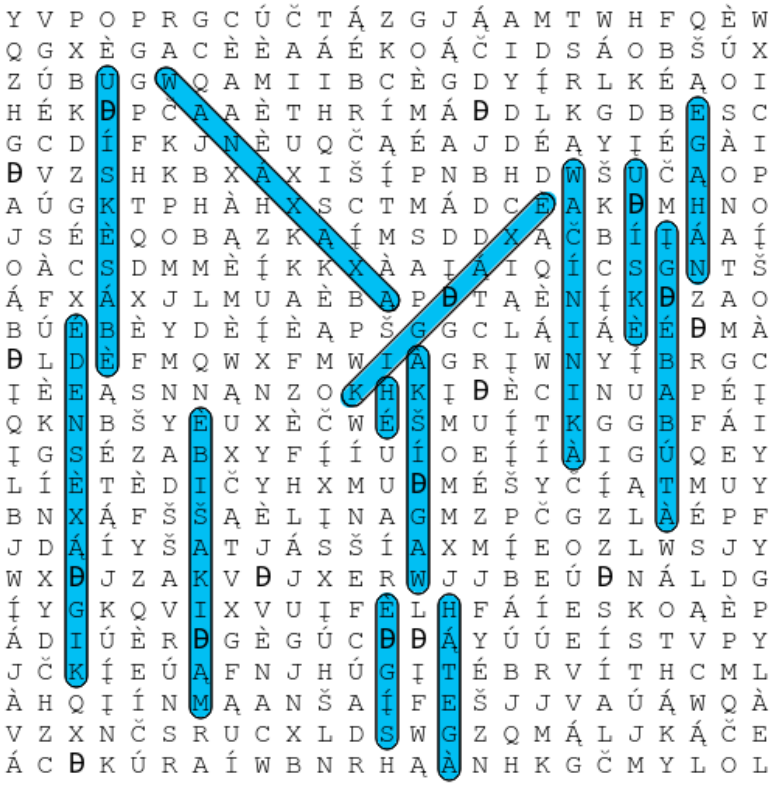
Youth Mentoring Progam

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



Word search answers from page 6

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
Ashrun, Oriana Mae
Aungie, Mariah Keeley Shaye Madison
Bachmeier, Tristan Chad
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Skylar Dominick
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley
Bear, Cashlyn Rae
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Beaver, Jason Chaska
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold
Becker, Tyller Randell
Bell, Darian Patrick
Bell, Shaunè 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
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae
Droescher, Savannah Jo Anne
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Eilers, Richard James
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fegan, Maria Christina
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Flagg, III., 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, III., Jesse Clarence
Green, Brooklyn Marie
Gutierrez, Kassandra Rae
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Halverson, Reid Arnold
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.
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Kellogg, Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kellogg, Pearl Marie
Kelso, James Alan
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Koenig, Jody Alan Jo
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Lasley, Michael Vernon
Lasley, Nathen Shane
Lea, Tychicus James
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Leal, Amanda Maria
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
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
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
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
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Reed, Alcina Jewel
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
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille
Sherman, Brandon Eugene
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman, Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith VII, William Thomas
Smith, Donald Eugene
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, Vi, William Thomas
Snoozy, Ben Michael
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Marko Tulio
Stastny, Evan Matthew
Stastny, Rachel Colleen
Stegman, Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe, Colt Everett
Suverkrubbe, Nathan Fernando
Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Taylor, Kàili 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
Warner, Stormy Renee
Waters, Deon Koleen
White, Abrianna Aliya
Williams, Andrea Michelle
Wright Jr, Eugene Theodore
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright, Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Howard Floyd

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.

**** NOTICE: All Tribal Members ****

LAW AND ORDER CODE REVISION
TITLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS
COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

**** NOTICE: All Tribal Members****

The Law & Justice Committee will be proposing significant amendments to Title I General Provisions of the Law and Order Code. The majority of Title I will be amended. The revisions are being considered to enhance the sovereignty of the Ponca Tribe.

Title I General Provisions will be significantly revised. The revisions being considered include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Adding a chapter on Boards and Commissions**
- **Changing the Terms of Pro Tempore Judges from 1 year to 2 years**
- **Adding Juneteenth as a holiday**
- **Adding Perjury to the Chapter on Contempt**
- **Enhancing the chapter on Sovereignty and Immunity**
- **Adding a chapter on Tribal Contracts**
- **Adding to the chapter regarding Conduct on Tribal Property**

A complete copy of the proposed addition is available at the tribal offices, or one may be obtained by contacting Jan Colwell, Executive Assistant to Tribal Council at 402-857-3391 Ext. 5016 or janc@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Written comments will be accepted until February 1, 2026. The written comments may be emailed to janc@poncatribe-ne.gov or mailed to

Jan Colwell,
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

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