Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



Hippity Hopping Spring

Easter pictures, Walk/Run Powwow, and more!

May 2026



August 6-9, 2026

Grand Entries: Thurs- 7 pm | Fri & Sat - 1 pm & 7 pm | Sun - 1 pm

Meals provided 1 hour before each Grand Entry

Senior Princess
Emily Oestreich

Junior Princess
Reylynn Lemus

Little Miss
Rhemi Johnson

Head Man
Wakeen Teboe

Head Woman
Gwendolyn A. Wright-Santiago

Head Boy
James Beatty

Head Girl
Cante'Iyapa Blacktail Deer

Additional drums accepted on a first-come, first-paid basis.

MC
Shannon Leroy

Arena Director
Stan Smith

Arena Shadows
Adrian Chavez
Tatum Bear

Head Drum
Drowning Creek

Invited Drums
Lightning Horse
Gunslingers
Soldier Creek
Dakota Boyz



Hand Game
August 6 | 10 am

Diabetes Fun Run
August 7 | 10 am

Cornhole Tournament
August 8 | 10 am

Horseshoe Tournament
August 9 | 10 am

Team Dance Contest
Golden Age Special
Men's Fancy Dance Contest

Security and First Aid provided. Restrooms, running water, and limited camping on site. Elders receive priority parking, additional parking provided near grounds, with shuttle.

PTN POWWOW GROUNDS DIRECTIONS: One mile west of Niobrara on Highway 12. Turn left at the Ponca sign, located across from the Niobrara State Park. Follow the pavement to the Powwow Grounds.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PTNCultureDepartment

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

WJAG KIX 97.5 Rock

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 Annual Powwow or any injuries that may occur or be suffered at or during the Annual Powwow. The Tribe makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including with respect to information posted about the Annual 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 Annual Powwow. In consideration for being permitted to attend and participate in the Annual 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 Annual Powwow, regardless of cause of origin.

On the cover: Ponca youth celebrate Easter in District 3. More pictures of all District Easter parties on page 2 and 3.

CELEBRATING CHIEF STANDING BEAR

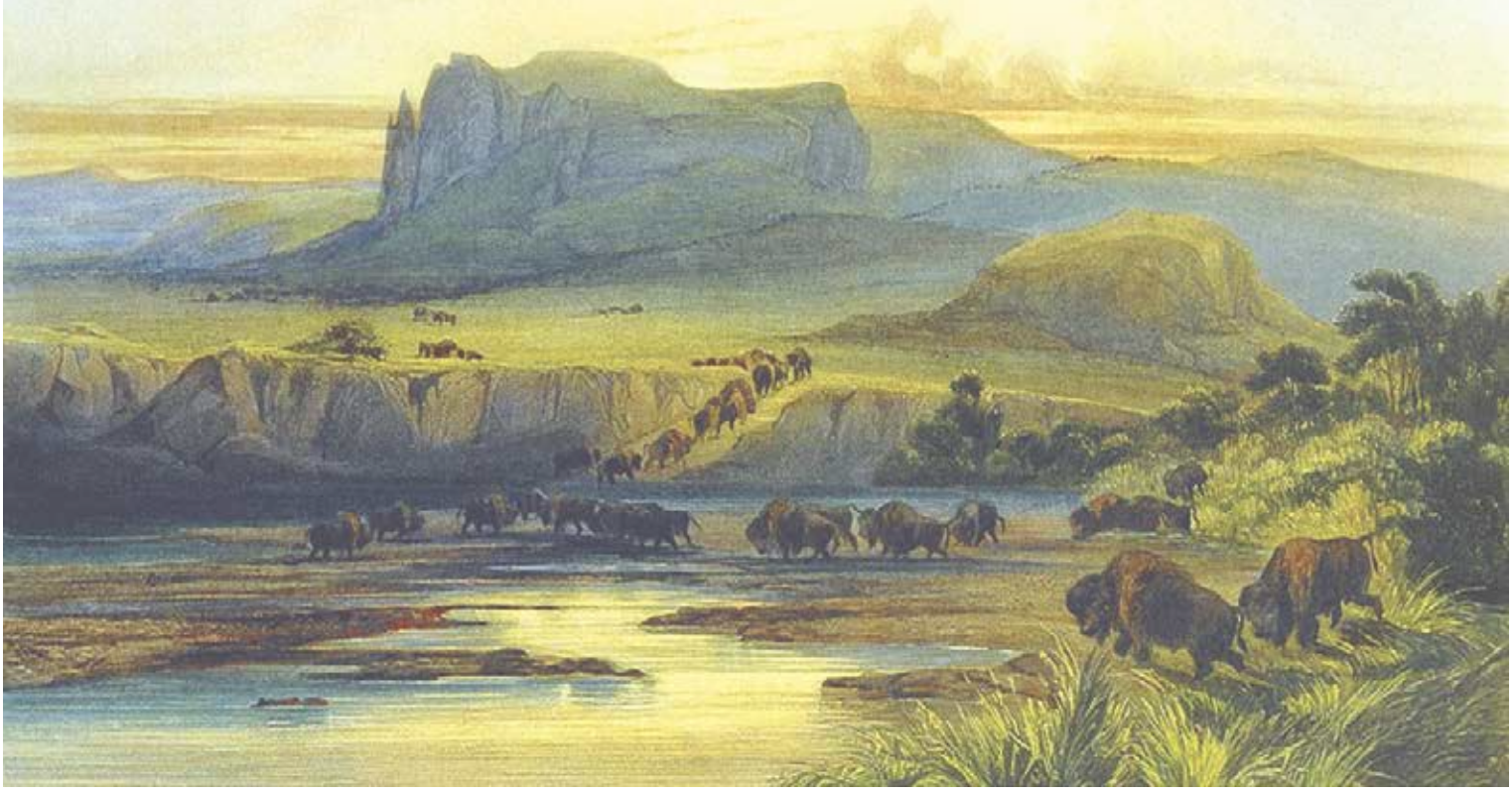


On May 12th, 1879, Judge Elmer Dundy ruled that Native Americans are “persons” under United States law. The outcome of Standing Bear versus Crook was a monumental moment for Indigenous people everywhere. The ruling indicated that Native Americans had the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This decision created a legacy that has impacted past, present, and future generations.

It took courage for Standing Bear to leave Indian Territory and make the long walk back to Nebraska to lay his son to rest. Without this act of courage and respect for the Ponca way of life, this legacy would not have been formed.

As we take time this May to celebrate the anniversary of this important moment, I challenge the Ponca people to do one act, big or small, to carry Standing Bear’s legacy forward. Tell your friend about your Ponca heritage. Try saying a new word in Ponca. Reach out to an elder and ask them to tell you a story. Learn about your family tree and which great Ponca leaders came before you. These acts keep Ponca culture alive today and not just in memory.

A legacy isn’t something we just inherit; a legacy is a call-to-action. It asks each of us to actively carry our language, traditions, and values forward for future generations.



Easter Bunny visits kids from all Districts


























MOM'S
MY JAM



Poems Written While Reading Louis Headman's *Walks On the Ground*

Dr. Louis Headman's Walks On the Ground: A Tribal History of the Ponca Nation remains a powerful and enduring work, inspiring reflection and cultural connection among Ponca readers. Building on this, Ponca writer Cliff Taylor began a series titled Poems Written While Reading Walks On the Ground, responding to the book and the living culture of the Ponca Nation.

Below is the second poem in this series:

The young boy watches the giveaway
from the bleachers, his spirit slowly
drinking understandings from what
he's witnessing. A description of
Ponca character is being given to
him: if he reads it correctly he will
have another piece of knowledge
about how to be Ponca. Maybe he's
in a dream, maybe he's seeing relatives
in deerskin and elkskin, giving away
items -practical and precious- to others
who're standing there as family songs
are sung. His spirit gets the meaning
of what's happening, how something
beautiful is being created that will
bless everyone involved, the ones
giving, the ones receiving, the tribe's
organism that is being lived well in.

Material goods are redistributed.

The people are taken care of.

Generosity is renewed as a central,
guiding value. Teachings of all kinds
are flowing into the hearts of everyone
present. An honoring of important events,
important experiences, is occurring.

A gratefulness is expressed by the
giving away of things that're appreciated
by all. The young boy studies what he
sees and hopes to be just like them
someday, to practice the giveaway too.

"Giving away material goods to
another person," Headman writes,
"has been practiced by the Ponca for
as long as anyone can remember."

Don't miss out on next month's poem from Cliff.

District 2 SDA

Drive-In Fun for District 2

District 2 is offering $20 gift certificates to Quasar Drive-In for District 2 Service Delivery Area members, good for any time during the 2026 season. Certificates can be used for entrance fees or concessions.

Starting ***May 26th***, certificates will be available for pickup from Shannon Malone at Fred LeRoy.

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

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



District 2 SDA

Summertime at FunPlex for Members

Free FunPlex Tickets for all District 2 Ponca members! Good for one admission for the 2026 season and available for pickup from Shannon Malone at Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center starting on **June 1st**.

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

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

Fun-Plex WATERPARK & RIDES

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Mission Control to Artemis II, Care for a Word Search?

by Patience Teboe, Culture Director

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

Miká'e – Star

Niąba – Moon

Míte – Eclipse

Miká'e uxp'áđeteđądì – Meteor shower

Miká'e škąžì – North Star

Míxasì t'ąga – Big Dipper

Waką́'užąge – Milky Way

Miká'euxp'áđe – Falling Star

Míxasì žįgà – Little Dipper

Miká'e t'ąga – Venus

Mąxe'át'a mąde'gi'ą – Spaceship

Mąxe'át'atą wadąbe – Sattelite

Wawékiđè – Discover

Wađúdiažičabe – Far far away

Mą Ugánaxđį – Rocketship





CredibleMind

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Start Your Wellness Journey Today

About Us

CredibleMind is the free online platform where you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment and browse a library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

Benefits

Confidential
Available 24/7
Personalized
Expert-Vetted

PEDCO.crediblemind.com



BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CLASSES

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to make ends meet? You are not alone. Millions of Americans report feeling stressed by money. In fact, MarketWatch estimates 57% of households live paycheck-to-paycheck. Millennials and Gen Zers in particular face greater financial barriers than previous generations. Fortunately, help is available. Starting in 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.

Building Native Communities empowers tribe members to adapt traditional skills to financial management. Learn about budgeting, developing a spending plan, managing checking and savings accounts, accessing credit, and being a smart consumer. Reach out to PEDCO today for more information.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

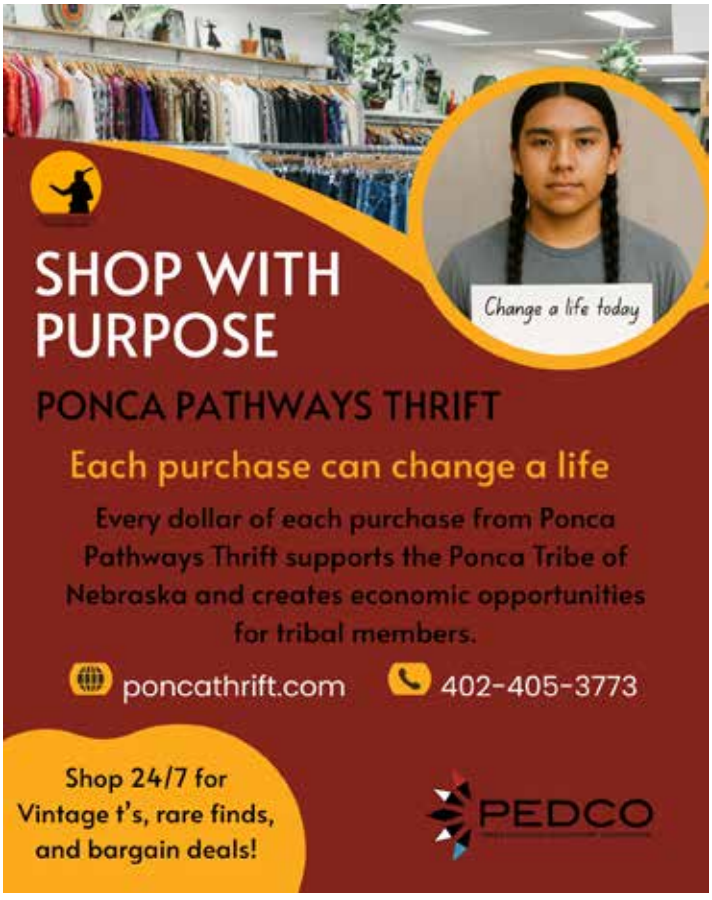
FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY PEDCO

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



SHOP WITH PURPOSE

PONCA PATHWAYS THRIFT

Each purchase can change a life

Every dollar of each purchase from Ponca Pathways Thrift supports the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and creates economic opportunities for tribal members.

poncathrift.com 402-405-3773

Shop 24/7 for Vintage t's, rare finds, and bargain deals!

PEDCO



COMING SOON! ROBOTIC ARM AND DRONE TRAINING!

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

July 13, 2026 to July 15, 2026 - Robotic Arm Training (limit of 8)

July 16, 2026 to July 17, 2026 - Drone Training (limit of 8)

Location: Nebraska Innovation Studio, 2021 Transformation Drive Suite 1500, Entrance B, Lincoln, NE 68508

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ROBOTIC ARM AND DRONE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY PEDCO & UNL INNOVATION STUDIO

IN-PERSON

ACCELERATED TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

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

Bundled up for a chilly Walk/Run















Healthy Living Powwow: a time for celebration


































Grow Your Own Scholarship

AWARD: Up to $2500.00

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ☑ Enrolled Ponca members
- ☑ Pursuing a degree/career in the healthcare, mental health, or substance abuse field
- ☑ Currently enrolled in a college (2 or 4-year accredited institution), graduate, or certificate/licensure program
- ☑ 2.5 GPA or higher

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

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

Scan Me!

To start the application process, scan our QR code or visit our link: **https://www.poncatribe-ne.gov/services/education/grow-your-own-scholarship/**. Applications are due **August 15, 2026**.

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

Class of 2026

Honoring our Graduating Seniors

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to honor our 2026 Ponca graduates in a special section in our June 2026 Newsletter.

Please complete the online form **NO LATER THAN May 8th, 2026** to have your graduate included in this section. Submissions may be subject to minor edits for space and consistency.

To submit your graduate, scan our QR code, or visit **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/2026_graduates**.

Questions? Please email **info@poncatribe-ne.gov**.



Project Venture
Youth Series

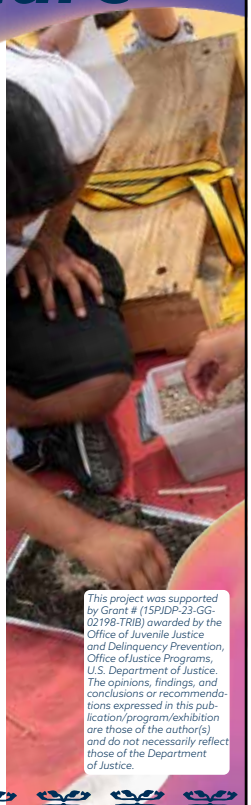
Monday, May 4
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Wildflower Seed Bombs

Monday, May 18
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Plant your own Herb & Sage Discussion

Ralston Transit Conference Room
5811 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

For all Native youth, ages 10-13 years, focused on outdoor skills, life skills,creativity, and teamwork. Activities include indoor and outdoor experiences.

For more information, contact Autumn Brownlee at 402.288.0219 or at abrownlee@poncatribe-ne.gov



This project was supported by Grant # (15PJDP-23-GG-02198-TRIB) awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office ofJustice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

Emerging Contaminants: safe pesticides for spring

Olivia Pospisil
Environmental Hazards Specialist

Spring is right around the corner, and it's time to plant and fertilize! However, some lawn and garden care practices, such as the use of pesticides, can harm humans, wildlife, or ecosystems.

This spring, instead of using harmful chemicals, you can use natural deterrents to keep pests away. Natural remedies are easy to make, cost-effective, and healthier for you and the environment.

Plants as Pesticides

While it may seem like pests only target unhealthy plants, in reality, bugs often eat even healthy ones.

Using pesticides can also eliminate beneficial pollinators like bees and butterflies.

If your plants are getting eaten up by small, leaf-eating bugs, then you can plant flowers or herbs in your garden or in individual pots that will act like pesticides.

Examples include:

- Marigolds
- Petunias
- Chrysanthemums
- Allium
- Rosemary
- Parsley
- Sage
- Basil
- Lavender

These plants often have strong scents that deter bugs.

At-Home Remedies

You can make sprays with common household products to deter bugs.

A quick recipe to use can be as simple as:

- 2.5 tablespoons of non-bleach dish soap, such as Dawn
- 2.5 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 gallon of water

Alternatively, you might experiment with essential oils mixed with water. Lavender, rosemary, tea tree, and peppermint are some of the most common essential oils used.

However, bigger creatures, such as squirrels, rabbits, and even deer, can cause headaches.

Solution to Squirrels, Rabbits, and Deer

Some ways to cure animal problems include:

- Motion-activated sprinklers
- Red pepper flakes or cayenne pepper
- Peppermint-soaked cotton balls
- Fencing

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.

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 2024-2026 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 2026-2026 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**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives: What is it exactly?

Rebecca Wright
Domestic Violence Training and Outreach Specialist

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) refers to the human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence, and assault of Indigenous peoples that happen at high rates across nations. MMIR is a devastating epidemic amongst our people, all across Turtle Island. This is an expansion of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW).

As more research comes out, it's been found that rates of violence against Indigenous people are at crisis levels, regardless of age or gender. All Indigenous people have been affected by this: This means me, you, your mom, your dad, your cousin, your siblings, and even our grandparents. You either know someone who was a victim of MMIR, know a family who has been through this, or your family has unfortunately lost a loved one to this distressing epidemic.

Despite the growing epidemic, Indigenous people, as a demographic, are usually left out of important national conversations and studies, yet we suffer some of the highest rates of violence, sexual assault, suicide, and depression in the country. A few MMIR statistics include the following:

- 56.1% of Indigenous Women have experienced sexual violence
- 84.3% of Indigenous women have experienced violence in their lifetime, including the women who have experienced sexual violence
- Out of the 5,712 MMIW-related cases reported by the National Crime Information Center, only 116 were logged in the Department of Justice database
- In 2026, Indigenous women were the most reported missing demographic, with a daily average of 54 reports
- More than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

If you are Indigenous, these statistics will not be news to you. What might be news is that the already ludicrous rates you see in most statistics are largely underreported, and the organizations behind the stats will acknowledge this due to a lack of data.

So why is MMIR happening?

Violence against indigenous peoples is and has always been the foundation of this country. Historically, white settlers used biological warfare with smallpox blankets, starved us out with the killing of buffalo, started a series of trivial wars with tribes, and caused the near extinction of the Indigenous people by forcing them on the Trail of Tears.

Current-day violence against Indigenous people looks different from the past violence. It can be presented as police brutality or racial profiling by law enforcement, employment, healthcare, or even while shopping.

What drives the movement behind MMIR?

It's rooted in education, advocacy, stronger data collection, and fundraising led by Indigenous people who are standing up, not through violence, but by using their voices to raise awareness and reclaim their safety.

How can I help my community?

This May, there are many ways to help spread the word:

- Do your research
- Be an ally
- Donate to your local or state MMIR-related events and organizations

Additionally, May 5th is National Day of Awareness for Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives, a day for you to bring awareness to this ongoing crisis.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available through the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program to access the support or resources needed.

Honoring the women in our communities



































Health Executives host panel at symposium

On February 21st, Ponca Health Services staff were invited to hold a panel at the Great Plains Native American Health Symposium (GPNAHS) at Creighton University.

Their panel, *Tribal Health Services in Rural and Urban Areas*, discusses how PHS is working to amplify Indigenous voices in healthcare across the service delivery area and the interconnectedness of our spiritual, mental, and physical well-being.

Panelists included Chief Behavioral Health Officer Dr. LuAnne Even, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rebecca Lechner, and Chief Operating Officer Rhiannon Pitzl. The Chief Executive Officer of PHS, Keith Morrow, was the panel moderator.



Community Health Workers host family nights





















Cognitive crafts during Elder's lunches











Join Us for Lunch!

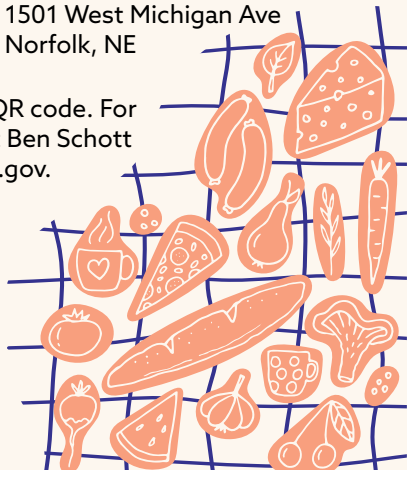
Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

May 15, 2026
12 – 1 pm
Prairie Flower Casino
1031 Avenue H
Carter Lake, IA

June 19, 2026
12 – 1 pm
NPHA Building
1501 West Michigan Ave
Norfolk, NE

To RSVP, please scan our QR code. For more information, contact Ben Schott at bschott@poncatribe-ne.gov.

Scan Me!





Tribal Home Visiting presents at NICWA Conference

The Tribal Home Visiting (THV) team recently presented at the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference, sharing insights and strategies to support Indigenous children and families through culturally grounded approaches. Titled *Rooted in Tradition: Strengthening Tribal Youth and Families Through Culture, Education, and Hands-On Connection* the session drew strong interest, with over 60 attendees joining.

The presentation explored how Tribal Nations can adapt home-visiting curricula to better serve Indigenous children ages 0–5. Attendees were introduced to promising practices, including family group decision-making, the Strengthening Families approach, the Family Engagement Parent Educator Resource, traditional healing, and culturally grounded family engagement strategies.

Participants actively engaged in discussion and a hands-on activity that guided them through creating meaningful parent/child interaction tools. This interactive component was especially well-received, along with the opportunity for open dialogue and questions throughout the session.

The session concluded with overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting both the practical application of the material and the cultural relevance of the approaches shared. As a result, Parents as Teachers expressed interest in featuring Tribal Home Visiting on their social media platforms to further elevate this important work.

THV is now enrolling new families in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. Reach out to us to learn how to get involved.

Lincoln Families:

Candace Walahoski
cwalahoski@poncatribe-ne.gov

Jilee Golus
jgolus@poncatribe-ne.gov

Omaha Families:

Abbi Miranda-Carreto
amiranda-carreto@poncatribe-ne.gov

Tonya Wulff
twulff@poncatribe-ne.gov

SAVE THE DATE!
Diaper Distribution

June 3, 2026 | 10 am – 6 pm

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

June 10, 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.



4th Annual

Camp Creator's Game

June 26 – 27, 2025

LNK Community Room | 1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE
TBD | Lincoln, NE

Please save the date for the Fourth Annual Camp Creator's Game! We will have a team bonding dinner at the Lincoln Community Room on June 26th. On June 27th, Edison Rednest will host a presentation on the importance of the Creator's game. Youth will get a chance to participate in the game afterwards. For more information, please contact Sarah Lehl at slehl@poncatribe-ne.gov.

THV families share stories through Photovoice

Every Monday in March, Tribal Home Visiting families met for Photovoice, a weekly group connection where they are share photos and stories through culture-related prompts to see how THV has affected their day-to-day lives.













SHOUT OUT A PONCA EMPLOYEE!

Celebrate those who are making a difference working for the Tribe! Scan the QR code to submit your shout outs and Mí' Úwađit'ą ákà (Employee of the Month) nominations for May.

Member Mailing Questions



Have questions about tribal mailings? Reach out to your District Representatives!

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
Angie Starkel 402.922.0436	Falon McAlpin 402.208.0297	Shanna Carpenter 402.805.0883	Alex Taylor 402.750.2045
Patrick Lamoureux 712.899.8563	Samantha Gallagher 402.213.2058	Susan (Susie) Baker 925.788.0649	Kyle Taylor 402.750.4299

Enrollment Department – 2026 Census

Dear Tribal Member;

Each year the Enrollment Committee will conduct a census of the members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The information that is received will help to update the enrollment records. When completed please mail back to: PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760.

Your Name:_____ DOB:_____ Date:_____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Are we sending your mailings to the correct address? Yes:_____ No:_____
If not, please list your complete physical and mailing address. (Don't forget to include apartment numbers.)
_____
_____
_____

Please list all of the Ponca members who reside in your home, including yourself.
_____
_____
_____

If you have a child that has recently moved out of your household, please list their name, address and phone number. (Mailing & physical)
_____
_____

Is there a member or relative that you know has passed away in the last 5 years? Yes:_____ No:_____
If yes, please list the name of the individual(s) that you know of and who we may contact for further information.
_____
_____
Are you married? Yes _____ No _____ Name of spouse? _____

If you have recently had a name change due to marriage, divorce or otherwise, please list your previous/new name below and **attach a copy of your marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.** for verification of your name change.
Previous name:_____
New name:_____

Are you a registered Tribal voter? Yes:_____ No:_____ (You may contact the enrollment department if you are unsure.)
If you are not registered would you like a Tribal Voter Registration form mailed to you? Yes:_____ No:_____

Have you or do you currently serve in the military? If yes, please submit documents for verification if you have not already done so. Yes:_____ No:_____ Branch:_____
Date of service:_____/_____/_____

Thank you! We appreciate your response!
**If you know of any Ponca members that are not receiving their mailings from the Ponca Tribe please have them contact the Enrollment Department.

PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA
VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME **(Please print)**_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

DOB:_____VOTING DISTRICT:_____(see back of form)

I, _____, hereby certify that I am a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and that I am at least 18 years of age or will be 18 years of age on the date of the election.

_____
Signature

_____
Date

Completion of and return of this registration form is necessary if you desire to become qualified to vote in the forthcoming election. This form must be received no later than the first **Friday in September** of each General Election year. This form, upon completion and return to the Election Board Registrar, shall be the basis for determining whether you qualify to have your name placed upon the list of registered voters and to receive a ballot.

Completion of this form is voluntary.

Contact person for questions regarding the Tribal Election, etc:
Election Registrar, 402-857-3391
Return this form via U.S. Postal Service to: Ponca Tribe Election Board, Voter Registration Form, P.O. Box 9, Niobrara, NE 68760.

***Please note**: If you are in the military and stationed outside of the United States, you need to register in your "home" state. **Example:** If you are from Texas, but stationed in Iraq, you need to register in District 2, not District 1.*

Revision .007
December 2025 - Robin Rich, Enrollment Manager

VOTING DISTRICTS – PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

DISTRICT (1) consists of the following ***NEBRASKA*** *counties*: Antelope, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Cedar, Cherry, Dakota, Dawes, Dixon, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Rock, Sheridan and Sioux.

Also included in **District 1** are the following ***counties in Iowa***: Allamakee, Bremer, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Mitchell, Obrien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Sioux, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Woodbury, Worth and Wright.

The following states are also included in District 1: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin and all areas outside the United States of America.

DISTRICT (2) consists of the following ***NEBRASKA*** *counties:* Burt, Cass, Douglas, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy and Washington.

Also included in **District 2** are the following ***counties in Iowa:*** Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington and Wayne.

The following states are also included in District 2: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas.

DISTRICT (3) consists of the following ***NEBRASKA*** *counties:* Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Chase, Clay, Dawson, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Jefferson, Kearney, Keith, Lancaster, Lincoln, Nuckolls, Perkins, Phelps, Polk, Red Willow, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, Webster and York.

The following states are also included in District 3: Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.

DISTRICT (4) consists of the following ***NEBRASKA*** *counties:* Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Deuel, Dodge, Garden, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Hooker, Howard, Kimball, Logan, Loup, Madison, McPherson, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Scottsbluff, Sherman, Stanton, Thomas, Thurston, Valley, Wayne and Wheeler.

The following states are also included in District 4: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington

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 5/1/2026

Adams, Elijah James
Adams, Zachary Thomas
Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Arellano, Carlos Montana
Armstrong, Tricia Lea
Ashrun, Oriana Mae
Aungie,
Mariah Keeley
Shaye Madison
Bachmeier, Tristan Chad
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Cayden Nathaniel
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
Bennett, Erica Paige
Birdhead,
William Randolph
Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon
Bligh, Timothy Lee
Blowe, Dominick Adams
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick
Blowe, Tyrone Richard
Boettger,
Dakota Birdhead
Bogacz, Brenda Kay
Bonge, Stevie Lorene
Bonge, Todd Joseph
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg, Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief,
Uriah Jordan
Burgon, Jeremy Edward
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carlson, Emma Rose
Carter, Amber Lynn
Chwalowski,
Kaitlin Martika
Cournoyer, Ellis Emery
Courtright, Michael Todd
Cox, Nickolas Duane
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Dedicos, Heather Maria
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher,
Savannah Jo Anne
Drummond,
Gregory Gene
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Eilers, Richard James
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Fink, Alissa Rose
Flagg, I I I., George Albert
Flowers, Joseph
Foley, Michael Joseph
Fossum, Tanner Allen
Freeman, Xavier Lee
Glenn, Brittany Leeann
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
Gutierrez, Kassandra Rae
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Honeycutt,
Andrew James
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Horse, Alexander Bruce
Howe, Richard H.
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Hunter, Jaice Micol`
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Kellogg,
Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kellogg, Pearl Marie
Kelso, James Alan
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Knudsen, Miles Henry
Koenig, Jody Alan Jo
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe,
Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Laravie, Justin Matthew
Lea, Tychicus James
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Leet, Ayden Alexander
Leet, Elijah Antonio
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
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
Meyer, Earl Levine
Moniz, Cherish Toshia
Mullen, Deven Miles
Mullins, John Frederick
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Myers, Doron Helmut
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Pedroza, Jacob Roberto
Phillips, Julianne Esauna
Phongsavat, Tia Arianna
Picotte - Felde,
Diamond Rose
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Pilcher,
Francisco Nico Lee
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Reed, Alcina Jewel
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Rivera, Dani Lyn
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rowe, Crystle Anette
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Scherbeh, Kimberly Marie
Schmidt,
Dylan Andrew- Philip
Schmidt, John Thomas
Carl
Scuderi, Jana Marie
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
Steadman, Jennifer Renae
Stegman,
Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe,
Nathan Fernando
Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Teboe, Temperance Tayen
Thomas, II,
Scott Richard Herbert
Thomas, Jenny Anne
Thomas, Natana Lynn
Thomas, Robin Diane
Torrez, Jr.,
Lawrence DeWayne
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Tubbs #69942,
Steven Kyle
Upton, Parker Allan
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
Williams, Andrea Michelle
Wolff, Toby Timber
Wood, Sara Ethel
Wright Jr,
Eugene Theodore
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright,
Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Howard Floyd

Making flowers for Ponca Cemetery

Diana Franklin taught a flower making class on March 21st in Niobrara and April 11th in Norfolk. We learned how to make paper flowers and we will be putting them on graves of family members in the Ponca Cemetery. We would like to thank the Northern Ponca Housing Authority for breakfast and hosting our Norfolk location.

– Debbie Robinette



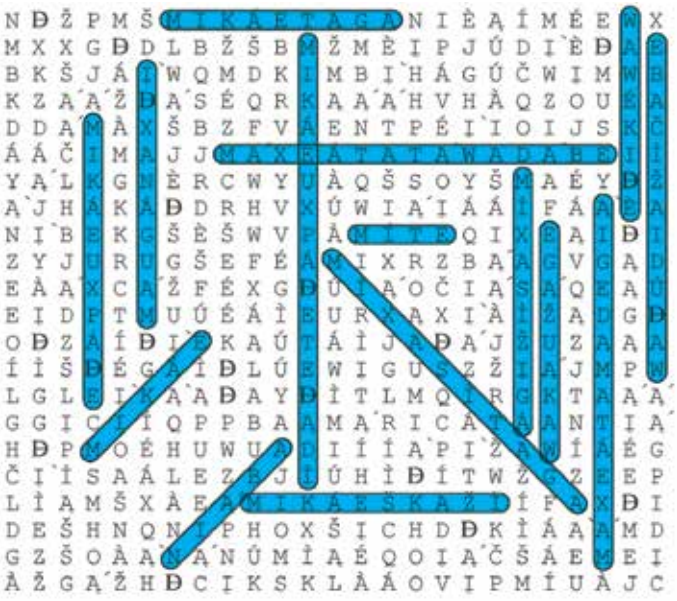










Word search answers from page 6



Ponca artist shows work in exhibit

Jacque Schacht, Ponca artist and art teacher, had her latest pieces of artwork accepted and shown at Emerge Art Gallery in Greenville, North Carolina.

Her three pieces were selected for the Multicultural Art Exhibit, an exhibition showcasing the multicultural and international artistic talent of Pitt County. The artwork that was selected for this exhibition showcased the diversity of cultures and traditions around the world, celebration the rich tapestry of global creativity that resides in their community.

Jacque showed two pieces of pottery, one depicting a Powwow scene and one paying tribute to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement. The third piece that was accepted was a pair of beaded Nike Jordan sneakers.

Congratulations, Jacque, on your accomplishment!









Congratulations, Becci!



Sending a huge CONGRATULATIONS to my sister Becci Sullivan for receiving her Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Strategic Management!

Many of you know Becci through her years of service on Tribal Council and her current leadership as CEO of Osni Ponca LLC, our for-profit economic development entity, and PEDCO, our nonprofit economic development organization.

Becci's capstone was titled "The Ponca Integrated Economic and Workforce Sovereignty Platform: A Closed-Loop Economic System for Sustainable Tribal Development." The project proposes an integrated model that connects workforce development directly with tribal economic enterprises, creating a closed-loop system in which training, employment, and reinvestment reinforce one another. The intention is to strengthen long-term economic sovereignty by reducing reliance on external labor markets and embedding human capital development within enterprise strategy.

On behalf of our family, we couldn't be more proud of you Becci!!!!!

– Candy Schott

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

Elder's Committee Meetings

May 4 | 10 am
5805 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

June 1 | 10 am
1800 Syracuse Avenue | Norfolk, NE

July 6 | 10 am
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

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