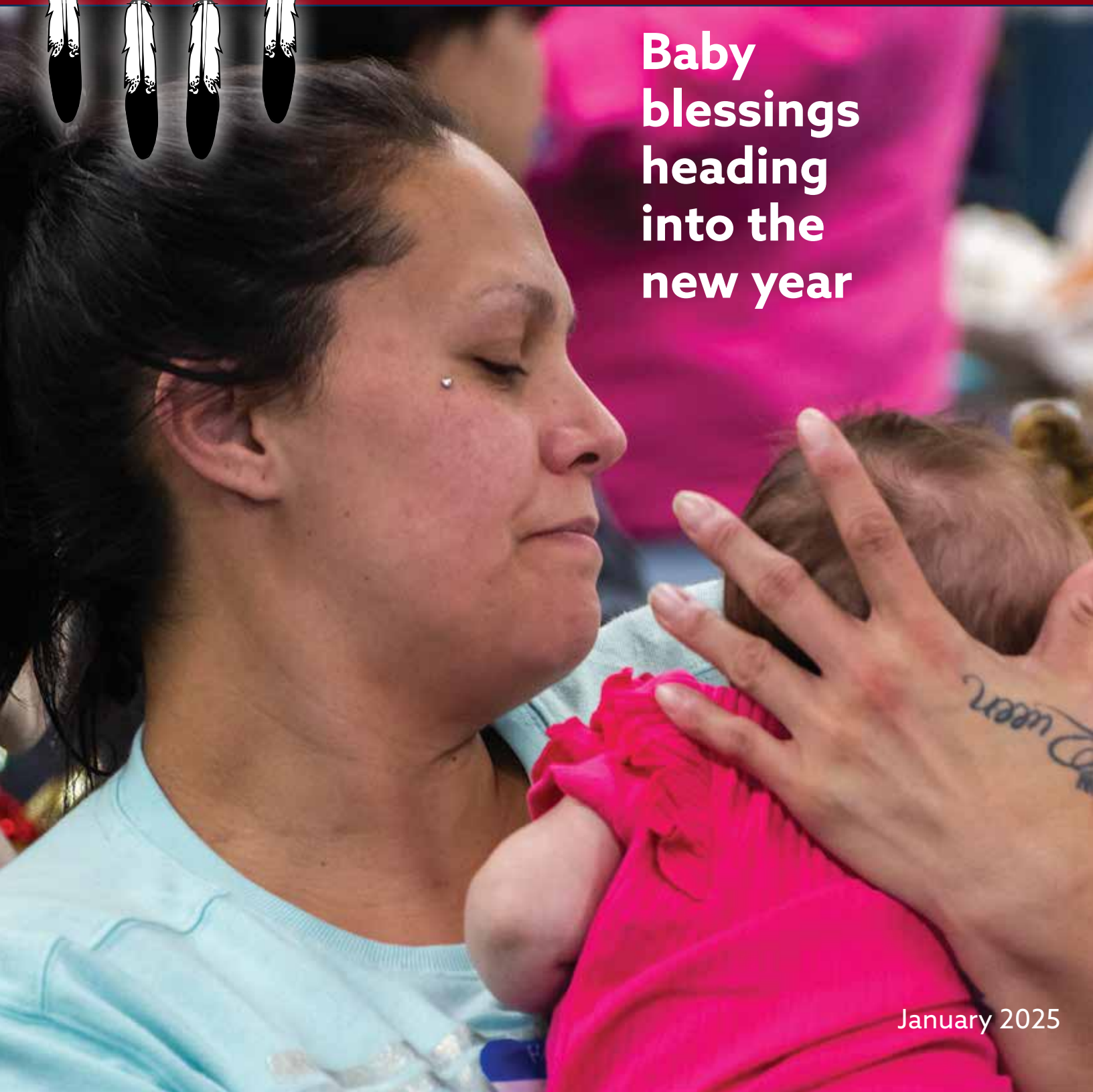




# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News

**Baby  
blessings  
heading  
into the  
new year**



January 2025

# Farmer's Market Food Distribution

## January

**Mon. January 13, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street

**Tues. January 14, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot

**Wed. January 15, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Sioux City | 125 6th Street

**Thurs. January 16, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot

**Fri. January 17, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle

## February

**Mon. February 10, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Sioux City | 125 6th Street

**Tues. February 11, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street

**Wed. February 12, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot

**Thurs. February 13, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle

**Fri. February 14, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot

## March

**Mon. March 10, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle

**Tues. March 11, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Sioux City | 125 6th Street

**Wed. March 12, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street

**Thurs. March 13, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot

**Fri. March 14, 2025 | 4 – 6 pm**

Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot



# Tribal Council Installation

**Saturday, January 18, 2025 | 11 am**

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Headquarters  
2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

Streaming virtually on Lifesize  
Tribal Council Meeting Space

Please join the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for the  
Installation of Tribal Council Representatives.  
Lunch and cake will be served following the  
Oath of Office at 11 am.

**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**



# Executive Team Meet & Greet

**January 24, 2025 | 10 am – 2 pm**

Virtual Meeting via Lifesize at:  
<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/17669116>

## Meet the Executive Team!

### NPHA

Joey Nathan  
Justine Knapp

### Finance

Greg Gunderson

### HR

Jonathan Robinson

### OSNI Ponca

Rebecca Sullivan

### Ponca Gaming Commission

Mai Le

### Ponca Health Services

Don Lee  
Rhiannon Pitzl

### Tribal Affairs

Courtney Chavez  
Penny Lingle  
Alexcia Boggs

### Prairie Flower Casino

Ernie Dellaverson

### Information Technology

David Threm



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2024 MEMORIES



**TRIBAL COUNCIL**



**Wazaze Clan**

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

À B A Ð A X Ž A K Á Ð G E D Í S  
 J H Á G Ð E Ž É A G Á Ž Ð M W Á  
 D Z W A S Á T J E W A K Á W I Z  
 É Š Á G E Š U G À Á Ð È E B T P  
 S Ž K J W A Ð E À A A W Í Ð Ì Á  
 Á Ì A A U N É Ð È J G Ž G T È Ð  
 B E H Á B A X Ð U D E Í Í G I I  
 E A A É N Ú G À P À I G I B Á G  
 Ð Ì W G M A Z É Ž Ì E Á G A J A  
 J Ð A Ž Í M W Ð K É T A H À A H  
 Y É Ð T H N X K E Í H O Z Ð À I  
 À Z A A A Á Ð È M S K Á S Ž À Š  
 N E H T G X J Ž A N A G A X J W  
 E S A J A N I Á Š I G A A G G É  
 T Á T Á Ž A G J Ž Ú H Á J Ð É Ð  
 Í B U Ž Á G È D A B E E A Ž I H  
 M E K A Ð E K I H Á B E Ž Í D É

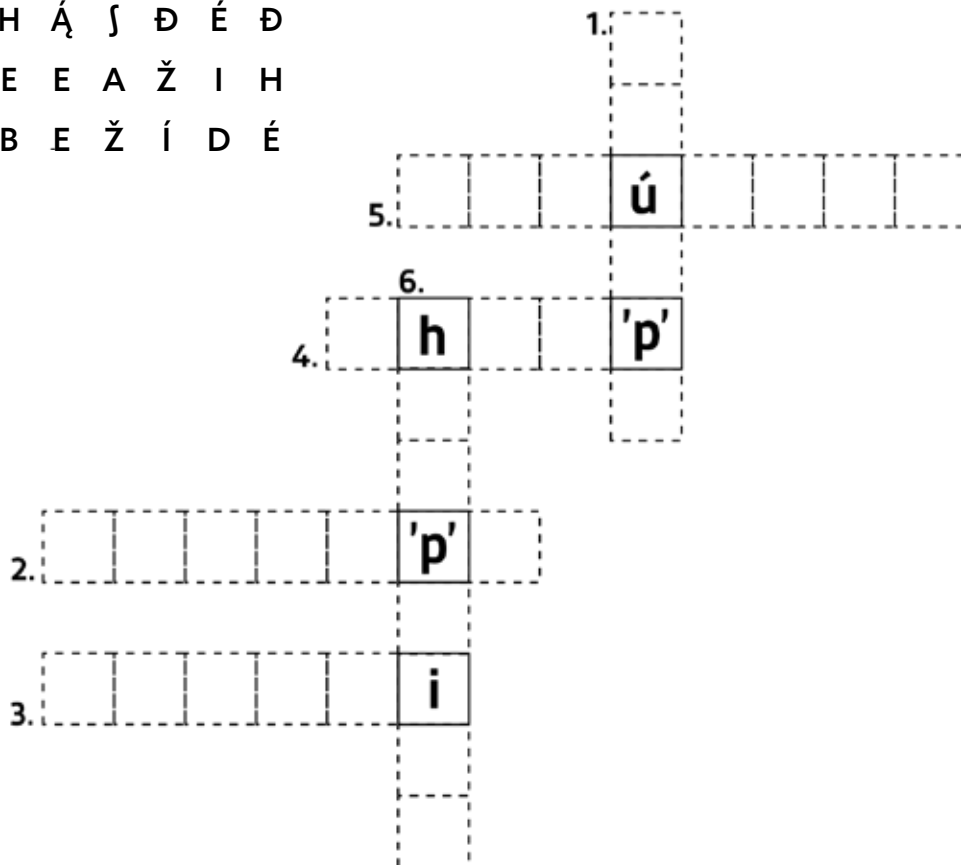
**Húx'p'è**  
to cough

1. Ahúx'p'è - I cough
2. Ðahúx'p'è - you cough
3. Húx'p'ài - he/she/it cough
4. A húx'p'ài - we cough
5. Ðahúx'p'ài - you all cough
6. Húx'p'àima - they cough

For the next several months, this word search puzzle will explore historic personal names from each of the Ponca clans. Ponca names are formed from words in the language, and provide a unique way to study both the language and history of the Tribe.

**Mítenà** - The Moon**Ábe Žíde** -  
Red Leaf**Ðéze Sábe** -  
Black Tongue**Síde Gďáką** -  
North Star**Héga** -  
Buzzard**Há Gďežé** -  
Striped Hide**Hú Žíga** -  
Little Voice**Jdé Sábe** -  
Black Face**Wakáwi** - Gambler**Šáge Šugà** -  
Thick Nail**Užágèdąbe** -  
Sees the Pathway**Páđigahi** -  
Pawnee Chief**Há Baxďúde** -  
Sheds His Skin**Mj Táigè** -  
The Moon  
with Halos**Míhąga** -  
First Moon

answers on page 17





# Tribal Home Visiting co-hosts community baby shower

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Home Visiting Program, in conjunction with the Malone Maternal Wellness, and Molina Healthcare, hosted a Joyful Traditions Holiday Baby Shower for new and expecting mothers in the community, at Ponca Health Services in Lincoln, Nebraska Sunday, December 8th, 2024.

Mothers who attended the baby shower had the opportunity to meet and access resources from the

community and enjoy hot chocolate, snacks, raffle prizes, and take photos with Santa. Thank you also to the PTN Language program for the presentation on cradle boards.

A big thanks to all our vendors, sponsors, and donors, including: Family Connects, Molina, Malone Maternal Healthcare, the Malone Center, UNL, the Ponca Tribe of NE Domestic Violence program, Ponca Health Services Commu-

nity Health, Tribal Home Visiting, Ponca Health Services, Ponca Pharmacy Services, Lincoln Public

Libraries, WIC, Center for People, and Purchased Referred Care.



# Ponca Dental makes plans for Mission of Mercy in 2025

In 2023 the Ponca Dental Clinics participated in the Nebraska Veterans Mission of Mercy, a volunteer program that provides free dental care to veterans and their spouses who do not qualify for dental care through the Veterans Administration. During the 2023 mission the Ponca Dental Clinic supplied a handful of staff to assist with the program as well as loaned the clinics portable radiology equipment assisting the mission in providing dental care to about 400 patients. The Second Annual Nebraska Veterans Mission of Mercy



Dr. Jon Asbjornson (volunteer) and Dr. Cameron Aitken PHS Chief Dental Officer.

was held on November 15th & 16th 2024, in the Nebraska National Guards Readiness Center in Yutan, Nebraska. This year we were not able

to send staff to help, but we were able to provide our radiology equipment once again for the mission. This year's mission was able to help about

500 veterans receive free dental care ranging from preventative cleanings to extractions and dentures, totaling about \$650,000 worth of treatment. Dr. Charles Craft, the Nebraska State Dental Director, noted "Utilization of Ponca NOMADs was critical within the Radiology section for diagnosis and out on the clinical floor for oral surgery and endodontic patient cases." The Ponca Dental Clinic looks forward to participating in the 2025 Nebraska Veterans Mission of Mercy.

## Tribal Home Visiting Now Enrolling!

The Tribal Home Visiting Program (THV) will begin assisting families prenatal to kindergarten who are enrolled in any federally recognized Tribe and living in the Lincoln and Lancaster County areas. This resource is completely free of charge.

Our certified THV Visitors conduct the visits where they will implement high quality, culturally relevant, evidence-based visits in our community that will ensure our families have access to knowledge and resources. Number of visits and length of service will vary by family, but each visit will be 90 minutes minimum.

For more information on this program, please contact our team:

**Abbi Miranda-Carreto**, 402.670.7976  
amiranda-carreto@poncatribene.gov

**Jessica Upton**, 402.315.2760  
jupton@poncatribene.gov

**Candace Walahoski**, 531.269.0932  
cwalahoski@poncatribene.gov



## Gingerbread Contest Photos

The virtual gingerbread showdown is starting!

To submit a picture of your gingerbread creation, scan our QR code or visit our link:

**[https://poncatribefne.formstack.com/forms/gingerbread\\_submission](https://poncatribefne.formstack.com/forms/gingerbread_submission)**. Please submit your photos by **January 15, 2025** (11:59 pm CST).

For more information about the contest, please contact Destiny Rich at destiny.rich@blfdbees.org. If you haven't received your gingerbread house, please reach out to District 3 Tribal Council Representative Shanna Carpenter at shannac@poncatribene.gov.

Scan Me!





# CHWs ready to serve in the coming year!

The Ponca Health Services Community Health Workers (CHWs) program would like to provide an in-depth look at the services our team provides to our Tribal members.

Each week, we host group meals for our Elders at each location. For those members who might be new and don't yet know our schedule, it is as follows:

Elder lunches are scheduled from 12 pm noon until 2 pm each week.  
 Monday - Lincoln  
 Tuesday - Omaha  
 Wednesday - Sioux City  
 Thursday - Norfolk  
 Friday - Niobrara  
 In the event of schedule changes, holidays, bad weather, or any other schedule changes, we will let the Elders know via phone calls and social media.

Three times a month, we have Lunch n' Learns which feature presentations including health topics like chronic conditions, exercise, budget-friendly shopping, mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and healthy eating with support from a dietician/diabetes specialist.

For 2025, the CHWs are excited to bring several new presentations to not only our Elders, but our

youth. Some topics for the upcoming year will include: Sun safety, skin cancer, vision and men's health. Two more new topics that we'll be discussing will be dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The numbers are rising within our people, and we need to be on the lookout for the signs so that we can help our loved ones.

We also plan on teaming up with guest speakers for our presentations, working with our programs within the tribe such as domestic violence and behavioral health so ensure we get all the information to our members.

The CHWs are also a great source of information for resources that our members might need. Each location has a resource book that we update twice a year to keep current. Whether its for rental assistance, medical equipment or food pantries, we're here to help.

One of the main goals of our CHW program is we are here for the patients, we're your advocates and are here to help.

Please reach out to your local Community Health Worker if you have any questions or are in need of assistance:



Brad Johnson  
Niobrara & Sioux City  
712.258.0500



Jazmyne Morton  
Omaha  
402.315.2760



Miranda Keifer  
Norfolk & Sioux City  
402.371.8834



Nancie Velasquez, CHW  
Manager - Omaha  
402.315.2760, ext. 4110



Julie Flynn - Lincoln  
531.248.3030

We look forward to seeing you and keeping you healthy in 2025!!

## Circle of Health event focuses on healthy eating during the holidays

On November 26th, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, in conjunction with Bryan Health and the Indian Center, held a Circle of Health Learning Series featuring the PTN Dietitian, Meghan McLarney!

This event focused on eating healthy during the holidays and Meghan taught attendees how to make a

pomegranate salad. Watch for more Circle of Health community events focused on your health in 2025!



## SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

**January 9, 2025 | 10 am - 6 pm**

Norfolk Gym  
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

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

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

Niobrara Headquarters  
2523 Woodbine St | Niobrara, NE

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

**Note: You MUST present proof of tribal enrollment to receive diapers.**



District 3

## Membership Meeting & Potluck

**January 11, 2025 | 3 pm**

Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

District 3 Tribal Council invite you to join us for our quarterly membership meeting. Fried chicken will be provided as the main entree by Tribal Council. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at [shannac@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:shannac@poncatribes-ne.gov) or at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at [sbaker@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:sbaker@poncatribes-ne.gov) or at 925.788.0649. **PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA**



## Family Movie Outing

Hosted by District 2 Tribal Council

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**Doors open - 11:30 am | Movie - 12:00 pm**

Majestic Theater  
14304 West Maple Road | Omaha, NE

District 2 SDA Ponca tribal members and their immediate family members are invited to a morning showing of **Mufasa**. 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 at 402.208.0297.



**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**



## Behavioral Health and Domestic Violence programs host Bingo night

The Behavioral Health Department and Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence hosted a festive Bingo

night on November 25th! The night was full of fun, laughter, holiday cheer, and lots of winners.



## Join our District Facebook Groups!

All Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to join our official District Facebook groups! These groups have the most up-to-date information on services and events in the district and are open to all SDA and OSDA members.

Visit our Linktree at <https://linktr.ee/poncatribeofne> for group links or email [info@poncatribene.gov](mailto:info@poncatribene.gov).

*These groups are for PTN District members and parents/guardians of PTN youth only. Members will not be added to a district page for a district they do not live in.*

## Super Bowl Watch Party

**February 9, 2025 | 6 pm**

Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska families living in the District 3 Service Delivery Area are invited to watch the Super Bowl! Kick off will be at 6:30 pm. Food, drinks, and activities for kids will be provided.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at [shannac@poncatribene.gov](mailto:shannac@poncatribene.gov) or at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649 or at [sbaker@poncatribene.gov](mailto:sbaker@poncatribene.gov).



Annual Healthy Living

## Walk/Run & Powwow

**April 12, 2025**

**Walk/Run Location – Skyview Lake**  
1900 West Maple Ave | Norfolk, NE

**Powwow Location – Ponca Gym**  
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# Make a resolution to recognize and take action against stalking

**Brooke McCurdy**

Domestic Violence Outreach Coordinator

As we enter into the New Year, we celebrate new beginnings. For some of us, January means making resolutions and celebrating the New Year, but January is also Stalking Awareness Month. Stalking is a serious crime that can have profound physical, emotional, and psychological effects on victims.

I'm sure you maybe be familiar with stalking in movies or TV show but what actually defines stalking? Stalking is defined as a pattern of repeated, intentional behavior that causes a person to feel afraid, harassed, or threatened. This can include following someone, showing up at their home or workplace uninvited, sending unwanted gifts, or making repeated phone calls or social media contacts. Stalking can occur in any type of relationship — from strangers to acquaintances, friends, or even ex-partners.

While it may seem harmless at first, stalking can escalate and lead to more dangerous behavior, including physical violence. Recognizing the signs of stalking early on is crucial to protecting yourself and seeking help before the

situation escalates. There are several key signs that may indicate you are being stalked. These can include:

- **Frequent, Unwanted**

**Contact:** Constant phone calls, texts, emails, or messages on social media platforms that you have not encouraged.

- **Physical Surveillance:**

The stalker may appear at places you frequent, such as your home, work, gym, or favorite store.

- **Unsolicited Gifts:** Gifts or other forms of attention that feel invasive or make you uncomfortable.

- **Intense or Persistent Behavior:**

The stalker may not take “no” for an answer and continue their behavior despite clear rejections or requests to stop.

- **Threats or Aggression:**

The stalker may make verbal threats or show signs of violence, either directly or indirectly.

If you believe you are being stalked, your safety is the top priority. Here are some essential steps to take:

1. **Document Everything:**

Keep a record of all incidents, including dates, times, locations, and a description of the stalker's behavior. Save

any communications (texts, emails, messages) and take screenshots when necessary.

2. **Tell Someone:** Share your experience with friends, family, or trusted colleagues so they are aware of the situation and can offer support. Let them know about your daily routines so they can help you stay vigilant.

3. **Avoid Contact with the Stalker:** Do not engage with the stalker in any way, whether through phone calls, messages, or social media. Responding can encourage them to continue. If they try to make contact, let them know firmly that their behavior is unwelcome and must stop.

4. **Increase Your Security:** Take steps to secure your home, workplace, and online presence. This might include changing locks, installing security cameras, or using privacy settings on social media to limit who can view your posts.

5. **Contact the Police:** If the stalking escalates or you feel your safety is at risk, it's essential to involve law enforcement immediately. If you are in immediate danger, call 911 or your local

emergency number.

If you're not yet in imminent danger, you can file a police report detailing the stalker's behavior. In some cases, law enforcement may be able to intervene, issue warnings, or even make arrests, depending on the severity of the stalking.

6. **Reach Out for Support:** Victims of stalking often experience feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression. Consider seeking support from a counselor, therapist, or support group. Many organizations provide resources specifically for stalking victims, offering emotional and legal support.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, help is available through the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-SAFE (7233); the National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE (4673) and the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 866-331-9474. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence program is available for resources, support, and advocacy. In the new year, let's make a resolution to help those in our community that are most affected by Stalking to ensure that all members of our community are safe in the New Year.





2025 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

The 2025 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest is officially underway. The contest, sponsored by Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and League of Nebraska Municipalities is part of the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week effort put together by emergency management directors/coordinators across the state.

The poster contest is open to all third-grade students in Nebraska public and private schools, as well as home-schooled students. Teachers are encouraged to have students participate while teaching them about hazards of severe weather in Nebraska. While not specifically designed to promote tornado awareness, tornadoes are the most common theme chosen for posters. Lightning and flooding are also good topic choices.

The first-place winner in the state contest wins a \$125 gift card. The second-place winner receives a \$100 gift card, and the third-place winner receives a \$75 gift card. The Nebraska Association of Emergency Management provides the first, second and third place gift card awards. The fourth-place poster winner receives a \$50 gift card sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Contest rules are as follows:

- 1. Poster artists must be a third-grade pupil in any Nebraska private, public or home school.
- 2. Entries must be related to the theme of severe weather safety and will be judged on originality, effort and accuracy. The posters should have a clear preparedness/weather safety message included. The slogan is as important as the art. **All entries must be on an 11" x 17" sheet of white paper providing a 1-inch border to allow for matting the winning posters. Any medium may be used, but please do not use glitter.** Only one entry is allowed per pupil and no joint entries (posters by more than one person) will be accepted.
- 3. **All entries must be received by the local Emergency Management Director/Coordinator on or before February 7, 2025.** A list of directors/coordinators can be found at [www.naem.us](http://www.naem.us) or [nema.nebraska.gov](http://nema.nebraska.gov). **Remember to allow enough time for mailed items to get where they need to be.**
- 4. Each entry **MUST INCLUDE the following information on the back side of the poster:**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nebraska County where school is located: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Teachers are encouraged to contact the local emergency management director to assist in the selection of the “top three” entries from their school. If the local director is unavailable or unknown, **please contact Brian Woldt, poster contest chairman, (308) 324-2070.**
- 6. First, second, third and fourth place winners will be notified by telephone or mail. The four winners and their parents/guardians will be invited to the Nebraska State Capitol in March for the presentation of their awards and be recognized by Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen.
- 7. Any questions regarding the 2025 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest should be directed to the local emergency management director/coordinator or to Brian Woldt at (308) 324-2070, email [brian.woldt@dawsoncountynetne.gov](mailto:brian.woldt@dawsoncountynetne.gov).

Contest rules and other information can also be found on the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management website at [www.naem.us](http://www.naem.us) or on the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website at [nema.nebraska.gov](http://nema.nebraska.gov). Poster judging will be done by representatives of the contest’s sponsors: Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska National Guard and League of Nebraska Municipalities.

# PEDCO welcomes Erica Buescher as Program Manager



PEDCO is pleased to welcome Erica Buescher, Program Manager. Erica serves as the program manager for the Ponca Economic Development Corporation. She has a bachelor's in health-care management from Bellevue University and a master's in management/leadership from Doane University. Erica brings over 10 years of work-

force development experience and will be overseeing the AmeriCorps grant. Erica's previous AmeriCorps program experience and passion for the program makes her a great addition to the team. She has also worked with numerous nonprofits, Department of Labor and DHHS overseeing multiple workforce programs and Medicaid contracts, bringing

with her a wealth of workforce development and contract compliance experience. Originally from central Nebraska, Erica and her family have lived in Lincoln for over 20 years. In her free time, Erica is actively involved in her kids' activities and enjoys spending time with friends and family.

## PEDCO Small Business Funding

PEDCO now has Small Business funding available through the USDA. Finances are limited and are available to rural Nebraska only. We unable to assist anyone in the Omaha or Lincoln areas. You must reside in the State of Nebraska. If you have any interest in this program, please contact PEDCO at 402.499.1202.

## COMING SOON! PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**

The PEDCO Workforce Development program will provide our Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members access to services designed to help nurture individual self-sufficiency, assist in eliminating barriers to employment, and provide members a means to achieve professional success. This program will be available to all members 16+ wanting pre-employment assistance, to further their career, or to advance professional skills. We are planning to build this into a career center based on the needs of our People.

**PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

CAREER EXPLORATION

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

CAREER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

**PEDCO**  
2756 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402.434.2127

PEDCO-NE.org

Releasing in early 2025

## Our website has moved!

You can now find the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska website at [www.poncatribene.gov](http://www.poncatribene.gov).



# McCauley joins PEDCO as Grants Manager

Tom McCauley serves as grants manager for the Ponca Economic Development Corporation. With over a decade of experience in grant-writing, grantmaking, and grants management, Tom brings energy, enthusiasm, and expertise to PEDCO's mission to creatively seek long-term sufficiency for citizens of the Ponca Tribe, create opportunities that improve the quality of life for all natives, and provide business and employment opportunities to stimulate economic growth and self-sufficiency.



Before joining PEDCO, Tom worked as grant writer for the nonprofit AIM Institute; taught creative writing and contemporary literature at UMass Amherst and the University of Nebraska at Omaha; served

as grants manager for the Nebraska Arts Council; wrote grants for the City of Omaha Mayor's Office; and was a copywriter at the digital advertising agency Phenomblue.

In addition to his career in nonprofit and government, Tom is a Pushcart Prize-nominated writer and musician whose work has appeared in Willow Springs, Superstition Review, Leveler and What Rough Beast. His essay "Introductory Element Comma Independent Clause: a Study of the Moon and Bees" was nominated for

a 2020 Pushcart Prize and received an honorable mention in The Best American Essays 2021 anthology; his poem "People Are Not Lights" won the 2018 Joseph Langland Prize from the Academy of American Poets. In 2012, he scored Constance Congdon's play "Tales of the Lost Formicans" for the Great Plains Theatre Conference, and in 2018, he was a writer-in-residence at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center of Nebraska City. He received an MFA in writing from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



## CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY PEDCO & UNO

IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL

FREE TWO-HOUR TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

## AVAILABLE NOW! CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING WITH PEDCO & UNO

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



### INTERESTED? CONTACT

Tom McCauley  
Grants Manager  
PEDCO  
[tmccauley@pedco-ne.org](mailto:tmccauley@pedco-ne.org)  
402-499-1202



### PEDCO Native APEX Accelerator: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING ASSISTANCE

GETTING STARTED IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

MARKETING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

FINDING CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

BIDDING ON CONTRACTS

POST AWARD ASSISTANCE



We offer ongoing training and support for Native American businesses, provided FREE of charge.

531-310-2494  
<https://pedco-ne.org/pedco-native-apex-accelerator/jniceswanger@pedcoapex.org>



The APEX Accelerator is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense.





# Did you know?

Our PTN Education programs are open to members nationwide!

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

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

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

**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**



## 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 2025 deadline: May 15, 2025**

**Fall 2025 deadline: August 15, 2025**

**Winter 2025 deadline: November 15, 2025**

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

## Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

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

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

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



(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@poncatribene.gov](mailto:enrollment@poncatribene.gov) or you may mail documentation and current photo to:  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Enrollment Department, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760-0288

**\*\*\*Please note that we can/will NOT use a photo from your state ID or driver's license.**

##### **4. Military Seals:**

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

Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760 Fax: 402-857-3771

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MUST BE AN ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

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

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

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE/CELL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE



## HELP US UPDATE OUR MEMBER INFORMATION!

Hello Members,

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

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

You may contact the Enrollment Department at [enrollment@poncatribene.gov](mailto:enrollment@poncatribene.gov), or contact the Niobrara or Lincoln offices.

We appreciate your help!

### INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 1/1/2025

Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott  
Arellano, Carlos Montana  
Bagent, Wayne Orval  
Baker, Skylar Dominick  
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley  
Banuelos, Christa Rose  
Bear, Joshua Gilbert  
Beaver, Jason Chaska  
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold  
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold  
Becker, Tyler 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, Todd Joseph  
Boone, Asia Ranee  
Boone, Lola Belle  
Boyd, Myron Ralph  
Boyer, Berlin N.  
Brooks, Angela Ellen  
Brown, Da`Trel Duvoni  
Brown, J. Wesley  
Brown, La`Trel Lucious  
Brownrigg, Steven Francis  
Buckley II, Sentwali Onyemachi  
Buffalo Chief, Uriah Jordan  
Burston, Sandra Lee  
Carter, Amber Lynn  
Chwalowski, Kaitlin Martika  
Courtright, Michael Todd  
Cutshall, Katline James  
Da Moude, Deborah Kay  
Danielson, Daniel James  
Davis, Mary Frances  
Drapeaux, Juston Lee  
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae  
Eckley, Lane Emory  
Eckley, Leigha Irene  
Evans, Kareem Antwon  
Fasthorse, Beverlee Ann  
Flagg, III., George Albert  
Flowers, Joseph

Foley, Michael Joseph  
Freeman, Xavier Lee  
Fua, Troy Anthony  
Glenn, John Allen  
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn  
Goss, Mamie L.  
Govia, Isaiah Lee  
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo  
Grant Jr., Donald Allen  
Grant, III., Jesse Clarence  
Green, Brooklyn Marie  
Greenwood IV,  
Ernest Sydney Leshawn  
Gutierrez, Vincent Clarence  
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa  
Hagler, Joshua James  
Hamilton, Bobbi-Jo Danielle  
Harlan, Lavara Mina  
Harris, Paul Joseph  
Hart-La Londe, Kaedyn Mikael  
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle  
Hennek, Gail Howe  
Henritze, Joseph Dale  
Henritze, Karen June  
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.  
Hogie, Jamie Lyn  
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann  
Horine, Ashley Danielle  
Howe, Richard H.  
Humphreys, Belinda Kay  
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee  
Johnson, Lukus Tyler  
Kelso, James Alan  
Kerrigan, Kathleen Ann  
King, Gavin Michael  
Krueger, Annette Marie  
Kyles, Jarred Joseph  
LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine  
LaPointe, Robert James  
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis  
Leach, Isaiah Marcus  
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray  
Lieb, Donovan Joseph  
Lieb, Syllas Vittorio  
Lindenberg, David Charles  
Little, Jeromy Todd  
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco

Maben, Jessica Paige  
Mann II, Steven Michael  
Mann, Sydney Desiree`  
Mategko, Janet Louise  
Mategko, Lisa Louise  
Mategko, Michael Steven  
Matthews, Jett Haden  
Mc Cray, Johnny William Melvin  
McGrath, Bryan Thomas  
McGrath, Daniel Patrick  
Mercier, Jade Sharice  
Mullen, Michael Thomas  
Mullen, Owen Dean  
Muscutt, Elias Gordon  
O'Flynn, Shania Marie  
O'Meara, David Joseph  
O'Meara, Joseph Christopher  
Parsley, Shanel Rose  
Peck, Brandalynn  
Peck, Tyler Duane  
Peniska, Ronin T.  
Perales, Jalen Paige  
Petersen, Kevin Lee  
Pfundstein, Nathan Alexander  
Phillips, William Shawn  
Picotte - Felde, Diamond Rose  
Pierce, Raychel Marie  
Pilcher Jones, Josi Marie  
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook  
Polly, Rachael Anne  
Prichard, Joseph John  
Prunty, Austin Joe  
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose  
Raymond, Joseph Allen  
Remmenga, Daniel James  
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby  
Rowe, Crystle Anette  
Rulo, Byron  
Russell, Kristina Anne  
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene  
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee  
Schmidt, Jaye Anthony  
Schmidt, Jr., Karl Michael  
Schmitz, Jennifer Joy  
Scuderi, Jana Marie  
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille  
Sherman, Cody Lee

Sherman, Harold Dewayne  
Sherman, John Glenn  
Sherman, Michael Ray  
Sherman, Mitchell Everett  
Sherman, Robert Le Roy  
Sherman, Savannah  
Sherman, Tristann Ray  
Simpkins, Sebastian Ray  
Smith, Ashley Nicole  
Smith, Danial Ray  
Smith, Stephanie Rae  
Standblack, Daniel Skye  
Standblack, Marko Tulio  
Stastny, Rachel Colleen  
Stegman, Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh  
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan  
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada  
Taylor, Ka`ili Brianna  
Taylor, Samantha Rose  
Teboe, Temperance Tayen  
Thomas, II,  
Scott Richard Herbert  
Thomas, Jenny Anne  
Thomas, Natana Lynn  
Thomas, Robin Diane  
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn  
Van Orden, Skyler Ray  
Vaughan, Linda Lou  
Veals, Clifford James  
Veals, Sherry Ann  
Velder Jr., Jason Lee  
Voss, Joshua Le Roy  
Voss, Michael Roy  
Waters, Deon Koleen  
Wayte, April May  
White, Abrianna Aliya  
Williams, Andrea Michelle  
Wintermantel,  
Samuel Max Kawakami  
Woodcook, Athena Lucia  
Wright, Alina Lee  
Wright, Cherita Alberta  
Wright, Cruz Montgomery  
York, Gregory Allen  
Zephier, Cameron Dawn

## MEMBERS NEEDED

### INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD

The responsibilities of this Board include advising the PTN Human Services Department and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program on child custody cases for PTN members or eligible to be members; identifying services for the Dept. to provide and/or request for the children and families of the child custody cases; hear complaints and grievances regarding child custody cases; and report to Council on the Board's advice and determinations to the Human Services Department. The appointment is for a two-year term expiring January 31, 2027.

Requirements to qualify for the Board:

- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member\*
- Successfully pass a criminal background check
- Not an employee of the PTN and PTN entities

\*Preferably the member has received services from the PTN Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program, but it is not a requirement.

A \$250 stipend and mileage reimbursement (not to exceed 410 miles round trip at the govt. rate) are paid per meeting. Applicants must submit letters of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by email [crepenning@poncatribene.gov](mailto:crepenning@poncatribene.gov). Deadline for applications is January 31, 2025.

## 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://poncatribeneofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca\\_artists\\_niobrara\\_market](https://poncatribeneofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_artists_niobrara_market) to sign up. For more information, contact Rebecca Sullivan at [bsullivan@osniponca.com](mailto:bsullivan@osniponca.com).



## Ponca Tribal Code Series

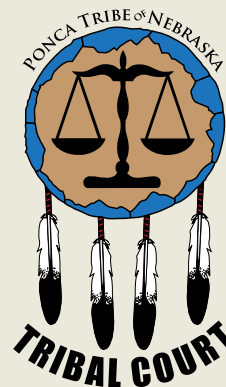
Ponca Code Series is a training being held to assist tribal members, staff, legal professionals, human service professionals, and members of the indigenous community to better understand the Ponca Tribal Code. The series will go over one section of the code per event and is taught by the Honorable Patrick Runge.

### Protection Order

January 9, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm  
Norfolk Transit Facility  
1800 Syracuse Avenue  
Norfolk, NE

### Guardianship

February 13, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm  
Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive  
Lincoln, NE







## Elder's Committee Meetings

**January 6 | 10 am**

PTN Offices | Omaha, NE

**February 3 | 10 am**

Transit Building | Norfolk, NE



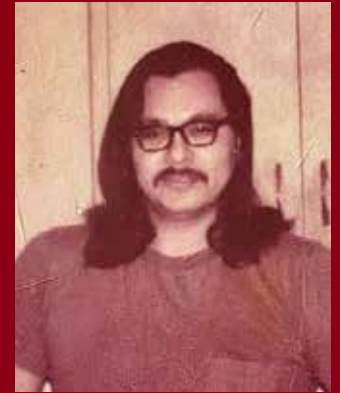
À B A Ð A X Ž A K Á Ð G E D Í S  
 J H Á G Ð E Ž É A G Á Ž Ð M W Á  
 D Z W A S Á T J E W A K Á W I Z  
 É Š Á G E Š U G À Á Ð È E B T P  
 S Ž K J W A Ð E À A A W Í Ð Ì Á  
 Á Ì A A U N É Ð È J G Ž G T È Ð  
 B E H Á B A X Ð U D E Í Í G I I  
 E A A É N Ú G À P À I G I B Á G  
 Ð Ì W G M A Z É Ž Ì E Á G A J A  
 J Ð A Ž Í M W Ð K É T A H À A H  
 Y É Ð T H N X K E Í H O Z Ð À I  
 À Z A A A Á Ð È M S K Á S Ž À Š  
 N E H T G X Í Ž A N A G A X Í W  
 E S A J A N I Á Š I G A A G G É  
 T Á T Á Ž A G J Ž Ú H Á J Ð É Ð  
 Í B U Ž Á G È Ð A B E E A Ž I H  
 M E K A Ð E K I H Á B E Ž Í D É

word search answers from page 2

## Happy Birthday!

The family of Thomas V. Wright would like to wish him a very Happy 74th Birthday 1/26/25. Tom is the son of the late Adolph Wright and the late Cheryl (Cherry) Wright. He was married to the late Marilyn (Thornton) Wright, with whom they shared thirteen children:

Theodore Thornton Sr, Cheryl (Wright) James, LaDonna Wright, Jolena Wright, Marissa Wright, Rebecca Wright, Thomas Wright II, the late William (BJ) Wright, Waku Wright, Taenda (Angie) Wright, Kamimina Wright, Mato Wright, and Tate Wright. And many grandchildren and



great grandchildren, all of whom call him Dad. Tom is also the oldest of 11 that include: himself, Rick Wright, John Wright, Lori Bear, Marty Wright, Charlie Wright, Dan Wright, Lynn Paulsen, Clayton Wright, Aaron Wright, and Jeannine Wright. We love you dad!

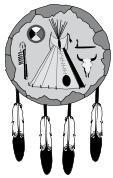


## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

**VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR**

**INFO REGARDING DISCOUNTS ON YOUR INTERNET!**

[WWW.FCC.GOV/ACP](http://WWW.FCC.GOV/ACP)



# PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

[www.poncatribene.gov](http://www.poncatribene.gov)

## PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA Office Locations

### **NIORRARA 68760**

#### **Headquarters**

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

#### **Enrollment**

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

#### **Cultural**

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

### **LINCOLN 68512**

#### **Administration**

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

#### **Ponca Health Services-Lincoln**

1600 Windhoek Dr  
Ph: (531) 248-3030

#### **Osni Ponca**

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

### **NORFOLK 68701**

#### **Administration Building**

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

#### **Gym Building**

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

#### **Ponca Hills Clinic**

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

#### **Ponca Express**

Ph: 877-769-3111

#### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

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

#### **Purchased/Referred Care**

Ph: (800) 405-0365  
Fax: (402) 371-0176

### **OMAHA 68107**

#### **Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic**

2602 "J" Street  
Ph: (402) 733-3612  
Fax: (402) 733-3487

#### **Administration**

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

#### **Dental**

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

#### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

10635 Birch., 68134  
Ph: (402) 505-3055  
Fax: (402) 505-3066

### **SIoux CITY 51103**

#### **Administration**

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

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

#### **Child Abuse Hotline**

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

#### **National Child Abuse Hotline**

800-422-4453

#### **National Suicide Hotline**

800-273-8255

#### **Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-799-7233

#### **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

888-373-7888

#### **National Problem Gambling Helpline**

800-522-4700

#### **Elder Abuse Hotline**

800-252-8966

#### **Boys Town Crisis Line**

800-448-3000

#### **Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline**

877-726-4727

#### **Nebraska Family Helpline**

888-866-8660

#### **Veterans Crisis Line**

800-273-8255

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