



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Member News

A quiet weekend

Members still enjoyed the opportunity to connect virtually and in person over the weekend when Powwow would have ordinarily occurred.



Camping, connection, and the Powwow that wasn't

Cliff Taylor

We bought our plane tickets. We crossed our fingers. We hoped against all hope. And then, as expected, the Ponca powwow was officially cancelled.

"I get it," I said, looking at Aislinn, my girlfriend, on the couch next to me. "It's risky. God forbid something bad happen. Everyone's going to be bummed but they'll all understand too."

"It'll still be good to go back to Nebraska."

I looked at her, feeling home just at the mention of the word.

"You're right. It will."

We put on our face-coverings and braved the travel situation, feeling not too afraid but also trying to be as conscientious and considerate as possible. Mountains and clouds passed by outside the oval window; Doctor Strange played on the screen in front of me. When we landed my brother found us at the airport, loaded us up into his big truck.

"I'm in no rush. You guys want to grab a bite in Fremont?" Fremont was the halfway point between Omaha and our hometown, Columbus.

"I'm starving," Aislinn said from the back. "Al-

most all the restaurants in the airport during our layover were closed."

"Dad said that he wanted to go pick some sage in Niobrara this weekend," I pitched in.

"How about we get some burritos?" My brother replied, Omaha roaring around us. "I was thinking we could all go camping up there this weekend. What do you think?"

Aislinn and I were thinking we were going to have to rent a car for a day to get up there but it seemed like it was just all coming together.

"Cool. That sounds great."

"Burritos it is then," my brother said,

Before we all piled into our pair of vehicles with our totes of gear and coolers and tents and such, we got to do what has become one of my favorite things in the past couple years since I left Nebraska: hang out at my brother's with my niece and nephew, just loving up on the little rascals and my mellowing brother too. Maybe when you're young you want adventure and encounters with real-life Native Jedi and to see the leftover mountains of Atlantis but then when you get

older you just want to give your niece cool gifts that she'll remember you by after you're long gone and wrestle with your three-year-old mini-Godzilla nephew on the living room floor. Funny how the story changes as we get older, right? Funny and beautiful too.

"Look out!" I yelled over to my brother, seeing my nephew's eyes widen and flash with intensity. "He's beginning to transform! Here he comes!"

And then we were rolling up Highway 81, a caravan of two, my brother, Aislinn, and me in the one vehicle, his girlfriend and the two kids in the other vehicle; my dad was going to meet us up there.

We zipped through Norfolk, where my dad and his generation was from, took the old route through Pierce and Plainview, stories from the childhood parts of our memories coming out, grandpa and grandma and relatives no longer around visiting us as we remembered them and talked about them. "That's where grandpa always used to like to stop and get a whole bunch of meat. Dad said he'd been going there since he was a kid."

It was a trip I'd been making since I was a little

guy, always going back to Niobrara, where my grandpa and grandma and their generation was from, for funerals and powwow and visits and Sundance and other things. The road back to the Ponca homelands. Always a little different every time we went back; always monumentally full of our people's soul. This would've been Aislinn's first time at our powwow; I really wanted to share it with her.

We hit Verdigris and went beyond, the landscape becoming raw, wild, original, no longer grids and cornfields and flatness. This is where it got good. A familiar awe and love filled my consciousness. My eyes just kept looking and looking.

"Can you feel how it's different up here?" I kind of excitedly asked Aislinn, a geek to my core. "Can you feel all the stuff that's still alive up here?!"

We wound up camping out in the smooth hills of Niobrara State Park.

We set up our tents down in this clearing that had a perfect shelter of tree-tops, felt the happiness of being away from TV and the city, felt the work/presence/history of our ancestors circling around the edges. We'd brought

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Póⁿka Íye-t^he! The Ponca Language

Need help saying the words? Hear audio recordings on the PTN website at poncatribe-ne.tv/category/language/ and refer to the pronunciation guide on this page.

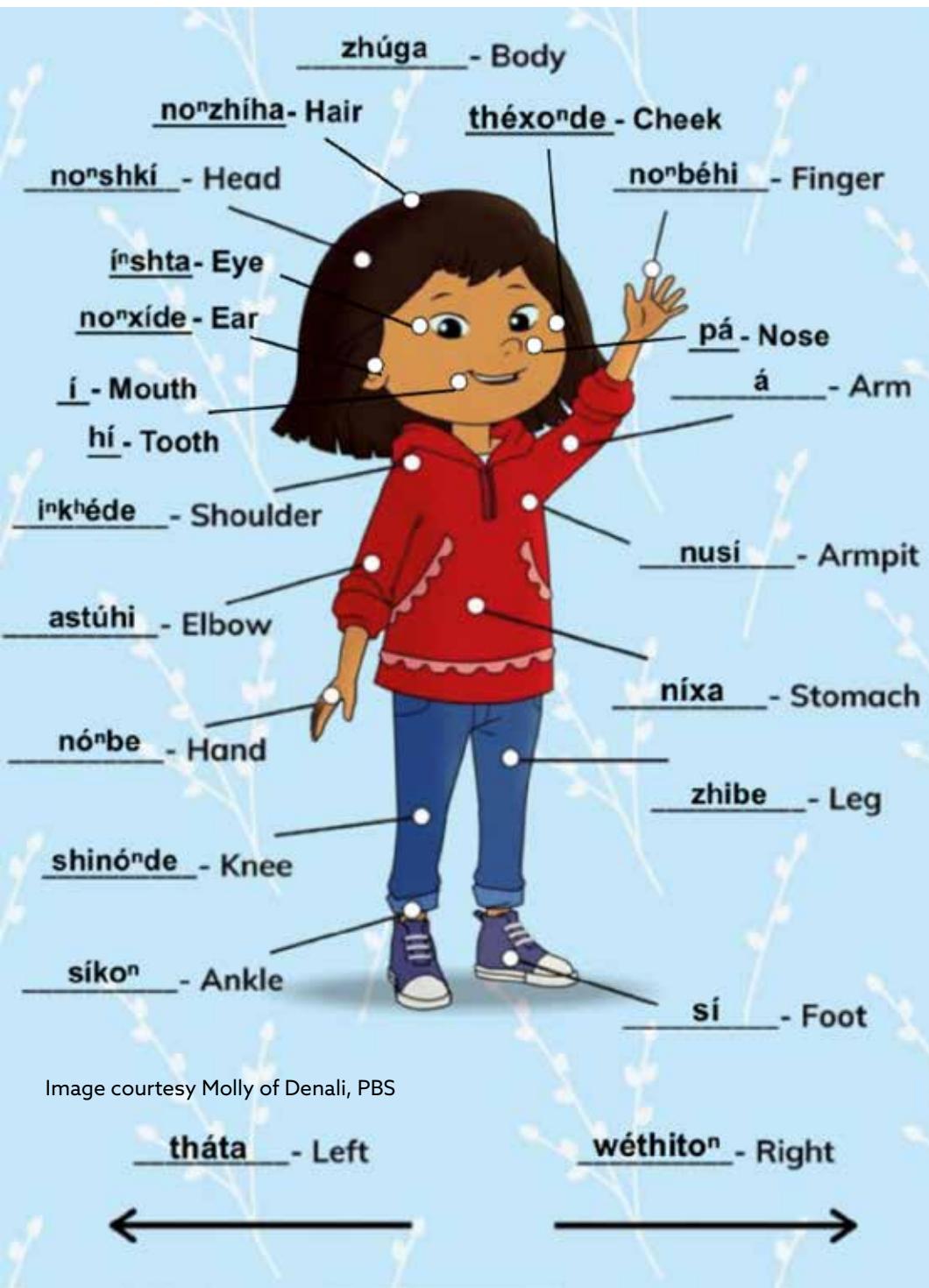


Image courtesy Molly of Denali, PBS

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| a | Like a in father |
| b | Like b in big |
| ch | Like 2nd ch in church |
| ch^h | Like 1st ch in church |
| d | like d in dig |
| e | Like e in Vegas |
| g | like g in game |
| h | like h in home |
| i | Like i in ski |
| í | Like ea in mean |
| k | Like k in ski |
| k^h | Like k in key |
| m | Like m in man |
| n | Like n in need |
| o | Like o in no |
| ó | Like aw in dawn |
| p | Like p in spot |
| p^h | Like p in pot |
| s | Like s in sing |
| sh | Like sh in shop |
| t | Like t in stop |
| t^h | Like t in top |
| th | Like th in that |
| u | Like u in blue |
| w | Like w in woman |
| x | Like ch in German Bach |
| z | Like z in zebra |
| zh | Like ge in beige |

The raised letter n (ñ) means to nasally say the vowel before the ^ñ.

The ' above a vowel (like é) means to stress that sound. There is no "L" sound in Ponca. Some confuse the "TH" as a L sound.

TAYLOR: Taking time to renew connections and relationships

continued from inside cover

enough stuff to survive a week or two but really we were just staying for two nights. The little guy ran wild. My niece double-checked to make sure we had the stuff for s'mores.

"Do you wanna go look at Niobrara from the shelter up that path?" I asked Aislinn.

"Yeah, let's check it out."

Up the path there was a shelter on a hilltop overlooking Niobrara, the Missouri River, the bluffs, and South Dakota; it was one of the best views I've encountered of the area, beating out my previous favorite of the high point at the cemetery even.

We stood on that open hilltop and looked at the swirls and breathing earth and beauty of everything. We were silent, happy. Neither one of us needed to say a word.

That first night we made brats and a vegan burger for Aislinn and then s'mores; my dad finally showed up and he got himself all set up too, offering commentary on anything and everything, three coolers of drinks in tow, proud to be with his family.

When it got dark he went off to use the restroom and then told us when he got back, "I saw a falling star." He was gruff, sensi-

tive, our resident elder, spoiler of the grandchildren.

"Do you want to go look at the stars from the shelter?" Aislinn asked.

My niece, myself, and her walked back up the path returning already to the magic of that viewpoint. The skies were so clear, the stars infinitely visible, the Milky Way stretching and streaking through them all like an ancient celestial highway. We stood on the same spot we'd been earlier, me telling my niece all sorts of things I thought it'd be good for her to hear.

And then we saw a falling star, big, bright, almost fuzzy.

"Did you know that when you see a falling star sometimes that's a little person coming down onto our planet?" I asked/told my niece.

And then we saw another falling star, slipping down through the brilliance of the other stars.

"Thank you for getting us to come stargazing, niece," I said. "All credit goes to you!"

My niece crunched up her face. "You are the greatest Jedi of them all!"

The next day Aislinn and I borrowed my brother's truck and went to our Sundance grounds in

Santee. I had saved up two week's vacation and my tax return so that we could for sure make it this year and then the global pandemic happened. At least we were going to get a quick visit in while we were up there, say hello, walk around, and touch hearts with the place.

Like a lot of bridges in the area, the bridge near the grounds was out and we were almost stumped until we saw that you were just supposed to drive down into the creek and go around it; it would've sucked if we'd come that far and then been denied access, you know? We were so happy to get there though and when we hopped out of the truck and saw it all we could've done some sort of really sacred honoring dance and yahoos and got right to the teary part right away. I've danced 8 years and plan to keep dancing more; many memories on those grounds, many more to come.

We hung out there for a couple hours, fed a horse that was tied up there, checked out a huge new garden, blessed ourselves at the spring, left some offerings by the creek, prayed at the tree, sat around, noticed some new fallen trees, and sang some songs by where the sweat-lodges usually are.

So much of our culture is about the upkeep and renewal of relationships; nothing beats the in-person version of this when possible. I was very grateful to come to the grounds and feed my connection to the place, to the ceremony, to my family there.

"If we'd come by ourselves we would've camped here," I said to Aislinn, looking at the arbor.

"I have a feeling come next year we'll all be here together," she said, ever the optimist.

"How does that sound?"

We got back and did a musical chairs thing with the vehicles, with my brother, his girlfriend, and the berserker going to Santee to visit his grandparents on his mom's side, and my dad, Aislinn, my niece and me going for a cruise over to the powwow grounds and the cemetery.

We drove along those roads that're engraved in so many of our memories and my dad did most of the talking, sweeping back and forth between fond, distant memories, how much we needed to clean the coffee pan we'd borrowed and burned from his aunt Beverly, and a number of his takes on all the things he had

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District 4 holds Back to School Event

Candace Schmidt

Kyle Taylor

District 4 Tribal Council
Representatives

Many students and their families showed up for the “walk-thru” back to school fair held in Norfolk on August 11th. District representatives, along with the education department, hosted the event for Ponca youth and JOM students.

Eligible students received gift cards, book bags, and other limited supplies. Food, drinks, and ice cream treats were also provided to those that at-

tended. Snack bags were handed out by NPHA along with face masks and hand sanitizer by health staff. Booths were set-up to provide program materials as well.

Special thanks to all the volunteers and staff that helped with the event, especially both the PRC and Diabetes Programs.

While we know it has been a trying time for both parents and students alike, we hope that you have a safe and successful school year.



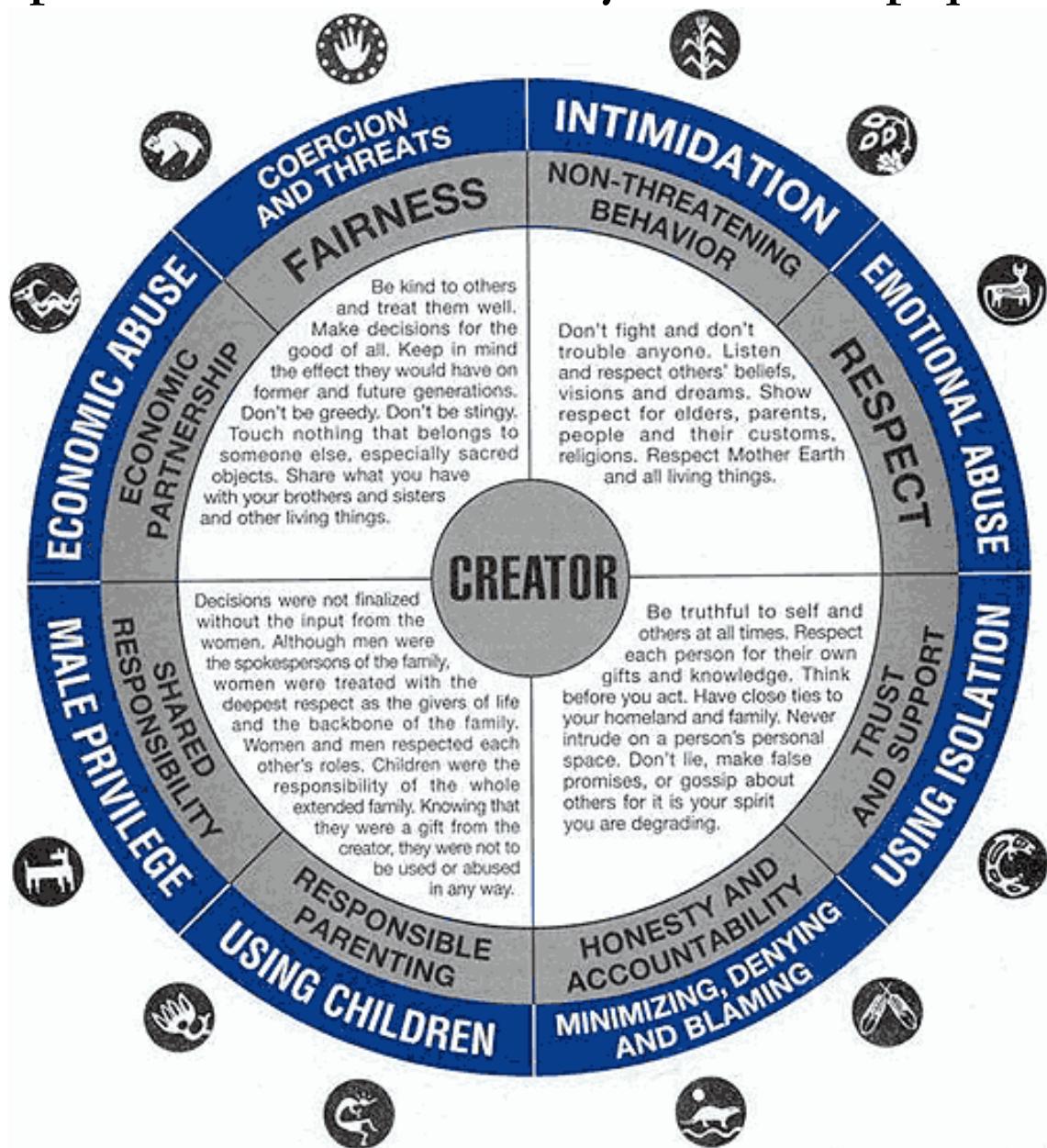
Are you a good partner? Take the healthy relationship quiz

A healthy relationship is when two people develop a connection based on: Mutual respect. Trust. Honesty.

Here is a quiz for all to take to see if you are a good partner.

Do I....

1. Forget to thank my partner when they do something nice for me?
2. Have trouble making time to listen to my partner when something is bothering them?
3. Text or call repeatedly until I receive a response from my partner?
4. Get upset when my partner wants to hang out with their friends or family?
5. Take out my frustrations on my partner, like snapping at them or giving them attitude?
6. Tease my partner about things they're insecure about?
7. Tell my partner who they can and can't hang out with?
8. Expect my partner to get my permission before joining a club or activity?
9. Drive past my partner's house or job to make



- sure they're there?
10. Accuse my partner of flirting or cheating even if I'm not sure that's what happened?
11. Criticize my partner's body or appearance?
12. Read my partner's text, login into their social media accounts or go through their email without their permission?
13. Make my partner feel guilty about things they have no control over?
14. Sometimes say things to my partner knowing that they are hurtful?
15. Talk down to or embarrass my partner in front of others to make a point?
16. Intimidate my partner when I'm mad by throwing things, hitting walls or driving dangerously?
17. Go further sexually with my partner even if I think they don't want to?

Recovering from Sexual Trauma

Amber Wendt

Trauma Informed Care Therapist

Sexual trauma has been a worldwide issue for years. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, every 73 seconds another American is sexually assaulted. If you haven't experienced sexual trauma yourself, you more than likely know someone who has. Sexual trauma is any sexual act that is imposed on another person without their consent.

Examples of Sexual Trauma:

- Sexual Assault
- Rape
- Sexual Abuse
- Stalking

- Sexual Harassment
- Street Harassment
- Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Online Sexual Harassment
- Incest

Sexual trauma can leave a person scared, ashamed, alone, haunted by nightmares, flashbacks, and other undesirable memories. These feelings and thoughts are normal reactions to trauma. What are some ways to recovering from sexual trauma? Talk to someone you trust. Talking about your experience can be difficult at times. Talking about it will help you

feel supported and not alone. Talk to someone who will be supportive, empathetic, and calm. Consider joining a support group. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offers Trauma Support Groups for Women at each office location. Flashbacks can happen and are not always possible to prevent. Prepare yourself for flashbacks and undesirable memories. Try to prepare yourself for triggers. Triggers can include anniversary dates, people or places associated to your experience, certain names, smells, or sounds. Triggers can cause you to become upset or have a reaction. When noticing something that is triggering you, it's important

to calm yourself down. Slowing down your breathing is the most effective way to reduce stress. Always take time to rest. You may want to try mediation and yoga. Take care of yourself physically. Exercise can help calm you, relieve stress, and help you feel powerful and in control of your body. Be patient with yourself, healing takes time.

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual trauma and would like to talk to someone or has any questions regarding the Trauma Support Groups, please reach out to Emily Driver at 402.943.6291 or myself, Amber Wendt at 402.943.9997.

QUIZ: Be aware of hurtful actions in your relationship

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18. Shove, slap, choke or hit my partners when I'm angry or they did something wrong?

Scoring – So Are You A Good Partner?

For every yes, give yourself the following points:

Questions 1-5: 1 point

Questions 6-10: 3 points

Questions 11-14: 5 points

Questions 15-17: 15 points

Score: 0 Points

If you got zero points, it

sounds like you're very mindful of your actions and respectful of your partner's feelings—these are the building blocks of a healthy relationship.

Score: 1-5 Points

If you scored one to five points, there may be a couple of things in your relationship that could use a little attention. Nobody is perfect, but it is important to be mindful of your actions and try to avoid hurting your partner.

Score: 6-14 Points

If you scored five to fourteen points, it's possible that some of your actions may hurt your partner and relationship. While the behaviors may not be abusive, they can worsen over time if you don't change.

Score: 15 Points or More

If you scored five or more points, some of your actions may be abusive. The first step to improving your relation-

ship is becoming aware of your unhealthy actions and admitting they are wrong. It's important to take responsibility for the problem and get help to end it.

If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy relationship or are not sure, contact the Domestic Violence Department at any of the Ponca Tribe of NE office sites.

TAYLOR: Trip leaves lasting memories of family and home

continued from page 2

running in his mind. It was actually a warm, wholesome drive. A sign of how far we'd come as a family; how much we'd, believe it or not, healed.

We circled through the powwow grounds, waving at a bunch of relatives who were all sitting out by their campers -more folks who came to Niobrara even after the pow-wow had been cancelled. We grinned at the new showers and restrooms, admired the cool work that was being done on the arena, took in the layers of life present in that space, and peered at the statue of Chief Standing Bear standing tall a little ways up in the distance. "He's supposed to be overlooking everything," my dad said. "That's why they placed him there."

Then, we went to the cemetery.

Since my early twenties I've come and walked our cemetery, putting tobacco on graves, praying, and singing. An immeasurably large chunk of our tribe's root-system is located there; I went to my first funeral there, my baby cousin's, when I was 7 or 8. But this time we all followed my dad's lead, listened to him talk and recount family history, tell stories, tear up, describe important things that

were not to be forgotten. At times you could feel the spirits pretty clearly; I paid especially close attention to what my dad got to talking about then. I felt very good that my niece was getting to have this experience; it would nourish her in the future in ways she couldn't conceive of now; that was some Indian stuff right there.

We stood by the fence, looking for the buffalo, all the graves behind us.

"Touch the fence," my dad told me.

"I don't know about that," I said.

My dad got a little misty, while also trying to hide it. "Your grandpa was rough. That's what he'd tell me. He'd point at a fence like that and say, 'Touch that fence.'"

"All right then, here I go...!" (I did not touch the fence.)

The second night, after s'mores and enough ghost stories around the campfire to give more than just the kids the heebie-jeebies, I crashed out first, climbing into the tent feeling pretty bushed, and then a humongous, earth-shaking thunderstorm came.

"Get up!" Aislinn said, shaking my leg. "It's here! It's here!"

The one thing I miss the most about the weather and climate of Nebraska are the thunderstorms, mountain-sized, spine-tingling, pure reminders of the power of Mother Nature. But I was too dang tired to roll out of bed and Aislinn got to finally experience her first real Nebraskan thunderstorm without me but with my family.

They staked my dad's tent down (don't ask), hurried some chairs and totes into this rudimentary shelter that was there, and just rode it out as it rumbled and struck and showered down upon the land. I kept waking up, hearing them all, smiling inside at the joy and fun I could hear in their voices.

"Was it better than the falling stars?" I asked Aislinn the next morning.

"Don't make me choose," she said, sipping her coffee. "Don't make me choose."

We took off pretty early that Sunday morning, which would've been the last day of the powwow, because my brother's girlfriend, who actually worked at our casino, had to work that night and needed to get some sleep. It was amazing how fast we broke down camp and loaded things up. My dad said, "I'll meet you guys in Colum-

bus. I gotta make a couple stops first, visit some friends." Somehow, he'd be cool to the very end, tough and unbreakable; the Poncas of his generation are still leading the way.

I was bit up, red around my socks and waistline with chigger bites; I was looking forward to a shower, air-conditioning, downtime with the family in the living room. But before we left I wanted one last look. Everybody loaded up and I walked the short bit back over to the shelter and its viewpoint.

We Poncas are tasked with the blessing of trying to fathom the huge stretches of land and life we've inherited from our ancestors, that we've woken up into the vast, unending story of. It's like unearthing a million sacred artifacts that were buried in our hearts by the ancestors before we were born. So much, such a legacy, such a mysterious, generous, complex gift.

I looked at the land of Niobrara and tried to feel with my spirit all of the spirit that was there, in the rivers, the trees, the hills, the birds, the whole sweeping spread of it before me.

I took it all in, felt mighty

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International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Allison Gienapp
Air Technician

2020 has been a year full of up and downs. It has marked the disruption of daily life due to COVID-19, but it has also served as a viable landmark year for many milestones and achievements. When it comes to the 50th year anniversary of Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, which was one of the most successful environmental movements of all time and led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA). The U.S. EPA will also celebrate its 50th birthday along with one of the landmark law of the time, the Clean Air Act of 1970, which changed the way the U.S. government dealt with air pollution.

Along with the milestones also comes the new beginnings. 2020 will mark the beginning of a new international date to promote air quality around the world. September 7, 2020 will be marked as the 1st annual International Day of Clean Air for Blue

Skies. This movement will help promote air quality around the world. It aims to raise public awareness on all levels, demonstrate the link between air quality and the environment, promote solutions to improve air quality, and bring the world together to effectively manage air quality.

Join the movement with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition for the 1st Annual International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, 2020.

<https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/event/international-day-clean-air-blue-skies>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/clean-air-day>

[https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/evolution-clean-air-act#:~:text=The%20enactment%20of%20the%20Clean,industrial\)%20sources%20and%20mobile%20sources.](https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/evolution-clean-air-act#:~:text=The%20enactment%20of%20the%20Clean,industrial)%20sources%20and%20mobile%20sources.)

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary

Georja Kriebs
PTN Environmental Manager

Have you ever heard about the National Marine Sanctuary System? It is a network of under-water parks that encompass more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lake waters. The opportunities include visiting (no fees), volunteer (even from a distance), jobs and even scholarships for education. If you are interested to learn more and expand your knowledge and awareness of these watery wonder lands please visit the follow link <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/live/>. We are all connected

and all rivers lead to the ocean.

On this website you will be able to take a virtual dives in a sanctuary, learn about these sanctuaries, location of them, how you can get involved and how you can apply for scholarships where you could get an award up to \$45,000.00 for two years. Remember the only thing that can stop you, is own imagination of what you can accomplish and do with your life!



Yeargan receives thanks from Administration for Native Americans

This summer, Nina Yeargan, Career Development Coordinator with the Ponca Tribe Education Department, and two youth presented at the 2020 I-LEAD Native Youth Week on Ponca language and culture. Below is the letter received by the Tribe, thanking her.

July 23, 2020

I-LEAD Eastern Region Cultural Sharing

Dear Nina Yeargan,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for representing I-LEAD's

Eastern region and sharing the story of the Orphan Bird Chief from Ponca for the Administration for Native Americans first virtual Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment and Development – 2020 I-LEAD Native Youth Week. This event bridged the vast physical distances between our I-LEAD grantees, eased isolation, provided relevant and vital discussions, celebrated cultural diversity, and reinforced the theme of remaining Unapologetically Indigenous throughout the webinar series.

Please know that your participation and words of wisdom resonated with our attending I-LEAD Native youth, our staff and special guests. As we all continue to adjust to the impact of COVID-19 and social-distancing requirements our team remains committed to continuing connections for our Native youth.

We have received amazing feedback on the success of the event from all attendees and staff. The internal I-LEAD team and attending youth have also asked me to pass along their sincere appreciation

for your support of this important Native youth driven initiative.

It was an honor to have you participate and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours Truly,
Jeannie Hovland

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Affairs

Commissioner | Administration for Native Americans

HHS/ACF

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.

Fall 2020 deadline: August 15, 2020

Winter 2020 deadline: November 15, 2020

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)

All Education Department Applications and Program Information is available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at 402.860.9262 or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.org.

Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs

Fond memories of Randy Ross

Marchita Bair

Elder's Council

Randy Ross, Co-founder of The Sapa Wacipi (Black Hills Powwow), and Vice Chairman, Elder's Council went on his journey July 15, 2020.

Hello, my name Marchita Bair from the Elder's Council and I wanted to share a few things about Randy. There are too many wonderful things to mention about my relative Randy Ross, but I wanted to mention what I know.

Last year about this time Randy Ross, Belva Phillips and I drove to Quapaw, Oklahoma to the Dhegiha Conference. We had 3 days of meetings and in between breaks we sat in the lobby area where there was a big fireplace. Randy talked about his kids and memories of places he has been. It was good conversations until he said, he had his boys 10 years apart and he said he didn't know why and that was when Belva Phillips said Ok, Randy that's to much information and she said I'm going to the gift shop and we laughed. Randy and I knew a lot of the Ponca relatives and always told stories of how we knew them. It was good to visit with Randy when he came to



Photo provided by Stephanie Ross

our meetings and I worried about him driving from the Black Hills, but he made every time.

I heard that Randy had done some things while he was here on this earth and I wanted to share them with all of you. Randy is buried up at Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD. Randy was in the service and he wanted to be buried up there in the military section. Randy said he was in the Air Force and he traveled the world, he visited many places when he was young. Randy was very excited about The Chief Standing Bear play and Return to Niobrara, especially because the youth were participating in the plays. Randy has done so many things in South Dakota with the youth and he helped out with many learning centers for the

youth. Randy helped with getting the youth started with tools like computers, and TVs for learning. Randy was close in extending a Tribal College. I also wanted to share with your parts of what was said in his obituary. Randy Ross will be hard to replace in the Elder's Council, he was a very intelligent man and he shared so much.

Randy also traveled to different parts of the world, such as France, Germany, Sweden, El Salvador, and many more. He graduated from high school in 1974 from Huron High School, in Huron, South Dakota. He joined the Air Force in 1976, was part of the Strategic Air Command, and later honorably discharged in 1979. In October 1979, he entered into the Federal Government service for ten years working for the Health and Human Services-Indian Health Service in ad-

ministration. The majority of his working career was spent in contracting with tribes, tribal organizations writing grants and proposals for funding of federal programs/projects. His employment included director of Indian Center-Lincoln, NE.

Randy, in his younger years, was a motorcycle rider, fancy dancer, loved to gourd dance and participated in peyote meetings and sweat lodge. In 1986 he co-founded He Sapa Wacipi (Black Hills Powwow Association). He was a loving and generous man, helped people whenever he could and made friends no matter where he went. In 2012, Randy had the pleasure of meeting United States Supreme Court Justice Judge Sonia Sotomayor while in Washington, DC.

Thank you for your time in reading this. Randy Ross will be missed by many.

Elder's Council Meeting

September 9 & 10 | 10 am

PTN Offices, Lincoln

Lifesize & Conference Call available.

2020 PONCA ELECTION CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1

- TONI JO AN SCHLOTMAN

DISTRICT 2

- REBECCA SULLIVAN
- RHONDA FREE

DISTRICT 3

- SUSAN BAKER
- STEVE LARAVIE, SR.
- STEPHANIE SLOBOTSKI

DISTRICT 4

- ANGELA BESSMER
- ALEX TAYLOR



PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD!

Sign up now for the **Ponca Youth Council Fitness Tracker Challenge!** The challenge, focusing on wellness and fitness, will have openings for new participants added every two weeks. Participants will receive a FREE fitness tracker, and be eligible for weekly prizes.

This tracker challenge is available on a first-come, first-served basis to enrolled Ponca Tribe of Nebraska youth between the ages of 14-24, living in or near Ponca Tribe office locations. Participants must be able to come to an office location to have their tracker set up prior to the beginning of the competition, and be willing to download steps every day for the length of the project.

To sign up, please send your name, age, enrollment number and local PTN office to youthcouncil@poncatribe-ne.org, with **Youth Council Fitness Tracker Project** in the subject line.



Youth Council helps members, plans for the future

Maci Schott

The Osni Ponka Youth Council received some exciting news this July. Our Youth Council entered the Unity Business Plan Competition with a business plan focussing on bringing awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) movement. Through this business plan we plan to create t-shirts for the MMIR 5K this upcoming spring. These shirts will be designed by one of our Youth Council members and sold at the run.

On July 23, 2020, we received an award at the virtual Unity Conference that will allow us to bring this project to life. We were awarded a \$2,000 check to support our business plan. We are honored to represent our tribe, and we look forward to creating a business that will support our Youth Council.



We would like to give a special shoutout to members- Makala Laravie, Cami Schott, and Maci Schott for bringing this project to life. We would also like to thank our Youth Council Advisor- Rebecca Sullivan, for guiding us through this process.

This July we also put together a project titled “Senior Secret Santa-Christmas in July”. Since we were unable to provide Breakfast and Bingo for our elders at the pow

wow this year, the Osni Ponka Youth Council wanted to make sure our



elders know that we are thinking about them during this time of uncertainty. We put together care packages for those 60+ in our service delivery areas. Members- Ben Schott, Cami Schott, and Maci Schott, with the help of our advisor- Rebecca Sullivan, went to walmart to buy gifts for these pack-

ages. We assembled them at the Ralston office, and we are excited to see what our elders think! Merry Christmas!

This August the District 2 representatives put together a back-to-school event for students in our district. The D2 Youth Council members, Claire Howell, Trip Howell, Ben Schott, Cami Schott, and Maci Schott, were able to help at this event by handing out the school supplies and backpacks.

We ensured social distancing by ensuring all those picking up their backpacks could receive their supplies from the safety of their cars. We wish all current and new students a safe year at their schools!

TAYLOR: Connection provides bright spots in dark, uncertain times

continued from page 6

good, and then rejoined my family, everyone ready to get back to Columbus.

We spent a couple more days chilling with my brother and dad and family in Columbus and then we travelled back to Astoria, Oregon, where we've lived for the past year and a half. As far as I know, I am the only Ponca here.

The global pandemic has been a doozy, to say the least. So much cancelled, so much chaos, so much time collectively spent in the dark of the unknown, so much unfortunate/tragic actual death; hope-

fully things ease up as the rest of the year unfolds, hopefully everyone stays safe and finds abundant silver linings to all of this craziness. No powwow this year, no Sundance, but may we all still find those much-needed, much-sustaining experiences of precious togetherness.

"Next year you'll get to experience the powwow full-on!" I told Aislinn as we unpacked into our messy apartment. "I'll figure out a way to get you a vegetarian Indian taco and everything."

"Next year it's going to be on!"



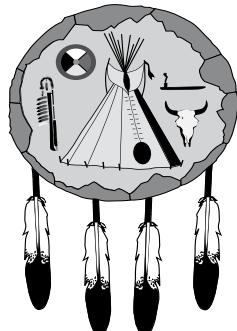
Ponca iMap

(Individual Member Assistance Program)

The Individual Member Assistance Program (iMap) allows Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members to submit a request for one-time monetary relief of up to \$2,000/ member to cover expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit www.poncatribe-ne.org/imap/ for more information, and to complete your form online. To request a hard copy of the form, please contact Dezarae at 402.438.9222 during business hours.

All request forms MUST be submitted by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. A separate form must be used for each Ponca Tribe of NE member. If any information is missing or incorrect, the entire request will be considered invalid, put on hold, or not processed. All requests are FINAL upon submission.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

For questions, please view the FAQ page on the PTN website at www.poncatribe-ne.org/imap/, email iMap@poncatribe-ne.org, or call Becci Sullivan at 531.222.4471 or Candace Schmidt at 402.860.1497.





Danny Barfield Jr. and Kanesha Whitcomb, Omaha, would like to introduce Kehlani Starr Barfield born July 2nd at 5:13pm (6 lbs 6ozs, 18.5 inches at birth)

MEMBERS NEEDED!

POW WOW COMMITTEE

There are two terms on the Pow Wow Committee that will be expiring on 9/30/20 so letters of interest are being accepted at this time. Committee members are paid a \$250.00 stipend plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles at the current federally approved rate. If you are interested in serving please submit your letter of interest to the Tribal Council at Tribal Headquarters, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or email to: janc@poncatribe-ne.org

GAMING COMMISSIONER

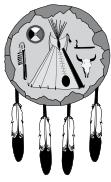
The Ponca Gaming Commission was established to regulate gaming on Ponca Indian Lands by enforcing the Ponca Gaming Ordinance. If you are interested in serving as a Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Gaming Commissioner, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, Nebraska or e-mail to janc@poncatribe-ne.org.

Qualifications: Must be at least 25 years of age and must not be a gaming-related employee, contractor of the Tribe or a member of the Tribal Council. Any appointment will be temporary, pending completion of a background investigation. No Commissioner may have committed a gambling or bribery offense, have a felony conviction, or have any financial interest in, or management responsibility for, any gaming activity governed by the Ordinance, including a Management Contract. A stipend in the amount of \$250 per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip and applicable per diem is paid. **Deadline for application is October 18, 2020.**

ELDERS COUNCIL

The Tribal Council is seeking letters of interest to fill the At-Large position on the Elders Council. The At-Large position is members that reside **outside of the service area**. You must be 55 years of age or older. The purpose of the Elders Council is to enrich the lives of the Ponca Tribal Elders and to provide social interaction and activities that enhance our culture and traditions, and create new traditions and cultural activity as necessary to be carried throughout the tribe now and to the next generation by educating Tribal Members and mentoring our Tribal Youth.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or e-mail to janc@poncatribe-ne.org. Members are paid a \$250 stipend plus mileage up to 410 miles roundtrip and per diem when applicable. **The deadline for application is October 18, 2020.**



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribe-ne.org

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 68508

Administration

1701 E Street
Ph: (402) 438-9222
Fax: (402) 438-9226

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

119 6th Street
Ph: (712) 258-0500
Fax: (712) 258-0762

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