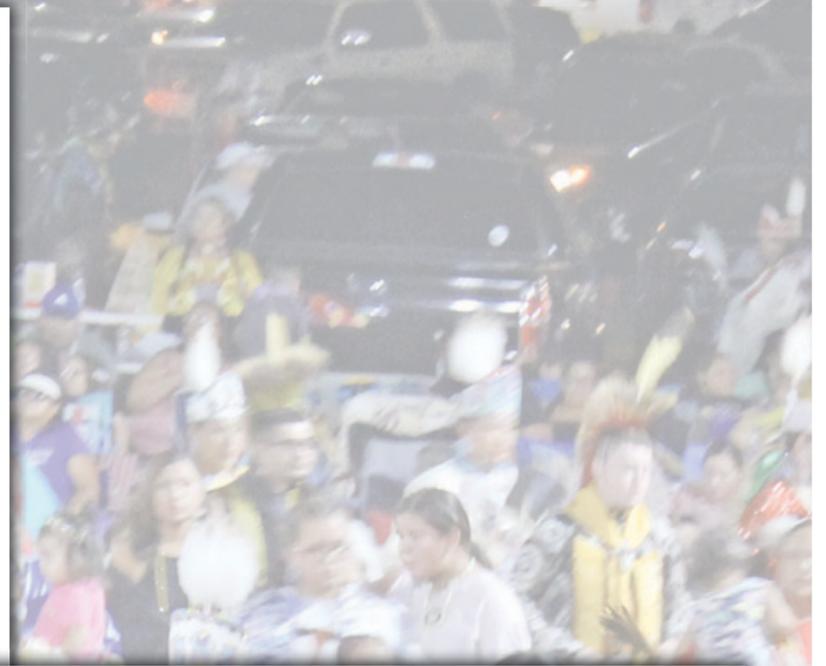


2022 BUSINESS

Update



NORTHERN
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Mural in the new NOC Pickens Learning Commons at NOC Tonkawa

NOC focuses on the future with grant

Northern Oklahoma College is celebrating its 121st year in Tonkawa and continues to focus on the future of higher education in Oklahoma.

Northern Oklahoma College was recently awarded a \$2.2 million U.S. Dept. of Education Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Grant.

The five-year project, entitled "Connecting Students to Promising Pathways" is to be completed 2021-2026 and has three life-changing initiatives.

The initiatives include the development of new STEM academic programs and supporting course options. Also, the grant provides strengthened student services and build the capacity to support remote learners with disabilities.

With the grant funding, NOC will develop a new Renewable Energy option under the Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Technology and Associate of Science in Precision Agriculture as well as courses in Data Analytics that support both new programs. A classroom/laboratory and greenhouse classroom will be created in to support program instruction.

NOC just completed a five-year project that developed the Cultural Engagement Center at NOC Tonkawa and created several opportunities to support Native American and low-income student success.

NOC also just completed a renovation of the library now called the Pickens Learning Commons.

The renovation includes library ser-

vices, the testing center, tutoring services, career and transfer services, and the Cultural Engagement Center (CEC).

NOC is a community college with campuses in Tonkawa, Enid, and Stillwater. The main campus is in Tonkawa, it was established in 1901. NOC Enid was established in 1999 and NOC Stillwater in 2003.

Northern is a leader among Oklahoma colleges in technological advances in developing multiple on-line, in-person, and interactive television courses that serve students in rural and remote areas who could not otherwise attain a college degree. NOC is nationally recognized by the Aspen Institute in Washington DC as being in the top 10 percent of community colleges in the country.

Dr. Clark Harris is the NOC President. Dr. Harris is in his second year at NOC. NOC's mission statement is, "Northern Oklahoma College, the State's first public community college, is a multi-campus, land grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life-changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities and in a connected, ever-changing world."

NOC offers three types of degrees including Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and Associate in Applied Science. The college offers nine academic divisions including Agriculture/Biological Sciences, Business, Engineering/Physical Science/Process Technology,

Fine Arts, Health/Physical Education/ Recreation, Language Arts, Math, Nursing, and Social Sciences.

The Tonkawa campus, the administrative center for NOC, is the home of the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery, which hosts exhibits by Oklahoma artists throughout the academic year, located in the lobby of the 500-seat Kinzer Performing Arts Center, dedicated in 2006. It is also home to radio station KAYE-FM and a newly created Cultural Engagement Center. Maverick athletic programs are highly successful in multiple sports, the men's basketball team recently qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The Enid campus was established in 1999 in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and the City of Enid. The facility had been the home of Phillips University, which had gone bankrupt in 1998. Since its purchase by NOC in 1999, this campus has grown in offering multiple two-year liberal arts degree programs including Nursing, Business Administration, Education, Social Science, and Pre-Medicine. The College also has numerous cooperative degree programs in medical and electronic areas with Autry Technology Center. Northern Oklahoma College brings a

complete college experience to Enid with varsity athletics, dorms, and cultural events. The Jets baseball team won the NJCAA Division II National Championship in 2019.

The Stillwater campus serves multiple missions to area students. Primarily a Gateway Program, the Stillwater campus primarily serves students who choose to transition to Oklahoma State University. The campus, however, also admits students seeking general education courses that transfer to other comprehensive colleges and universities.

NOC was originally named 'University Preparatory School at Tonkawa' and was established as a preparatory

See NOC on Page 5



Farha/Fowler Vending continues to serve the Ponca City community

The story of Farha Wholesale/Fowler Vending is one that demonstrates the many changes that can happen to a business over a long history of operation, as well as showcasing how a business can give back to the community it is based within.

Fowler Vending was founded in 1965 by Ralph Beaty and a group of partners as a small candy and cigarette vending company. Beaty worked as a chemical engineer with Conoco while also pursuing the vending business. Fowler Vending would continue to grow throughout the 1960s, and became Farha Wholesale Company's, a local candy and tobacco wholesaler, largest customer.

In 1972, the Farha family decided to retire and Fowler Vending purchased the company and still operates it independently to this day.

Both of the businesses saw continued success until following on hard times due to the economic recession of the early 1980s. As a result, Beaty infused the business with capital from his Conoco thrift money to avoid bankruptcy.

Beaty's son, Brad, graduated from OSU in 1987 with an Ag Economics degree and planned to stop by Ponca City for a few months to assist his parents with the business, Brad Beaty's plans changed after he met his wife, and he chose to stay in Ponca City to help manage the business.

The business acquired several competitors over the years such as Holland Sup-

ply, Jacobs Distributing, Leach Paper, and several other small businesses.

The company suffered another set back when a fire destroyed the office and warehouse in 2001. The fire took place on a Friday, and with assistance from a dedicated team of employees, the business was up to 80% capacity by the following Monday.

In 2013, Fowler Vending Corp. was fortunate enough to become a Canteen Franchise, which made them a part of the largest vending company in the world and offered them a guaranteed territory, national accounts and buying power.

Farha Wholesale and Fowler Vending strive to be as community involved as possible, whether it be donating product, time, and/or money; or being members of several area organizations and serving on several board of directors of those organizations as well. They take an active part in the Ponca City community by partnering with organizations. They have donated water bottles to Ponca City Public Schools, helped out with many events around town such as Goblins on Grand.

The company was also instrumental during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, working to help keep the community safe. Brad's daughter Kaity would arrive every morning and wipe down the entire office including forklifts and other warehouse machinery.

See FARHA on Page 7

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3 Generations... Brad, Tina, Kaity, Pauletta and Ralph Beaty

Fowler Vending was purchased and incorporated in 1966 by Ralph Beaty, today it is owned and operated by Brad and Tina Beaty. Fowler Vending and its subsidiaries offer vending equipment, coffee service, candy, concession supplies, paper products and janitorial supplies

– Also serving Stillwater, Woodward, Alva and Enid –



The Farm House Kids Co. Update

BY DAILYN EMERY
dailyn@poncacitynews.com

Derion Schieber, originally from Dallas, Texas, is the owner of The Farm House Kids Co., a boutique for babies, kids, and moms at 324 East Grand Ave. She came to Oklahoma for college where she attended Oklahoma State University for

a degree in Business Management.

This is where she met her husband Jared, originally from Newkirk, and they soon moved to Ponca City. After commuting to work for three years, Schieber had enough. She decided to start her own business and along came The Farm House Kids Co., named af-

ter her own life in a farming household.

The Farm House Kids Co. offers clothing for children, new mom items, postpartum items, pacifiers bottles, sippy cups, toys, etc. She now offers a registry and online shopping options on her website. It was always her goal to provide quality and sustainable products

to the community, and to partner with fellow female entrepreneurs and local businesses across the state.

From the very beginning Schieber has been very active in the community and involved with the Ponca City Main Street organization. In one interview Schieber said, "That's just something I'm super passionate about, and I wanted to be more involved."

Schieber has continued to host a formula closet in her store to help out moms in the community who might be down on their luck with money, or just unable to find their preferred formula during the shortage. This is a free of charge program where mothers can just come in and grab what they need from the donations given.

It is safe to say that she



has stood by her wish to be more involved in the community. In the upcoming months, Schieber has several different events planned in the community. From Ladies nights and kids skate free days sponsored by The Farm House Kids Co. and Cast Iron Co. at the coming ice rink downtown to bringing in a Santa and having a "Small Bus Saturday," she is keeping

busy. During the beginning of October, The Farm House Kids Co. celebrated its first birthday and one year anniversary for Schieber taking a chance on herself and her business. The business has an online presence on Facebook and Instagram @thefarmhousekidsco and now has a website www.thefarmhousekidsco.com.

Central Baptist Academy

"Central Baptist Academy opened its classrooms to the public in the Fall of 2020. Starting with an enrollment of 30 students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade, we are thankful for the exponential growth these last two years - we now have 62! With the Lord's blessing, we have hired additional teachers to keep classroom teacher/student ratio's low, thus allowing students to benefit from a more hands-on educational experience. Additionally, this year, we have expanded our

program to offer 7th-12th grades, making us Kay County's only private school with a high school program. With our future trajectory continuing upward, we are excited to serve more local families by providing an educational experience that offers excellent academics while promoting and cultivating a biblical worldview. If you are interested in learning more about CBA, please check out our website (cbaponca.org/academy), or follow our school page on Facebook (@Cbaponca)."



Thank you, Ponca City! Since our opening in 2019 we have made so many good friends. We will be here for all your insurance needs for many years to come.



Erin O'Hara

eohara@farmersagent.com



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How does it work?

- Local power has survived and thrived in America for well over a century. Local power utilities often have to fight to keep their communities powered affordably and reliably
- They push for effective competition in wholesale electric markets so they can get power at reasonable rates for their customers
- They struggle to navigate a sea of often conflicting laws and regulations that constrain power supply sources and increase costs
- They must counter and defend against evolving threats to the security of their transmission and distribution grids

Through it all, they keep the lights on, improving lives everyday.

How do we give back?

- Local power utilities have no stockholders and are driven by the singular mission to serve their customers
- They measure success by how much money stays within the community through low rates and contributions to the city general funds, which support police, fire/ambulance, library, parks and rec, and other departments
- Local power utilities return to their communities 33% greater contributions than the state and local taxes paid by private companies.

Neighbors look out for each other. That's the power of community - and the strength of local power. Local power makes a difference, everyday.

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Lakeview offers trio of services to the Kaw Lake area

Lakeview Boat & RV Storage opened in 1998 with 22 units on the south side of Lake Road just a short distance from the Kaw Lake Dam. The business has steadily grown to meet demand. After land was acquired on the north side of Lake Road, units were added there. The original unit sizes are 10' x 10' x 30' and 12' x 12' x 32'. This year 32 units were added that are 14' x 14' x 45' to accommodate larger boats, RVs, motorhomes and fifth wheels. All the units are fully enclosed with concrete floors, full partitions and outside electrical outlets.

On premises next to the storage units is Jimmy's Marine, a boat and repair service operated by James Burnett. Those who store their boats at Lakeview have the added

convenience of on-site service, repairs and seasonal maintenance. James can be reached at 620-360-5735.

In 2011 Lakeview Campground, 8875 Lake Road, opened 20 RV camping sites in a beautiful shaded area. It has grown to accommodate some 60 RVs. Both 30 and 50 amp electrical service, water, sewer and WiFi are provided at all sites. Six rental units are also available. A coin-op laundry, picnic pavilion, storm shelter and ample walking areas are provided for campers.

The campground is a "home away from home" to many temporary workers and their families who enjoy the rural setting and being near Kaw Lake. It is also used extensively by hunters, fishermen and others visiting the Kaw Lake

area. Lakeview strives to provide the amenities needed for their guests.

The Lakeview Store & Bait Shop opened in late July 2019, just as the lake was reopening after the massive flood. Business picked up considerably when the pandemic arrived in 2020 while children were out of school as fishing was the perfect social distancing activity. As business grew, Lakeview began to expand its stock and services.

The store began with the idea of meeting the needs of campers, fishermen and women, and those who rented on-site storage units as well as local residents and travelers. With that in mind, the store stock is quite diverse. There are the usual convenience store items, such as milk, bread, eggs, hot dogs,

canned goods, candy, ice cream, chips, and numerous condiments as well as picnicking supplies, charcoal, lighter fluid and paper goods. Made in Oklahoma products include Trader Dave's jams, jellies, seasonings and rubs and Frech's Frickin' pretzels and seasonings. There is also a wide array of miscellaneous items including lights, batteries, life vests, beach balls and inflatables, children's toys, personal care selections and numerous other items. In addition there are many gift ideas geared toward the hunter or fisherman such as bass and crappie sandals, can holders, hats, wall thermometer, signs and license plates. Gift certificates are also available.

Live bait—minnows, perch, goldfish and worms—

are the store's most popular items. Frozen baits, including shad, skipjack, chicken liver and shrimp, are also offered as well as stinkbait and other packaged baits.

Lakeview continually strives to keep an extensive line of several brands of rods, reels and combos at all times. Well over 200 rods and reels are always stocked. Popular brands, sold are Meat Hunter, SlimeCat, Okuma, Penn, Abu Garcia, Lew's, Zebco, Mr. Crappie, Shakespeare, and, added this year, Outlaw. Many of the jigs, lures and weights are hand-made by local people. If a needed fishing item is not in stock, the staff will research sources and custom order.

Another service the Lakeview Store offers is

the sale of hunting and fishing licenses from the Oklahoma Wildlife Department. Their free Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing guides, as well as area literature, are available for pickup.

The Lakeview Store and Office hours are currently 9-6 Monday through Friday and 8-6 on Saturdays and Sundays. Lakeview is one mile west of Kaw Dam and five miles east of Ponca City at 8875 Lake Road. For more information or reservations, call 580-765-2219 or 580-761-1244 or you may email lvstoreandbait@gmail.com. You may also follow or private message Lakeview on Facebook @ The Lakeview Store, Campground and Boat Storage. Or just drop by and enjoy a free cup of coffee while you check out Lakeview!

History of Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs Donations, Memorials and The Cann Gardens

The first Garden Club in Ponca City was co-founded by Mrs. Frank Lucas and Mrs. J. W. 'Gladys' Dutton. Mrs. Dutton was largely responsible for the U.S. Hwy. 77 being designated as the Blue Star Memorial Highway, a project to perpetually honor the Armed Forces of the United States. In 1954 the marker, located at the south entrance of Ponca City - one block west of Highway 177 and State 60, was purchased and dedicated by the Ponca City Garden Council. This is one of three Blue Star Memorial Markers left in Oklahoma.

Sarah Westerheide of Edmond gave an award every year until 2020 to an outstanding "Gardener of the Year" council member from a family memorial in honor of her grandmother, Mrs. J. W. Dutton.

The Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs (Garden Council) was founded in 1928. Mrs. Frank Lucas of the PC Garden Club presided as its first President. Garden Council is comprised of local affiliated Garden Clubs.

Garden Council meetings were held in the Library and later at Marland's Grand Home before moving to the

Cann Garden House when in 1976, Mrs. Elsie Cann Brown left the family property, located at 1500 E. Grand Avenue, in a trust to the City of Ponca City to be improved and maintained as gardens and parks for the people of Ponca City in hopes the garden clubs could make a garden center. The original farmhouse and surrounding ten acres is now known as the L.A. and Mary Cann Memorial Botanical Garden Center.

The Cann Trust stipulates that all garden related groups could hold meetings and gatherings on the Cann grounds and in the house free of charge.

The Garden Council holds an annual plant sale the first Saturday in May and a Christmas Open House each year on the first Sunday in December, besides having various other fundraisers, to help benefit garden council projects; and, is responsible for many beautification and restoration projects at the Cann Garden Center and House.

Council holds 'free to the public' educational programs throughout the year on such topics as gardening,

flowers, birds, butterflies, conservation, historic preservation, landscape design, environmental education and civic interaction. On the first Saturday in June, the Ponca City Herb Festival holds their annual festival on the grounds of Cann Gardens. And, beginning this year Friday, September 23, 2022, through Sunday, Sept 25, 2022, the PC Art Center will hold its annual Art's Festival on the Cann grounds.

In 1997, the garden gazebo, just to the west of the house patio, was donated by the Muchmore Brothers - Tom, Clyde & John, in honor of their mother Lyntha.

September 2003, the Garden Council, along with affiliated clubs, celebrated the Garden Council's 75th year

of providing education, promoting good garden practices, floral design, landscape study and civic, as well as, environmental responsibility to the community.

Fall 2006, the Garden Council, City of PC and area donors raised funds for a Centennial Clock located on the Cann Garden west grounds.

The original Sage Rosemary and Thyme Herb Festival donated many things to the Cann Gardens - "Dandelion Days" Jim Eck Memorial Statue by local Sculptor Jo Saylor, east and west white gazebos, benches, patio garden club tiles, planters, etc.

The 2011-2016 Herb Festival Board

See GARDEN on Page 7

The Banana Crate: Baking Ponca a Better Place

Kerri and Steve Watson are the owners and operators of The Banana Crate, a Caribbean-themed bakery. The dessert shop was created as an homage to Kerri's mother, Linda, who passed in 2014, and to fulfill Kerri's passion for bak-

ing. As a result, the small batch from scratch baked goods produced at the bakery are based upon her mother's recipes, as well as her own. For Kerri, baking is about heritage, culture, and legacy. It evokes childhood memories and

brings people together for all types of occasions.

The Banana Crate maintains a keen focus on quality, freshness, and flavor and offers a daily variety of decadent desserts served tapas style. Whole, full-sized desserts can be pre-ordered. And Banana Crate gift cards make the perfect gift for any occasion.

Steve and Kerri are honored to share The Banana Crate's desserts and consider it a privilege to contribute to the Ponca City community, as The Banana Crate is the only locally owned and operated, independent boutique bakery in town. Banana Crate was featured in the January/February 2022 Issue of Oklahoma Today Magazine as a "Food Worth the Drive Hot Spot" in Oklahoma.

The bakery is located at 1904 Jane Street and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 4pm, and closed on Sunday and Monday. You can follow The Banana Crate on Facebook and Instagram.

Ponca City Foursquare Church is a gathering where anyone and everyone, even the most skeptical seeker, can be transformed by relationship with the real Jesus. We are an open-hearted, family Christian congregation that meets and serves in the Ponca City community. We're a place where you belong.

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Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce

The Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce mission statement is to serve as the business catalyst for leading Ponca City into a growing, diversified and prosperous future. The Ponca City Chamber has been performing this mission for 129 years. This important mission of the Chamber could not be carried out without the active committees of the Chamber of Commerce and the many volunteers.

Here is a brief description of each committee working in the Chamber of Commerce.

The Ambassador Committee recruits new members to the Chamber and serves as the goodwill diplomats for the Chamber. This active committee promotes ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking and the popular "Business after Hours". If you want to meet lots of people and promote your business this is your committee. Angela Spicer with Hospice of North Central Oklahoma is the Chair.

The Ponca Politics Committee is active in strengthening Ponca City's relationship and communication with the appropriate local, state and federal officials. This group educates elected officials on the needs in Ponca City and northern Oklahoma. This committee of the Chamber conducts several public forums called Ponca Politic Forums to discuss the issues on a non-partisan basis. If you are interested in politics and having a voice in government this is your committee. Wayne Mitchell is

the Chair.

The Community Development Committee encourages and actively supports the development of a comprehensive commercial and public infrastructure system including streets, highways, recreation, airport, water etc. Discussing these needs and setting priorities helps promote growth and enhance the quality of life in Ponca City. If you like planning for future needs this is your committee. Mindy Meyer with AllianceHealth Ponca City is the Chair.

The Ponca City Business Council is active in promoting Shop Ponca First. This committee provides customer service training, Chamber Lunch and Learn programs, Santa Buck Giveaway, Cash Mob, Crazy Days and the Chamber Buck program. Every month they select a Chamber Business of the Month to recognize outstanding businesses in our community. If you want to make your business even better this is the committee for you. Kelly Cross with Rick Scott Construction is the Chair.

Education and Workforce Development Committee wants to ensure that our school children both public and private have the best tools possible for their education. This Chamber Committee oversees the Partners in Education Program, Stuff the Bus with School Supplies Project, New Teacher Luncheon, Support Staff Reception. Natalie Prather is the Chair.

Leadership Ponca City is developing well-informed leaders who actively par-



ticipate in the growth of Ponca City. This summer we will start our 36th Ponca City Leadership Class. Leadership Chairs include Luke Garrison, Corbin Dewitt, Brook Lindsay and Natalie Frazer.

The Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce operates the Tourism Bureau promoting Ponca City events and attractions. Our office also serves as the Visitors Center for Ponca City. Tourism is a major industry in Ponca City. Brad Fox with Evans and Associates Enterprises is the Chair.

Other active committees of the Ponca City Chamber include Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Ponca Young Employees and Leadership Alumni.

The Chamber of Commerce is the front door to Ponca City providing information and service to visitors and citizens. The

Chamber produces a Ponca City Directory that is used to showcase our city and our Chamber Members. This directory is mailed to everyone house and business in Ponca City.

The Chamber of Commerce is managed by an elected Board of Directors with Wendy Stobbe, Hospice of North Central Oklahoma serving as the 2022 Chamber Chair. The Chamber staff includes Rich Cantillon, Tiffany Hermann, Zach Trantham and Karisa Ferguson.

The Chamber is a membership-based organization with all businesses, organizations and individuals welcome to become Chamber Members.

For more information or how you can become a Chamber Member visit our office at 5th and Grand Avenue, our web site or phone 765-4400.

50 year of service, the McDonald Electric story

By CALLEY LAMAR
calley@poncacitynews.com

McDonald Electric has serviced the Ponca City, Kay County, and the surrounding area for 50 years.

The beginnings of the business began after JR McDonald, who was originally from Braman, was working at the Blackwell Smelter and was approached by a friend of his, Jerry Younger, about whether McDonald wanted to become an electrician.

After a few weeks, McDonald got the call again from Younger, at the same time the Blackwell Smelter was in the process of getting shut down and so McDonald decided to give the electrician job a try.

"That was 50 years ago and basically, I'm still going strong," said McDonald. "It was one of those ups and downs. We went through good times, bad times...and it's worked out well so far."

When McDonald started in 1972, he was the youngest electrical contractor in Northern Oklahoma and is now the oldest.

The business began in Newkirk in a location that was originally Ray's Electric. With the bank's help McDonald bought the building for \$3000. They operated out of the location for a year before a fire in an adjacent building caused them to move to Ponca City in 1973.

Today, McDonald Electric strives to maintain and serve the people of Ponca City and north central Oklahoma, covering an area that covers 50 miles outside of Ponca City. Currently, they employ nearly 20 employees.

McDonald Electric offers an array of services including repair and replacement; panel upgrades; rewiring; new sockets; light pole repair; installation; terminations; parking lot lighting; security cameras and lighting; ceiling fans; surge protection; as well as inspections and testing.

McDonald Electric considers itself

a family business with McDonald's wife, children and now grandchildren working in the business. Recently, McDonald's granddaughter, Haley Williams, has become one of the few female journeymen electricians in a largely male dominated field.

Williams involvement is appreciated amongst single women and older women, due to safety factors and the ability to have a female electrician come to their homes.

"It's a very male dominated field and so for a girl to get into it, it's very rare. Which I'm very proud of her doing that," said McDonald.

Haley Williams is currently taking her contractors test, which upon passing, will become one of a very few female contractors in the state of Oklahoma, and by far, one of the youngest females at this level in a male dominated field.

"This is a pretty big deal, continuing the 50 years that our patriarch began in 1972. The family business that survives and continues into the future with the hard work and dedication of and to its family operation to maintain quality, consistency, and value-oriented business for all our customers, big or small. One family, one business for 50 years," said Janna McDonald.

The business also works to deal with various disasters and events that upend normal life. They've worked around the clock to provide power to people during ice storms and other natural disasters; they've also taken many COVID-19 precautions and were working throughout the pandemic.

With half a century of service under his belt, McDonald Electric has remained under one owner and one family, and continues to provide service to Ponca City and the surrounding areas.

"We've been able to maintain, and strive to serve the people of Ponca City and north central Oklahoma," said McDonald. "And its been good."

NOC, continued from page 2

school for the University of Oklahoma. From 1915-17, the school was known as the Oklahoma Institute of Technology. Then in 1921, the school added college level courses and was named Northern Oklahoma Junior College. In 1951, high school courses were phased out and the institution became solely a division of higher learning. In 1965, the institution was renamed Northern Oklahoma College.

Area patrons may learn more about NOC at www.noc.edu on Facebook @northernoklahomacollege and on Twitter @N_O_C.

Northern Oklahoma College, the state's first public two-year community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services.

NOC serves nearly 4,000 students through the home campus in Tonkawa, branch in Enid, and NOC/OSU Gateway Program in Stillwater. Of these students about 80% receive financial aid and/or scholarships. 75% of NOC students complete their degree with zero debt.

The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and offers associate degrees in three general areas: Arts, Science and Applied Science; the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs; and the Accreditation Commission for Education and Nursing.

For more information about Northern Oklahoma College please call (580) 628-6208 or visit the NOC website at www.noc.edu.

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Paternal Grandfather
Dr. R.B. Gibson



Daddy
Dr. Bob Gibson



Maternal Grandfather
T.J. Cuzalina

3 Generations of my family have served the people of Ponca City for nearly 100 years!



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PTC provides high-tech educational opportunities

Ponca City, OK —Pioneer Tech provides an array of services for existing companies, start-up businesses, and industries relocating into the service area, as well as adults who simply want to update or enhance existing job skills. The Bid Assistance Center run by PTAC Counselor Dawn Brakey provides marketing and technical assistance to businesses that wish to sell their products and/or services to government agencies. OkPTAC helps provide businesses a better understanding of what it takes to bid on and win government contracts.

Pioneer Tech's Business Incubator is managed by Janet Schwabe. It is a Certified Business Incubator facility designed to create and nurture the growth and development of a new or start-up business with consulting and coaching from our team of business professionals. Space is available for service, light manufacturing, food production, and wholesale startup businesses. Incubator tenants have access to meeting rooms and office equipment. Incubator tenants also receive an Oklahoma Income Tax exemption.

Entrepreneurial Services Coordinator, Ben Evans, is an Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (SBDC) advisor. Evans works with clients to understand their needs and with his access to SBDC services, he can provide your business with guidance, information, advice, and resources to help you start, grow and succeed. His program provides business development classes and one-on-one counseling sessions for entrepreneurs and business start-ups.

Corbin Dewitt, Leadership Development Coordinator, offers organizational consulting to help companies keep up in today's fast-changing and competitive work environment. See PIONEER TECH on Page 7

See PIONEER TECH on Page 7

See PIONEER TECH on Page 7



Building the Local Economy The Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA)

The economy of Ponca City has changed significantly over the past 25 years. Once a community based upon natural resources (oil and agriculture), Ponca City today has a highly diversified economy that features one of Oklahoma's largest concentrations of manufacturing companies.

Managing this economic change has been the job of the Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA). PCDA is the economic development organization that works with existing companies, attracts new ones, assists entrepreneurs and emerging small businesses and coordinates workforce needs and programs among numerous key education partners and the companies themselves.

PCDA is a public trust of the City of Ponca City. It is governed by an unpaid board of seven community and business leaders all appointed by the City Commission. Nancy Laffey serves as the current Chair. She is joined on the board by Vice Chair Mark Detten, Secretary Erica Fetters, Trustees Garrett Bowers, Kirk Brown, Erik Peitz and City Commissioner Lanita Chapman who serves as the liaison between PCDA and the City's elected officials.

The organization is funded by a half cent sales tax first approved by Ponca City voters in 1994. The volunteer board makes sure that every dollar is spent wisely and in the public interest. In addition, the organization undergoes a financial audit every year conducted by an outside accounting firm who reports their findings to the State of Oklahoma. PCDA audits have produced "unqualified, clean" results every year.

To measure the actual success of PCDA, the numbers tell the story. Since 1994, PCDA has returned \$23 in economic benefit for every \$1 in sales taxes collected. If job creation is the criteria, PCDA's economic development programs have resulted in the creation of 6,068 new jobs in Ponca City. The economic benefit to the community has exceeded one billion dollars. Of critical importance, there has also been an increase of 55% in industrial diversification, greatly reducing the community's reliance on a single industry. Wages, skill levels, building permits, local tax collection that supports public services and other key metrics have also shown impressive growth.

This success has not gone unnoticed. At the 2022 Annual Conference of the International Economic

Development Council (IEDC), the largest economic development professional association in the world, PCDA was the most honored economic development organization anywhere, taking home six major awards for excellence.

The awards offer a window into how successful economic development is achieved in today's global economy. One of PCDA's "Gold" awards, the highest awards given, was for Business Retention and Expansion. A second was in the Small Business category while two other Gold awards were in for the organization's "Ponca Works" workforce development program. These awards highlight that economic development is about far more than just recruiting a new company to town. Statistically speaking, new companies represent less than 3% of new economic growth in the United States, a number Ponca City and PCDA far surpasses.

The job creation generated by PCDA occurred during a time of great economic stress in the community. The transition away from a company town, the Great Recession of 2008-2010, the drop in the price of oil several times during the last twenty years and the recent pandemic have all provided challenges that have been overcome by the Ponca City economy. How the local economy would look today without the 6,068 jobs created through PCDA's programs, however, need not be imagined.

For the future, PCDA's new strategic plan called "Direction 2025" was adopted this past summer. The plan has seven overarching goals, seven major objectives to achieve those goals, 31 strategies and 102 action steps designed to keep the economy strong, growing and resilient. As an example, new companies looking at an area always seek at least two things, a workforce and a site or building. The plan has six action steps aimed at developing new industrial sites and buildings, and 14 action steps targeted at workforce development. Currently, all of Ponca City's industrial buildings are full and those wishing to work in Ponca City have numerous choices. This is the result of success. It meets the goals of earlier plans, but it does limit current and future growth unless steps are taken.

Addressing the needs of tomorrow begins today at PCDA. For more information about economic development or PCDA, please visit www.goponca.com.

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DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

5 years in numbers

2017-2022 WINS

\$23
ROI on every dollar spent
from '17-'22

6.5%
Wage Increase

1.9k
New Company Contacts

6.3k
Existing Company
Contacts

92
Leads Worked

60
Proposals Developed

962
Jobs impacted by
Retention, Expansion & Attraction

55%
Increase in Industrial
Diversification

To-Do(ne) List:

- Assisted Primary industries in attracting federal and state CARES act funding during COVID 19
- Turned City Central into a free, community safe meeting location during the pandemic
- Attended 24 call trips and trade shows to market Ponca City to outside industrial prospects
- Sponsored 6 Trade Show Brigade, an international award winning program, missions to trade shows to help local industry diversify customer base
- Placed 298 people into local jobs through Ponca Works
- Completed five annual award-winning Girl Power workforce development camps
- Completed five small business pitch-offs with a 60% success rate of sustainable businesses
- Began work on "Duke" speculative building
- Launched and continued the Ponca City Inventors Network to promote entrepreneurship
- Partnered with PTC and PCPS on programs including Wildcat Internships, Careers and Cookies, teacher tours and more.
- Brought City Central from 16% capacity to approximately 80% capacity; bringing 160 people downtown to work each day
- Re-accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for the fourth time, becoming the only Oklahoma organization to receive this distinction
- Recognized with 10 international awards of excellence from the IEDC

Trustees
Nancy Laffey, Chair
Mark Detten, Vice Chair
Erica Fetters, Secretary
Garrett Bowers, Trustee
Erik Peitz, Trustee
Kirk Brown, Trustee
Lanita Chapman, Trustee

Mission

To accelerate economic growth in Ponca City, Oklahoma, through the support and development of primary enterprises

www.goponca.com

GARDEN, continued from page 4

donated over \$50,000 in restoration and renovation to the Cann Home and Gardens – landscaping of house, wind art, Tranquility Bubble Rock, Restoration of east deck and front porch, interior renovation of first floor, and kitchen and bath; provided new and/or reupholstered furniture.

On September 30, 2008, the Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs hosted the 100 year birthday party for the Cann Garden House. In June 2009, Garden Council hosted a Free “Concert at Cann” to the public on the Cann grounds. In 2018 the City started hosting free weekly concerts on the grounds.

In 2012, the Garden Council along with a memorial donation by Sherry and Tom Muchmore in honor of Sherry's mother, Helen Gayle Bozeman Fausett, donated a statue by Jo Saylor's “Mistaken Identity” (Butterfly Girl) for the front yard of the Cann Home with designated Cann House signage; and, for restoration, Garden Council also replaced the pillars on the Cann House front porch.

In 2013, the Garden Council donated funds to the Opportunity Center for landscaping at the newly renovated site on Grand Ave. In 2014, Garden Council donated gardening books to Camp McFadden. In 2015 Garden Council donated \$1,000 toward Landscaping to the new Hospice facility; and \$800 - \$1,000 donations toward pond restorations 2015-2021. 2016/2017 Council donated \$1,000 to Marland's Grand Home to aide in restoration of the original backyard bird bath.

The Garden Council in coordination with the Ponca City Park and Recreation Department and Ponca City Tourism offers group tours of the Cann Garden Center. In 2019, Council and the 2011/2016 Herb Festival and Library joined together to host the dedication of Installation of the Storybook Walk along the Garden's trails.

In 2022, Garden Council donated three backless metal benches for the Cann walkway and a Succulent metal planter - designed and crafted by James Murr.

CONTINUING COUNCIL PROJECTS

Garden Council Hosts the Holiday Open House and decorates the Cann Memorial Home for the holiday season as a benefit to the citizens of Ponca City, with the Open House generally held the first Sunday in December. It is open to the community. Council Members donate their time, baked goods and efforts and furnish decorations for the lovely Victorian house.

The annual “Plants for Pleasure” is held on the patio of the Cann Memorial Home the first Saturday in May. Members from all garden clubs along with Park and Rec, bring tried and true plants and related gardening items to donate. Proceeds are for civic improvements, Cann renovation, scholarships and promoting education to the public on gardening.

Garden Council sponsored “The Doors of Ponca City” posters and postcards; postcards “Then and Now” of the renovated pond;

notecards of photos of Cann and surrounding area; and, Elsie Cann Presentations throughout the community by Carol Bouldin; hosting tours of Cann home and gardens.

Garden Council maintains a Memorial Tree located in the Cann House.

The Garden Council offers a \$1,500 to 2,000 scholarship(s) annually to a Po-Hi senior and/or an OSU student majoring in horticulture, landscape design and other related subjects; as well as, special donations given throughout the community.

Garden Council continues to promote and provide color photo brochures featuring the Lester A. and Mary Cann Memorial Botanical Gardens. Distribution is ensured by placing brochures in local tourism spots to promote visitors to Cann Garden. Specimen trees and plant monies are annually donated to the gardens. Council hosts free gardening programs to the public.

As in years past, the Garden Council continues to seek ways to improve the Cann House as a facility to be used for gardening groups in Ponca City; re-carpeting the Cann home, adding wood blinds, security camera, exterior porch columns, computer for video screening, kitchen flooring and home items such as tables, coffee pots, vacuum, rugs, picture framing and kitchen accessories.

Statewide, the Garden Council hosts the District meeting for the North Central District of Garden Clubs every 3 years and hosted the Wildflower Workshop 2017 at Camp McFadden.

Nova Coffee Truck Update

BY DAILYN EMERY
dailyn@poncacitynews.com

Tate Burdick, who was born and raised in Ponca City and is now owner of Nova Coffee Truck, got his first job at a coffee shop at 16 years old. Quickly after starting this job he, “fell in love with the craft of everything coffee.” According to him, it didn't take long to decide that this is what he wanted to make a career out of and he began to research everything necessary to starting a coffee shop.

For the last five years, Burdick has worked at a few different coffee shops to gain as much knowledge as possible to better serve his customers. When he was in Ponca City High School he became a member of DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, where he learned about business and marketing. During his sophomore year, Burdick reworked his DECA project into a business model. Over the years, he has been working on the little things and tying up loose ends and he is now seeing the fruits of his labor come to life.

For 6 months, Burdick worked to save money for a trailer to begin his business. Once he found it, it took 3 months of building and renovating the camper to fit the needs of his business.

“After I was done, I put in my two weeks at my job and made the leap of faith to do my coffee truck,” says Burdick.

Nova Coffee Truck is a mobile cafe that specializes in espresso and coffee beverages, though they have do have other options for non coffee related items on their

menu. When they aren't working events, they set up on the streets of Ponca City to serve the community with delicious beverages.

“Our goal as a business is to provide a great cup of coffee and a smile to all who come to our doors.”

Burdick is also very invested in the community of Ponca City. He loves to help out whenever possible, whether that be working sporting events for the youth, or showing the joys of running a business to the Po-Hi DECA students.

In the future, Burdick has high hopes to turn his small business into his own shops, drive-through locations, and more trucks to send across Oklahoma for events. For both Facebook and Instagram, check out Nova Coffee Truck, or go to their website at www.novacoffeetruck.com to see the shop's weekly hours and locations.

FARHA, continued from page 2

With shortages everywhere, Brad and his wife Tina would drive to another state to secure masks for the community. Kaity discovered a cleaning product called Facility that could be used to clean virtually any surface in a business facility.

Farha Wholesale/ Fowler Vending was also awarded the Business of the Year award by the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce earlier this year during their Chamber Celebration.

“We are proud to offer same top quality products, service and equipment that we've provided to Ponca City for over 50 years,” said Brad Beaty.

PIONEER TECH, continued from page 6

ment. He offers professional development programs customized to your business needs in the areas of communication, motivation, employee accountability, and coaching and mentoring. His class times can be flexible and training can be done at the industry site or on Pioneer Tech's campus

Business Solutions Coordinator, Brook Lindsay, is available to help clients troubleshoot and design solutions to meet marketing challenges. She can conduct market research and potentially identify new target audiences to help grow the client base. With a one-on-one approach, she can help the client develop the skills, and acquire the tools and information needed, to improve branding, create marketing plans, brainstorm content ideas, and identify best practices for the client to reach their customers.

Jeff Lockett, the Agricultural Business Management Coordinator, offers programs and services for area farmers and ranchers. Included in his services is Quicken record keeping, assistance with preparing farm plans, succession planning, loan assistance, financial statements, marketing, and tax planning. Individual farm visits can be planned to assist with assessing needs and de-

veloping goals. There are also agricultural seminars offered that are relevant to today's farmer.

Business Coordinator Sylvia Urioste coordinates and schedules business training that is specific to the needs of your business. She is also the Tribal Liaison for Pioneer Tech, working with the tribes in our area to ensure all departments have the training and leadership development needed for their staff.

The Safety Training team led by Carl Storm is consistently delivering safety training related to business needs. Whether you need annual OSHA compliance training for your manufacturing team or CPR and first aid for your staff, our safety team is certified and ready to deliver. We provide hearing testing and can be onsite at your business with our new mobile testing lab. For a comprehensive list of safety classes visit pioneertech.edu/safety-training or call to customize a class.

Johnny Thornburgh, Industrial Coordinator offers training designed to fit a variety of skill requirements found in today's business and industry. These training programs are designed to help your business reduce costs and increase profits. From fundamental technical training to more intricate and

specialized concepts, we deliver classes when and where you need them—on our campus or at your site, it's up to you. Needs driven training solutions will allow your company to stay on the cutting edge of technology, efficiency, and profitability. Truck Driver Training is also an essential item offered at Pioneer Tech for both Class A and Class B Commercial Driver's License Certification.

The Emergency Services Training Center completed in August of 2019 benefits not only the full-time career programs but also PTC's safety education for the industry. The tower stands 44 feet high with 18,425 square feet of usable training space, including burn rooms, movable partitions, rappelling capabilities, and much more.

Each year, over 9,000 individuals take advantage of the BIS offerings which, in turn, enhances the business climate and economy of Kay County; thus, providing an increased number of jobs and salaries within the district.

Through the Adult Training and Development (AT&D) program, more than 500 on-site and on-line courses are available ranging from a few hours of instruction to complete career training offerings. Other courses available through the AT&D department include emergency medical technician, welding, certified nurse aide,

culinary courses, and many more. Fall, spring, and summer class schedules are also available at the PTC campus or on the website at pioneertech.edu.

For more information on Pioneer Tech's Business and Industry Services programs, as well as Adult Training and Development classes, please call 580-762-8336 or visit pioneertech.edu.



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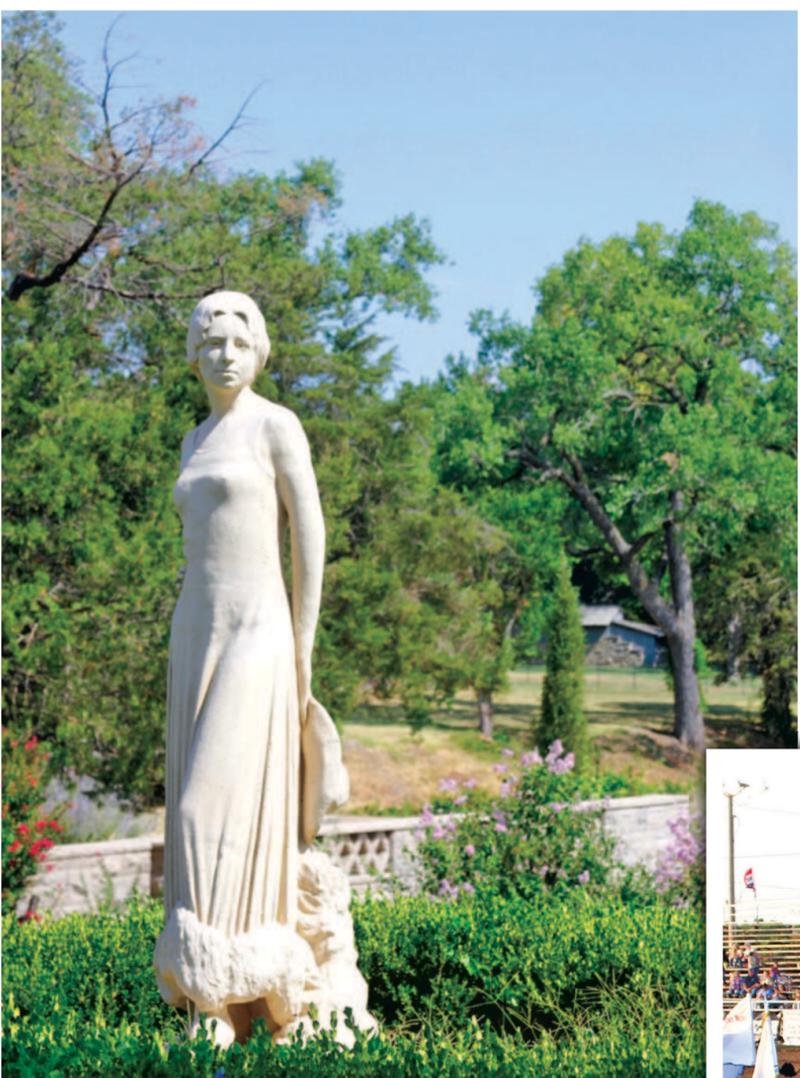


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2022 BUSINESS

Update



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History of Express Employment Professionals

Express Employment Professionals has been guided by a simple vision: help as many people as possible find good jobs by helping as many clients as possible find good people.

Express Employment Professionals journey to become an international franchised staffing giant was decades in the making. Shortly after World War II, an accountant named David L. Reiff, and his wife Doris moved from Chicago, IL, to Spokane, WA, in search of a more hospitable climate in which to open his bookkeeping business. He found an office located in the same building shared by a small employment agency that was struggling to stay afloat. As he operated his fledgling bookkeeping business, Reiff took the opportunity to learn about the staffing industry by observing the staffing employees at work.

In 1951, Mr. Reiff sold

his accounting firm and bought the staffing company, renaming it: Acme Personnel Services. His son, Bill, joined the business as it began to flourish. Throughout the early 1960s, Acme expanded to include offices throughout the state of Washington.

In 1965, Robert A. Funk joined Acme in the Seattle office as a staffing consultant, helping match job applicants with job orders. In less than a year, due to dogged determination and his knack for building personal relationships, Mr. Funk was promoted to office manager.

In 1969, Acme acquired a staffing office in Oklahoma City. Mr. Funk was offered the opportunity to manage the new territory and accepted the position. In a short time, he opened four new successful Acme offices in Oklahoma and was soon promoted to Vice President overseeing offices in Texas, Oklahoma,

Iowa, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Colorado.

In 1973, William H. Stoller, a college basketball player at Pacific University near Portland, joined the Acme team as a part-time staffing consultant. In little time, his competitive spirit and determined work ethic led him to out-produce all other offices in the Portland area. In less than two years Mr. Stoller was promoted to district manager. A recession in the early 1980s exacerbated Acme's financial woes at the corporate level as cracks began to form in the foundation of the Acme business structure. Acme president Bill Reiff took drastic measures to keep Acme solvent, but the damage was too far gone.

In 1983, Acme declared bankruptcy. Offices closed abruptly, leaving employees to ponder their futures. Mr. Funk, determined to keep his offices operational, contacted Mr. Stoller to ask if he was interested in forming a new temporary employment services company. Together, they contacted Acme Franchisee Jim Gray, inviting him to join them due to his extensive back office operations experience. Mr. Gray agreed and together the three men became the Founders of Express Temporary Services with eight offices in Oklahoma, Oregon, and Colorado. Though struggling in its infancy during a national economic downturn, Express managed to generate gross revenues of \$2 million, despite the depressed economy.

In 1985, Express em-

ployed 35,000 people and set their sights on bringing hope through employment to many more. The founders determined that the best way to grow was through franchising, introducing a new era in Express' history. Along with the new business model came a fresh new name: Express Personnel Services. 1986 ushered in an era of exponential growth as the Express founders acquired the franchise rights to 30 Acme offices across the United States. Sales grew 105% generating over \$38 million. 1988 saw Express open their 100th office and top \$82 million dollars in sales.

In 1990, co-founder Mr. Gray decided to sell his stock in Express. Founders Mr. Funk and Mr. Stoller purchased Mr. Gray's shares, and the present-day ownership structure was cemented. In 1999, Express introduced rare black and white Clydesdales as corporate ambassadors. Since then they have toured and competed across North America. These gentle giants, each weighing between 1,800 and 2,300 pounds, help raise money for causes like Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and other charitable organizations. Also in 1999, Express achieved a major milestone by reaching \$1 billion in sales.

In 2002, Express began franchising in South Africa with a desire to help people prosper through employment opportunities.

In 2005, Express awarded their 500th franchise, and helped a record 300,000 associates find employment.

In 2008, Express celebrated 25 years of success and took advantage of the occasion to update their corporate identity to better reflect their wide array of employment services, changing their name to

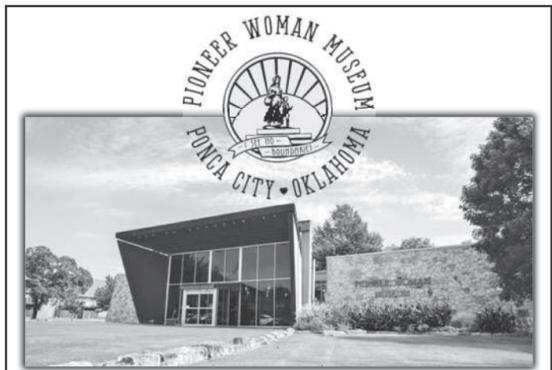
Express Employment Professionals.

In October 2011, Express reached another major milestone by recording 3 million hours worked in a single week.

In 2014, Express was recognized as the number one industrial staffing provider as well as the fastest growing major staffing company. The accolades continued in 2016 as Express was named one of Forbes' best franchises to buy. 2016 also saw an all-time high of 510,000 associates employed and record sales of \$3.05 billion.

In 2019, Express employed 552,000 associates in more than 800 franchise locations, and generated more than \$3.53 billion in sales. Express acquired Frontline Recruitment Group, a recruitment and staffing company, in February 2020. This international expansion included 31 locations in Australia and three in New Zealand. In 2020, the Specialized Recruiting Group, an Express Employment Professionals company, took an individual approach to professional placement. More than 100 locations

offer support to local business communities and professionals seeking new career opportunities. In 2021, Entrepreneur Magazine named Express the number one staffing franchise for the 10th consecutive year on their annual Franchise 500. In the same year, Express also received Inavero's Best of Staffing Talent Award for the fifth consecutive year. Express earned Inavero's Best of Staffing Client award as well, both designations claimed by fewer than 2% of staffing firms in North America. Currently Express franchise ownership opportunities are available in the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Through diversification in Light Industrial, Skilled Trades, Office Services, and Professional staffing, Express intends to reach \$5.5 billion in sales by 2025. Today, and every day, Express Employment Professionals remains dedicated to bringing hope through employment and to fulfill the mission to put a million people to work annually.



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McGee Jewelers, brilliantly serving Kay County for over 100 years

Few businesses can boast being in operation for over 100 years, and McGee Jewelers is among that exclusive club.

McGee's history dates back to 1896, first opening a store in Cherokee, Iowa which operated for 10 years. The McGee family traveled to Oklahoma Territory and settled in Blackwell where they opened their store in March of 1907. J.M. (John Marion) McGee and his wife Minnie operated the store with their two sons: Robert and Fred. The sons took over

the family business in the 1920s.

In 1961, Fred turned over the business to his two sons Bob and Bill. Bill moved to Norman to open a store there. The store operated out of Blackwell until 1977 when it was moved to Ponca City.

Today, the store is operated by Bob's son: Matt McGee and his family, including Matt's own son J.M. (Justin Matthew) McGee.

"We're certainly proud of our history and it takes a lot to stay in business [this long]," said Matt McGee. "We're still old school as far as customer service is concerned and we've done business with generations of folks."

McGee Jewelers are involved in many areas of the community. Being members of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, they were also involved with the Ponca City Main Street and the Masonic Fraternity. McGee Jewelers also has a social media presence on Facebook.

The store is still set up very similarly to its original layout and is more of a traditional jeweler than other locations, doing their work mostly on site with very little outsourcing.

McGee is a store with a long legacy of service, with a prominent place in Kay county's history.



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City Arts fox statues

The City Arts, also known as the Ponca City Art Association, has announced it is bringing public art in the form of fox statues to the Ponca City community. These 54" tall x 32" wide x 48" long foxes are manufactured in the USA from polyurethane resin casting, and community members, businesses and organizations have graciously donated to this endeavor. Local and regionally acclaimed artists will be hired to paint each fox in a unique style and aesthetic. All artwork is to be agreed upon between purchaser or donor, and the artist and City Arts organization. The foxes are scheduled to arrive in Ponca City on October 26, with an unveiling and donor reception scheduled for December 1. Following the unveiling, City Arts will begin placing foxes throughout the community beginning as early as January of 2023. Locations for statues are based on donors' requests, and if placed on public property, with the approval of the City of Ponca City. Statues will be attached to a concrete base with a plaque recognizing the donor and the artist.

Public art adds enormous value to the cultural, aesthetic, and economic vitality of a community. It is a well-accepted principle of urban design that public art contributes to a community's identity, fosters community pride and a sense of belonging, and enhances the quality of life for its residents and visitors.

Current fox donors include Jodi R. Cline - Edward Jones, Tyndall Family Dentistry, John & Mary Anne O'Neill, Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, Ponca City Main Street, Bowers Trucking & Logistics, Mark & Jayne Detten, KR Automation, Ponca City Monthly, Craig & Becky Poet, Suzanne Boettcher, Russ Didlake, Family Vision Care, Martin Jean & Jackson, Carl & Brenda Renfro, Greenwood Group, Heather Cannon Honda, RCB Bank, Ponca City Development Authority, City of Ponca City, First National Bank, Hugh Pickens, BDIW Law, and Paul Muehlberg & Terron Liles.



Fox statues are still available for purchase and can be placed in front of your business, on private property, or the City Arts can help you secure a location in or around Ponca City. Foxes are \$2,500 each plus the cost of the fee of approved artist. For more information visit www.pcarts.org/fox.html, email terron@pcarts.org or call the City Arts office at (580) 765-9746. If you are an artist and interested in submitting a fox design, visit www.pcarts.org/fox-art-submission.html.

Rusty Barrell Supper Club sets out to exceed customer's expectations

The Rusty Barrell Supper Club was founded in October of 1974, originally as a private club that seated only two-dozen people, and patrons cooked their own steaks. Upstairs was a bar area with a small dance floor.

In June of 1976, Bill and Judy Codrington bought the restaurant. Their son, Rick Hancock, and his wife Kim are the current owners of the Rusty Barrell. Hancock and his wife are both from Ponca City, graduating in 1977. Hancock and his wife moved back to Ponca City to take over the business in June, 2016 and are living in his parent's old historic home.

The Rusty Barrell's main objective is to "exceed the customer's expectations." They continue the family tradition of serving the finest beef, aged a minimum of 28 days to en-

sure maximum tenderness and taste. People from more than 80 countries and all 50 states have dined at the restaurant.

"Now we're back in Ponca City, trying to make a positive impact," said Rick Hancock. "We're just trying to give back and provide a cool environment for the people of Ponca City to come and socialize, eat a good steak."

The Rusty Barrell has expanded significantly since its inception. The restaurant has a newly installed lounge area and a banquet. The restaurant has benefited from the support of the people in the community with many celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and proposals.

"It's kind of a special place and we're just here to keep it going," said Hancock.

Hancock's favorite part of the job is the variety of people he gets to meet.

"The people you meet and the stories you hear," said Hancock. "People come in from all over the world."

The Rusty Barrell Supper Club's appreciation goes out to many local businesses and the kind people of the Ponca City area who have patronized their restaurant and helped them to educate visitors from around the world that the very best steak is available in Ponca City.

The Rusty Barrell has a website that people can use to make reservations, a Facebook page, and they have weekly posts from MyMediaMatters.

"We've been blessed to have the support from Ponca City and the surrounding area," said Hancock.

New things on the horizon at Standing Bear Park

After many years of waiting and planning, the restoration of the pond at Standing Bear Park is visible on the horizon. With funding obtained through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and matching funds provided by the Renfro Family Foundation, the pond will be excavated and completely rebuilt. The pond was built in 1996, during the first phase of development at Standing Bear Park, and over the years, maintaining it has become increasingly difficult. According to executive director T.L. Walker, "Cattails, underwater vegetation and shoreline brush have nearly overtaken the pond and sometimes you just have to start over."

When the pond is reconstructed, there will be a hard surface edge that will prevent the silting that was a problem when the pond was first built. Carl Renfro, Standing Bear Foundation chairman, said "So many people have enjoyed the pond through the years and we want to be sure the community can continue to enjoy it."

This will be the 6th phase of development at Standing Bear Park. Phase 1 was the initial park development and the unveiling of the 22-foot bronze statue of Ponca Chief Standing Bear in 1996.

It was followed in 2000 with Phase 2, the dedication of the tribal viewing courts. In 2005 the permanent powwow arbor was dedicated at the annual powwow and in 2007 the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center was opened. Phase 5 came along in 2012 and was part of the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Scenic Byway program. It provided additional parking, a bus turn-around, and a large decorative map of the trail in relationship to the area tribes.

Although not officially "park" development, one of the most exciting things in 2022 was the new website and virtual tour developed by MyMediaMatters and Speak Now Productions. The website is a repository of information and includes not only text and photos but many videos as well. It was funded with ARPA funds administered by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The web address is www.standingbearpark.com and the virtual tour can be found on the Resources Gallery page.

"It's been an exciting year" says Walker, "and we can't wait for what's on the horizon in 2023."

For more information please contact the Standing Bear Museum at 580-762-1514.



2019-2021 Standing Bear Pow Wow Princess Kathleen Headman Taylor looks across the park pond at the Ponca Chief Standing Bear statue in the distance.

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63 years with the 101 Wild West Rodeo

The 101 Wild West Rodeo has long been a tradition held in Ponca City with a storied history.

Before that, the 101 Ranch was established by Col. George W. Miller in 1879 on the banks of the Salt Fork River southwest of what is presently Ponca City with lands leased and purchased from the Ponca, Tonkawa and Osage tribes.

Colonel Miller died in 1903 at the age of 61, and the ranch then belonged to his sons: George, Joe and Zack.

In 1905, the Millers offered to perform what they called a "round-up" or "buffalo chase" as entertainment for a National Editorial Association convention. After years of success as the "101 Ranch Real Wild West and Great Far East Show" things at the ranch began to crumble in the late 1920s, due to the deaths of Joe Miller in 1927 and George Miller in 1929.

In 1959, the rodeo saw a return and the Ponca City Cherokee Strip Rodeo Committee came up with the idea of having a rodeo during the Cherokee Strip Celebration in Sept. 1960.

In 1962, the 101 Wild West Rodeo Committee took out a loan for the current bleachers that are used in the rodeo arena and

paid them off by 1970.

The 101 Wild West Rodeo Committee has worked to follow in the tradition of the Miller Brothers and 101 Wild West Show before them in entertainment and hosting the best possible PRCA rodeo in the Prairie Circuit.

In the early days of the rodeo, some 5,000 to 8,000 people would gather for three days for the show. Now, the rodeo averages a crowd in the number of 10,000 to 15,000 over the course of three days, and following a grant approved by the City of Ponca City, new aluminum bleachers were installed in 2022.

On top of the spectators, there are around 500 to 800 contestants that come across the USA to compete in the rodeo.

Ponca City Rodeo Foundation is headed by Cory Goodno, who is in his second year as president and contracts with a number of one act exhibitions for the rodeo. Other foundation officers include Tyler Mayse as vice president, Kacey Goodno as secretary, and Shawndra Sheik as treasurer.

More information about the rodeo can be found at the rodeo's website at <https://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/>.

Central Cafe is dietary focused and everything is made from scratch

Central Cafe is a new business that opened on Monday, April 4, and operates out of the City Central building at 400 E. Central Ave. in Ponca City. Central Cafe focuses on a plant-based menu with vegan and vegetarian options, locally roasted coffee, fresh pressed juice and more. Kal Cloonan, the owner of Central Cafe, is a local interdisciplinary contemporary artist that had desired to open a cafe for a few years, but the opportunity hadn't presented itself. It was with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that Cloonan considered opening a mobile coffee truck. With 15 years experience working in the food and customer service industry, Cloonan eventually spoke with Kat Long with Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA) about setting up a cafe. "I've trained under chefs and I've worked in back of house, in front of house, doing everything under the sun," said Cloonan. "I have a pretty good idea of how things work, and I'm already learning new things since I started

this." Central Cafe is dietary focused and everything is made from scratch. The beginning menu is plant based and largely vegan, but there will be chicken and hard boiled eggs for salads. Another focus is to reduce waste. All the packaging is compostable paper and cornbased plastics. Cloonan will also be doing discounts for those that bring their own cup/containers to minimize waste as much as possible. Central Cafe was one of the entrants into PCDA's Business Pitch-Off competition, an experience that Cloonan felt gave a better understanding of opening a business. "It was a really great experience, I think it gave me a better perspective on what I was getting into," said Cloonan. Central Cafe has a social media page on Facebook and a website at <https://centralcafe-pc.square.site/>. "For me, this is just exactly what I need right now. It is the challenge that I need to keep me busy and keep me interested," said Cloonan. "I love making all of these things."

Hope Ranch Update

BY DAILYN EMERY
dailyn@poncacitynews.com

For 17 years, Darrell and Debbie Shelton have been making magic happen at Hope Ranch, Inc. This Non-Profit organization specializes in faith based therapeutic riding and started originally for people with special needs, but has now spread to anyone who doesn't have the ability to connect with horses on a regular basis.

They started this program because they felt, and still feel, that people with disabilities could benefit greatly from equine therapy. The Shelton's feel that both mental and physical illnesses could be improved through their time spent on the backs of their

exceptional horses, Harley and Twink.

When it comes to physical disadvantages, it offers those unable to walk or exercise much the opportunity to build muscles and learn how to balance from the top of a horse. During the exercise, the horse's gait provides a rhythmic movement that stimulates a person's hips and pelvis. Oddly enough, their gait imitates that of a human walking, it is because of this that a rider's muscles begin to loosen up as they continue on with their lesson.

As for the mental improvements, the Shelton's attribute all of this to the confidence that these events bring riders. "Going from having no control over mostly anything in their

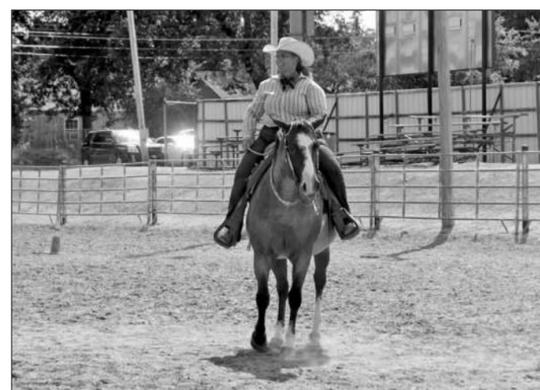
lives, to being able to boss around a 1,100 pound animal gives them the ability to be in charge, in at least one aspect of their lives," says Debbie. For so many of their clients, confidence is one of the biggest psychological issues they need to overcome.

For those where confidence isn't the issue, but rather a mental illness such as depression or anxiety, Hope Ranch offers them the chance to open up without the fear of judgment. While many find it terrifying to seek help from a therapist or a mental health professional, it is not nearly as frightening to tell a horse your fears and thoughts. "I like to tell the [clients] that, 'You can whisper any secrets to them and no one

in the world will ever hear them.' It helps them just to talk about what they are feeling." It's not only during their time at Hope Ranch that there is a change in the riders, but the parents notice a change at home as well. "Parents have called and asked us when we open classes again, because they have a totally different child when we are on break," says Debbie.

There is a quote in the horse world that says, "The world is best viewed from between a horse's ears" and Hope Ranch is proof of that. This is because the world seen from between their horses' ears, is one without judgment, expectations, shame, or disappointment. In the little world they have created, each rider is just as capable as the next and is seen as an equal, no matter their situation. That is what makes this place so special.

Hope Ranch participates in different horse shows in the area to help their students adapt to the pressure



and expectations of horse shows. In their most recent show at the Blackwell Fair, their riders both took home 1st or 2nd place ribbons in the events they signed up for.

Unfortunately, because of the time change and school, they are forced to change their after-school hours to 5 pm to 6 pm. This is a difficult situation because it means they will have to either switch their students to every other week to fit into daylight, many of whose parents can't make it to them by 4 pm and will be forced to quit, or have lights installed for lessons.

The Shelton's do not make any monetary profit off

this program and only do it because they truly love helping people. Because they are a nonprofit organization, they rely heavily on donations. These lights are something that they will not be able to afford without donations, whether that be the lights themselves or cash donations. Without these lessons, not only would there be some broken hearts of their riders for having their time split in half, but for the ones who rely on this program for physical therapy will be deprived of the regularity of their usual lessons. The Shelton's are asking that the community gives any spare change they have to help them with these lights so that their students aren't forced to go without.

Any monetary donations go right back into the program whether it be help with vet care, farrier work, feed, etc. and any volunteer work is strictly to help as well. If you have a skill, such as welding for example, or even if you just help with the light pole installation, it is a huge help to them.

Any donations can be taken to 29 SW Longview Blvd., just outside of Ponca City. For more information about sessions, availability, or donations, you can reach them through their Facebook page, call at 580-716-3250, or email them at hoperanch2004@gmail.com



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Northern Oklahoma Humane Society Update

BY DAILYN EMERY
dailyn@poncacitynews.com

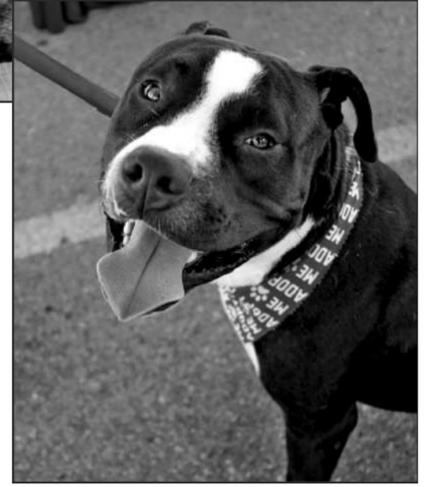
Northern Oklahoma Humane Society, founded in 1975, has been a staple in the community for decades. Whether it be working closely with Ponca City Animal Shelter to take in animals in need or being apart of events in the community, Northern Oklahoma Humane Society, NOKHS, has made it a point to invest themselves into Ponca City.

NOKHS's primary focus is to eliminate the

needless euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals in Northern Oklahoma. They have been working at their "No-Kill" resolution, this movement is putting an end to the killing of healthy animals in shelters, for years now and are hoping to achieve it by Dec. 21 of 2025. No-Kill is when a shelter has a 90% Live Release Rate and as of April, Northern Oklahoma Humane Society and surrounding shelters have gone above and beyond with a 93% dog live release date and at that time no cat had been euthanized. It is their main goal to rescue these animals and find them the loving homes they deserve.

Because NOKHS is a non-profit organization, they rely solely on donations and fundraising event. They currently are working to get 20 people to be apart of their Round-Up Program. This program helps citizens save the lives of animals with just the swipe of their card. It works by rounding up the total of your purchase to the next dollar to be donated to NOKHS. You can sign up to be a member of the Round-Up Program by going to the website <https://nohs.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate?checkout=5272> where you can make the decision on how much to give monthly and specify your account.

Funding is why they also hold events such as, their Annual Mutt Gala, which is coming up on Feb. 11 and being held at the E.W. Marland Estate. This year the theme is "The Wizard of Pawz." This celebration is set to highlight the work that Northern Oklahoma Humane So-



ciety and their partnering organizations are doing to ensure that the lost pets in Northern Oklahoma find their way home.

Not only do they partake in events like their Mutt Gala, but they also give back to the community, with the help of some other organizations, by hosting free spay and neuter clinics. While they do these on a regular basis, NOKHS is partnering up with Greater Good Charities and their Good Fix Program and have scheduled over 500 surgeries from Oct. 24 to 27.

Become a volunteer, learn more about adoptable animals, events, or donate, visit Northern Oklahoma Humane Society at 900 W Prospect Ave., call at 580-767-8877, or check out their website at www.nokhs.com



Pretty Paws offers boarding and grooming

By CALLEY LAMAR
calley@poncacitynews.com

Terri Strah began doing veterinarian haircuts since she was 15-years old. She has worked for four different vets in and around Ponca City.

"I have always loved animals and can connect with them better than I can most people," said Strah.

In her early 20s, Strah set out with her own shop, and has been at a few different locations in Ponca City. She also ran three mobile grooming units while working in Ponca City.

Pretty Paws offers boarding accommodation for dogs, cats, ferrets, birds, and other pets, while striving to keep them happy and healthy while they are in their care.

They offer daycare for your pet while needing to go out of town for just an afternoon, they also offer all-breed dog and cat grooming and bathing.

"We will bathe, brush and do any breed trim you desire. We have a walk in bath day every Friday. With no appointment needed. Dogs must have all vaccinations," said Strah. "Our goal is to provide a safe and happy place to bring your fur babies stay and get a makeover."

Pretty Paws has a full line of pet retail including chew bones, toys, squeakies, dog clothes, and cat toys, and many more items are coming in weekly.

There is also a self-serve pet wash open 6 am to 11 pm, seven days a week on site.

"Our goal is to provide a clean, safe, affordable place that the public can use to clean their own dog at anytime," said Strah.

The business has a Facebook page called Pretty Paws/ Muddy Paws.

The history of the annual Ponca Tribal Celebration

The Annual Ponca Celebration is held in White Eagle in August. This celebration is a free event and open to the public.

One of the featured dances, the Fancy Dance, was not a historical dance tradition of any tribe. Instead, it was created by Ponca Tribe members in the 1920s and 1930s as an attempt to preserve their culture and religion. At the time, Native American religious dances were outlawed by the United States and Canadian governments. The dance was loosely inspired by the traditional War Dance and was considered appropriate to be performed for visitors on reservations and at wild west shows.

Ponca Business Committee Chairman Oliver Littlecook Sr. explained some of the history of how the Fancy Dance came into being.

"Ponca, as we are known, the Ponca Nation. We believe that this dance has always been with us. If you can imagine, over time things have changed. The culture changes, the environment changes, everything changes and so the dance itself has changed from, I imagine, its original dance from the way, way, way past," said Oliver Littlecook Sr., Ponca Business Committee Chairman. "What we see today as 'powwow' was a lot of inter-tribal mixing of tribes across the country, it was kind of a new thing that started in the early 1900s, but the powwow itself evolved from our ceremonial dance."

Littlecook describes the tribe having organizations within itself of several different kinds. One of which was called Hethushka that was composed of "elite warriors and people of importance".

"In order to be a part of that organization, you had to claim war honors. Just like today, the government gives Purple Hearts or Medals of Honor, well we had the same type of

system," said Littlecook. "There were seven different grades of honors that you could obtain that would allow you to be a part of that organization and dance this particular dance."

This dance, along with other Native American dances and religious ceremonies were banned by the Code of Indian Offenses of 1883. As such, ceremonies and traditional dances went underground to avoid government detection.

"Wars stopped. No more battles. And so when that stopped, that organization ceased. Because now we can't go out and fight other tribes. So that kind of laid dormant for a while," said Littlecook.

With the coming of the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch, an opportunity emerged for the tribe to preserve their culture and religion in a new dance. The Fancy Dance would emerge as one created for this purpose.

"So that kind of started the powwow era, and from that point on it just kind of spread out to where it is today," said Littlecook. "Just about every tribe in the country has a powwow now, but it all kind of boils down to here. That's why we put out that term: 'the granddaddy of all powwows' because it started with us. We're proud of that fact."

Littlecook also spoke of how, for the last decade or so, they have been moving away from using the term "powwow" to using "celebration" as it more accurately describes what the essence of the event is.

"Several years ago, about 2010, we still had some elders, who, through discussion with each other...someone said, 'I don't like that term powwow, it doesn't really define us'. So we started going back again to our history. We believe Creator, God the Creator, gave us this. We believe this is ours because he gave it to

us," said Littlecook. "All these many, many, many thousands of years that we have been dancing this, is more of a celebration or tribute to the creator. So we said, 'let's call it a celebration', because that's really what it is."

In addition to the dances, this events features authentic arts and crafts vendors, concessions with various kinds of food, and other activities throughout the week.

"We're proud of who we are and what we have. With this way of life we have a lot to offer the Indian world you might say. When we moved down here to Oklahoma the mid-1800s

we shared this dance with some tribes down here. That's to me, the biggest contribution we have made to the country as we see everyone has their own powwows. Different tribes use powwows to showcase what they have, which is great," said Littlecook. "We're proud of that fact, that what we gave has went out and spread across the country. So when people come here we try to be sharing and let them see our dances, because we still have a lot left to offer. We feel good about our one little contribution that we've made as a lot of other tribes have utilized it and benefited from it."

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