

# WELCOME TO THE PONCA CITY AREA



# Free Will Baptist Church Still Growing

The Ponca City Free Will Baptist Church has been an active and fruitful member of the Ponca City community since it was established and sponsored by the Oklahoma Free Will Baptist missions program under the leadership of Pastor David Bigger in 1976.

The church held its first service in July of that year in the Ponca City High School Fine Arts Building, meeting there for the next 13 months until property across the street from Resthaven Cemetery was purchased and the first phase of the new church building was completed.

The first service in the present location, 1900 East Hubbard Road, was held on August 21, 1977. In 2012, Pastor David Bigger retired after

35 years of faithful leadership and service.

To fill the position, the church called Adam Phillips to Pastor and lead the church. Pastor Adam is a graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and moved his wife Rebecca and two young sons here from Norman where he was associate pastoryouth pastor at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church. The mission of the Ponca City Free Will Baptist Church is Surrendering, Growing, Serving, and Sharing. SURRENDERING, putting others before self and Christ above all; GROWING, in Love and Relationships; SERVING the Church and the Community; and SHARING, telling our Neighbors and the Nations about Jesus.

There are many opportuni-

ties at the Ponca City Free Will Baptist Church for all ages to grow and serve. Once a month, Family Fellowship is held in the gym addition. Families meet for food, fun, and games. The women's fellowship, Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) also participates in serving through various projects. A special "All Church Singing" service is held one Sunday evening every other month and showcases musicians who enjoy making music to worship the Lord. For the past two years, the church has joined other area churches to participate in the Great Day of Service by working, doing clean-up duties, yard work and minor repairs throughout Ponca City.

Recently, new programs for

children and teens have been implemented by Matt Hanshaw, who joined the church staff as Youth Pastor in May 2013. Matt is joined in service by his wife, Becky. On Wednesday nights, during the school year, students ages 4 years old through 5th grade participate in TeamKID. TeamKID is a fun, recreation-based club for kids that balances high-energy activities and games with high-impact Bible lessons, Scripture memorization, and life application. Students 6th grade through high school also meet on Wednesday nights for a scripture based lesson and fellowship. Vacation Bible School is offered each summer for children ages 4 years old through 5th grade. This year's VBS will be "Weird

Animals" and will be held the evenings of July 13 - July 16. The teens attend a week of Encounter Camp sponsored by the Oklahoma FWB State Christian Education Board. A variety of other fun and meaningful fellowship activities are also planned throughout the year for the youth. Transportation is available for youth by calling the church office.

Sunday School is offered for all ages each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with Morning Worship beginning at 10:45 a.m. and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study for adults meets at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. In addition, during the Sunday morning service, older children can participate in Children's Church

for ages 4 years old to 2nd graders, and Youth Church for 2nd to 5th graders. Child-care for newborns to 3 year olds is provided at all services in the newly remodeled nursery.

Visitors are always welcome at Ponca City Free Will Baptist Church. It is a community of believers who seek to understand the person and work of Jesus Christ and how to share this Good News to the world. The future of the Ponca City Free Will Baptist Church looks bright, and Pastor Adam Phillips and the church family invite everyone to come join in surrendering, growing, serving, and sharing. More information can be found at [www.poncafwb-church.com](http://www.poncafwb-church.com) or by calling (580) 765-5393.

# Medical Center Will Form New Clinic With Merger

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. — South Central Kansas Medical Center announced on May 30 that Summit Clinic will be merging with the hospital to form a new medical practice, South Central Kansas Clinic, LLC.

The newly formed entity will include Dr. Kamran Shahzada, Internal Medicine; Dr. Rhonda Green, Family Medicine; Dr. Eric Thomson,

Family Medicine; and Angela Ziegler, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

Under the merger, those providers and their staff will become employees of or contracted with SCKMC. The medical center has been transitioning towards the hospital employed physician model for several months.

"It is a big move, however we are probably behind much

of the rest of the state in terms of the employment of physicians. We are hopeful that this demonstrates our commitment to the health-care of the community, and that we are interested in seeing growth and development of primary care services locally," said Steve Perkins, SCKMC's Chief Executive Officer.

Hospital officials have continually expressed growing concerns over the need to recruit additional physicians to the area.

Perkins believes the merger is the next logical step in making the local medical community more attractive to outside physicians.

"We know that many physicians that come out of their residency training are looking for hospital employment versus employment in a practice that is independent of the hospital. We feel that by

establishing this now we will have an option that has not been available in the past for primary care physicians in Ark City," Perkins said.

Hospital employment is being offered to physicians as an alternative to traditional physician group or private practice models.

"We have been working with our local clinics for many years to assist them in the recruitment of physicians to their practices. We continue to work with the Ark City Clinic in the recruitment that they have ongoing. However, we had found it to be difficult in recruiting at Summit Clinic because they operated

as individual practitioners," Perkins said.

Dr. Thomson will begin seeing patients through SC Kansas Clinic starting June 23. Dr. Shahzada, Dr. Green, and Ms. Ziegler will continue to see patients through the Summit Clinic transitioning to SC Kansas Clinic on July 1. Patients may schedule appointments now with Dr. Thomson or any of the SC Kansas Clinic providers by calling the Summit Clinic at 620-442-4850.

SCKMC announced last month that Dr. Thomson would follow Dr. Tyson Blatchford and Dr. Perry Lin as the latest physicians to become hospi-

tal employed.

"For a while we thought we might be leaving the area but in the end everything came together professionally and personally. My wife and I are both exceptionally happy to be staying here in Ark City," Dr. Thomson said. "In addition to getting to stay we are even more thrilled to be part of (SCKMC). I feel even more connected to the community - this is our hospital and my goal is to help make it the premiere hospital of its size in the State of Kansas."

SC Kansas Clinic will operate at the location of the current Summit Clinic at 515 N. Summit in Arkansas City.

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NEWKIRK — The Kay County Conservation District, office at 5501 North Pleasant View Avenue in Newkirk, has served landowners in Kay County since 1939. It works to address natural resource concerns — especially water quality improvement and soil erosion reduction.

The conservation district is funded by appropriations from the Oklahoma legislature through the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

A volunteer board of directors annually set conservation priorities for the county with input from local farmers and ranchers.

In a cooperative partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the district helps provide conservation planning or land needs assessments for landowners in area. NRCS provides the technical assistance to the district and landowners that helps install important conservation techniques such as terraces, waterways, ponds, range and pasture plantings, buffer strips, riparian buffers along streams, windbreaks, and grazing management plans.

The Kay County Conservation District also rents equipment to help landowners such

as Bermudagrass spriggers, a grader blade, soil movers, a no-till drill, aerator, and EZ Flow seeder.

The district administers the state Cost Share Program that offers funding help to farmers wanting to install conservation practices. The office also has floodplain maps for viewing for those planning to build or buy land in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Educating children and adults about conservation and how each can make a difference is another important job of the Kay County Conservation District.

District staff are available to provide programs on conservation to civic groups and organizations.

Puppet shows, natural resource conservation days and environmental lessons for schoolchildren are other programs available.

This year the district finished constructing on an outdoor classroom on 1.5 acres at the Farm Service Center location in Newkirk. Plans are for the classroom to be complete in the fall of this year.

"Outdoor classrooms expand the learning environment for students to include a hands-on experience that involve all five senses, which increase learning comprehension," said Susan Henning, Kay County Conservation District coordinator.

"Students observe, classify, measure, analyze, and interpret facts about the earth's natural resources; water, air, plants, animals and soil."

Several student contests are held throughout the year including a kindergarten coloring exhibit at the Kay County Fair, land and range judging, poster, essay and speech contests.

The District also awards a high school and a college scholarship to students majoring in a natural resource related field of study.

For more information call (580) 362-2438.

## Ambuc Pool Now Open

AMBUC Pool, located at 601 South Sixth Street, provides adult lap swim and recreational swim.

The pool will be open June 6 through Aug. 6.

The pool is open from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for water aerobics class and from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for adult lap swim/senior swim/25-mile swim.

For additional information, call 767-0432.

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# Local Services Available

Many services are available to Ponca City residents. For more detailed information, call the numbers listed.

**Ambulance Transfer** — The Ponca City Fire Department provides ambulance service for emergency calls and routine transfers. For emergencies, dial 911. For non-emergency situations, call 767-0370.

**Cable Television** — Cable One, located at 303 North Fourth, provides cable television services for Ponca City. For general inquiries, programming, repairs and installations, call 762-6684.

**Chamber of Commerce** — The chamber's purpose is to "serve as the business community's catalyst for leading the Ponca City area into a growing, diversified and prosperous future." For information on the chamber or one of the affiliated organizations, call 765-4400.

**Code Enforcement Hot Line** — To report high weeds or grass, or other code violations, call 767-0331.

**Communications Center** — 767-0370 is the non-emergency number for the Communications Center, which answers calls for the Ponca City Fire Department and Police Department. The Communications Center also answers after-hours calls to the Utility Billing Office.

**Crime Stoppers** — The Crime Stoppers program gives citizens the opportunity to anonymously relate information to law enforcement officers regarding criminals

and unlawful acts. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for rewards, as determined by the Crime Stoppers board. Call 762-5100 for information.

**Driver's License** — The Driver's License testing office is at 2101 North Fourteenth Street, Suite 129B. The office is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:45 p.m. Call 762-1728 for information.

**Elderly Living Alone** — A special program geared to benefit the elderly living alone is also available. This program is designed to provide needed information in the event of a crisis involving an elderly person. Forms for those wishing to participate are available at the police department. Call 767-0370 for information.

**Electric, Water, Sewer and Trash Service** — The Ponca City Utility Authority (PCUA) provides water, electric, sewer and trash service for residences and businesses in the Ponca City area. The billing office, located inside City Hall at 516 East Grand Avenue, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week. For billing or hook-up inquiries call 767-0300. For service problems, call 767-0405.

**Enhanced 911 System** — When an emergency occurs, involving an injury or loss of property within the Ponca City area, citizens are encouraged to dial 911. When the call is received, the name of the resident, telephone number and the address is immediately displayed on

the screen at the Communications Center.

**Fire Department** — The Fire Department business office number is 767-0368. For emergencies, call 911.

**Fire Safety** — The Ponca City Fire Department provides public speakers on fire safety, free tours for parents and children at the fire station, free home inspections and community safety through building inspections and preplanning. The Fire Department can provide free smoke detectors in special cases. Call 767-0368 for information.

**Natural Gas Service** — The Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, located at 2205 North Ash, provides gas service for the Ponca City area. Call 762-6307 for more information.

**Juvenile Curfew** — The City of Ponca City has a curfew for juveniles younger than 15 years old from 10:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. For juveniles from 15 through 17 years of age, the curfew is 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday, ending at 6 a.m. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the 15 to 17 curfew is extended until midnight every night of the week.

**Neighborhood Watch** — The Neighborhood Watch program encourages groups of residents living within a specified area to pull together and deter crime in their neighborhoods. A speaker will assist in the implementation of the program and provide basic information. Call 767-0370 for information.

**Post Office** — The U.S. Post Office has a Ponca City branch located at 402 East Grand Avenue. Call 1-800-275-8777 for information. The number operates 24 hours a day.

**Recycling Center** — The City of Ponca City encourages recycling and will accept most recyclable materials except for used oil, anti-freeze and plastics. The recycling center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It is located at the west end of the complex at 1001 West Prospect. For more information, call 767-0456.

**Trash Collection** — Trash collection for residents is automatically included on Ponca City Utility Authority bills. Residential services includes pick-up twice a week of three 35-gallon cans, not to exceed 75 pounds each. Grass clippings are not considered normal refuse for pick-up service. Carryout and special pick-up services are available. For more information, call 767-0300.



TAMMY REESE serves Kay County as county clerk. Her office can be contacted at 580-362-2537. (News Photo by Sharon Rowen)



CHRISTI KENNEDY serves as Kay County Treasurer. Her office can be contacted at 580-362-2523. (News Photo by Sharon Rowen)

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# Chamber Serves as Business Catalyst

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 over 110 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, groundbreakings and the popular "Business after Hours." All of these efforts are to educate the community on who the Chamber businesses are and what services they provide. The Ambassadors also provide many networking opportunities for business leaders in our community. If you want to meet lots of people and promote your business this

is your committee. Angela Rickman 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 Politics to discuss the issues on a non-partisan basis. They are active in gathering the ideas and thoughts of our business community and citizens and then passing those ideas on to the appropriate elected individuals.

This does make a difference in our community and what we need to promote growth and development in Ponca City and Oklahoma.

The Chamber also has a link on its web site called Prosperity Project which educates the public on state questions and how all state officials running for office stand on certain important state issues. If you are interested in politics and having a voice in government this is your committee. Lee Evans with Evans and Associates 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. A good plan will also foster economic development. If you like planning for future needs this is your committee. Bill Wetzel with Loftis and Wet-



PONCA CITY AREA CHAMBER of Commerce staff includes Rich Cantillon, left, president, Noel Black, tourism coordinator, Nancy Kruckeberg, director of finance, and Chelsea McConnell, membership development director.

zel Insurance is the Chair.

The Ponca City Business Council is active in promoting Shop Ponca First Campaign. This committee oversees the PRIDE Program, Lunch and Learn Series, Cash Mob Monday and the Chamber Buck program. Every month they select a Chamber Business of the Month to recognize outstanding businesses in our community. The largest retail promotions of the year for this committee are Santa Buck Giveaway and Crazy Days. This active committee also produces the business tip sheet in the Chamber Newsletter. If you want to make your business even better this is the committee for you. Wendy Stobbe with Hospice of Northern Central Oklahoma is the Chair.

Education and Workforce Development Committee supports all aspects of our education systems in Ponca City both public and private. One of the most important aspects of this active committee is partnering Chamber businesses with our schools to help with specific needs each school may have. This program is called the PIE Partner Program and continues to be very successful. This committee supports the Stuff the Bus

Program, mentor program, 8th grade scholar program, new teacher luncheon and support staff reception to name a few of their projects. Sue Lunsford, Individual Member is the Chair.

Leadership Ponca City is developing well-informed leaders who actively participate in the growth of Ponca City. Today through the efforts of the Chamber' leadership program many leadership alumni are active in leadership roles around the city contributing to a better Ponca City.

There are also a number of great projects that have been completed over the years sponsored by Leadership Ponca City including this year's Burger Cook-off. This is the Chamber's 28th year for Leadership Ponca City. It is one of the oldest programs in the State of Oklahoma. Chairs include Joe DeNoya, Arlene Stauffer, MaryBeth Moore and Daren Wilson.

The Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce also operates the Tourism Bureau promoting Ponca City attractions and events. The office serves as the Visitors Center for Ponca City. Tourism is a major industry in Ponca City. Rod Alexander with Wentz Golf Course

is the Chair.

Other active committees of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce include Chamber Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Finance Committee.

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 members.

The Chamber of Commerce is managed by an elected Board of Directors with Barry Bickle with Eastman National Bank as the 2014 Chair.

The Chamber staff includes Rich Cantillon, Nancy Kruckeberg, Chelsea McConnell and Noel Black.

The Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization with all businesses, organizations and individuals welcome to become members. All are welcome to be a member of this progressive Chamber making a difference in the future of Ponca City.

For more information or how to become a member visit our office at 5th and Grand Avenue or phone 765-4400.

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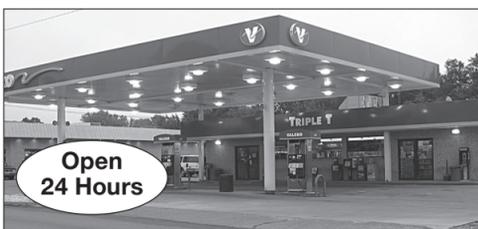
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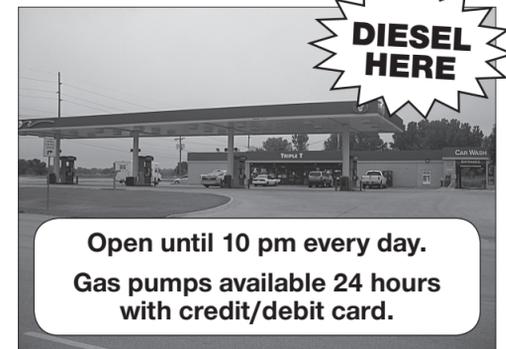
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## Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Available

The Ponca City Communications Center, housed in the Ponca City Police Department, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. Staffed with highly-trained dispatchers, in 2012 the Communications Center effectively handled 23,701 call for assistance.

**Enhanced 9-1-1 Service**  
The citizens of Ponca City

can rightly be proud of their Communications Center, which was the first one in the entire State to be equipped with the "Enhanced 9-1-1" service. "Enhanced" means that when a land line 9-1-1 emergency call comes in, the dispatcher can see, almost instantly, plotted on a map on the computer screen exactly where that call is coming from (latitude and longitude coordinates are shown for cell calls so that the caller can be located to within 100 meters on a map.

The equipment also identifies the phone subscriber's name and address, his/her phone number, and which emergency responder has jurisdiction in the caller's locale.

Since the Ponca City Communications Center receives and dispatches 9-1-1 calls from all over Kay County and a small part of Osage County, it's very important for the dispatcher to quickly know which police, fire, or ambulance service has authority to respond to that call.



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# Genealogical Society Keeps History Alive

For 43 years, Pioneer Genealogy Society has been actively encouraging Kay County residents to research and preserve their family and local history. The group holds monthly meetings, sponsors workshops, regularly answers queries for information from all over the country, publishes a newsletter, maintains a website [www.pgsook.org](http://www.pgsook.org), compiles genealogical and cemetery records, and supplies reference books and materials for the genealogical archives and book room at the Ponca City Library. They have carpooled to state libraries and other

places of interest. They also sponsor a free mentoring program to give one-on-one help. Members endeavor to provide instructional programs for all levels from beginning to advanced and for library and computer based research. The group has hosted speakers representing the rich variety of groups that have created our great state and relish providing a venue for "show and tell" of their results. From quilting, to driving cattle, to Wild West shows, to riding the rails, trains and planes, in the oil fields, parlors and board rooms, the area's history is

colorful and dramatic. Recent program topics have included Waynoka rail and air history, the 101 Ranch, Camp Tonkawa WWII POW Camp, Abraham Lincoln, the UCO Library/ Archives, and research webinars on using Google and the 4 basic and best types of records to use. The group began in March of 1971 under the leadership of E.C. Rivers. Among its first projects were the donation of a microfilm reader and purchase of the first genealogical books. From there, the genealogy room has grown to contain thousands of books

donated by friends and family of PGS. Credit is given to charter member Marlene Stewart for shepherding the genealogy section's successful growth. In 1978 the group donated hundreds of hours to compile information from all Kay County cemeteries for a 562-page book "Cemetery Inscriptions: Kay County, Oklahoma." Over the years, their projects completed included the publishing of a book of surnames with research conducted by local PGS members. Another five-year project, under the leadership of Bill Ziegenhain, involved the diligent recording of all Kay County public records, area funeral home records and other historical documents for transfer to microfilm.

This project resulted in the acquisition of hundreds of Kay County and national census microfilmed records now available at the Ponca City Library. During the Centennial Cherokee Strip celebration in 1993, PGS members spent thousands of hours compiling a comprehensive two-volume set of "North Central Oklahoma, Rooted in the Past, Growing for the Future" detailing the history of early day Kay County area citizens, clubs and businesses. Paula Denson supervised the project. Under the leadership of Edith McCallick and Kathy Zehr, the Society also hosted a reception for all descendants of pioneers of the Cherokee Strip Land Run and collected more than 1,500 registrations and stories from many of those area descendants. Registrations, records and stories of these pioneers are now filed in the Ponca City Library archives for public use. PGS was involved in a massive six-year census project

published by longtime editor Louise Willison for over 20 years rates high in national research circles with up-to-date genealogical information and historical facts. Annual dues are \$15 which includes the newsletter subscription. Life memberships are also available. For more information about the Society and its offerings, visit the website, attend a program meeting on the first Monday of each month at the Ponca City Library or call Alan Crockett at 762-2057. The group's website is managed by Calvin Golliver. The quarterly "Pioneer Genealogical Society Newsletter,"

## Hands-On Training



15/06/2013

FLEET AND Facilities Maintenance students at Pioneer Technology Center receive hands-on training in a wide variety of occupations. Pictured above are students that helped build and replace the doors on the storage shed at the Woodridge Soccer Complex.

# Ponca City Kiwanis Club Formed in 1926

Founded in 1915 and headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., Kiwanis International is a thriving organization of service and community-minded men and women who support children and young adults worldwide.

The Kiwanis Club of Ponca City was founded Dec. 16, 1926 when a group of area businessmen united to embrace the values of Kiwanis International. Today's Kiwanis Club of Ponca City is made up of men and women who share a common goal, "a better today and tomorrow for the children of the world."

The Ponca City Kiwanis Club currently serves children, youth and the community through the following programs and projects:

KEY CLUB is the oldest and largest world wide service program for high school students. It provides students with opportunities to perform community service and develop leadership. Ponca City Kiwanis counsels, supports and advises the Po-Hi Key Club. The Key Club members develop their programs organize projects, run the meetings and serve the community.

YOUNG CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE focuses on the needs of young children. Service projects include

Character Critters Character Education program at the Ponca City Head Start, Three local Head Start Christmas parties, Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations, mentoring, car seats for infants and the annual Read for the Record campaign.

BRING UP GRADES (BUG PROGRAM) is designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades to an acceptable range, and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next. Kiwanis sponsors the BUG program at McCord Elementary school. BUG recognition events, awards and treats are provided at the end of each reporting period.

Other community involvement include, RINGING BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY during the Christmas season, helping with FESTIVAL OF ANGELS, FRIENDSHIP FEAST, VETERAN'S DAY PARADE and the EDWIN FAIR MENTAL HEALTH MAY FEST. Two five hundred dollar SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded each spring to a Key Club member and a student from the Senior Class planning to enter a college or university of their choice in the fall.

The world wide service project, ELIMINATE is the largest fundraising initiative

in Kiwanis International's history. This project will save and protect mothers and their future babies from maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) in the 38 countries where it remains a public health threat.

For individuals who believe children are the future, take pride in the community, want to reach out to those in need and enjoy meeting new people Kiwanis is the place to be. Meetings are held at the Ponca City Country Club every Tuesday at noon. Informative speakers update and inform members about what is happening in our community.

Membership in Kiwanis is open to anyone 18 years or older. Kiwanis is looking for new members to help continue serving the children and youth in Ponca City and the surrounding area. For more information about Kiwanis or any of the service projects call 762-7877 or 762-1050.



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# NOC One of Top U.S. Community Colleges

TONKAWA — Northern Oklahoma College is more than a college—it is a cultural experience! Welcoming students and visitors to its historic Tonkawa campus, NOC is only 20 minutes west of Ponca City via U.S. 60. For the past three years, the Washington-based Aspen Institute has ranked Northern as one of the top 120 community colleges in the country.

Friendly atmosphere, small classes, quality education and affordable cost are among the reasons students make Northern their Number One Choice. Students have life changing opportunities to discover and improve special interests and abilities and to develop the leadership and social interactive skills so necessary for success in life.

Grants, loans and scholarships are available for qualified students, and approximately 70 percent of all NOC students receive some type of financial aid.

Open year-round to the public, the beautiful landscaped campus grounds are affiliated with the Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arbo-

retum Statewide System and feature several memorial gardens as well as sculptures. Classrooms, administrative buildings and the six residence halls—construction will soon begin on a seventh hall—are clustered within easy walking distances and ample parking is provided for commuters. The A.D. Buck History and Welcome Center showcases NOC memorabilia telling the college's story.

The public is welcome to the many community and statewide events as well as college events hosted by Northern in its campus facilities. Civic organizations can host special events in the Renfro Building's Community Center, and the Renfro Lecture Series sponsors renowned guest speakers biannually to delight community audiences. Area youth enjoy athletic camps, Arts Adventure fine arts camps and leadership seminars in the summer.

A large retreat center on the shores of Kaw Lake is used for seminars and workshops. Current postings of college events and schedules are always available on the

college website calendar at [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu).

The impressive Kinzer Performing Arts Center is home to the world-traveling NOC Roustabouts musical show troupe and the venue for numerous cultural events, including internationally-renowned artists as well as first-class student concerts, theatrical productions and art exhibits.

The Redbud Jazz Festival celebrates the spring season; the annual Gala features guest artists from New York City.

Varsity sports attract fans of baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer and men's and women's basketball. Admission is free to outdoor sports, and admission to basketball games in Foster-Piper Fieldhouse is easily affordable for the entire family. Northern's student-operated radio station, KAYE-FM 90.7, broadcasts home and selected away basketball games and also video streams home games on the college website. In addition, KAYE audio streams all its radio programs.

The Wellness Center includes a weight room,

indoor walking/jogging track and access to the indoor junior Olympic-size swimming pool. Community enrichment classes (no grade, no credit) include the Fitness program, in which area residents can use the Wellness Center facilities for a modest fee.

Headed by Dr. Cheryl Evans, the first female president in the college's 113-year history, Northern administers three campuses: Tonkawa, Enid and the NOC/OSU Gateway Program at Stillwater, operated in partnership with Oklahoma State University. Northern is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Enrollees ranging from high school age to senior citizens may work toward associate in arts, science and applied science degrees in numerous fields.

Any Oklahoma resident

who graduated from an accredited high school or received a GED certificate and who participated in the American College Testing (ACT) program can apply for admission throughout the year. Working adults wanting to complete an associate degree can enroll in the Reach Higher degree completion program provided they meet the requirements, which include at least 18 hours of college credit. General education courses as well as associate degrees in arts and in science transfer to state four-year institutions.

A state leader in providing training in Process Technology, Northern has partnered with area businesses to develop an Associate in Applied Science degree program in Engineering and Industrial Technology leading to potential internships and employment with the

participating industrial partners.

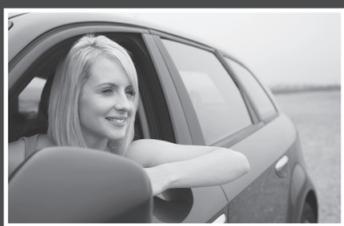
Students can gain hands-on experience with equipment donated by partners and housed in a newly constructed building on campus.

Enrollment for Fall Semester 2014 is currently ongoing through Friday, Aug. 15 with classes beginning Monday, Aug. 18. Tuition and fees are due by 5 p.m. Aug. 18. Students currently attending Northern can enroll with an advisor or can enroll themselves online.

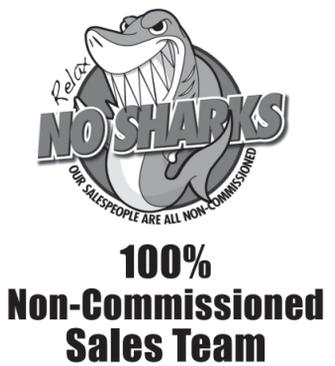
More information about Northern is available by calling 580.628.6200, visiting the college website at [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu) or coming to the campus at 1220 East Grand in Tonkawa. To arrange for a campus tour, contact Karlee Brown, recruitment coordinator, e-mail [brown@noc.edu](mailto:brown@noc.edu) or telephone 580.628.6668 or toll free 1.888.429.5715.



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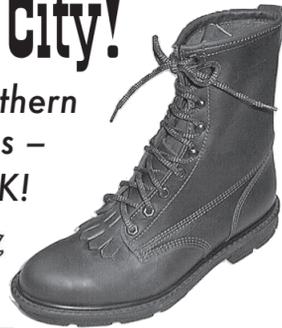
NORTHERN OKLAHOMA College Madrigal Singers perform at the spring College Choir, Madrigals and Band Concert. The public is welcome to attend fine arts events, most of which are free, on the Tonkawa campus.



Ready for a life-changing experience at Northern Oklahoma College, students gather during the Fall 2013 Orientation session. Enrollment is ongoing for the Fall 2014 semester through August 15.

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# Food Stamp Use Rises in Kay County

The use of food stamps in Kay County increased during the recession, assisting families in stretching their food dollars, contributing to local spending and helping spark a national debate about the future of the federal nutri-

tion program. The proportion of Kay County residents receiving food stamps hit 22.4 percent in 2011, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services. That's an increase

of 6.5 percentage points since 2007, the year the recession started.

Across Oklahoma, 16.3 percent of residents in 2011 received support from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),

as the food stamp program is officially known. Nationally, 14.8 percent of the population receives SNAP benefits.

Places like Kay County, which are located outside metropolitan areas, tend to have a higher percentage of the population receiving SNAP benefits. That's because incomes are generally lower in nonmetropolitan counties.

The inflation-adjusted median household income in Kay County in 2011 was \$40,550, compared to the Oklahoma median of \$44,776. Nationally, median household income was \$52,306 in 2011.

In 2011, residents of Kay County received a combined \$15,607,164 in SNAP benefits. The USDA reports that each \$5 in SNAP benefits generates \$9.20 in spending.

SNAP benefits start to circulate in the economy quickly. Participants spend nearly all their food stamps within one month of receipt, according to a study by the University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute.

Grocers say they feel the impact of SNAP and other USDA nutrition programs like Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

"Without SNAP and WIC, we wouldn't be able to make it," wrote the owner of the Mill City Market in the small town of Mill City, Ore., in a

survey of rural grocers conducted by the Oregon Food Bank and Kansas State University Rural Grocery Initiative.

Owners know they have to stock the shelves to prepare for more business when SNAP benefits hit the streets, said David Procter with the Rural Grocery Initiative.

It's not just the mom-and-pop stores that see a bump from food-stamp spending in small towns and rural areas. Walmart reported in a recent Securities and Exchange Commission filing that a decrease in SNAP benefits last year could affect the retail giant's bottom line.

Average SNAP benefits nationally fell about \$30 a month per family in November after a temporary increase that was part of the 2009 economic stimulus package. More funding decreases are on the way.

This summer, Congress agreed to trim about \$8 billion from SNAP over the next decade. Backers of the cuts said the program had expanded too much in recent years and was creating too much reliance on government assistance. SNAP expenditures increased 135 percent between 2007 and 2011.

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (Va.-R) backed a measure that would have removed SNAP

from the farm bill entirely.

"While [SNAP] is an important part of our safety net, our overriding goal should be to help our citizens with the education and skills they need to get back on their feet so that they can provide for themselves and their families," Rep. Cantor said during congressional debate.

Food stamps have been part of the farm bill for the past 50 years. The legislation's combination of farming and nutrition programs has helped ensure the bill receives broad backing from farm-country representatives and more urban-based members who support anti-poverty programs.

That alliance was tested but held with the passage of the 2014 farm bill.

Data for this article came from USDA Food and Nutrition Services, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census. The data was compiled and analyzed by Roberto Gallardo, Ph.D., associate Extension professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Funding for this report came from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Daily Yonder (www.dailyyonder.com) is an independent rural news site published by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Center for Rural Strategies.

# Peachtree Offers Shelter

The specific mission of Peachtree Landing is to offer temporary emergency shelter to homeless individuals and families while helping them to become self sufficient and a valued member of the community.

Thanks to the generosity and compassion of the people, churches and businesses of Ponca City, Peachtree Landing first began offering services on November 1, 1988.

Peachtree Landing is governed by a fifteen member board of directors. The day to day operation of the shelter is managed by five paid staff members. Volunteers are the heart and the hands of the organization, giving assistance with programs and offering the homeless a positive reality of our community. The emergency shelter is funded through the Ponca City United Way, churches, organizations, businesses, individuals, two annual fundraisers, grants and private foundations.

Chronic poverty, coupled with physical and other disabilities, have combined with rapid changes in society, the workplace and the local housing market to make many people vulnerable to its effects. Whatever the reason for homelessness, food and shelter are basic human requirements, responding to these requirements is where Peachtree Landing begins. While meeting the immediate need for food and shelter Peachtree Landing provides comprehensive case management for each homeless individual or family being served to assist them in their transition from homelessness to independent living. By partnering and collaborating with other community based service providers the Peachtree Landing staff is able to address each person's unmet needs individually.

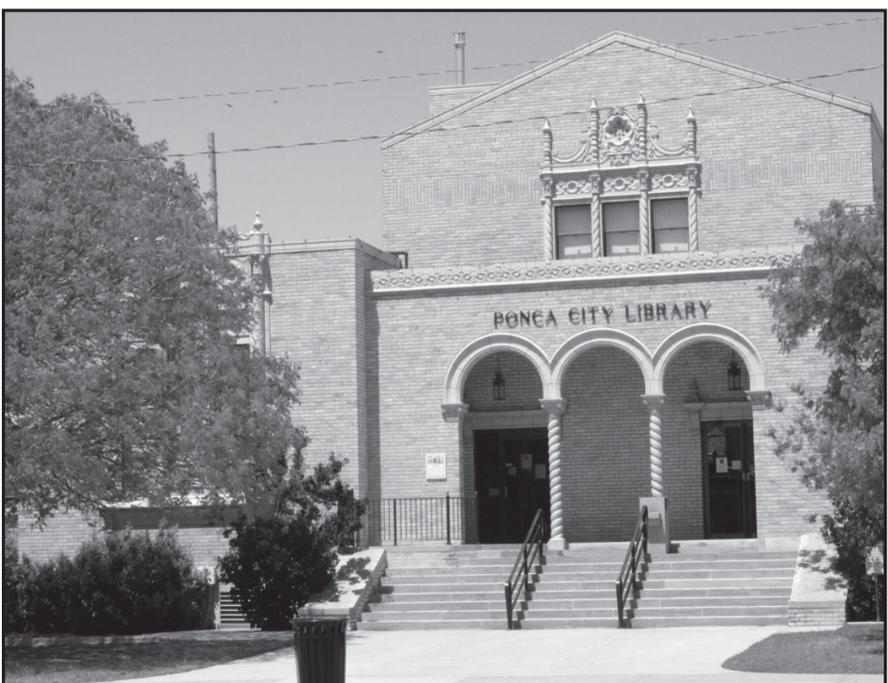
Behind every homeless person is a story that shows how close we all are to each other.

The difference between the person on the street and the one who has employment and

housing can be a few short missteps, a thin line of privilege, or a blown opportunity. In June 2012 a family, a single father with four children, traveling from Nebraska to Texas, then on to California with the promise of housing and employment, ran out of funds. They were referred to Peachtree Landing from 2-1-1. After addressing the family's immediate needs for shelter, food and clothing, they were able to begin the transition from homeless to self-sufficiency.

With the help of the staff of Peachtree, the father was able to make contact with mainstream resources for food stamps, Sooner Care and SSDI. After staying at Peachtree Landing for seventeen days the family was ready to continue on their journey.

If you would like further information about Peachtree Landing and the services provided or are considering giving your time as a volunteer, please call 762-3208.



THE PONCA CITY Library offers programs for all age groups and is home to the Matzene Art Collection, a unique and extensive collection of artwork consisting of both Oriental and Western art. (News File Photo)

# Library Offers Many Services

As Dr. Seuss said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." The Ponca City Library serves as a guide to the world of information, a source of leisure materials, and a supporter of life-long learning.

From early childhood programs to volunteer income tax assistance for the elderly, the Library is a place for the young, old, and those in-between. Everyone is welcome.

### Services

Since 1904, Ponca City has supported high-quality library services. From an initial collection of 500 books, the Library's current collection has grown to more than 80,000 items. However, today's library is about more than

just books.

The Library offers free library cards and services that include audio books, movies, computers with internet access, meeting rooms, and programs and events for children, teens, and adults.

### Additional Resources

The library offers many more services and avenues to other areas of the Internet that maintains important information.

Holly LaBossiere is the library director. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day).



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# Important Positions At PC City Offices

The City Clerk is one of the oldest of public servants in local government. This profession traces back more than 2,000 years and was once referred to as the "Town Reminder" or "Remembrancer." Today, the City Clerk's Office is responsible for:

Maintaining all official City of Ponca City records — the office receives original documents, organizes and files them, maintains and preserves the records, and distributes public information.

Maintaining contracts and agreements as well as city ordinances and resolutions - the Finance Director / City Clerk / Treasurer or Deputy City Clerk attends all City Commission meetings and records an archived set of minutes that are a complete and accurate record of the proceedings

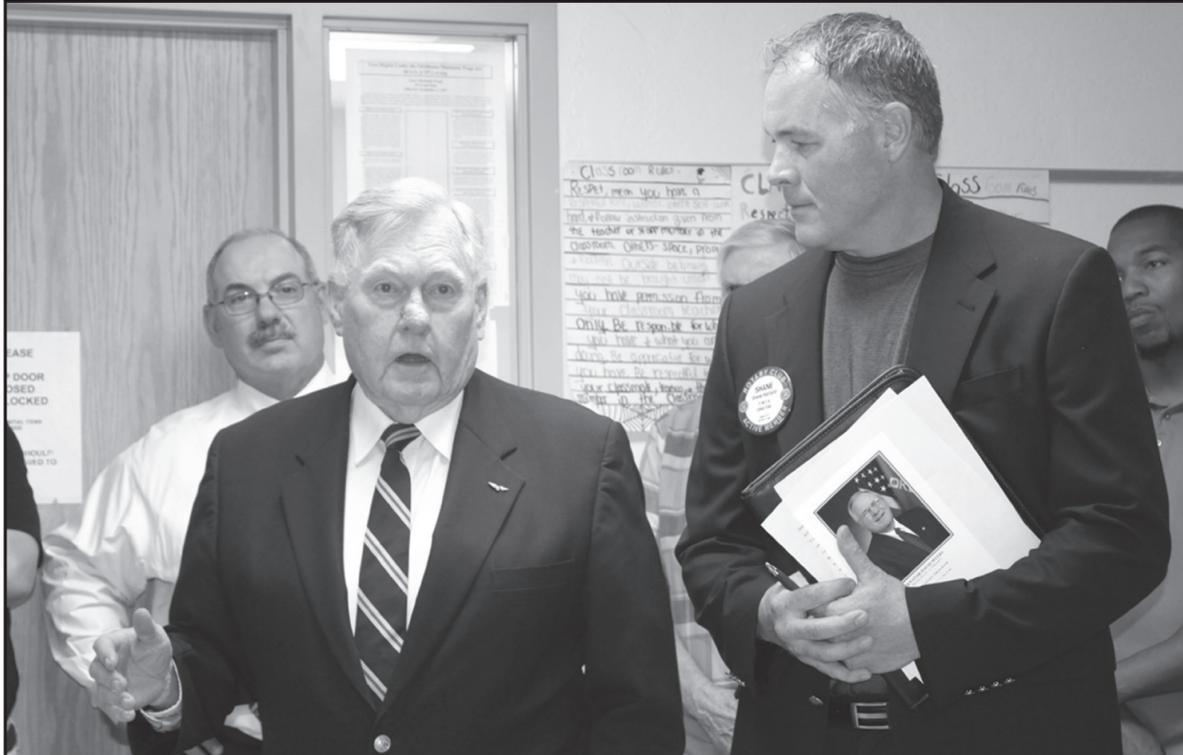
Posting and publishing all legal notices, notices of public hearings, and notices soliciting public bids

Giving public notice of all meetings of public bodies, such as the City Commission, in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, as well as process citizen requests for information in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Records Act

## Ponca City Community And Government

The City Clerk's Office requires versatility, alertness, accuracy, and patience. Although much of the work is cyclical, at the end of every day it is fulfilling to know that when a request comes in to review an ordinance that was passed 40 years ago or minutes of a meeting held in the previous year, the records are close at hand and can be retrieved in a timely manner. The city clerk's office is proud of the vital role it plays in linking our community to their local government.

Marc LaBossiere is the finance director for the City of Ponca City.



FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY John Raley, left, and Rotary Club President Shane Harland led the dedication of the library at Marland Children's Home in May 2013, named in honor of the late Sen. David Myers. Myers and Raley, along with many volunteers, worked together to stop the closing of the American Legion Children's Home. The home was transferred to a new local board of directors and renamed. (News File Photo)

## Park Department Keeps City Nice

Parks & Recreation, with 22 full-time employees, nine seasonal employees, and one part-time employee, is responsible for facility and grounds maintenance for 28 parks as well as grounds maintenance and planting beds for most Ponca City facilities, such as City Hall, the Library, Hutchins Memorial Auditorium, Marland's Grand Home, the Police Station, three Fire stations, and the Marland Mansion.

In addition, Parks & Recreation is responsible for the maintenance of L.A. Cann Gardens, the downtown planting beds, and approximately 43 miles of curb edging on arterial streets. Park maintenance crews maintain the Pioneer Woman grounds and planting beds through an agreement with the State of Oklahoma.



MAYOR HOMER Nicholson, left, received the Mayor of the Year Award for cities larger than 5,000 in population from the Mayors Council of Oklahoma in October 2012. The award was presented by Mayor Randy Ross of Choctaw during the Oklahoma Municipal League conference in Oklahoma City. Nicholson is the third Ponca City Mayor to win the Mayor of the Year Award. The other two were Marilyn Andrews and Tom Leonard. (News File Photo)

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# Victory Worship Is the Connecting Church



LOCATED IN THE heart of the city at the corner of Sixth and Hartford, Victory Worship Center serves as a connecting point between Jesus, people, ministries and the community. (News File Photo by Rolf Clements)

"The Connecting Church" best describes Ponca City's Victory Worship Center. Located in the heart of the city at the corner of Sixth & Hartford, Victory serves as a connecting point between Jesus, people, ministries and the community! Victory is a growing, thriving

church with the 2014 theme of "ADVANCE THE KINGDOM!" The church eagerly welcomes and integrates guests and is well known for its friendly people and hospitable atmosphere. The general culture of Victory is rich with many cultures and ethnic groups that

are representative of the community. Worship is high priority at Victory with a contemporary worship style of high octane praise and energetic worship. At Victory, 'worship' is our middle name!

Victory is a church on a mission to connect all people to

Jesus Christ to build growing disciples of Jesus Christ by REACHING the unchurched, TEACHING the believers, and SERVING the community. Victory's vision is to be a progressive, influential church empowering people with a passion for God. Victory's ultimate goal is to be a vital part of the fabric of the community.

This year marks Victory's 44th year of service to the Ponca City/Kay County community at three different locations, with Senior Pastor Rick Hughes and his wife Val celebrating their 24th year of ministry to this congregation. Over the years the church has made many positive changes in order to accommodate a growing congregation. Consistent growth led the church to the present central location eight years ago because of its high visibility and opportunities for expansion.

Pastor Hughes emphasizes that "Victory is all about building people. Ministry and activities are planned for every age group with the end result being transformed lives. We're thrilled to be right in the heart of the city, and believe God has directed us to this location with a mandate to impact our community!"

Victory is highly committed to the community through various ministries, Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" seminars annually, quarterly

OBI blood drives, "Gotcha Covered" prayer ministry for law enforcement, jail ministry at the Kay County Detention Center, as well as serving as host to community gatherings.

Victory is often recognized in the community by its fundraising efforts, which annually include Antiquities portraits, Indian tacos and peanut brittle, to name a few. The church is quite active in various missions projects and supports 34 missionaries worldwide.

Victory's weekly service schedule is as follows: Sunday - Pastor's Prayer Force from 9-9:30 am in the Prayer Room, followed by Victory Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary from 10 am - Noon. Wednesday is Family Night which includes Family Worship from 7-7:30 pm, followed by the Family Education Hour (Christian education classes for all age groups) from 7:30-8:30 pm. Victory also hosts monthly activi-

ties for students. Victory is blessed with many children and offers outstanding KIDZ ministries. Victory Singles are active with activities and dinners.

Prayer is a high priority at Victory with weekly prayer activities and a monthly 12-hour prayer chain always on the schedule. Many special services and guest speakers are also scheduled throughout the year. Guests are warmly welcomed at every service. Victory is a guest-friendly congregation and is always seeking new members!

Victory is a contemporary Bible-believing, Spirit-filled church that is Apostolic in doctrine, Pentecostal in experience, Contemporary in worship, and Christian in lifestyle. For more information, visit a scheduled service, call the church at 765-3872 or visit us on the web at [www.victoryworshipcenter.net](http://www.victoryworshipcenter.net).

## City Owns, Operates Municipal Landfill

The City of Ponca City owns and operates a municipal landfill located southwest of the City. The landfill serves Kay County and parts of Osage, Noble, and Grant counties. The site was permitted in 1989 and has been continuously serving north-central Oklahoma ever since.

The public, whether commercial or individual, is welcome to bring their trash and debris to the Ponca City Land-

fill for disposal. Call the Landfill for their hours of operation, charges, and a listing of prohibited materials.

The current cell (cell #3) is a fully compliant sub title D cell. What this means is that the cell is constructed of a compacted clay sub grade, covered with a thick geo-membrane and geo-fabric which is covered over with a protective layer of sand.

A leachate collection sys-

tem is also a part of this liner system.

Landfill Cell #3 was completed and placed in service in 2008. It is anticipated this nine-acre cell will last about 10 years at current volumes. Life expectancy of the entire 80-acre site is estimated at 80 years using current volume figures.

A compactor is the most useful machine at the landfill. It weighs 52,000 pounds and

is used to compact the trash into a very tight, "compacted" layer. This important piece of equipment enables the landfill crew to put more trash into less space, maximizing the room in the landfill and prolonging the life of the landfill cells.

Carl Porter is the landfill supervisor.

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CODY BESS is the Trade and Industry Student of the Month for May 2014. Bess is a lifetime resident of Tonkawa, where he graduated from Tonkawa Public schools. He has strong academic skills and work ethic which enabled him to earn a ConocoPhillips Educational Scholarship for Process Technician and Instrumentation. He graduated in May 2013 with an Associate's of Applied Science in Process Technology from Northern Oklahoma College. Upon completion of the degree, he attended Pioneer Technology Center to acquire the hands on knowledge of Process Technology and Instrumentation through the Industrial Technology Instrumentation program. Pictured left to right Kahle Goff, Instructional Director; Cody Bess; Richard Reese, Industrial Technology Instructor and Traci Thorpe Executive Director of Instructional Services.



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# Economic Development In a Changing World

The Ponca City Development Authority, (PCDA) is the economic development agency serving the Ponca City area. PCDA is a public agency, formed in July 2003, with the mission of diversifying the local economy. The organization, which works closely with the City of Ponca City as its independent economic development agency, is governed by a seven member Board of Trustees.

All PCDA Trustees are volunteers with no financial ties to the Authority, who oversee the use of a five year, one half cent sales tax dedicated to economic development, which was extended for five additional years by voters in January, 2013. Trustees are appointed by the Mayor and City Commission to serve three year terms.

PCDA's focus is on the growth of economic base jobs in Ponca City. An economic base job is one which produces a product or service that is exported outside of the community in return for the importation of cash. PCDA assists the City of Ponca City and the Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce in promotional activities aimed at retailers but PCDA does not provide any incentives for restaurants or stores.

The growth of economic base jobs occurs largely in existing local companies. For this reason, business retention and expansion (BR&E) is PCDA's top priority. The vast majority of new jobs in any community come from companies that are already located in that city and Ponca City is no exception. BR&E can take many forms due to the diversification of the companies that exist in Ponca City. One company may need assistance finding skilled workers; another may need to find a supplier for a specific product; another may have outgrown their current location and be looking for a larger location. Retaining a company in Ponca City is a top priority and the PCDA staff spends most of its time working with exist-

ing industries on these and other issues.

Business recruitment, which typically garners the most media attention in the economic development industry, is important to PCDA and the community has a significant number of companies who have worked with PCDA to locate in Ponca City. Since 2009, PCDA has played a leadership role in the recruitment of ten new companies producing almost 800 new jobs with an average hourly wage rate of \$15.12. This is in addition to the expansion and retention of existing jobs mentioned above.

One of the tools used by PCDA are economic development incentives. Contrary to public perception, incentives are not cash grants. In fact, PCDA cannot legally provide a grant of any kind. Incentives are also not a reward nor are they widely available to any industry or any company.

Incentives are only used when it is deemed that they will make the difference in the creation of certain economic base jobs. PCDA carefully evaluates the economic impact of the use of incentives and then requires a company to enter a binding agreement which guarantees they will perform as promised before receiving an incentive. In addition, with few exceptions, incentives are restricted to providing "hard assets" tied exclusively to permanent Ponca City facilities, not operating capital.

Economic development, however, does require some risk. The Ponca City economy is no longer tied to a single company or a single industry. As such changes to the global economy often bring changes to the opportunities and challenges of local companies. Ponca City's economic development efforts face significant challenges from communities throughout the world so PCDA must both respond in a competitive manner to the needs of companies and agreements

with companies must reflect the fact that change is inevitable in today's economy.

With change in mind, perhaps the greatest current challenge facing the Ponca City economy is the need for a larger and more skilled workforce. The growth of jobs made its welcome return to Ponca City in 2011 and now the focus is turned to filling jobs that have more than absorbed the local workforce. Companies are seeking people skilled in many different trades and it is becoming more difficult to find those skills in an area that is at full employment. In addition, the growth of unskilled jobs in Ponca City has opened up new opportunities for those without specific training, adding pressure to find people to fill jobs across the economic spectrum.

Ponca City's ability to move beyond a single company town to a dynamic American community which rides the national economic cycles is due in large part to the area's strong partnerships. Oklahoma in general and Ponca City more specifically have one of the few truly aggressive workforce training assets in the nation in Pioneer Technology Center, one of 28 campuses of the Oklahoma Career Tech system. In addition, workforce recruitment headquartered at the local Workforce Oklahoma Center on West Grand and assisted by local employment agencies and the PCDA Blue Wave workforce recruitment program and has been successful in meeting the needs of local employers.

The Chairman of the PCDA Board of Trustee is Kelly Johnson of Quality Water. Mark Southard, who recently retired from Phillips 66 serves as Vice Chair with Darin Wilson of the Albright Insurance Agency serving as the Board Secretary. City Commissioner Steve Hermann serves as a Trustee representing the City Commission on the board and Jim Stieber of Quarter Turn Resources also serves as a Trustee.

On April 26th, the City Commission appointed Joe DeNoya of Pemberton Chevrolet and Natalie Fraser of Lindsay Manufacturing to become Trustees beginning July 1st. They replace outgoing Trustees Jodi Cline of Edward Jones and Larry Murphy of the Larry Murphy Insurance Agency, both of whom face term limits when their current appointments end on June 30th. The Legal counsel for the organization is Walt Brune of Northcutt, Clark, Gardner, Hron and Brune and the Authority's Treasurer is Chuck Van Cleave, CPA of Van Cleave and Associates.

The staff at PCDA includes Executive Director, David



PONCA CITY Mayor Homer Nicholson, (left) administers the oath of office to PCDA Trustees Mark Southard (center) and Darin Wilson, (right). PCDA Trustees are appointed by the City Commission and serve three year terms.

Myers, who has served in that capacity since 2003. Laurence Beliel is the organization's Director of Business Retention and Expansion. Kat Long is the DataMaster, Lori Henderson is the Business Development & Financial Manager, Cynthia Brown serves as Administrative Assistant and Sarah Linn is the organization's new Blue

Wave Manager. As a public agency, all meetings of the Authority are open to the public. The Board holds one regular monthly meeting on the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, located at Fifth and Grand. All actions of the board require a public

vote. For more information about PCDA, including the opportunity to sign up for the Weekly Updates e-mail delivered every Friday on what is happening with economic development in Ponca City, visit our website [www.goponca.com](http://www.goponca.com) or Like PCDA at [www.facebook.com/PoncaCityDevelopmentAuthority](http://www.facebook.com/PoncaCityDevelopmentAuthority).



WORKERS ARE SHOWN installing a curb during a recent Ponca City Development Authority project to extend water and sewer lines at the intersection of Hall and Sykes Boulevard in the Airport Industrial Park.

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# Albright Church Located on South Palm

Family roots run deep at Albright United Methodist Church. The church stands on the foundation of beliefs that was laid by Jacob Albright, a Lutheran who had a profound conversion experience in 1791 at the age of 33.

Mr. Albright became a part of the early Methodist movement but he had a strong desire to take the Gospel message to those of his heritage - the Germans - in their native language. Thus, the Evangelical Church was born in 1800, which in many ways paralleled the work of the English speaking Methodists.

Albright United Methodist Church was originally organized in 1925 as the Lincoln Heights Chapel of The Evangelical Church. It soon changed its name to the First Evangelical Church. In 1946 the church became the First Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church when two denominations, The Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church, united. In 1968, The Evangelical United Brethren Church united with The Methodist Church, and the church took the name, The Albright United Methodist Church.

The original facilities consisted of a wooden chapel

building constructed in 1925 as a missionary project of the Kansas Conference of The Evangelical Church. A sanctuary was built adjacent to the chapel, the basement of which was placed in service in 1929.

Formal dedication of the new building was held November 23, 1930. The addition of the educational section to the building was accomplished in 1967. In 1990 another addition was completed which added an elevator.

Albright's current pastor is the Rev. Scott Spencer, a native of Enid, Oklahoma. After graduating from Oklahoma State University in 1991, he spent four years at Asbury Theology Seminary. He returned to Oklahoma and was ordained an Elder in the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1998.

Scott has served as an associate pastor at Altus FUMC (1995-97), the senior pastor of Lone Wolf UMC and Blair UMC (1997-2000), the director of the ecumenical United Campus Ministry at East Central University in Ada, OK (2000-2008), and as an associate pastor at Acts 2 UMC in Edmond, OK (2008-2010).

He began his ministry at



Pastor Scott Spencer

Albright in February 2010. Scott's interests include spiritual formation, worship, the sacraments, and the work of the Holy Spirit. In his free time, he enjoys reading, walking/hiking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Albright provides numerous educational opportu-



ALBRIGHT UNITED Methodist Church was originally organized in 1925 as the Lincoln Heights Chapel of The Evangelical Church. It soon changed its name to the First Evangelical Church.

nities including Sunday School classes for all ages, Bible study groups, Financial Peace University train-

ing, and has just become involved in the development of a co-operative youth program with the other United Methodist churches in Ponca City. Camping opportunities are available to children and youth.

The church has an active United Methodist Women's group as well as a quilting group and a prayer group that meet weekly. Music has been a key element in Albright's ministry. Outreach programs include tutoring for Lincoln Elementary students, regular involvement in Friendship Feast, participation in Ponca City clean up days and monthly food collections for Ponca City's New Emergency

Resource Agency. It also provides space for the Ponca City Rock Club each month and graduation programs for the Ponca City Drug Court.

The church also hosts a neighborhood breakfast the third Saturday of each month and is supportive of the Bridgeway program.

Sunday morning classes are held weekly at 9:15 and worship service is at 10:30. The church is located at 128 South Palm.

You can view the Sunday morning worship services on local cable channel three, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Additional information about the church can be found at its website [www.albrightumc.org](http://www.albrightumc.org).

## PC Electric Utility Leased to PCUA

The City of Ponca City's electric utility is leased to and operated by the Ponca City Utility Authority (PCUA) pursuant to a lease agreement dated June 1, 1984. The Ponca City Utility Authority's main responsibilities include:

- Financing future system improvements
- Paying operation and maintenance expenses
- Paying the debt service requirements on debt issued by the PCUA
- Promoting the acquisition, construction, and operation of various utility facilities, services, and public improvements in and for the City
- Receiving funds and the investment income earned
- Receiving revenues derived from the existence and operation of the utility systems (electric, water, sanitary sewer, and solid waste)

### Voicing Citizen Opinions

The Trustees of the PCUA are the same people who serve as the current Ponca City Board of Commissioners. Because Ponca City's public power system is owned by and is accountable to the people it serves, every citizen is a utility owner with access to information and a say in policies affecting their public power community. Through public meetings and at the ballot box, consumers have a direct voice in expressing their opinions about their utilities and about the community's goals and priorities.

Ponca City has its own distinctive characteristics (natural resources, geography, climate, economy, social opportunities and challenges, diversity of citizenry, and community spirit). These local characteristics must be taken into account when decisions

are made about electric rates and services, fuel generation, clean air and water, and other issues that affect the entire community.

The Ponca City Utility Authority (PCUA) Billing Office is considered a full-service office providing water, electric, sewer, and solid waste services to approximately 16,000 customers.

**Billing Cycles**  
The Billing Office processes approximately 200,000 bills each year. Statements are sent out in three different cycles depending on customer location with due dates varying with each billing cycle. Finalized accounts are sent out weekly. For customer convenience, a return envelope is included with your bill for payment. A drop box is located on Sixth Street, just east of City Hall, so that payments may be made after hours.

### Payment Options

Customers have the following options to pay their bills:  
Automatic Bank Draft  
Automatic Credit / Debit Card (Visa and MasterCard accepted)  
Billing Office  
Drop Box  
Online Bill Pay

### Late Payments

In recent years, the Billing Office has been able to keep their noncollectable (bad debt) to less than 1% of the Ponca City Utility Authority's annual revenue. Payment for service is due within 20 days of the sending date on the bill. Finalized accounts are due within fourteen days. If service is interrupted for nonpayment, a reconnection charge and a deposit will be required for reinstatement of service. If payment arrangements are needed, a customer may come into our office to set them up.

## Elks Lodge Supports Many Organizations

Ponca City Elks Lodge #2002 Did you ever wonder how these many local organizations had their start? Beginnings can be so inconsequential and grow to have such positive influence on a community. For instance the birth of our own Elks Lodge.

There was a 25 year old gentleman in Southampton, England by the name of Charlie Richardson, or Charles A. Vivian, a stage name that he preferred, who made his way to America in November of 1867. He had been a stage singer in England, but heard of the opportunities to entertain in the U.S.

He arrived on a commercial sailing vessel and was led to a place called John Ireland's Star Hotel & Chop House in New York City. His timing was just right, as the scheduled singer for that night was a no show. He worked his charms

on the owner and his tenor voice wove a spell over the crowd at the Star that night.

Charles Vivian went on to become a huge success and he not only attracted the audience, but made many friends in the entertainment field. He set up regular gatherings under the name of the Jolly Corks, which was the name of a group he belonged to in England. Since there was a blue law in New York City which banned entertainment on Sundays, the group would meet in the attic of a boarding house on Sunday evenings and the meeting would turn into a veritable variety show.

The Jolly Corks group grew until they not only attracted entertainers, but also the more respected professionals. These newcomers saw the need for guidelines and membership fees. A committee of 14 was appointed. Five

of them were born in England and the other 9 were American born. The majority wanted the society to be thoroughly American with a truly American name. The buffalo would have fit, but one of the members remembered the graceful towering antlers of a North American Elk that he had seen in P.T. Barnum's Museum, and it seemed to symbolize the ideas and values the group most wanted to stand for. Hence, the committee recommended that the group be called "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks" on February 16, 1868, the birthday of the organization.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the country. It has grown to include more than 1 million

men and women in more than 2100 communities.

Our local Ponca City Elks Lodge #2002, though small but growing, helps to support many local organizations. We have given not only financial help, but personal support to Marland Children's Home, Operation Pioneer Spirit, Camp McFadden, Sr. High scholarships, to name just a few. We're a fun group with a serious purpose.

Membership applications are available at the Lodge, 3612 Lake Road, or contact any member. We are more than willing to help with your membership.

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## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

# Please Join Us!

- **Casual Praise Worship** *Sundays 8:30 am & 10:45 am,*
- **Traditional Worship** *Sundays 10:45 am*
- **Kids "ROCK" for Jesus Worship** *First Sunday of each month, 10:45 am, for kids 5-10 years old*
- **Kids Special Time** *Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 am - noon, for infants thru 5-year olds*
- **KidZone Free after-school program** *Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:30 pm \**
- **S.P.Y. (St. Paul's Youth)** *Sundays 5 pm, Wednesdays 6:30 pm*
- **Music Ministry** *Bell and Chancel Choirs*
- **Wednesday Family Dinner** *5:30 pm \**
- **Bible Studies** *Women's and Men's, Wednesdays 6:30 pm*

*\*During school year*

**Pecan & Hartford • Ponca City • 765-7512**  
[www.stpaulspc.com](http://www.stpaulspc.com) • St. Paul's UMC on Facebook

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- Industrial Technology
- Machine Tool Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Practical Nursing
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## Courthouse in Newkirk



THE KAY County Courthouse is located on Main Street in Newkirk. Built in 1894, it was replaced with the current stone courthouse in 1926. (News Photo by Sharon Rowen)

# Transit To Offer June Youth Summer Shuttle

Cimarron Public Transit will again spotlight children with a Summer Youth Shuttle Program. Youth up to 17 years of age can stay connected and join in local activities using the local public transit system at a cost of one dollar each ride, within the city limits. The program is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during the month of June. Keeping kids active and connected to safe places to engage in the community is essential, according to Laura Corff, supervisor for Cimarron Transit.

"We would also like to encourage families without vehicles to save money by traveling together," Corff confirmed. "Parents can schedule medical appointments for kids or enjoy a family outing at one of the local parks."

Rides are curb to curb and should be scheduled by calling the dispatcher between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The courtesy of a 24 hour advance notice is requested. All trips are scheduled on a first call basis and are subject to availability. Standing appointments will be considered.

Parents of youth under the age of 13 will be expected to schedule trips and provide contact

information. Youth 12 and older can ride unaccompanied.

One parent or guardian can ride free when traveling with youth, as long as the trip originations and destinations remain the same. Groups of up to five youth can ride one-way for a maximum charge of \$3.00.

Destinations can include but are not limited to the Ponca City Public Library, Ponca Bowl, Ponca City Aquatic and Family Center/ YMCA, Wentz Golf Course and church activities.

Parents need to be aware of facility requirements and age limitations when scheduling trips for their children.

All riders are expected to buckle up and obey rules related to riding the transit. No fighting, throwing of any objects, pushing, rough or loud behavior or vulgar language will be tolerated. Riders are expected to cancel a ride at least 30 minutes prior to the driver's arrival, if the ride is no longer needed. In the event of a closing or discipline problems, youth will be returned to their point of origin.

Contact 718-0444 or email lcorff@ucapinc.org for more information.

## Amateur Radio Club Meets

The Kay County Amateur Radio Club supports the activities of Amateur Radio ("Ham") operators throughout Kay County and the North Central Oklahoma area including Ponca City, Kaw City, Shidler, Tonkawa, Newkirk, and Blackwell. The club is an ARRL (American Radio Relay League) service club offering training classes, mentoring, license testing and repeater access. The club actively supports the operations of the Kay County Emergency Management Office and is involved in numerous community events.

KCARC operates three open FM repeaters located in the Ponca City, Oklahoma area.

If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator, join us on the air! We have 2 meter repeaters on 146.970 MHz (No PL) and 146.730 MHz (No PL). We also operate a 440 repeater on 444.700 MHz (PL 88.5).

All repeaters are open and available to club members and non-members alike.

Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are normally held at the KCARC club station, located at the Salvation Army Center, 711 S. 3rd. in Ponca City.

In addition, the club also holds a monthly Club Breakfast.

If you would like more information about the Kay County Amateur Radio Club, or would like to join, please contact us at P.O. Box 2750, Ponca City, OK 74602. Stop by one of our meetings or email us at members@kacountyhams.com. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming meetings or chatting on the air with you.

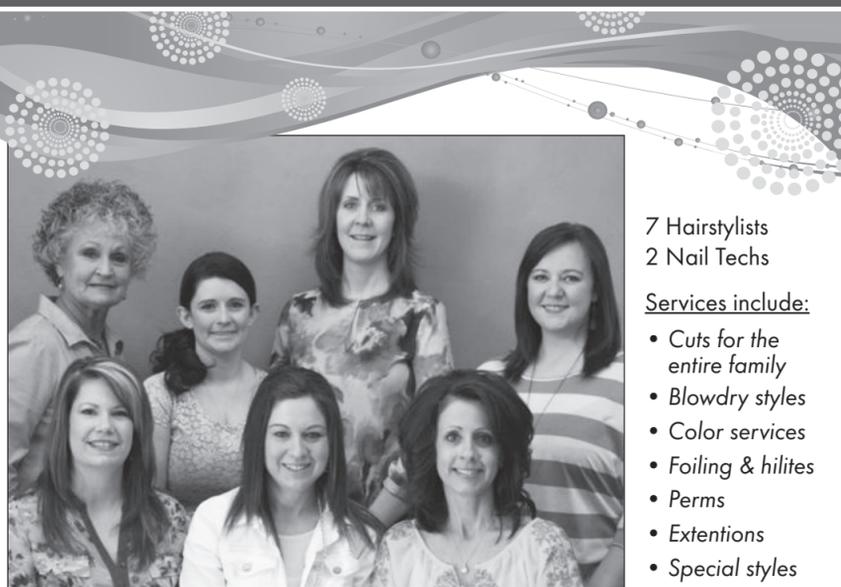
For more information visit our website at www.kaycountyhams.com.

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Front, L to R Lori Braden, Katie Ehrlich and Kim Vap  
Back, L to R: Carol Wright, Shanna Jones, Chrissie Shook, Salon Coordinator and Jacque Salmons  
Not pictured is Heather Schneeberger

**HOURS: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9-7, Fri. 9-6 & Sat. 9-2**  
Walk-ins welcome, appointments suggested



THE PONCA CITY Wastewater Division currently has two projects that have received funding from the stimulus program. One project is to install a 450KW generator at the main lift station to provide power during an electrical outage.

## Two Projects Receive Funds

The City's Wastewater Division is responsible for the:

- Disposal of residual solids (sludge)
- Operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection system
- Treatment of sewage

A group of dedicated professionals from this division maintains a collection system that includes 177 miles of pipes and 12 pump stations and operates a treatment plant with a capacity of 9 million gallons per day.

### Current Projects

The Division currently has two projects that have received funding from the stimulus program.

One project is to install a 450KW generator at the main lift station to provide power during an electrical outage.

The other project is to replace a 30+ year old lift station that serves the north-central part of the City.

The total cost for both projects is \$439,000. The stimulus funding will reduce our cost by as much as 20 percent.

## Making Every Moment Matter



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- Pet Therapy
- Pet Peace of Mind Program
- We Honor Veterans
- Memory Bears & Quilts
- Equipment Loan to the Community
- Children's Grief Camp
- Raindrops Program

"The level of caring the Hospice of North Central employees demonstrate is amazing. A few days after I lost my husband, I saw one of his nurses in a store and she put her arms around me and let me cry. Compassion & caring are so important and everyone I've dealt with has had this and much more."

- Spouse of a patient

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## We're Moving!

Donations are needed to support our renovation project. We are grateful for the community's support of this critical initiative, and hope you will join in our efforts!

### "A Gift of Caring" Mail-In Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Remain Anonymous.  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Making Full Donation of: \_\_\_\_\_  PLEASE MATCH MY DONATION  
Any Donations over \$100 up to \$500,000  
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Pledge payments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2013 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2014 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2015  
 Please charge this to my credit card:  Master Card  VISA  Discover Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Credit Card Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name As it Appears on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Matching Gift: Employer \_\_\_\_\_  Matching Gift Enclosed  Form Will Be Sent to HoNCO

Please mail donation & form to: Hospice of North Central Oklahoma  
1904 N. Union, Suite 103, Ponca City, OK 74601

On-line donations also welcome: www.hospiceofnorthcentraloklahoma.com



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23 YEARS IN PONCA CITY

# Senior Center Welcomes Newcomers

What a terrific year at the Ponca City Senior Center! There is nothing we enjoy more than showing off pictures of our pets. During the month of May we held a "pet photo" contest. Winners included, Dorinda Howe, Ebbey Jacobs, Leo Shook and Beverly Graves. This activity is just one of the many fun activities held at the center.



PONCA CITY Line Dancers in a May performance.

Ponca City Senior Center, located at 319 W. Grand is operated under the direction of City Park and Recreation department. The center regularly schedules activities geared toward their clientele. From bingo, daily exercise, potluck dinners to live weekly music, the senior center is often a favorite place for senior citizens to find free entertainment and make new friends. During the month of June two health programs will be sponsored during the covered dish events. Monday June 16th, Dr. Vic Andrews will discuss sleep apnea as seen from a dentist prospective. Monday, June 30 Jennie Creech, of Brookdale Living Center will conduct a program titled "Can Alzheimer Disease Be Prevented?" The public is invited to attend by calling the center at 763-8051.

The center is reinventing programs to meet the needs and desires of the aging baby boomer generation. Boomers now constitute more than two-thirds of the 50+ population. Senior centers are developing new programs and opportunities for this dynamic generation, including four line dance classes weekly that include, basic steps, beyond beginners, advanced and a Tuesday evening class at 5:00. Line dance instructors are Mary Murray and Cheryl Knowlton. A new program the center offers is the "Forever Young" choir, led by Judi Page. Singing offers physical and emotional therapy to the participants while group participation offers a social outlet and opportunities to bless others through monthly performances. Other

new programs offered are the Wood carving classes led by Dennis Bond, and a bridge group.

Every Tuesday evening you will find a local band, led by Joe Tompkins playing music for listening or dancing beginning at 6:00. The center is also open until 8:00 P.M. on Friday evenings for games, pool, computer lab, dominos and monthly bunco games. You are invited to bring a snack item to share at 5 p.m. with games beginning at 5:30.

For those who maybe embarking on a challenging journey with a medical illness themselves or a loved one the center offers three support groups. Alzheimer's, Lupus and Parkinson's, meet monthly. Please call for times for each of these events.

Housed within the center is Wheatheart Nutrition program providing meals Monday- Friday with a suggested \$2.00 donation. Reservations are required by calling 767-1620 before 1:00 P.M. the day prior.

Transportation: The city has contracted with Cimarron Transit to provide free rides to and from the center. For daily schedule of pick up

and return ride times contact Cimarron at 718-0444.

The latest Senior Center project under construction is the "Senior Resource File". The center is actively contacting and collecting information regarding senior programs and services throughout the community. Marie Trenary, programming specialist states: It is almost a daily event for someone new to Ponca City or someone who has lived here for many years to come to the center, seeking and requesting information. The Senior Center is the natural place to visit when seeking senior information". Questions like "I want to keep mom or dad at home longer, are there resources available to help me do that." The Resource File will range from senior housing, hearing, vision, dental services, life line, mental health, transportation as well as other senior needs.

The center is in the process of collecting information and invites any of the area programs to contact the senior center office to update any information your agency or programs may include. Also the center is in the process of collecting email addresses that will enable quick communication for agency contacts.

There are no fees or charges for any Senior Center Program. The center serves seniors 50+?. The Ponca City Senior Center has so much to offer and welcome new comers to Ponca City.

## Hutchins Built in 1962

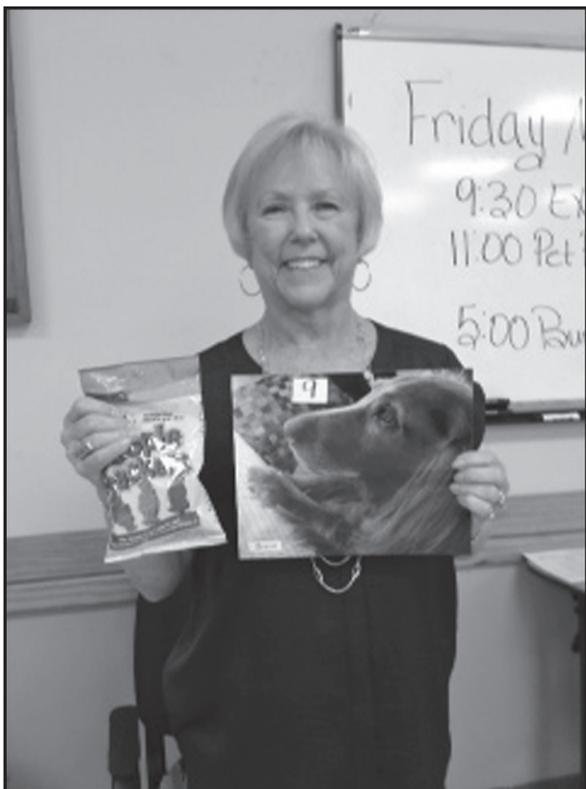
The Hutchins Memorial Auditorium was built in 1962 from funds provided by Mrs. Edna Hutchins in memory of her late husband, Mr. James S. Hutchins. The building was designed by John Duncan Forsyth and cost \$775,000 for the benefit of the citizens of Ponca City.

**Previous Events**  
The building has served the community as a multi-functional facility with a capacity of 1,700 people. It has been set up for many different events, including:

- Auto and boat shows
- Banquets
- City-sponsored functions
- Concerts
- Craft fairs
- Dances
- Pageants
- School programs
- Sporting events
- Trade shows
- Training seminars



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# Standing Bear Park Is Popular Attraction

Since the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center opened in 2007 it has become a popular attraction for visitors as well as becoming an important educational facility. Over the past several years there have been registered visitors from 48 states and 20 foreign countries. The facility has been used by area businesses and community members for meetings, training sessions, and social events as well as school field trips from Ponca City and the surrounding area.

The museum gift shop is a popular shopping spot for Native American artwork and features an extensive selection of Clyde Otipoby pottery.

The Standing Bear Native American Foundation has, as its primary mission, education. Through a cooperative program with Northern Oklahoma College, and a long standing partnership with area schools, the Foundation has come to play an important role in educating "all peoples to the important role and heritage of Native Americans in the development of our country's diverse culture."

Each of the six area tribes; Kaw, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca, and Tonka-wa, have display cases in the Rotunda that feature artifacts, historical documents, and artwork.

These cases are maintained by the individual tribes and therefore reflect their cultural differences. The Exhibit Hall is home to several displays and has, over the years, been utilized for traveling and temporary exhibits. Featured currently is an exhibit titled

"The Camera's Eye" which pays tribute to six area photographers who have, over the years, captured the events and activities of the Standing Bear project.

The photos in the exhibit range from portrait style pictures of event participants, to more abstract type photography taken throughout the park. The Art Gallery and Education room house permanent displays of artwork including the original paintings created by Mike Wimmer for the book The Trial of Standing Bear written by former Governor Frank Keating.

In September 2012, work was completed on the most recent phase of park development, one that was made possible through a Scenic Byway grant. Ponca City is located at the west end of the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Byway and the Standing Bear site serves as an interpretive center for the entire 70 mile stretch of Highway 60.

The enhanced signage at the entrance and expanded parking has brought even more visitors to the park and museum, offering the opportunity to promote other Ponca City attractions as well.

As part of that enhancement project, a new piece of sculpture was added at the entrance to the museum. A bronze titled "Inspiration" by Allan Houser is the focal point of the Founders' Court.

For more information about the Standing Bear Native American Foundation and its projects please contact the museum at 590-762-1514 or email info@standingbearpark.com.



SINCE THE Standing Bear Museum and Education Center opened in 2007 it has become a popular attraction for visitors as well as becoming an important educational facility.

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## PCMC Earns Accreditation

Ponca City Medical Center (PCMC) has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in hospitals. The accreditation award recognizes PCMC's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards.

PCMC underwent a rigorous unannounced on-site survey in January. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the hospital for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"In achieving Joint Commis-

sion accreditation, Ponca City Medical Center has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients," says Mark G. Pelletier, R.N., M.S., chief operating officer, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission.

"Accreditation is a voluntary process and I commend Ponca City Medical Center for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

"With Joint Commission accreditation, we are making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down. Joint Com-

mission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," said Andy Wachtel, PCMC CEO. "Achieving Joint Commission accreditation, for our organization, is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of hospitals.

The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

## Four Fire Stations Located Across City

The Ponca City Fire Department serves a population of more than 26,000 people and an area of 400 square miles. Response units and personnel are deployed from four stations strategically located throughout the City.

### Training

All firefighters are cross-trained in both firefighting and emergency medical techniques and can respond to:

- Hazardous materials incidents
- Medical emergencies due to injury or sickness
- Structure fires
- Technical rescue situations
- Vehicle extractions

Ponca City firefighters operate on three different 24-hour shifts, each running from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Each shift trains together, as well as maintains fire and emergency medical service apparatus.

Butch Herring is the fire chief.

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