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## Just One Week Until Riverboat Days 2014!

BY KATIE GREENE  
Yankton Riverboat Days

A whole year of organizing, scheduling and planning for Riverboat Days 2014 culminates a week from today (Friday) down at Riverside Park! Official opening ceremonies begins at 6 p.m. in the amphitheatre. A special thanks to Scott Kooistra for always saying yes and being able to roll with all the changes and additions I give him right before he heads out on stage.

Schedules — the most asked-for item during Riverboat Days — have been printed and delivered to various locations around town. If you have not found one yet, you can print a version off of our website — [www.riverboatdays.com](http://www.riverboatdays.com) — or visit me at the information booth during the weekend.

Riverboat Days raffle tickets are available! Take time out to purchase a chance at winning some great prizes and ultimately supporting Riverboat Days. This festival is completely self-sufficient, but we do rely on donations and volunteers to make as many events as possible free to the public. If you would like to purchase tickets, find a board member or stop by the Services Center Federal Credit Union to do so. The drawing will take place Sunday, Aug. 17, at 4:30 p.m. down at Riverside Park in the information booth. You do not need to be in the park to win, but you do need to purchase tickets to win!

Riverboat Days has purchased tickets for anyone needing or wanting to ride the River City Transit system to the park during the weekend. You can catch a ride on Friday from 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday from 9 a.m.-midnight, and Sunday from noon-6 p.m. The five locations that the transit will stop at are: The Yankton Mall, The Summit Center, Avera Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, The Center (900 Whiting Drive) and Riverside Park.

Sunday will mark the first Riverboat Days Mud Volleyball Tournament. Tammy Johnson had the great idea, and she has taken this event under her wing and is making it happen! Matches will begin at 8 a.m. and will go until the afternoon.

Finally, a special thank you goes out to this year's Captain and Belle, Chopper and Marlene Johnson. Despite not getting a year off from Riverboat Days duties after their retirement, they have offered to spend more time than ever promoting our community and our great event. I am always impressed with their constant good attitudes and ability

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# Ponca's Gathering

## 21st Annual Powwow Set For This Weekend Near Niobrara

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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NIORARA, Neb. — As the Ponca Tribe's cultural affairs director, Gloria Hamilton expects hundreds of visitors for this weekend's 21st annual powwow.

Throughout its history, the powwow has attracted participants and spectators from different tribes and far beyond northeast Nebraska, Hamilton said.

"We have people coming from all over the place," she said. "We have them coming from California, from Arkansas and Tennessee, and from Oklahoma."

The powwow will run today (Friday) through Sunday at the Ponca Community Grounds, located 4 1/2 miles southwest of Niobrara. Admission to all events is free, and the powwow is open to the public.

To reach the grounds, travel one mile west of Niobrara on Nebraska Highway 12. Then, turn left at the Ponca sign — located across Niobrara State Park — and follow the pavement to the powwow grounds.

Grand entries will begin at 7 p.m. tonight, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Meals will be provided to all in attendance an hour before each grand entry.

The meals represent the Ponca Tribe's hospitality and are served to anyone on the grounds, Hamilton said. "We feed from 350 to 500 at a meal," she said.

The powwow will offer a variety of dancers, drum groups and vendors. However, the powwow also celebrates the tribe's culture, heritage and traditions.

The 3,600-member Ponca Tribe, along with the Omaha, Santee Sioux and Winnebago, are considered the four tribes indigenous to Nebraska.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska was terminated in the 1960s, but its federal recognition as a sovereign tribe was restored in 1990. The tribe, headquartered in Niobrara, doesn't have a reservation. However, the tribe maintains five office sites for a 15-county service delivery area across Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

This weekend's non-contest powwow is meant to serve as an annual gathering and celebration of families and friends, Hamilton said.

"It's more of a sharing and gathering place for relatives and friends to meet," she said. "Some people haven't seen each other for a lot of years, and we have some who have come to every single powwow. If people are camping, we will have late hours of visiting around the campground."

While the modern-day Ponca Tribe's powwow has been held for two decades, powwows go far back in American Indian history, Hamilton said.

"What did they have back in the day? It wasn't recorded (with cameras), so we rely on oral history," she said. "Some powwows go back 100 or 120 years, but they have remained an annual gathering for meeting up with other tribes."

The Ponca Tribe's powwow follows a more traditional format, Hamilton said. The sessions open with a grand entry. Spectators can expect to witness a wide variety of dancers and drum groups.

"We have no age limits, and we have participants and spectators from all ages," she said. "We have tiny tots, some of them barely walking, on up through a lot of elders."



PHOTO: PONCA TRIBE  
This participant performs a traditional American Indian dance during the Ponca Tribe powwow. The 21st annual powwow will run from today (Friday) through Sunday at the grounds located 4 1/2 miles southwest of Niobrara, Nebraska. The powwow traditionally draws hundreds of participants and spectators from across the nation. The event is free and open to the public.

The dancers' dress will range from the more traditional regalia to the more colorful dancers who wear regalia such as the fancy shawl or jingle dress, Hamilton said.

"When we talk of traditional, it's not referring to the dance so much as the regalia they wear," she said. "The traditional men may have feathers, while the women may have a shawl over their arms. The fancy dancers have a lot of shiny, sparkly regalia."

With the whirling motions, some dancers in brilliant

colors and fancy shawls look similar to birds flying, Hamilton said.

One group of dancers represents a special aspect of powwows, Hamilton said.

"The grass dancers' duty at the beginning of the powwow is to stomp on the grass in the circle until it's flat," she said. "Most of the grass dancers are the younger men."

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## Hansen Wins Top Prize At Mighty Mo Show

The Mighty Mo Show Exhibit opened to a full G.A.R. Hall on Friday, Aug. 1. The Best of Show Award went to Pat Hansen for her panoramic submission, "Tale of Two Bridges." Honorable Mention was given to Sam Stukel for his haunting photo, "Gone are the Bison." The People's Choice Award is still pending to allow more viewers to visit the gallery and to vote.

The theme for 2015 Mighty Mo Show is "Mighty Mo: A River for All Seasons"

The brainchild of the late John Day, the Mighty Mo Show features the marriage of photography and the varied faces of the Missouri, a passion Mr. Day shared. His desire to combine his keen interest in photography, his love for the Missouri and the popularity of Riverboat Days makes this annual event

one of the most popular participated and anticipated exhibits.

YAA sponsored the Mighty Mo category in the South Dakota State Poetry Society (SDSPS) for their 2013 Competition. It was from these selections which the 2014 Mighty Mo Show photographers interpreted. Marilyn Kratz SDSPS member, personally read her submission entitled, "What Makes The River Laugh," one of the more widely interpreted poems.

The Mighty Mo Show also has a Promise to Purchase feature. Several local businesses were invited to purchase their favorite picture prior to the opening of the show. Special thanks to South Dakota Magazine, Home Federal, Avera Sacred Heart and Yankton Dental for their participation and contribution.



COURTESY PHOTO

New Yankton Area Arts Executive Director Julie Amsberry is shown with 2014 Mighty Mo Photo Show Best of Show winner Pat Hansen. Hansen's winning entry "A Tale of Two Bridges" is pictured in the background.

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