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News Release
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News media: Please see the schedule below for the party or parties in your coverage area.

Nebraska Statehood Day birthday parties scheduled

LINCOLN – Some 3,000 students are expected to attend 10 Nebraska Statehood Day birthday parties throughout the state from Feb. 27 to March 3.

Secretary of State John Gale, the NEBRASKAland Foundation and the Nebraska Humanities Council sponsor the parties.

The parties will be held in Kearney, McCook, Scottsbluff, Chadron, O’Neill, Wayne, Omaha, Boys Town, Lincoln and Grand Island.

Participating students will enjoy musical entertainment, sing-a-longs and people in historical costumes. The students also will have the opportunity to show off their knowledge of Nebraska history.

The parties are part of a broad mission by Gale to provide civics education to the state’s youth.

“The aim of the parties is to have fun in an educational setting,” he said. “We hope to encourage the students to develop state pride and become engaged citizens.”

Gale is scheduled to attend all 10 parties. He will appear in costume as the character “Cactus Jack,” and entertainers Chris Sayre and David Seay will portray “Sodbuster Sam” and Deadwood Dave,” respectively.

The Nebraska Army National Guard will provide color guards at most of the parties.

The parties are geared for fourth-grade students because they study Nebraska history during the school year. The parties are limited to classes that make reservations.

The parties will observe the 139th anniversary of Nebraska becoming a state on March 1, 1867.

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Schedule of parties

Kearney: 9:30 a.m. Feb. 27, Nebraska Student Union, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

McCook: 1:30 p.m. Feb. 27, True Hall Gymnasium, McCook Community College.

Scottsbluff: 9:30 a.m. (MST) Feb. 28, Cougar Palace, Western Community College.

Chadron: 1:30 p.m. (MST) Feb. 28, Student Center, Chadron State College.

O'Neill: 9:15 a.m. March 1, gymnasium, O'Neill Elementary School.

Wayne: 1:30 p.m. March 1, Peterson Fine Arts Building, Wayne State College.

Omaha: 9:30 a.m. March 2, Durham Western Heritage Museum.

Boys Town: 1:30 p.m. March 2, Palrang Field House.

Lincoln: 9:30 a.m. March 3, gymnasium, Southeast Community College.

Grand Island: 1:30 p.m. March 3, Stuhr Museum.

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