



From the Office of Secretary of State

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Nebraska birthday celebration takes on new technology

LINCOLN – Even if they can't be there in person, Nebraska 4th graders are invited to take part in the 146th Statehood Birthday Party. For the first time, the event will be streamed live on the internet.

The event itself will take place at the Durham Museum, March 12 at 9:30 a.m. More than 400 4th grade students and their teachers from Omaha Public, Omaha Catholic and Bellevue Schools will be entertained by Cactus Jack (Secretary of State John Gale), Deadwood Dave (Chris Sayre), Sodbuster Sam (David Seay) and Julia Jubilee (Julia Gale). This is the 12th year for this event. In the past, Gale, Sayre and Seay have traveled from city to city with their show entertaining 3,000 students a year. They play a variety of instruments, sing songs and quiz students about their knowledge of state history.

"We are delighted to be hosted by Durham Museum for this event," said Gale. "The Durham has been a great partner of ours over the years. To use their very modern technology is a wonderful gesture on the part of the museum."

This year, with the assistance of Durham Museum, students from five other schools will also be taking part, through distance learning technology. Those schools are: Bayard, Pleasanton, Wahoo, Superior, and Plainview.

"At a time when we are trying to do more with less when it comes to our state budgets, the ability for us to use such technology is a real bonus," said Gale. "It

allows us to achieve our goal of reaching out to Nebraska's youth, and in a way that possibly exceeds what we were able to do before."

In addition to the five distance learning schools, the Statehood Birthday Party will be streamed live across the state, courtesy of a link set up through ESU10.

"That bridge will be open and ready for teachers to use starting at 9:15 a.m.," explained Mike Irwin, distance learning coordinator for the Durham Museum.

To dial in, teachers should complete the following three steps.

1. Enter this URL in the web browser: <http://vc.esu10.org>
2. Click on the "Live Video" tab at the top of the ESU10 home page.
3. Select "Nebraska Birthday Party"

"We hope that teachers and their students will join us for this event," said Gale.

"We offer a program that is not only entertaining; hopefully, it also fosters a sense of pride and interest in Nebraska and what our state is all about."

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