

More Cities Are Recognizing Native Americans On Columbus Day

BY MARY HUDETZ
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — More cities are recognizing Native Americans on Columbus Day this year as they revive a movement to change the name of the holiday to celebrate the history and contributions of indigenous cultures around the country.

As the U.S. observes Columbus Day on Monday, it will also be Indigenous Peoples Day in at least nine cities for the first time this year, including Albuquerque; Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Olympia, Washington.

Encouraged by city council votes in Minneapolis and Seattle last year, Native American activists made a push in dozens of cities in recent months to get local leaders to officially recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day. Their success was mixed.

The campaigns say the federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus — and the parades and pageantry

accompanying it — overlook a painful history of colonialism, enslavement, discrimination and land grabs that followed the Italian explorer's 1492 arrival in the Americas. The indigenous holiday takes into account the history and contributions of Native Americans for a more accurate historical record, activists have argued.

Columbus Day supporters say the holiday celebrates centuries of cultural exchange between America and Europe, commemorates an iconic explorer and honors Italian-Americans, a group that has endured its own share of discrimination.

"For the Native community here, Indigenous Peoples Day means a lot. We actually have something," said Nick Estes of Albuquerque, who is coordinating a celebration Monday after the City Council recently issued a proclamation. "We understand it's just a proclamation, but at the same time, we also understand this is the beginning of something greater."

Native Americans are the nation's smallest demo-

graphic, making up about 2 percent of the U.S. population. In recent decades, a significant number of tribal members have moved from reservations to urban areas, where a large majority live today. The shift makes the cities' resolutions and proclamations more meaningful, Estes said.

Congress set aside the second Monday of October as a federal holiday honoring Columbus in 1934. Over the years, Native Americans have slowly begun winning more recognition around the day.

South Dakota renamed Columbus Day to Native American Day in 1990, and it has been an official state holiday ever since. Berkeley, California, has observed Indigenous Peoples Day since 1992.

Parades and festivals that developed around Columbus Day have faced protests that are known for being confrontational, especially in Denver. Anna Vann, a longtime member of the Sons of Italy's Denver Lodge, recalls protests during the 1992 parade, which marked the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage, as the

most unnerving and pivotal.

That year, protesters blocked the parade route for several hours, she said. After that, the parade wasn't held again until 2000, and it has been difficult to make it the draw it once was, she said.

"It's been a struggle to even get people to come and attend the parades as spectators," Vann said. "It's a celebration of when the Europeans came over and started their lives here. We wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for this history."

The renewed push for Indigenous Peoples Day carries the sentiment of past decades' protests against Columbus, but it has proven less confrontational, with advocates instead finding traction at City Hall.

"They really didn't prove anything," Rey Garduno, an Albuquerque city councilman and longtime community organizer, said of the confrontational protests. "Whatever victory people took from them, you still ended up at the end of the day in the same place or even worse."

Text-To-911 Service Spreading Through Rural Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — New technology that lets cellphone users send texts to their local 911 call center is spreading through Nebraska, including rural areas where supporters say it could help save lives.

The service is already in place around Omaha and Kearney, but smaller counties are now asking the state for money to add the service at their facilities.

Douglas, Buffalo and Washington counties have all implemented text-to-911 services this year, and at least six others

— Keith, Dodge, Antelope, Dawes, Sarpy and Sheridan — filed funding requests to install it in their jurisdictions, according to the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

The service is intended to help people who can't call authorities directly, such as domestic violence victims who don't want their assailants to overhear them, or those who are hiding from a home invader.

It also could serve tornado victims when local phone systems become overwhelmed or people in rural areas with poor coverage, said Jeff Pursley,

executive director of the Nebraska Public Service Commission. Unlike calls that won't connect, phones will continuously try to send a text message until the network allows it.

Pursley said the expansion of services is part of a broader state effort to adopt Next Generation 911 — a system that allows callers to send photos, videos and text messages to emergency responders.

"This is a very important tool," Pursley said. "I think (text-to-911) was certainly something we needed to do and that the public expected."

Church

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restore people to a fellowship with God," Mueller said. "By that, I mean that it is symbolic to the fact that mankind is separated from God by sin and our church's mission is to restore people to fellowship with God through Christ."

According to Mueller, church plants are more essential than ever.

"Almost every church in America is either plateaued or declining, except for church plants," said Mueller. "New churches are usually

more outgoing and sometimes, it almost forces other churches to step up their game."

Mueller believes being from the area will help Restore Church take root in the community.

"The speaker that talked to my class said that we (the Dakotas) are a hard community to plant in because people from elsewhere have a hard time assimilating to our culture," said Mueller. "That makes it important for people in the area to come back to plant."

Evangelism will play a large role in Restore Church.

"We're going to be very evangelistic-minded," Muel-

ler said. "Our goal is to constantly be training people to share their faith while knowing that everyone is going to do it in their own way."

Part of that evangelistic training will be done with the help of GUBGAH, an evangelism organization that is also a word symbol for the Good, Bad and Great.

"GUBGAH serves as an evangelistic resource center. We are guided by our mission statement: to serve the Lord by promoting effective evangelism and discipleship," Mueller explained.

He also said that the term gives a snapshot of the Bible: "The world was created and it was good; it got bad when Adam and Eve sinned; and it

got great when Jesus came." Mueller plans on keeping the services simple and laid-back, with a hybrid of modern and traditional music.

"We're here to share life with people in a Christ-like way," said Mueller. "If people are sad or happy, lost or found, we're here to walk through it with them in Jesus' name."

"We're not a church that's going to shove our ideals in your face," he added, "but we are going to be real."

For more information, visit www.restoreyankton.com or email Mueller at outreach@restoreyankton.com.

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

Regents

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be at \$12,240.63 in 2030.

The regents agreed they should adjust before it is too late.

The significance of the 5 percent growth has been a faster payback for bonded indebtedness on university construction projects and potentially more cash for maintenance and repair.

From every dollar paid in tuition, 20 cents flows into what's known as the higher education facilities fund, or HEFF.

Kramer said adopting the 3 percent assumed rate of tuition growth rather than 5 percent would mean the next bond issue couldn't take place until 2021. Staying at the 5 percent growth rate would allow the next bond issue in 2019.

He said staying on the 5 percent path would make South Dakota uncompetitive with surrounding states and lead to lower enrollment that would put the universities at a further disadvantage financially.

"It is the prudent thing to do," Kramer said.

Regent Terry Baloun of Sioux Falls agreed.

"I think we should revisit that assumption every year," said Baloun, who is a retired banker. "So that we're staying current with where the market conditions are."

Regent Bob Sutton of Pierre suggested the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations receive the chart.

The regents haven't found much success in the past two decades in seeking more support from the Legislature for state university students.

Sutton said the chart would show the Legislature the spot that South Dakota now is in and the deeper hole that would result if the 5 percent growth rate for tuition continues.

Papers

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"One of the parameters of the grant was to find a South Dakotan city along the Minnesota border," said state archivist Chelle Somsen. "That is part of the reason we selected Canton, but also because its newspapers had a fairly complete run with very few issues missing."

"Yankton was chosen because of its early history in the state," she added. "It's important with the state's early development, and people were settling there. It's one of the earliest newspapers in the state with some good information on its early years."

The grant allows the SHSA

to digitize up to 100 roles of microfilmed newspapers, which means the committee has to be careful with which newspapers it decides to digitize. They plan to collect newspapers from several cities across the state, including Aberdeen and Wessington Springs.

The digitizing of these microfilmed newspapers is beneficial to researchers, Somsen said.

"There is so much information we can learn from these early time periods in our state," she stated. "Researchers can title search or term search within those newspapers and it will allow them to find information much more easily."

People who aren't interested in researching history can also find something to

appreciate about the newspapers' release.

"People are going to enjoy looking back at them to see how different they are from newspapers today," Somsen said. "Hopefully, people will do research on a family history topic that interests them and find something in those older newspapers."

"We're glad that we're able to participate in the nationwide project and make these newspapers accessible through different ways," she added. "The newspapers are physically available in Pierre, but this website makes it easier for people with an Internet connection to have access to them."

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Grants Will Help Programs For Ranchers

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Several Nebraska and Iowa organizations will receive some of the \$17 million in grants the federal Agriculture Department is handing out to help new farmers and ranchers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the grants recently. The money helps support programs to train and support beginning farmers and ranchers.

Legal Aid of Nebraska will receive \$654,902 for its programs to help educate farmers, especially veterans returning from military service.

The Community Crops program in Lincoln will receive \$381,726 to provide training in business and production skills for 150 Hispanic farmers.

An Iowa State University program will receive \$698,393 to help aging farmers plan for succession at their operations.

Businesses Wait For Decision On Rules

PENDER, Neb. (AP) — Business owners in the northeast Nebraska town of Pender are eagerly waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether the Omaha Tribe's liquor taxes apply to them.

The case has been pending since the business owners sued in 2007. The Supreme Court agreed this fall to hear the dispute that centers on the boundaries of the tribe's reservation.

Jessica Frazey told the *Sioux City Journal* she and her husband have delayed repairs to their convenience store because they don't know what the Omaha Tribe's liquor tax would mean for their business.

"We would have to look at not having beer or liquor. I'm worried it's going to cripple our business," Jessica Frazey said.

The tribe's alcohol rules require a separate license costing \$500 to \$1,500 a year and impose a 10 percent tax. Those fees and taxes would be on top of what's already collected for the state.

Tom Welsh, who owns Welsh's Bar in Pender, said he also might stop selling alcohol if the court allows the tribe to impose its rules. But he said he might lose customers to businesses in neighboring towns.

"If we have to quit selling alcohol, we will. We'll just go to strictly selling food," Welsh said. "We'll just have to wait and see. Hopefully we don't have to find out."

The case centers on 50,000 acres of land that were originally part of the Omaha Reservation before they were sold to white settlers in the 1880s. Lower courts have now decided that the land sales didn't change the reservation's boundaries, which would make Pender and the surrounding area part of the reservation.

Attorney Gene Summerlin, who represents Pender, said this case could establish whether the Omaha Tribe has the authority to regulate other aspects of life in Pender.

"The dispute we're currently having involves alcohol but in reality goes far beyond that," he said.

DWU In Mitchell Has Head Lice Problem

MITCHELL (AP) — Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell is dealing with an outbreak of head lice.

The *Daily Republic* reports the school has sent students an email describing lice as "sesame seed-sized bugs." The school is leaving treatment up to students and is advising them to check for egg/nit sacks that are firmly attached to the hair follicle.

Lice are parasitic insects that can be found on people's heads and bodies, and survive by feeding on human blood.

Lori Essig is the university's vice president of marketing and communications. She says the outbreak was discovered during the last week of September.

Essig wouldn't say how many students have been affected, but she says the school appears to be "winning the battle" against the insects.

School Of Mines To Host Fossils Event

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is inviting individuals to take their interesting backyard rock or fossil finds to the university's annual identification event.

Paleontology staff and students will study and identify people's finds during the third annual Rock and Fossil ID Day Saturday at the school's Museum of Geology.

Samantha Hustoft is the museum's program assistant. She says quartz is the most common rock brought to the event for evaluation.

Paleontology staff and trained students from the Society of Economic Geologists, Tech Geological Association and Paleo Club will study and identify specimens.

The museum showcases exhibits focusing on paleontology and mineralogy.

SD Men See Success At National Games


SIoux FALLS (AP) — A retired rancher and a retired veterinarian from South Dakota who did particularly well at this year's National Senior Games are partially attributing their successes to their active lifestyles in the ag business.

At 101 years old, Highmore resident John Zilverberg was the oldest competitor and carried South Dakota's flag during the opening ceremonies at his year's event in July in the Twin Cities, the *Tri-State Neighbor* reported. He placed first in the hammer throw and bowling events, and placed second in discus, javelin and shot put.

Zilverberg, a retired rancher who's now 102, credits his ranching background for his ability to stay healthy, active and independent. He still drives his pickup truck, lives in his own house and maintains a garden and a large yard.

"My secret for staying healthy is really not a secret," Zilverberg said. "I grew up on a ranch and did a lot of work there and ate good, healthy food."

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