Minnesota schools are about to reopen for another school year but it won’t just be “same old, same old” for many Native American students, from kindergarten classrooms on up to doctoral programs at universities.

The Minnesota Legislature has approved major changes to Minnesota education programs that may be the most extensive for any given year. Changes involving American Indian education, in particular, may have never received more extensive attention, or funding, in any previous legislative session.

The changes start with the beginning of Minnesota Native’s educational journey.

A Head Start tribal set aside allocation program directs that 10.72 percent of state Head Start annual allocations be made to tribal Head Start programs. The purpose is to provide stable funding from year-to-year, encourage better planning and support consistent operations at tribal Head Start programs.

A progress on American Indian education issues was provided by Patina Park (Mniconjou/Cheyenne River Sioux), director of Tribal State Relations in the Minnesota Governor’s Office. The following are among new programs, changes and revisions Park called progress achieved during the past January to June legislative session. She cited:

*American Indian Education Aid Increase and Use Revisions – This includes a requirement that aid can only be used for non-Natives after all American Indian students’ specific cultural and academic needs are met. Also, only American Indian students attending non-public schools may be served by programming funded with American Indian education aid through shared time enrollment.

• Native Language Revitalization Grants – These grants help schools begin language instruction in Dakota and Anishinaabe languages or another language Indigenous to the United States and Canada.

• American Indian History and Cultural Re-licensure – This re-licensure requirement of 16 hours of cultural competency training for teachers to include at least eight out of those hours be about Indigenous education.

• Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program – This program was expanded to create a special revenue account to allow grants spanning five years. This is to provide more financial stability, including a predictable scholarship structure for eligible American Indians to pursue teacher licensure and other education training for an entire four to five-year career.

• American Indian Culture and Language Classes – This program supports culture and language classes. It is for school districts and charter schools that serve more than 100 American Indian students, and those that have more than 5 percent American Indian student population.

• American Indian Mascots Prohibited – This new law prohibits mascots depicting American Indian people, their symbols, images and personalities by public schools. An appeals process is provided for the 11 tribal nations in Minnesota, and a Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC) was created for public schools wishing to appeal the prohibition.

These measures are directed at k-12 public schools and charter schools serving Native American children.

**Continued on page 8**
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The Indigenous hemp and cannabis cooperative - growing dreams

BY WINONA LA DUKE

This August, The Red Lake Ojibwe Tribe will lead the Native nations with their cannabis dispensary, something a lot of people will be happy about, including myself. There are a lot of people who would like to smoke good, clean medicine and that’s one way to make sure it happens – own your own dispensary.

Another cannabis plant is a quiet back-drop to the big legalization moment. That’s fiber hemp. Harvest is soon. Red Lake, Dakota and White Earth tribal members are moving ahead in that industry. This spring, father and son Ron and Jery Lee Chilton, Will Sayers, Nick Bellrock, and Darren Klarer planted 46 acres of hemp in a field just south of the Pine Point Elementary School. Two years ago, that field was owned by RDO Offutt, the big potato guys. Now it’s planted with fiber hemp, the stuff you make clothes, cars, rebar, housing, and more out of.

This is the eighth-year tribal farmers on the White Earth reservation have been planting fiber hemp, and this is the biggest crop. These farmers are on the front lines of what is going to be the New Green Revolution.

At Sisseton Dakota Oyate (Lake Traverse Indian Reservation), Breon Lake, Gerald German and Ella Robertson are growing fiber hemp. This is Lake’s second year, with good success last year selling his fiber and then purchasing more seeds. He also picked up seeds from Pine Point this year. In early July his forty acre crop was 5 feet tall. Hemp likes Dakota territory.

Meanwhile back in Pine Point, Jerry Lee Chilton, from Anishinaabe Agriculture talks about farming, “when you go out there in the early spring, you get to hear those birds and then you get to till up your spot there and make it look like art out there, that’s good. It’s good to be proud of what you can grow out there and learn from the older farmers and your ancestors”.

Together these farmers have created the Indigenous Hemp and Cannabis Farmers’ Cooperative. They are working with Anishinaabe Agriculture, a non-profit organization out of Pine Point, Minnesota, with financial support from the Bush Foundation. The cooperative is needed because there’s limited knowledge about growing fields of fiber hemp and processing it. (More people know how to grow marijuana than hemp.) These Native farmers want to own the seeds, fiber and mills, and build houses, make packaging, paper, foods and more. And they want to grow hemp organically, because hemp can help sequester more carbon than any other field crop, and doing it right is the only way.

The potential for fiber hemp to transform the economy and ecology is significant. Fiber hemp can replace many carbon inten-
sive industries, from concrete to textiles, and can also bioremediate (clean up) land. Hemp uses less water than, say cotton. That’s all important in this time when the skies are red from climate change and the US cotton crop failed last year due to lack of water.

Growing to the 1000 or so acres needed for some manufacturing takes work and capital. That means cooperation. The Indigenous Hemp and Cannabis Farmers’ Cooperative wants to prove that cooperation, not competition, is the way to go. Think of this math equation: One Hempwood factory (they make flooring, cabinets and more out of hemp) takes about 1000 acres of land, and that means lots of seeds, equipment, organic fertilizer, and storage. And, since you rotate crops, you’ve got to get more farms and more crops. Chilton’s team at Anishinaabe Agriculture put in 20 acres of sunflowers to begin that crop rotation, hoping to produce organic sunflower oil.

Very few Native farmers have all the equipment, acreage, storage and transportation capacity. That’s why the farmers are making a cooperative. These same farmers hope to own value added processing to make anything from insulation to textiles. Producing hemp for the building and textile industry will require hundreds of thousands of acres, and the reservations to the north and west have land, or land they need to get back.

Lower Sioux is an example of that. The tribe has equipment to process hemp into hurd for housing, and the possibility of growing your own building materials is a good one for any tribal economy. Add to that, western tribes have the wind power to run the big mills. That’s all pretty revolutionary. Hemp can help transform this region. A recent grant by the McKnight Foundation will help develop some business plans for these industries, plans which involve cooperatives.

Seed Security

There are not enough seeds for the farmers of the future. Anishinaabe Agriculture has been researching how to create strong varieties. Some of that work is with the University of Minnesota, where Dr. George Weiblen is working to restore feral varieties with tribal farmers. He is the head of cannabis research at the University. “Encouraging hemp’s comeback feels good. We’ve waited a long time for this, and there’s nobody I’d rather do this with than first nations.” Weiblen said.

“Feral varieties (“ditch weed”) must be pretty tough because they have been hanging out illegally for seventy years or so,” Chilton said. “Strong seeds are good seeds. That’s why the research work is important. And, with climate change, it’s time to get seeds for the region. The Patagonia Foundation supported much of this work.”

After the seed is planted, the processing is the next step, and making textile grade fabric is very hard. White Earth hemp under permits by Winona’s Hemp, went to North Carolina, Virginia, then Mexico for spinning and now weaving. That’s a long way for a hemp bale to travel, and that’s why regional cooperatives make sense. Hemp has proved to be high quality and this fall Patagonia will be releasing a workbag with hemp from White Earth Anishinaabe farmers.

While the Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute works to grow out seeds, the cooperative is meeting with farmers. A meeting in late June on the Pine Ridge Reservation linked up Oglala farmers with Anishinaabe farmers. At a meeting, held at the Red Cloud Renewable Energy Center in Oglala, a dozen Lakota and Arikara farmers talked about the industry. There were questions ranging from which seeds, to building plans for tribal housing. The farmers are all very interested in the potential of integrating the plant into a tribal economy – the New Green Revolution.

Many bags of hemp seeds were distributed this spring across the north country. Looking at the Anishinaabe fields, Dr. Weiblen says, “These plants, you can’t keep them down.”

Plants which have been eradicated for decades come back to a new economy, no longer criminals. These are, indeed, fields of dreams.

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How, when, where you’ll be able to get recreational weed

By Grace Birnsten/MPR News

Recreational marijuana becomes legal in Minnesota in under two weeks. Beginning Aug. 1, people 21 and older can possess, use and grow cannabis in limited amounts. Purchasing marijuana, on the other hand, is a bit more complex at least for now.

Here’s what we know:

When will Minnesota’s first recreational dispensaries open?

People can legally use cannabis in Minnesota beginning Aug. 1, but dispensaries outside of tribal reservations (more on that below) won’t open for at least another year — some estimate in early 2025. Dispensaries can’t open until the state figures out a licensing system for the businesses.

Where will the first recreational cannabis dispensary be?

Tribal governments don’t have to wait for the state’s licensing system to open dispensaries. The first recreational marijuana dispensary opens Aug. 1 on the Red Lake Nation in north central Minnesota.

Minnesota’s 11 Native American tribal nations are sovereign, meaning they can operate independently from state laws and regulations.

The Red Lake dispensary is called NativeCare and has been providing medical marijuana to band members and non-members since April.

The dispensary will expand to selling recreational cannabis on Aug. 1, and anyone 21 and older will be able to shop there. According to the dispensary’s website, the shop is currently only accepting cash, but working on getting set up for other payment options.

The Red Lake Nation requests that visitors are respectful to the people of Red Lake and their lands.

Is it possible other tribal nations will also open recreational dispensaries before the state opens its first dispensaries?

It’s definitely possible that other tribes will get into the recreational business sooner than later.

Along with Red Lake, the White Earth Nation voted in favor of legalizing medical marijuana on their reservation in August 2020. The band hasn’t publicly stated if it will open for recreational sales, but the Star Tribune reports that the reservation’s business committee recently approved a draft of adult-use cannabis rules for band members to review.

Last year the Leech Lake Tribal Council sought out feedback from its tribal members on selling hemp-derived THC edibles and beverages that were legalized in the state. Tribal spokesperson Michael Chosa told the Star Tribune that band members who responded were largely in favor of this. The Tribal Council unanimously voted in October to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of hemp-derived edibles at Leech Lake businesses. It is not yet clear if the tribe will also pursue selling cannabis or cannabis-derived products.

In January the Bois Forte Tribal Council announced it would start getting into the edibles business by opening a smoke shop at its Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The shop currently sells THC products derived from hemp and is open Thursday through Sunday.

Is Minnesota taking longer than other states to get dispensaries up and running?

Delaware was the other state to pass a law legalizing recreational cannabis in 2023. WHYY reports that dispensaries in Delaware can’t get licensed until at least September 2024. Gov. John Carney will first appoint a marijuana commissioner who will then set up an office, create regulations and issue licenses, similar to Minnesota.

Things progressed faster in other states like Maryland and Missouri, which also legalized recreational use in recent years. Voters in Maryland approved recreational cannabis in November 2022 and Gov. Wes Moore signed licensing legislation in May that went into effect July 1. Existing medical marijuana dispensaries in Maryland are able to convert their licenses to allow recreational sales, which began this month. Missouri approved recreational cannabis legalization at the same time as Maryland and began licensing dispensaries just months later.

Will the two current medical marijuana growers pivot to also sell recreational?

This has been the case in other states, but it’s currently unclear if or when Minnesota’s two medical-marijuana providers — Leafline Labs (RISE) and Vireo Health of Minnesota (Green Goods) — will enter the recreational business. It’s also not clear if the two medical cannabis providers will be able to get licensed faster or easier than new companies.

Will my city get a dispensary?

Possibly. Local municipalities are allowed to temporarily restrict recreational marijuana sales until Jan. 1, 2025. Brooklyn Center, East Grand Forks, Mankato, Ramsey and West St. Paul already passed restrictions. Some Duluth City Council members said they plan to do the same.

I want cannabis ASAP. What are my options?

Besides making a trip up to Red Lake, you can grow your own, or acquire it from someone else who is growing. Beginning Aug. 1, Minnesotans can have up to eight cannabis plants at home and can give each other cannabis for free (selling without a license remains illegal).

Minnesotans can also still sign up for medical marijuana, and as of July 1 the program is free — there is no longer an enrollment fee collected annually. Cancer, chronic pain, sleep apnea and PTSD are a few of the qualifying conditions.

Are hemp-derived THC products going away or becoming illegal?

According to the new law, Minnesotans will still be able to use and sell the hemp-derived THC products that became legal in 2022. In fact, the law now lets liquor stores sell hemp-derived edibles.

Minnesota Public Radio News can be heard on MPR’s statewide radio network or online.

Important changes to voter access

By ACU

This year brought important changes to Minnesota election law, bringing good news for young voters, people voting after release from prison, and people wishing to vote ahead of election day. This article highlights several important changes; additional changes and information are at the Secretary of State’s website: mnvotes.gov.

Pre-Registration for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

One change already in effect is the opportunity for all 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. This was a youth-driven change that high school students advocated for at the legislature. It gives high school educators, as well as family, coaches, and other community mentors, more ways to engage students in exercising their right to vote while they are still in school, which helps them become life-long voters.

In an interview, Secretary of State Steve Simon referred to this change as “refreshing and renewing our civic spirit” through the participation of young voters, saying that “every generation brings to it a different insight.” Young people historically vote at lower rates, and this change is part of the movement to help them see themselves as voters and start making their voices heard at the ballot box as soon as they turn 18. Other states with pre-registration see a higher rate of participation among the youngest group.

If you are 16 or 17 and want to pre-register, you can do it through the regular voter registration portal at mnvotes.gov or use a paper registration form. Your pre-registration will automatically convert to a regular registration on your eighteenth birthday, and you will be all set to vote!

Restore The Vote

Another important change this year is restoring the right to vote for people with felony convictions. Previously, Minnesotans with felony convictions could not vote until they had completed all terms of sentencing, including parole or supervised release. With this change, the right to vote is restored as soon as a person is no longer in prison. This single change restored voting rights to at least 55,000 Minnesotans and took effect June 1. It eliminates confusion and helps formerly incarcerated Minnesotans to feel a sense of belonging and participate more fully in their communities.

The Secretary of State’s office is working with the Department of Corrections, as well as a coalition of community groups called the Restore the Vote Coalition (restorethevotemn.org), to spread the word about this change and ensure that newly re-enfranchised citizens are aware of their rights. No specific permission is needed — if you are newly eligible to vote under this law, you can register to vote using the regular voter portal at mnvotes.gov, or use a paper voter registration form.

Temporary Voting Locations

Counties and municipal clerks can designate additional temporary voting locations at least 47 days before the election. Counties must provide an in-person absentee location on reservation land at a location agreed upon by the Tribe and the county auditor for at least one day if they receive a request from a federally recognized Tribal Nation. This helps increase opportunities to vote early for voters who need more flexible locations and times for voting.

New changes also strengthen protections at the poll. The new law prohibits any effort to use or threaten intimidation to influence an election official. Tampering with electronic voting systems and equipment is also illegal.
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Khayman Goodsky’s new film has an all indigenous crew

BY DAN NINHAM

Khayman Goodsky is an aspiring short film producer. The Bois Forte Ojibwe member is currently working on a new film as a script writer to editing the final piece. Some of her film accomplishments were accepted in regional film festivals including the Duluth Superior Film Festival, Minnesota International Film Festival, Ely End of the Road Film Festival, and the North by North International Film Festival.

“My current film has an all Indigenous cast and crew,” said Goodsky. “I wrote the script which focuses on two sisters; when one goes missing, the younger sister has to put aside her grief to look for her older sister. I was honored to work with an intertribal group of artists, actors, and other creatives to make this script come to life.”

“I got into film with the help of my mentor, Jonathan Thunder, who pushed me to make a short film with a very small group of friends,” said Goodsky. “I loved the feeling of making the characters and the message come to life so I’ve been doing small film projects ever since.”

Jonathan Thunder said, “Khayman is a superstar in my book. I met Khayman many moons ago, and we worked on a couple films together. In one of those short films Khayman cast me in the role of a wise old bear with a love for donuts. They are an active leader in the arts and cinema community across Minnesota. Khayman continues to make new films, while supporting other artists and serving on local film festival committees.”

Goodsky talked about her future with film. She said, “My future film goals are to keep creating stories that are authentic and true to my values as an Indigenous person and to keep creating safe places where our stories can be shared.”

“One day, I hope to reach the level where I can do a feature film with the wonderful team I’m lucky to have right now,” added Goodsky.

Anthony Chase In Winter (Ogala Lakota/Mexican) is the film’s camera person and cinematographer. He worked as a freelance video producer for a few non-profit organizations in California. He produced three short documentaries titled “Protect Our Handball Courts” and “Protect Our Communities” focusing on the gentrification in the Santa Ana, CA area. He was also an assistant producer on an upcoming short documentary titled “Letters to Our Ancestors” and some local film production work as a camera assistant and production assistant. He was the Cinematographer on Khayman’s previous film “Chase to a Certain Place.”

“Khayman was very much open to creative collaboration and open to hearing suggestions on scenes such as blocking and framing of the shot,” said Chase In Winter. “Khayman always put the safety and well-being of everyone on set first. Kept us on task. Effectively communicated their vision to us all. Made sure everyone on set was comfortable with one another and knew one another as well. Gave a lot of trust to everyone on set. Made me feel like my voice mattered and everyone else as well. Was very encouraging and kept us in good spirits. Overall it was a wonderful experience.”

This film is Mike Leslie Jr., Ogitmaa Binesi’s, first time being involved in a film production and Khayman has helped him be comfortable on the set. “She has very strong leadership qualities,” said Leslie Jr. “She was very patient with the cast and crew, and was quick to make sure we were accommodated with everything we needed to succeed. She is a creative visionary like no other and it was a pleasure to work with her.”

Ebba Makes Room For Them (Rosebud Sioux/White Mountain Apache) plays one of the main characters, Em, in the film. Makes Room For Them also played a smaller role in Goodsky’s last film, Chase to a Certain Place. “Khayman’s very good with making sure everyone’s comfortable and has what they need,” said Makes Room For Them. “They are kind and you can tell they genuinely care about their work. I had some scenes that took me out of my comfort zone and everyone helped me. It was an amazing experience and I loved learning about everyone’s different backgrounds and stories.”

“Our main goal was to make a film with limited equipment to show that there shouldn’t be a barrier to making films when you have the right people by your side and that anyone can do it,” added Goodsky.
Our budget invests in Minnesotans at all phases of life

Boozhoo! I can’t believe fall is just around the corner. I have had a busy summer traveling the state to share all the great things we accomplished together this session. One of my best days was traveling to the Red Lake Independence Day Celebration Pow Wow, where I was surrounded by friends, loved ones, and community in celebration of our people.

In July, I also had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Biden and senior White House officials, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and state legislators in Washington D.C. to discuss and celebrate big child care investments happening here in Minnesota and across the country.

Affordable, accessible child care should be available to every family who needs it. Our One Minnesota budget signed into law this session includes over $1.3 billion to increase child care, lower child care costs, establish paid family and medical leave, and eliminate child poverty. These investments include $576 million to increase child care worker wages, over $500 million to expand access to the child care Assistance Program for over 3,600 children, and funding for an additional 12,360 new pre-kindergarten seats. While all these investments will lower costs for families across our state, I believe our nation’s investments will lower costs for families in Minnesota. This session was about building systems to ensure every child has a safe place to call home, no child goes hungry, and working families have the support they need to thrive.

The One Minnesota budget provided the largest tax cut in state history, including a new program focused on Tribes. Our budget created a new Tribal Nation Aid Program of $35 million per year. Interested Tribes will have the choice to opt into this program by applying through the Department of Revenue. Consistent with updates to aids to counties and cities, initial payments for the program will be distributed beginning with aids payable in 2024. Half the aid will be distributed evenly based on proportion of enrolled members of participating Tribal Nations.

Every Minnesotan deserves a world class education, and our budget’s investment in education brings us one big step closer to making this a reality. The One Minnesota budget included an increase of $28 million over four years to American Indian Education Aid, with a clause that makes clear that these dollars may only be used for non-Native students after all American Indian students’ specific cultural and academic needs are met. We are also investing $7.5 million in grants for schools to begin offering language instruction in Dakota and Anishinaabe languages or other Indigenous languages. We know these language skills have impacts far beyond the classroom for so many kids, including developing deeper connections with others in the community and their personal identity.

Growing up with non-Native peers and now as an advocate and mom, I know that representation in the classroom matters. That is why we are investing over $1.6 million to expand the Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program and make the path to teaching more accessible and affordable for Native educators in Minnesota. Representation in school also matters outside of just our educators. That’s why we passed a law to eliminate derogatory and harmful stereotypes of American Indians in school by prohibiting the use of mascots referring to an American Indian Tribe, individual, custom, or tradition. Additionally, we believe all Minnesotans should have accurate and truthful knowledge of Minnesota’s full history. Our budget states that Minnesota schools must do more to prioritize American Indian or Indigenous studies across all course disciplines and grades, particularly for Native American cultures. We want to send a clear message to Minnesota’s Native students that Native voices, culture, and success matter to all of us.

Our budget invests in Minnesotans at all phases of life, and we want everyone to see Minnesota as the best place to learn, raise children, and work. The One Minnesota Budget includes $20 million over the next two years to support the Drive for Five Workforce Fund, which will prepare Minnesotans to enter five of the most critical occupational categories in the state with high-growth jobs and family-sustaining wages: technology, caring professions, education, manufacturing, and trades. Throughout July, Governor Walz shadowed Minnesotans working in these professions from manufacturing to teaching fourth grade to joining a Duluth police officer for a mid-day shift. This session, Governor Walz also signed into law $300 million for cities, counties, and tribes to meet their unique public safety, fire, or emergency management needs, including for training programs. In addition to these investments, we included $5.5 million to fund Tribal community supervision. With these funds, Tribal Nations can hire their own tribal assistant probation officer staff to work in tandem with community supervision. No matter your career, we want you to feel supported and valued in your profession and provide opportunities for growth no matter where you live.

It’s hard to believe that summer is nearly over. As we transition to the State Fair and then back to school, I’m so excited to keep celebrating the best of Minnesota. Thank you for staying engaged and making your voices heard in every place where decisions are made.
Moving on from there, the University of Minnesota announced it was responding to the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling forbidding universities from using race as a factor in admissions policies.

While it will – and must – comply with the controversial court ruling, Minnesota news media reported the university’s Twin Cities and other campuses use about 10 factors other than race for admitting applicants. How that all shakes out in the future will start with the enrollment process in the coming year.

Meanwhile, a lot of changes to programs and some new personnel are in place for the coming year at colleges and universities of Minnesota State with its 26 community and tribal colleges and seven state universities. They make the third largest public higher education system in America, after California and New York systems.

Helping existing undergraduate and new students at those campuses, the Legislature provided funds for at tuition freeze at 2022-2023 levels for two years.

“It was a very productive session,” said Doug Anderson, communications and media director for Minnesota State.

The Governor’s Office and state legislative education leaders have positioned the state colleges and universities “to respond to the critical needs of students, promote equitable student success, and provide Minnesota the talent and workforce it needs,” he said.

Financial help was provided to help campuses meet basic needs insecurity, mental health, and support for other “high-need” student support services.

The Legislature approved $8.5 million for each year of the state biennium (two years) in Minnesota American Indian Scholarships. It is a scholarship program to assist eligible students to complete their undergraduate education.

Another scholarship program will especially help students seeking technical educations at state community and tribal colleges. It is the Workforce Development Scholarships program making $2,500 scholarships available to students enrolled in programs for high demand occupations.

An especially important new college and university program will benefit this year’s high school seniors and other prospective new students. It is the North Star Promise scholarship program for students entering a public higher education or tribal college in the 2024–2025 academic year. Amounts will vary but may not exceed 100 percent of tuition and fees after grants and other scholarships are deducted.

Among other actions, Minnesota State’s trustees named Anita Hanson to serve as president of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) in June, succeeding Stephanie Hammitt who died of cancer in November last year. Hanson, like Hammitt, is an experienced higher education leader and is an enrolled Fond du Lac Band Ojibwe member.

While the change in presidencies was occurring, Fond du Lac started its first cohort of students enrolled in a new Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Fond du Lac also teamed with Leech Lake Tribal College in a program with the U.S. Department of Education to build sustainable educational systems to help Tribal college students to enter agricultural and STEM workforces.

At Bemidji State University, Chrissy Downwind was promoted to a newly created position of vice president for American Indian student success and campus diversity. This makes her the first American Indian woman to hold a vice presidential level position within Minnesota State’s seven state universities. It is also a dual campus position with Northwest Technical College, also at Bemidji. Downwind (Ojibwe/Lakota) has been executive director of BSU’s American Indian Resource Center since June 2020. In that capacity she has been BSU’s coordinator with its tribal college partners at Red Lake Nation College, White Earth Tribal and Community College, Leech Lake Tribal College and Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College.

At Northwest Technical College, meanwhile, Nichole Naasz has been hired as the campus’ first American Indian Resource Center student success coordinator, a role previously shared with Bemidji State. Ashley Jones has been hired to take that same position at BSU.

These moves are tied in with Minnesota State creating a Nisidotaading Institute at Bemidji State to provide a system-wide resource for its colleges and universities. It is to share best practices information and develop training materials for cultural competency for all Minnesota State faculty and staff, and thus in turn create support for Indigenous students.

Nisidotaading is Ojibwe meaning “having a mutual understanding.” It was started this past year as the Institute for Indigenous Education & Practice. But it will also be the name of a new initiative at Bemidji State set to start in fall of 2024.

All Bemidji State students will be required to complete a course about Indigenous people or issues before graduation. The courses involve Indigenous history, culture or ways of knowing, contemporary Indigenous issues, or Indigenous languages.

In announcing the program, Minnesota State said the Nisidotaading program is thought to be unique amongst American education institutions.

Bemidji State said similar but not identical requirements exist within the Alaska university system, at Canada’s University of Winnipeg and at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul.
"It would be impossible to sum up his remarkable life and achievements in a few short words. He has championed the expansion of educational opportunities at all levels, from his career as a middle school coach and athletic director to his work founding doctoral programs in American Indian leadership."

No question that Antell’s impact has been felt at his alma mater. In honoring his mother (Bernice), who saw to it that all eight of her children got college educations, Antell and his late wife Mary Lou endowed the Bernice Lena Fairbanks Antell American Indian Scholarship at Bemidji State.

That inherited commitment to education is being felt far beyond the North country and Stillwater, a point Gov. Walz made in the state proclamation. It closes:

“WHEREAS: The lifelong dedication and accomplishments of Dr. Antell will have a lasting impact across generations, contributing to the goal of providing every Minnesotan an education that decreases social inequalities, empowers marginalized people, and helps individuals achieve their full potential; and

“WHEREAS: On July 18, 2023, Dr. Antell will receive the Human Rights Award from the Stillwater Human Rights Commission for his distinction in advancing human rights in Minnesota and across the country.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, July 18, 2023, as: DR. WILL ANTELL DAY in the State of Minnesota.”

Patina Park, an attorney and director of Tribal State Relations in the Office of Governor, represented both Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan at the celebration. Flanagan is also a member of the White Earth Nation.

Citing programs in both Minnesota and across the nation, Park said they would not have happened without the advocacy and policy changes led by Antell. “And, of course, his work made it possible for a Native American kid to become the highest-ranking Native American woman in statewide publicly elected office, serving as our Lt. Governor.”

Not every community in Minnesota has a Will Antell to honor, or a mechanism in place to do so. But Stillwater does. Ann Wolff, another former Stillwater educator, was serving on Trinity Lutheran Church’s Racial Justice Ministry Team. That group decided to nominate Antell for the Human Rights Award and it was quickly supported by a member of another Stillwater church and member of the city’s Human Rights Commission.

Wolff and team went to work pulling together public comments in support of the nomination. Not too difficult, Wolff said. “He was respected and loved by all – non-Native as well as Native, because he respected and loved humankind.”

Some nominating comments:
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Some nominating comments:
“I knew him when he worked in the Minnesota Department of Education with school administrators. He was well-liked by everyone almost immediately,” said Ken Pedersen, former assistant Stillwater superintendent.

“I don’t remember any of the details, just that I have a warm place in my heart for him. I didn’t know he was a member of White Earth. Small world. Maybe we are distant cousin,” said a former seventh grade student.

“Will led by example. He got along with everyone, which now that I think of it, is the Indian way,” said Dennis Harcey, retired Social Studies teacher and assistant football coach.
Team Mnisota 19U and 16U boys’ basketball earn silver medals

Team Mnisota 16U boys were silver medalists at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. David Olson-Iverson was the head coach for the basketball team. During the past four seasons, he was also the successful Deer River HS Warriors head boys’ basketball coach. “Our team played the whole tournament with just six guys,” said David Olson-Iverson. “We made it all the way to the gold medal game versus Alberta. Throughout the whole tournament, the boys gave everything they had, and then some more.”

The first game versus Team British Columbia was close until the second half, when the team surged to take a 27 point lead with five minutes to go. “We beat Team Manitoba after that and Team Colorado to finish 3-0 in pool play taking the number one seed in our pool,” added Olson-Iverson.

The team then beat Team Haudenosaunee in the quarter finals of the tournament. Next they played the tournament favorite Team Ontario and beat them. They then played Team Alberta and the players were getting tired. “Fatigue finally caught up with us as we started out slow and were down by almost 20 in the first half,” said Olson-Iverson. “We battled back to put us within 10 at half time. We kept momentum by putting on a classic 23 half court trap which ended up getting us a one point lead with 4:50 to go in the fourth quarter.”

“Team Alberta went on a quick 5-0 run after a timeout and Charlie Vandeberg fouled out, leaving us with five exhausted players in the final minutes of the gold medal game. The five battled right to the end but ended up losing by double figures,” added Olson-Iverson.

The team roster for the 19U boys’ basketball team included Gerald Kingbird, Jr. (Red Lake Ojibwe), Jack Brown III (Red Lake Ojibwe), Cale Jackson (Leech Lake Ojibwe), Charlie Vandeberg (Ho-Chunk), Laiten Goodthunder (Lower Sioux Dakota) Patrick Crow III (Oglala Sioux), David Olson, Coach at Deer River High School, and Pete Nez (Navajo), Assistant Coach at Redwood Valley High School. “We gained fans from all across Turtle Island with our three point shooting, unselfish play, and sportsmanship,” said Olson-Iverson.

Nez was named the Minnesota Assistant Coach of the Year this past season as the assistant basketball coach at Redwood Valley High School. Nez talked about the team play for short-handed but strong hearted Team Mnisota, “I was very impressed with how well the kids played together for just meeting the day before pool play started. I liked how the boys were very coachable and how respectful they were. They played hard and had to learn the FIBA rules on the fly. Head Coach Dave and I meshed well and we trusted each other’s decisions.”

“We beat some guys that were bigger than us. I like how all the boys were not selfish. They bought into a role each game. Very fun bunch to watch and coach,” added Nez.

Chris Jourdain, assistant coach for the Team Mnisota 16U boys’ basketball team, was also the chef de mission for Team Mnisota. “My highlights were the way the team responded to the messages I had of responding to adversity and keeping the positive energy, not getting mad at refs calls, or a mistake,” said Chris Jourdain. “In the semifinals we were up 13 at the half, lost 12 of them points at the end of the third quarter.”

“I reminded them again of the need for positive energy and to let their skills talk, not their mouths. They responded with a 40 point fourth quarter, which are 10 minutes in length and advanced to the gold medal game,” added Jourdain.

“I’ve learned much of this game is in between the ears, sometime even more than between the lines,” said Jourdain. “It was a night and day comparison in the energy and the outcome.”

“This team was loaded,” said Jourdain. “I felt we could make a run at a gold medal, but also knew we would be facing the best of the best. I could say so much about all of them, it was fun to be on the bench with them and see them having fun off the court.”

Team Mnisota just got off the plane on their way home when they found out the 2027 North American Indigenous Games were awarded to Calgary, Saskatchewan, Canada. As the eagle flies that’s 970 miles less from Red Lake than going 1975 miles to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The athletes and coaches know they have to prepare now for the future.

For more info, see Naig2023.com.
The criminal indictments of former Pres. Trump are stacking up. In response to efforts to hold Trump accountable for his life of crime, extreme, right-wing Republicans are calling for defunding the FBI and the office of Jack Smith, the Department of Justice special counsel investigating the former president. Of course, these law-and-order proponents seeking to dismantle the FBI are in thrall to Trump and portray him as a victim of government persecution.

Many readers who know the actual history of the FBI may have mixed feelings about this development. So, it’s time to review events of 50 years ago, when the FBI launched a counter-insurgency operation on Indian reservations in So. Dakota.

The 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee – the site of the 1890 U.S. cavalry massacre of Chief Big Foot’s band – by Lakota traditionalists and young members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) led to a U.S. government siege that lasted more than two months. Two AIM members, Frank Clearwater and Lawrence “Buddy” LaMont, a Vietnam vet, were killed by government gunfire; a U.S. Marshals Service LaMont, a Vietnam vet, were killed by government siege that lasted more than two months. Two AIM members, were shot to death. The FBI agents had driven into an AIM camp on the Jumping Bull family’s ranch near Oglala, when the shooting commenced. The largest FBI manhunt in history took place after the agents were killed. The FBI’s newly established SWAT team terrorized Indians living on Pine Ridge, in its pursuit of AIM members involved in the firefight.

As it happened, a young reporter from Minneapolis, Kevin McKiernan, was present at both Wounded Knee 2 and at the scene of the Oglala shootout. In July, I finally watched his 2019 documentary, “From Wounded Knee to Standing Rock,” which offers a deep dive into this violent period on the Pine Ridge reservation. It’s an excellent history of the time and place, with McKiernan’s photographs and films from inside the Wounded Knee occupation and at the 1975 Oglala shootout providing an immediacy to the epochal events. The documentary also stands as an indictment of the lawlessness of the FBI, which sided with Wilson’s GOONs, even providing armor-piercing rifle rounds (available only to law enforcement personnel) to the tribal vigilantes. The FBI used the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations as a counter-insurgency laboratory, rotating 2,500 agents and support personnel through the area, according to a former FBI agent interviewed by McKiernan.

In my visits to the reservations some years ago, I heard traditional Lakotas refer to the FBI as the “FBIs” (eff-bee-EYES). In addition to the carnage, the FBI unleashed dirty and criminal operations under the rubric of COINTELPRO (counter-intelligence program), which engendered suspicions leading to the disruption and destabilization of AIM. A notable victim of the FBI’s dirty tricks regime was Anna Mae Aquash, an AIM activist from Nova Scotia. She was arrested several times and then released in what is seen as the FBI’s attempt to put a “snitch jacket” on her, to create the impression that she was an informant.

On Feb. 24, 1976, a South Dakota rancher found Aquash’s body in a ditch in a deserted part of the Pine Ridge reservation, near Wanblee. An initial autopsy concluded that she had died of exposure. A second autopsy conducted by Dr. Garry Peterson, a Hennepin County medical examiner, found a bullet wound in Aquash’s skull. “She died of a bullet wound in the back of the head, and it was very visible,” the late civil rights lawyer Ken Tilsen told the Star Tribune many years later. More than 20 years later, two AIM foot soldiers were convicted of killing Aquash.

And Leonard Peltier, an AIM activist (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe from No. Dakota), was arrested on Feb. 26, 1976, in Alberta, and extradited to the U.S. on the basis of perjured affidavits signed by Myrtle Poor Bear, a mentally unstable Native woman. Peltier was convicted for aiding and abetting the murder of the two FBI agents at Oglala and sentenced to consecutive life terms in federal prison.

When I talked on the phone with Kevin McKiernan in July, he mentioned that June 26, the date of the Oglala shootout is a paid holiday for Pine Ridge tribal employees. There’s no love lost between the Lakota and the FBI. “There was a deep-seated personal animus on both sides,” commented McKiernan, thinking back to the bad old days on the rez.

As noted in the documentary, Oglala Lakota tribal officials have called on the Department of Justice to investigate dozens of unsolved murders that took place 50 years ago. The feds have done nothing.
Aug 27
Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Fair
Stop by our booth on Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Fair. We’ll be tabling in Dan Patch Park. (Right out of the grandstand) with other Indigenous organizations. Indigenous Food Lab is hosting the event: this year’s theme is environmental and food justice for Indigenous people in Mni Sota Makope. 9am - 6pm. Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Ave N, St Paul. For info, see: https://nativegov.org/event/minnesota-state-fair.

Aug 31 (deadline)
Small Business Assistance Partnership Program
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Request for Proposals. This program will make competitively awarded grants to qualified organizations to provide small business development and technical assistance services to entrepreneurs and small business owners, with a particular focus on underserved populations and geographies including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, veterans, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals and includes people from rural Minnesota. Eligible Recipients: non-profit organizations or public entities, including higher education institutions, engaged in business development or economic development; community development financial institutions; or community development corporations. Eligible Uses: Direct cost associated with delivering services under this grant funding. Grant applications will be reviewed only once during the two-year grant cycle is expected to begin October 2023 and end October 2025. $11,565,000 is available for grant awards. The maximum request is $400,000 per year for a two year period. Deadline is Aug. 31 4pm. Each week, DEED staff will post responses to frequently asked questions on the Competitive Grants and Contracts page at: https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp. For other info: MNSBP@DEED@state.mn.us.

Sept 1
“Sacred Klown” Exhibit
by Shaun Chosa
Join us for the opening reception of Sacred Klown, a new art exhibit by Shaun Chosa. Chosa’s work explores the intersection of traditional Native American imagery with contemporary pop culture. His vibrant and whimsical pieces are sure to delight art lovers. The show will run from September 1-23. For info, contact Dr. Dan Ninham at: coach.danneinham@gmail.com, or see: https://www.nahalf.org.

Sept 9
North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame
The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame will recognize the inaugural 2022 and second class of 2023 inductees. By honoring and celebrating the empowered journey of these individuals and teams, the hope is their stories may inspire future generations to follow their dreams in athletics. All proceeds will offset the event expenses. 9am to 3pm. Canterbury Park Expo Center, 1100 Canterbury Rd, Shakopee. For info, contact Dr. Dan Ninham at: coach.danneinham@gmail.com, or see: https://www.nahalf.org.

Sept 10
Conference on Native American Nutrition 2023
Devoted to the food and nutrition of Indigenous Peoples. The conference on Native American Nutrition will bring together tribal and community leaders, nutrition and wellness educators, researchers and students, health practitioners, government officials, funders, and others to discuss the current state of both Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native food systems, food sovereignty, nutrition, and health, and will identify new areas of work. The most cutting edge information will be presented, and networking, community building, and the formation of new collaborations among the attendees will be encouraged and facilitated. Tickets from $50 - $525. Virtual attendance also available. Presented by the University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute and the Oklahoma State University Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy. If you need any assistance - please send us an email at james@stagetimeproductions.com. Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd NW, Prior Lake, MN. For info, see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sixth-annual-conference-on-native-american-nutrition-2023-tickets-63669344623? Sep 23
Powwow for Hope
12th Annual Powwow for Hope. Fundraising Teams are forming now! Powwow for Hope is a nationwide fundraiser for American Indian Cancer Foundation. For info, see: https://powwowforhope.org.

Tons of fun things to do!

Come with your family & friends!

Don’t Miss!

Indigenous People’s Day at Dan Patch Park, Aug. 27
Native Pride Dancers Aug. 28 & 29
Please remember him for me

By Arne Vainio, M.D.

“I don’t have the friends I thought I had. My family doesn’t understand me. I was told I should only grieve for a year, but this was my son.” She’d been coming in to see me for almost a year before she volunteered that information. I should have asked her earlier and I thought I had, but maybe she wasn’t ready to talk about it.

I had seen her several times over the past year for chest pain and she had a very comprehensive evaluation and had seen a Cardiologist twice. She had a stress test initially, then finally an angiogram. This is the gold standard for testing for heart disease and involves a catheter inserted into an artery in the groin and advanced to the blood vessels that supply the heart itself. Contrast is injected into the coronary arteries and if there are any blocked arteries, they will show up on the monitor. There was nothing wrong with her heart.

“What do you want to talk about?”

“It’s all I want to talk about. No one wants to listen.”

“I will.”

“OK. Andrew died eight years ago and I think about him every morning when I wake up and every night when I’m falling asleep. He was only nine years old and he shouldn’t have been playing by the river.

He knew better than that, but there was a neighbor boy who liked throwing rocks in the water. They were on a steep bank and Andrew slid into the river and it was too slippery to climb back out. It was the next day before they found his body a half-mile downstream.

“Do you know what it’s like after the funeral to have everyone pretend life goes on as usual? How can anything be normal or usual? My husband buried himself in his work and our marriage lasted for two more years. My friends didn’t want to talk about it and their invitations to lunch and their phone calls were less and less and finally they stopped altogether.

“I had people tell me, “At least you have two other children.”

“I know I have my other children, but that doesn’t make losing Andrew any easier or different. He died in the fall and that first Thanksgiving and that first Christmas were the hardest, but all holidays are hard. This is the year he would have graduated and I think about what he would be like at this age and what his plans would be for after high school. He liked sports and I always wonder if he would have been an athlete. The people around me don’t want to say his name, I think because they’re afraid it will remind me of him, but everything reminds me of him. Saying his name would at least let me know I wasn’t the only one thinking about him.

“I turned to alcohol for a while after my husband left and maybe even for a little while before. I thought it would make me forget, but it made me remember even more. One morning I woke up on the floor with my five-year-old daughter sitting cross-legged next to me and sobbing her doll for having her life so easy. A week later I lost my driver’s license for driving while intoxicated and I had to go to treatment.

“I was angry with my husband for leaving and angry with him for not grieving like I was. I was angry with my daughter and my other son for laughing and playing at Andrew’s funeral, but they were only four and seven at the time.

“My mother-in-law told me, “It was God’s will.” Really? REALLY?

“How is that possible? I lost faith for the longest time and I still don’t know if I have it back. How could it possibly be right to take a nine-year-old when there are people who don’t value their own lives? How can a nine-year-old die when there’s somebody somewhere right now shooting heroin?”

My pager went off for my next patient and she apologized for taking so much time and asked if she could reschedule. I ended up seeing her often for visits for her blood pressure and for general health visits. I remembered what she said about others remembering and most times I was the one who mentioned Andrew first. She scheduled a visit with me on his birthday and she cried through most of the visit.

“It was a couple visits later when she stated maybe her husband burying himself in his work was his way of grieving and she felt bad for holding that against him and that maybe things could have been different.

My time in Seattle was drawing to an end as I was finishing my residency and I sent a letter to all my patients letting them know I was leaving to go back to Minnesota. She was one I really feared would see me as abandoning her and I walked into the room with some trepidation.

We talked about her blood pressure and reviewed her home blood pressure readings. They were finally under control. She had not had any chest pain since that first visit she talked about Andrew. I asked her if she got my letter and she said she did. I asked her if she was going to be all right.

“At first, I didn’t know if I was. I will always hurt and nothing will ever change that. It had been so long since anyone would let me talk about Andrew without giving me advice or empty promises. You simply listened to me and I appreciate that more than you will ever know.”

She handed me a box wrapped with a red ribbon and told me I could open it later. Later in the day I got a chance. Inside were a dozen cookies and a note:

“I am a mother and I will always be a mother. I still have three children and one of them would have graduated last year. I love them all and one loved my oatmeal raisin cookies. I haven’t had a chance to make them for him for a long, long time. Please remember him for me. Thank you.”

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at avainio@hotmail.com.
How can it possibly be August? I feel like this year has just begun and here it is half over and looking toward fall time. There are times I want to keep the moments and drag them out before winter hits us with all the bitter cold, ice and snow. Brrr! I admit I didn’t get out much at all despite having said I would to myself. Well, the mosquitos torment me anyway and when I was in hospital they found a woodtick on my back. Ish!

Those pesky critters I never miss and have slapped myself silly, killing them quickly as I can. I’m thinking I will have a ‘Bat Box’ built because they eat skeeters and some guinea hens to munch up the ticks in the yard. Ah-shah!

SEE? There are more natural methods to use without deadly chemicals. As long as they are indigenous to the area you are in.

At least the milkweed plants came back. From what I can see many caterpillars have made their transition to Monarchs. Spiritual. I feel uplifted and happy to have them so near, in my front window and in the backyard. Blessed.

Sadly, a major portion of the global population is not doing well at all, due directly to climate change. And the capitalists are deep in denial at what their own eyes can see. I remember reading an article by a climatologist who said that “We need to study Indigenous Peoples ways of agriculture”, etc; to slow the ecological disasters that we humans have inflicted upon ourselves. No, not everyone to the same degree (no pun intended), I blame the greed and corruption by industrialized nations that are evil by nature and ignorant by choice. Sorry if I bummed yooz out.

Pretty much all I do is watch news and then try to not watch news. But one can not be unaware of the climate crisis, especially if one is directly affected by it.

Folks, it does appear that ‘The End of Times’ is upon us. I used to laugh when those old Christian self-proclaimed prophets would state a certain date and time and nothing happened. “Repent now!” they yelled at us Sinners. We sinners just went about our business; the believers wailed and prepared for imminent death. (Hmm...seems like I just described a cult). The Cult of Disastrous Denial. Seems like if they go down we go too. Monsters!

When that time comes, I’ll be alright because I was ‘saved’ many years ago when I was a kid. Yep! I attended a Christian revival with the neighbors who also babysat me and my sister. There was a family onstage exhorting people back to the true faith, they sang and at the end invited people up for a hug. I don’t know what came over me but I went to the stage, absolutely ugly crying, bawling my eyes out and got my hug. I felt so awful and guilty, like Jesus knew I found my sister’s Halloween candy and ate some of it. Something terrible I will have to answer for.

Old people repeat themselves, so if you are a long time reader of this column, miigwech! Thank you for being here. My Gramma Rose had stories about everyone in the family and her friends. I like to think that her repeating life events is like oral history, all of the silly, the sad and downright absurd. I carry my Gram’s words about her life events and to me it is an honor and a blessing. Before passing onto the next plane of being she said she would always look after me as she did in life. I know my beloved Gramma is near me always.

The reason I bring Gram up is because I too love telling stories about my mish-adventures and real life for me, an Indigenous woman who now repeats herself and has a story for everyone. My first column was published in November 1998 while I was still living in what I named, “The Big City” but was actually Minneapolis, MN. We moved from rural Bemidji, MN to the urban jungle when I was 12. I still miss the city.

I had made a promise to my Grampa that I would look after his wife, Rose, when she needed me. I had been to Cloquet, MN because my grandparents lived here, right next to Fond du Lac Reservation where we are enrolled. I had always felt a connection to the lands here and thought it would be alright, even giving up a new career and my beloved apartment in Minneapolis.

Some of my family lived here too, so my son and I would not be lonely. Until reality hit and I experienced severe culture shock. I have to leave here; will be continued next month.

--- VOTING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 ---

**Automatic Voter Registration**

The election bill passed this year includes a provision for automatic voter registration, meaning that eligible voters will be automatically registered to vote when obtaining a driver’s license or state-issued ID. This change will go into effect once the system for it is certified, which is expected to be in 2024.

The Secretary of State’s office estimates that hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans may be added to the voter rolls due to this change. In the future, additional scenarios may also be added to the system; for example, when people apply for medical assistance or state fishing or hunting licenses, they may also be added to the automatic voter registration line. Based on the experiences of other states, Minnesota is focusing first on state-issued IDs in order to reach the largest pool of unregistered eligible voters, while helping ensure a smoother rollout.

**Permanent Absentee Ballots**

Starting in June of 2024, voters will be able to request to be on a permanent list of absentee voters. This means that they will automatically be sent an absentee ballot, rather than needing to re-apply for every election. An increasing number of voters are looking for more options to vote, and this system is designed to meet that demand. Previously, voters could sign up to receive an absentee ballot application, but still had to request the ballot. This streamlines the process by having the actual ballot sent directly to the voter every time.

Voters can request to be removed from the list at any time, and the Secretary of State’s office works with the post office to update addresses when people move. Just like in the current system, voters using absentee voting will be able to track their ballot on the mnvotes.gov website to ensure that it is received and counted.

This system will not be in place for the fall 2023 election. To vote absentee this year, you will need to use an absentee ballot request form downloadable at mnvotes.gov.

**This Year’s Election**

2023 is a year of local elections. While they do not get the attention and turnout that presidential elections do, they are at the heart of the issues that are closest to home for all of us in our local communities – housing, zoning, police and fire departments, arts boards, transit, roads, and more. Each of us have issues we care about, and because of these election changes, more Minnesotans than ever will have a chance to make our voice heard at the ballot this fall.

For more information, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXW89s.

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https://thecirclenews.org

The Circle: News from a Native American Perspective

August 2023
WACIPI

AUGUST 18-20

GRAND ENTRIES
FRIDAY 7PM
SATURDAY 1PM & 7PM
SUNDAY 1PM

PUBLIC WELCOME
FREE ADMISSION
FIREWORKS: 10PM SATURDAY
LIVESTREAMING

SMSCWACIPI.ORG
3212 DAKOTAH PARKWAY, SHAKOPEE, MN 55379