

AREA BRIEFS

'Happiness Is ...'

Area women are invited to the Webster Area After Five Christian Women's Club at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at White Tail Wilderness, 27225 St. Hwy. 35, Webster.

Bob and Trish Berquist of Webster will be the special feature telling everything you ever wanted to know about wild rice. Jackie Maslow of Grantsburg is the entertaining music for the evening. The guest speaker is Jan McDonough who will tell of a disturbing incident in an otherwise happy childhood which sent her looking for happiness in all the wrong places.

For reservations/cancellations, call Jan (866-8106).

Brothers bringing 'em on at Festival

ST. CROIX FALLS—St. Croix Festival Theatre's famous music series returns at 8 p.m. Oct. 22 with the original, spiritual and harmonious sounds of the Brothers Frantzych!

For more information/reservations, call the St. Croix Festival Theatre's box office locally at 715-483-3387 or toll-free at 1-888-887-6002.

'European Tour' at Rice Lake

The Red Cedar Symphony presents a "European Tour" concert at 4 p.m. October 16 in the UW-BC Fine Arts Theatre in Rice Lake.

The orchestra, conducted by Thomas W. Howell, will play such European favorites as "Blue Danube Waltz," "Finlandia," and "Beethoven's Overture to

A safety belt success story

According to Burnett County Sheriff's, this car crash happened Sept. 16, 2005 at 3:49 p.m. Four persons were in a one-vehicle accident on CTH X near Whistler Road, Shelley Porter, 26, Webster, allegedly fell asleep at the wheel and lost control of the vehicle which crashed head on in to a large oak tree.

By BARB RIVARD

This crash happened Sept. 16, 2005.

It's hard to describe the events leading up to the accident.

I was asleep.

We had left for Duluth about 7 a.m., had been to a doctor appointment and then shopping and were on our way home. When we left Target, I asked Shelley to drive. She didn't want to but I insisted because I was tired. I awoke in Webster when we turned on County Road X but fell asleep again.

The next thing I heard was Tom yelling Shelley's name and the sound of my truck hitting the tree.

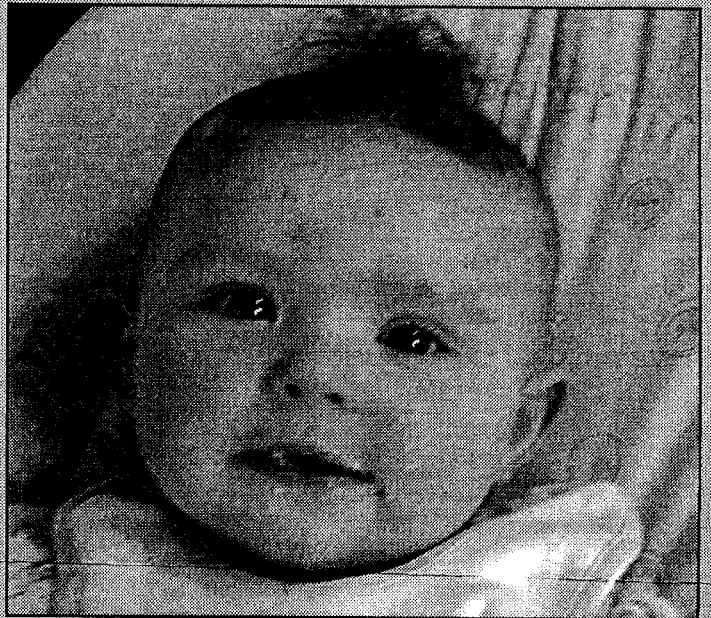
Then Shelley was out of the vehicle, yelling for help. Lola (five months old) was crying and Tom was trying to calm Shelly down.

She felt so bad for falling asleep and hurting her family. Thankfully everyone will fully recover.

Lola was fine. She was in her car seat next to me and the only thing that happened to her is that she flipped over.

We didn't have the base in my truck so we had her seat belted in and on impact she landed upside down.

Absolutely fine, she was crying but didn't have a



Lola survived (above). The truck didn't, left. Special Photos.

scratch and within three minutes she was smiling and charming the people who came running to help us. I don't know their names, but they deserve a huge "thank you."

I firmly believe that had Lola not been in that car seat she wouldn't be with us now. The impact threw Tom forward and broke his upper arm. Shelley had multiple bruises both from the

airbag and her seatbelt and I have bruises and a couple of stitches in my nose.

We were extremely lucky. The Great Spirit must have been watching over us.

I will never, ever allow a child to ride in one of our vehicles without a car seat or the proper restraint and I urge you all to do the same.

Submitted by St. Croix Tribal Ride Safe, Kathy Dittmar, Honoring Our Children/Janet Nelson, St. Croix Tribal Head Start Ride Safe program.

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# Ride Safe Child Passenger Safety Project

HERTEL - The St. Croix Reservation has operated a child passenger safety program for over 10 years. The early years of the program involved distribution of car seats through a clinic-based program. In 2003 St. Croix expanded this program by participating in the pilot year of the Ride Safe Program. This new emphasis to the program involved expansion of partnerships with Head Start and Honoring Our Children. Not only does this reach more parents, but it includes home visits to reinforce safety messages and check on car seat installations.

The Indian Health Service developed Ride Safe to help tribal communities address motor vehicle injuries among American Indian and Alaskan Native children. Specifically, Ride Safe aims to reduce the rate of motor vehicle related injuries to children aged infant - 5 years, enrolled in participating Tribal Head Start programs by promoting child restraint use. The Ride Safe Program includes eight guides; each guide includes activities for specific group within the Tribal Head Start or community. St. Croix has participated in three years of the Ride Safe Program. In 2004, 70 child safe-

ty seats were distributed to participating families.

The success of the Ride Safe program was illustrated in April 2004 with a success story - a child saved by her car seat. The Ride Safe program's ability to provide child passenger safety to students and parents/caregivers along with car seat distribution/installation, during home visits allows more families to receive car seats along with child passenger safety education. - *from St. Croix Tribal Head Start*

# We were all OK thanks to seatbelts

by Barb Rivard

**NOTE:** This car crash happened Sept. 16 at 3:49 p.m. It describes what happened when four persons, including an infant, were involved in a one-vehicle accident on CTH X near Whistler Road. Shelley Porter 26, Webster, the driver, allegedly fell asleep at the wheel. Porter lost control of the vehicle, which crashed head-on into a large oak tree. The Leader reported the accident after it had happened as part of the Burnett County Sheriff's Report.

**TOWN OF SAND LAKE** - It's hard to describe the events leading up to the accident. I was asleep.

We had left for Duluth about 7 a.m., had been to a doctor appointment and shopping, and were on our way home. When we left Target, I asked Shelley to drive. She didn't want to, but I insisted because I was tired. I woke up when we turned onto CTH X in Webster, but fell asleep again.

The next thing I knew, Tom (my son-in-law, Tom Porter) was yelling Shelley's name, and I heard the sound of my truck hitting the tree. Then Shelley was out of the vehicle, yelling for help. Lola (five-month-old Lola Porter) was crying, and Tom was trying to calm Shelley down. She felt so bad for falling asleep, and hurting her family. Thankfully, everyone will fully recover. Lola was fine. She was in her car seat next to me. The only thing that happened to her was that she flipped over. We didn't have the base in my truck, so had her seat belted in. On impact, she landed upside down. Absolutely fine, she was crying, but didn't have a scratch on her.



**This is the van that hit a tree after the driver fell asleep at the wheel. Except for a broken arm on one passenger, the four people in the van escaped serious injury.**



**Five-month-old Lola Porter smiled and charmed rescuers after she and her family had been in a Sept. 26 car accident. Her grandmother, Barb Rivard, credits proper restraint in a child car seat with saving Lola's life. -Photos submitted**

Within three minutes, she was smiling, and charming the people who came running to help us. I don't know their names, but they deserve a huge thank-you. I firmly believe that, had Lola not been in that car seat, she wouldn't be with us now. The impact threw Tom forward, and broke his upper arm. Shelley had multiple bruises, both from the airbag and her seatbelt. I have bruises and a couple of stitches in my nose.

We were extremely lucky. The Great Spirit must have been watching over us. I will never, ever allow a child to ride in one of our vehicles without a car seat or the proper restraint. I urge you all to do the same. - Submitted by St. Croix Tribal Ride Safe: Kathy Dittmar, Honoring Our Children, and Janet Nelson, St. Croix Tribal Head Start Ride Safe