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Submitted photo

Evander Brown helps hold the drum for actor Victor Toman after his presentation of "According to Coyote" recently at the White Earth Assembly of God Church. Also pictured from the left are Verna Millage, Carol Fabre (partially hidden), WallyAnn Warren, Dorothy Heisler, Deb Dakota and Mary Leff.

## Local organizations sponsor one-man music, dance play

The Mixed Blood Theatre from Minneapolis recently played to an audience at White Earth at the Assembly of God Church. It was a wonderful performance of "According to Coyote," a one-man music and dance play about an unforgettable encounter with the richness, vitality and sensibilities of Native American culture.

The play was brought here by the Circle of Life School, the White Earth Tribal Health program, the White Earth Child Care Program, the White Earth St. Columba's Episcopal Church Substance Abuse Ministry, BCCI, White Earth ECFE, the White Earth Community Council and the White Earth Early Childhood Initiative.

It was a play for young and old, everyone enjoyed the 45-minute energetic show. The sponsors gave each family a book on Native American culture to bring home for preschool children.

A special thank you to Tim and Tammy Brown and the Assembly of God Church for inviting the play into their church.

## Charles W. LaDue

Attorney at Law

(White Earth Enrollee)

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Coon Rapids, MN

## WE Child Passenger Safety Coalition awarded Part II Injury Prevention grant

The White Earth Child Passenger Safety Coalition (CPS) was recently awarded a Part II Injury Prevention grant through the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The grant will provide a total of \$30,000 over a three-year period to fund Child Passenger Safety (CPS) activities on the White Earth Reservation. These activities include the White Earth Head Start's Ride Safe program; White Earth Health Education's CPS program and conducting two and four-day CPS training sessions for tribal program staff during the grant period. All of these activities are geared toward increasing child safety seat availability, parent CPS skills and increasing child safety seat (CSS) usage.

This grant opportunity will be used by the Coalition to continue on-going programs within two tribal programs (Health Education and Head Start). For those that don't know, over the past four years, the White Earth Head Start has been implementing the IHS Ride Safe program by providing convertible and booster car seats to Head Start parents. Along with the child safety seat (CSS), the Head Start staff provide CPS education, hands on skills training to the parents on how to install their new CSS and conduct a follow-up home visits to parents where they provide refresher CPS education and training. This program has resulted in more than 600 child safety seats being provided to White Earth parents, as well as insuring that each recipient received instruction on how to properly use their child safety seat.

Since 2004, the White Earth Health Education program has been operating the White Earth Child Safety Seat program from their White Earth Health Center office by

WIC. During this time they have been providing CPS training and education to numerous programs and individuals. One of the larger groups is the Home Health Lamaze program. Health Education staff attend one of the Lamaze sessions and provide CSS education and hands on skills training to the parents making the trip home from the hospital go much smoother. Mondays and Thursday the Health Education's program will provide CSS education and a Child Safety Seat when available, to parents. These sessions need to be scheduled in advance and parents are required to receive the CPS education and hands on skills training before they are provided a child safety seat. Please call (218) 983-6343 to schedule a CPS training and hands on skill training.

All of these CPS efforts have been useful in increasing the Child Safety Seat usage rates on the White Earth Reservation. In 2002, the observed usage rate in White Earth was 12 percent and 0 percent in the other communities. Since that time the usage rate has climbed to be as high as 43 percent (spring of 2003) for White Earth and is currently at 30 percent for children 3 to 5 years of age.

Over the next three years the White Earth CPS Coalition will continue to implement Child Passenger Safety activities on the White Earth Reservation with the goal of achieving 100 percent child safety seat usage for all children on the reservation. White Earth Reservation will not reach this goal without everyone making the effort to place their children and grandchildren in a child safety seat on each and every trip - especially the short trips to the grocery or down to visit a friend.



Coalition members front row from left are Gina Boudreau - Health Educator, Kim Turner - Health Educator, LaRaye Anderson, Health Education Manager; back row: Chris Allen - Environmental Health Officer, Steve Jackson - White Earth Tribal Police. Not pictured: Kevin Headstrom - White Earth Head Start Director and Kay Sunram - WE Head Start.

Submitted photo

## WE Tribal Police cite two unbuckled drivers during statewide enforcement campaign

White Earth Tribal Police officers can scratch off two unbelted motorists from their holiday shopping list — they gave them seat belt citations during a statewide enforcement campaign, Nov. 21 – 27.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety coordinated the Safe & Sober Thanksgiving effort to increase seat belt use. Last year, the Thanksgiving holiday weekend was one of the deadliest travel periods of the year in Minnesota: 13 motorists were killed.

Tribal Officer Steve Jackson says a common misconception with seat belt use is that unbelted motorists only hurt themselves. In fact, unbelted occupants often slam into other occupants during a crash, causing serious injury or death — and everyone pays for the costs associated with injured motorists.

“It’s the time of year not to be selfish,”

says Jackson. “We should take that spirit to the roads — buckle up and drive with others in mind.”

Last year on the White Earth Reservation, one vehicle occupant died which occurred in crashes, and that person was not wearing a seat belt. The economic impact of those unbuckled fatalities is estimated at \$1,120,000. Statewide in 2004, more than half of 461 vehicle occupants killed were not belted.

As a Safe & Sober grantee, White Earth Tribal Police Department will participate in multiple enforcement campaigns throughout 2006, with emphasis on seat belts, speeding and impaired driving.

Safe & Sober is funded by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is designed to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries.

## Tribal police to target impaired drivers

White Earth officers will patrol over the river and through the woods during a stepped-up impaired driving enforcement through Dec. 31.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety will coordinate the Safe & Sober effort that will include participation from 300 city and county law enforcement agencies and the State Patrol.

In September, White Earth participated in a similar effort and generated two DWIs; that statewide campaign racked up over 2,000 DWIs.

“The bottom line is impaired drivers will be blitzed by our officers,” said White Earth Tribal Police Officer Steven Jackson. “Our gift to the community is to make roads safe this holiday season.”

Historically, the holiday season is one of the deadliest periods on Minnesota roads. Last year, there were 12 traffic deaths and over 600 injured during the Christmas and New Year’s holiday weekends.

In 2004, there were five alcohol-related deaths and 29 injuries on the White Earth Reservation. The economic impact of these deaths and injuries cost the reservation \$6,647,200. Last year, more than 360

impaired motorists were arrested for DWI on the White Earth Reservation. In Minnesota, more than 400,000 licensed drivers have a DWI.

Statewide in 2004 there were 177 alcohol-related traffic deaths — the lowest number of impaired driving deaths ever recorded in Minnesota. Public Safety officials attribute the drastic decline in deaths to stepped-up enforcement efforts, new legislation and public education.

In August, the state’s legal alcohol-concentration level lowered to 0.08. The White Earth Tribal Police Department urges everyone to be aware of the amount of alcohol that one can consume before becoming impaired. The impact of alcohol is determined by a number of factors: gender, weight, food consumed prior to drinking and pace of drinking. Motorists can be arrested for DWI even below 0.08

“If law enforcement officers can determine alcohol or drugs caused you to make driving errors — no matter what the alcohol-concentration level — you can be arrested,” said Jackson.

Safe & Sober is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.