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**CASINO EXECUTIVE AND MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER RECEIVES
BUSINESS JOURNAL “40 UNDER FORTY” AWARD**

ONAMIA, Minn. – Joe Nayquonabe, Interim Corporate Vice President of Marketing for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, was named to the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*’s 2009 “40 Under Forty” list. He was one of 211 candidates to be nominated for this award, which is given annually to 40 people under the age of 40 who have been successful in their careers and communities.

Nayquonabe was nominated by Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians.

“Joe’s leadership and integrity continue to amaze me as he brings forth new ideas, enthusiasm, and dedication to every aspect of his work. His leadership goes beyond his professional career,” said Oquist. “As a young Mille Lacs Band member, Joe and his success are a positive influence on the community’s youth. He is dedicated to passing down the Ojibwe culture and participates in traditional activities, along with other community involvement. He deserves to be recognized.”

At Grand Casino, the 27-year-old Nayquonabe oversees the central marketing efforts for both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley. This also includes oversight of Grand Casinos’ Brooklyn Park office that focuses on marketing efforts in the Twin Cities. Today he manages a department with more than 100 Associates and a multimillion-dollar budget. Prior to his move to central marketing, Nayquonabe worked as the Director of Marketing for Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

“It’s a great honor to be a recipient of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*’s ‘40 Under Forty’ award,” Nayquonabe said. “While this is an individual award, I view it as recognition of leadership and accomplishments of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.”

Over the years, this prestigious honor has gone to many of the area’s most prominent professionals. Past honorees include Governor Tim Pawlenty, State Senator Mee Moua (DFL-St. Paul), Minnesota Twins President Dave St. Peter, Split Rock Partners Managing Director Michael Gorman, and LaBreche Murray founder Beth LaBreche.

About Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, which are owned by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, are two of Minnesota’s premier

entertainment facilities, offering gaming, accommodations, dining, conference and banquet facilities, and live entertainment.

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