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**18TH ANNUAL GRAND CELEBRATION POWWOW TO BE HELD
AT GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY IN JUNE**

HINCKLEY, Minn. – The 18th annual Grand Celebration powwow will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley June 19-21. Hundreds of American Indian dancers of all ages will gather for three days of competition. This event is one of the largest powwows in the area and is free and open to the public.

Before each day's competition, there is a Grand Entry where dancers dressed in traditional, brightly colored regalia precede onto the powwow grounds for an opening ceremony. The Grand Entry times are: 7 p.m. on June 19, 1 and 7 p.m. on June 20, and 1 p.m. on June 21.

Thousands of visitors from across the country and parts of Canada are expected to attend the event to watch dancers compete in 12 dance categories, such as the Women's Traditional Jingle, Men's and Women's Fancy, and Specials. The event will also include singing and hand drum competitions for drum groups that perform music for the dances.

Dancers compete by age group; there are three rounds for each dance category. Seven judges, chosen from all geographic areas, judge one round of each dance category to ensure fair competitions. Cash prizes totaling more than \$85,000 will be awarded for first through fourth places for the dance and singing competitions. Along with these competitions, there will be vendors selling crafts, artwork and food.

About 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. Grand Casino Hinckley is located about one hour north of the Twin Cities, one mile east of the I-35 Hinckley exit on Highway 48. The powwow grounds are located just south of the casino on County Road 15.

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