

Thunder Valley Rally Raises over \$24,000 for Save The Family Foundation of Arizona



Nearly 1,300 bikers rode the 90-mile poker run at the 7th annual Thunder Valley Rally recently held at Cliff Castle Casino. A record amount exceeding \$24,000 was raised for Save The Family Foundation of Arizona. Save The Family is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless families rebuild their lives by providing housing, counseling, and family needs.

Tim Lidster, spokesperson for Save The Family, was elated with the response to this year's fund raiser: "This was by far one of the most successful events we have ever done. We really enjoyed working with the staff at Cliff Castle Casino. They were very helpful every step of the way, and thanks to the combined efforts of all of the volunteers and staff members from each organization, and especially all of you who took the run and donated so generously, many families will be off the streets and on their way to a better life. Even though they may not be able to say it to all of you, I will for them. Thank you again to all who were involved."

Five Navajo Nation Communities Receive \$1.2 Million to Implement Local Governance Programs, Incentives

Five Navajo Nation communities recently became the first to receive more than \$1.2 million in funding from the Local Governance Trust Fund, which is an incentive for communities to achieve local community empowerment through governance certification.

The chapters of Shonto, Nahata Dziil, Steamboat, and Newcomb were each presented with checks for \$256,082, and Toh Nanees Dizi received \$236,204, before the Navajo Nation Council, which met in a special session.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Arbin Mitchell, executive director of the Navajo Division of Community Development Division Director, presented the checks to chapter representatives.

The funds are to develop programs and services for each chapter to invest in their communities. The Local Governance Trust Fund, which was created in 1998, states that four percent of the average annual market value of the fund shall

be distributed annually to governance-certified Navajo chapters based on a formula recommend by the Navajo Nation Transportation and Community Development.

Paragon Casino Resort Sponsors Annual "Coats for Kids" Drive

The annual "Coats for Kids" drive, sponsored by Paragon Casino Resort, kicked off Oct. 8 and runs through Nov. 5. This year's drive will benefit The Avoyelles Council on Aging.

"Paragon is honored to be part of such a worthy cause. As a member of this community, we take seriously our responsibility to help those around us," said Jeff Favre, general manager of Paragon Casino Resort. "With fall upon us and winter approaching, the coat drive will provide welcome warmth to those in our community who would not otherwise be able to afford it."

Guests of Paragon Casino Resort may make a donation by dropping off new or gently used coats and jackets at the Tour and Travel sales booth (located next to the parking garage) inside Paragon Casino Resort and at the Paragon Preferred Players Club. Coats of any size will be accepted and must be in good condition. Peerless Dry Cleaners in Marksville, LA, has again partnered with Paragon and will clean the coats at no expense.

All coats donated at the casino will go to the Avoyelles Council on Aging who will then distribute the coats to needy families in the parish.

Treasure Island Team Members Volunteer at Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity



Treasure Island's management and maintenance team members along with members of Tribal Council volunteered their time to the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity.

The Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council and Treasure Island Resort & Casino executive management and maintenance team members recently volunteered their time to the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. This marks the fifth year Treasure Island team members have hung drywall in a Red Wing Habitat for Humanity house, with many of the same volunteers returning from previous years.

In addition to volunteer labor, the Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council presented a \$5,000 check to Parker Quammen, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity. "We

truly appreciate the relationship we have built over the years with Prairie Island and Treasure Island,” said Quammen. “Their crew comes back year after year and they are loyal and skilled. We really enjoy working side by side.”

Teeing Off on Diabetes Annual Turtle Cup Raises \$5,000 for ADA

The St. Croix Casino & Hotel's annual Turtle Cup is a long, straight drive down the middle of the fairway in the fight against diabetes, a disease that poses a significant health threat to all Americans but presents an even greater risk for the Native American population: Diabetes strikes Native Americans at twice the rate as the rest of the population. “It's important that we do what we can to fight this threatening disease,” said Dino Oustigoff, St. Croix Casino & Hotel general manager. “Thanks to everyone's efforts in the annual Turtle Cup, we're able to do just that.”

This year's Turtle Cup, the 13th annual, was held at Turtleback Golf & Country Club in Rice Lake. In spite of the less-than-perfect weather - the shotgun start was delayed two hours because of rain, lightning and wind - 34 foursomes were able to get in 18 holes of golf. At the end of the day, when all of the pars and birdies - and more than a few bogeys and double bogeys - had been scored, when the dinner had been eaten, when the prizes had been awarded, the annual Turtle Cup had raised \$5,000 for the American Diabetes Association's Wisconsin affiliate.

Ryann Rathman of the ADA's Wisconsin Affiliate accepted this year's Turtle Cup donation check from casino General Manager, Dino Oustigoff. Over its 13-year history, the Turtle Cup has raised \$65,000 for the American Diabetes Association's research programs.

The Prairie Island Indian Community Pledges \$100,000 to Minnesota State University Mankato Anthropology Program

The Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council recently met with representatives from Minnesota State University Mankato (MSU) to pledge \$100,000 to MSU's Anthropology Program. MSU will receive \$10,000 each year for 10 years to further their anthropological and archeological studies in Goodhue County. Their research focuses on ancient village sites and burial mounds dating back to A.D. 1100 on and near Prairie Island.

The department will collect scientific data relevant to area archaeology and investigate how traditional knowledge intersects with the discoveries. Dr. Ronald C. Schirmer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at MSU, believes that existing archaeological interpretations have unfairly ignored traditional histories, and are therefore less accurate than they could be.

“In effect, the way archaeology has been done has unjustly kept Native voices and people separated from their own history,” stated Schirmer. “There are few fates worse than



Pictured from L-R: Dr. Paul Brown, Professor and Chair of the Anthropology Dept. at MSU; from the Prairie Island Tribal Council: Alan Childs II, Treasurer; Johnny Johnson, Secretary; Audrey Bennett, President; Victoria Winfrey, V.P.; Ron Johnson, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; and Dr. Ronald Schirmer, Assistant Professor of the Anthropology Department at MSU.

being systematically stripped of one's culture and history.”

The donation also serves as a way for tribal community members to be involved in researching their historical roots. Faculty and students of the anthropology program will work with community members to allow tribal children to participate in the activities and research near Prairie Island. This partnership gives the tribal community the means to be actively involved in discovering their own history and gives researchers a unique perspective on their findings.

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative to Receive \$55,268 in SMSC Grants

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community announces two grants to the District 930 Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative. A \$50,000 grant for fiscal year 2008, which begins October 1, 2007, will help fund two chemical dependency positions in Prior Lake and Shakopee. A grant for \$5,268 will be used to purchase six new computers with support equipment and supplies for the New Beginnings Program.

The New Beginnings Program helps girls who become pregnant or have young children while still in school finish their schooling. “Our goal is to help the girls complete their high school education so they can move on to college or be gainfully employed,” said Sue Schmidt, Lead Teacher for the New Beginnings Program. Forty-one students currently share the six computers, which replaced ancient models, according to Schmidt. “The students are so excited to have these new computers. They are now going to be able to get up to speed with the rest of the world.”

This is the third year the SMSC grants have helped fund various efforts to help students with chemical dependency issues succeed. “We feel it is important to support these programs because of the young people who are trying so hard to change their lives for the better. We encourage others to give to support these important programs. The youth are the future and helping them helps all of us,” said SMSC Tribal Administrator Bill Rudnicki. ♣