



The Avis



USVI 161st YEAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005, NO. 216

75¢

Mahogany Run Golf Course donates books to public library

TAMIKA THOMAS

ST. THOMAS—Several excited second graders from the Leonard Dober Elementary School were delighted Wednesday after reading the first of many books that were donated by The Mahogany Run Golf Course.

Mahogany Run, which was purchased by Ginn Clubs and Resorts last June, donated \$25,000 to the Enid Baa Public Library earlier this year in hopes of ordering about 3,000 books to be added to the "Young Adult Collection."

They came up with the figure of \$25,000 because Mahogany Run's 25th anniversary is this year.

Ginn Clubs and Resorts Vice President Rich Hohman watched as the children's faces lighted up while they were read to by Judy Edmeade, Friends of the Libraries member that runs the summer reading program at the library.

"It was pretty satisfying," said Hohman.

He said he could already see the effects of reading on the children from the looks on their faces. Hohman said reading opens the whole world.

"You can learn more about yourself through reading," he said.

Hohman said the company wanted to make a positive impact on the territory's youths. He said library officials indicated there was a need for a donation to the young adults sections.

The company responded by contacting Scholastic Books, which provides discounts on a wide range of children's books. Hohman said that with Scholastic's help they were able to donate more books than they



TAMIKA THOMAS

Leonard Dober Elementary School students hold up books that were donated to the Enid Baa Library Wednesday morning by Ginn Clubs and Resorts, the company that owns Mahogany Run Golf Course.

had anticipated.

All of the books have not come in as yet, but 700 have already been donated to the library. The company does not plan to end their participation in the reading program with just a few books, but plans to have a "Resort to Reading program."

The program will include many activities that will be sponsored by Ginn Clubs and Resorts. One of the programs will be the celebrity reading program that will solicit the aid of a celebrities every two to three months.

The celebrities will read for children at the Enid M. Baa Library and the only thing needed for admission will be a library card.

"We are trying to give kids a reason to go get a library card," Hohman said adding that he hoped that the habit sticks after the celebrities read.

He said he hoped the children come back and continue to come back.

"I think it will be beneficial," said Planning and Natural Resources Assistant Commissioner Claudette Lewis of "Resort to Reading," the celebrity reading program.

Lewis said she felt having a celebrity or a professional athlete reading to the kids would help them realize there is nothing wrong with reading. She said children look up to celebrities and often see them as role models.

Hohman said that they have entered final negotiations with a celebrity, but will not release any information until the deal is closed.

"We commend our new community partner for making a commitment to this important cause," said District of Libraries Territorial Librarian Wallace Williams.