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**4th Year Best Guided Tour: Billie Swamp Safari** on Big Cypress Reserve gives visitors the chance to see wetlands and hardwood hammocks where wildlife such as deer, water buffalo, wild hogs and eagles have all been sighted. Tours are given on swamp buggies, airboat rides and on foot. Honorable Mention: Ghost Tours of St. Augustine, Gulf Islands National Seashore Guided Tour (Pensacola area)

**13th Year Best Public Radio Station:** Florida State University's **WFSU 88.9 FM** (Leon County) in Tallahassee offers NPR, jazz and classical music, news, and statewide and community outreach.

**3rd Year Best Local News Team:** The **WESH Channel 2** (Orange County) team includes anchors, reporters, web staff and many more, bringing daily local and national news to Central Florida homes. Honorable Mention: WFLA (Tampa), Brighthouse's Bay News 9 (Tampa)

**4th Year Best Local Station: WESH Channel 2** in Orlando first broadcast in 1956 and still covers the latest in news, sports and entertainment. Honorable Mention: Bay News 9 (Tampa), WINK News (Fort Myers)

**3rd Year Best Local Meteorologist: Paul Dellegatto**, on Fox 13, has been with WTVT in Tampa since 1990 and became chief meteorologist in 1997. He is AMS Certified and one of the five certified broadcast meteorologists at the WTVT weather department. Honorable Mention: Tom Terry (WFTV Channel 9, Orlando)

**4th Year Best Local TV Anchor:** This year it was a tie. **Wendy Chioji** of WESH Channel 2, Orlando recently made news as she celebrated 20 years at WESH and announced a major change in her life, ending her career in Florida and beginning a new one in Park City, Utah, launching Vision Quest, a new cycling center. **Gayle Sierens** of Tampa co-anchors News Channel 8's Live at 5, 6 and 11PM newscasts. Sierens joined the Channel 8 staff in 1977 as a weekend sports anchor and reporter. She has won an Emmy for news reporting.

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**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**  
Dec. 9 - 14, 2008


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**TICKETS, DINING, INFO:**  
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## 13th Annual BEST OF FLORIDA Awards

September 2008

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