

## Pelicans lend a helping hand

On September 9th, the Pelicans front office staff broke out their drills, paintbrushes, hammers and sand paper and joined nearly 200 volunteers in an effort to renovate the Horry County Shelter Home. The all-day project was part of the United Way's "Day of Caring."



*(Left) Anne Frost gives the newly made game cubes a fresh coat of paint. (Right) Mike Junga and Neil Fortier show off their carpentry skills.*



The Pelicans hosted a quick meeting and breakfast at Coastal Federal Field, after which the volunteers made their way to the shelter home. The volunteers went to work on the complete transformation of the shelter, which houses abandoned, abused, and neglected children in Horry County. Pelicans staffers were responsible for

creating six "game cube" desks for the children, re-sodding the outside of the homes, painting and cleaning the bedrooms, landscaping the property, and more. When the day came to a close the shelter had received a total makeover.

"Total Transformation! The outside looks totally different and the insides of the homes look tremendously different," said Julie Kopnick of the United Way of Horry County.

"It's good to put the Pelicans stamp on any community event. The United Way is a tremendous organization and we are proud to be a part of their family," added Mike Junga, Sales Manager and Public Address Announcer.



### A Day with the Players



*Pitcher Brian Digby enjoys some baseball fun with a lucky youngster.*

In June of 2005, the Myrtle Beach Pelicans and the Autism Advocate Foundation worked together

to put on event for children in the area with Autism. Five Pelican players participated in helping children in a friendly game of t-ball and enjoyed lunch with the youngsters after all of the action. A total of 15 children took part participated in the event and each one of them had a great time. Throughout the t-ball game the children received lessons on hitting, throwing, and running the bases. At night, the kids were invited back to watch their favorite Pelican play in a game.

Building off of the success from this year's event the Pelicans hope to host another "Day with the Players" in 2006 for Autistic youth. It was a truly unique day for the Pelicans and for the youngsters who were able to experience such a thrill.

## Pelicans respond to Hurricane

In response to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast, the Myrtle Beach Pelicans raised funds for much-needed medicines, nonperishable food items, and water for victims of the disaster during their last four home games, September 2-5. During each of the games, fans joined the relief effort with cash donations in a "pass the hat" format. One-hundred percent of the donations went to the relief efforts in the Gulf Coast.

The hurricane touched all Americans but hit particularly close to home for one



*Pelicans player Van Pope heads home to Mississippi to help in hurricane relief efforts.*

Pelicans player. Third baseman Van Pope grew up in the Gulf Coast, and decided to go home early from the season to lend a hand with relief efforts. To show support from his fans, the first "pass the hat" effort netted more than \$1,000. Van loaded up his truck with water, batteries, food supplies and more before heading home to

Mississippi, courtesy of generous Pelican fans.

During the last games of the season, the team continued to "pass the hat" for Katrina victims. As a result, more than \$2600 was sent to the Gulf Coast to help in the rebuilding efforts.



## Team hits home run with "Help 4 Kids"

The poverty level across America is growing at an alarming rate, but nowhere more than in the Horry County area. While national poverty levels are estimated to be around 17 percent, local rates top 23 percent. With such disturbing figures, children are usually the ones hardest hit. Often times, children are provided with reduced or free school lunches and after school snacks. But these same children might face going hungry over the weekends due to circumstances beyond their control.



*Local children look forward to taking home backpacks each weekend chockfull of nutritious, "kid friendly" food items.*

After learning of this issue, the Pelicans front office and fans decided to do something about it. The team "adopted" Help 4 Kids as their charity for 2005. This organization is a grassroots effort, organized by Conway Medical Center Healthreach and Churches Assisting

People Inc. The group collects non-perishable, "kid friendly" food items. Every Friday, they pack the food into donated backpacks for the children to take home with them on the weekends. Not only does the school child receive nutritious snacks for the weekend, but they are also able to share with their younger siblings at home.

When Pelican employees learned about the plight of local kids, they stepped up for the first annual "Employee Food Fight". Front office and seasonal employees filled bins with food throughout the baseball season. Placed in conspicuous locations, the bins caught the attention of fans as well. The program, which only could provide around 50 backpacks in early 2005, now supplies almost 500 backpacks a week to needy children.

According to Barbara Mains, coordinator for Backpack Buddies, the team's involvement is a success. "The involvement of the Pelicans from the beginning has been crucial to our success. Not only do they collect snacks at the box office, A lot of baseball fans bring us snacks because their team is involved, Back Pack Buddies is very happy to be involved with such a winning team", said Mains.

## Nelson Mullins & Pelicans thank local educators



*Superintendent Gerrita Postlewaite joins school board chairman Will Garland, NMRS representative Tom Moran and Pelicans GM Matt O'Brien to accept a check for local education*

Teachers and school district support employees shape the future of the next generation, but often are the last ones to be recognized for their dedication and hard work. A local law firm and the Myrtle Beach Pelicans stepped up in 2005 to change that.

On Tuesday, May 24th, teachers, principals and school district employees were invited to a special night at Coastal Federal Field, thanks to Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm and the Pelicans. Horry County School Employee Appreciation Night recognized the 2005 "Teacher of the Year" Amber Borgman and members of the school board. Nelson Mullins, as in years past, also presented a donation check to the school district at this time.

Pitching Coach Bruce Dal Canton took a few minutes from his on-field duties to speak to the employees. Dal Canton taught school in Pennsylvania before signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates as a pitcher in the late 1960's. As he stated, "I know how hard they work and I would be honored to say a few words to acknowledge that fact".

The Pelicans took on the Winston Salem Warhogs that evening in a match-up on the diamond, but that wasn't be the only action on the field. School district employees were involved in everything from singing the National Anthem to participating in on-field games.

## How to request a Pelicans donation

Requesting a donation from the Pelicans is as easy as filling out a form. The form can be found on the website at: <http://myrtlebeachpelicans.com/community/donations.html>.

The information can then be mailed to:  
1251 21st Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
or faxed to (843) 918-6001.





# Fans break World Record



*Pelican fans don't miss a moment of the baseball action while wearing their Groucho Marx nose and glasses during the world record attempt*

Myrtle Beach Pelicans fans entered the history books in 2005 as 1,827 fans simultaneously donned Groucho Marx glasses, breaking the World Record for the "Most People Wearing Groucho Marx Glasses At The Same Time."

As fans approached Coastal Federal Field before the game between the Pelicans and the Lynchburg Hillcats, they were greeted by three tables with log books awaiting their signatures. Within the crowd of over 2,500, nearly 1,900 fans donned the funny looking glasses during the record attempt. In the third inning fans were instructed to put their glasses on at the same time and to wear them for a total of 15 minutes to break the previous record of 937 set back in 2003 in East Lansing, Michigan.

After verification, the Pelicans received the official stamp of approval from Guinness World Records in England. The 1,827 Groucho Marx glasses worn at Coastal Federal Field on Tuesday night nearly doubles the previous record.

## Going Once... Going Twice... Sold to the Dylan Fan!

Online auctions are the newest way to find that special item, but nothing could match the "P-Bay online auction" from the Pelicans in 2005. Bids flew in from fans hoping to win an authentic Pelicans jersey, signed by none other than Bob Dylan! The bidding started at \$300



and has quickly climbed to \$1100. All of the proceeds from the auction benefited the Youth Diamond fund. This charity, which is the main focus of fundraising efforts by the Pelicans, raises money toward the construction and development of baseball and softball fields, purchase of equipment and funding of athletic programs for the children of Horry County. This organization has been helping local children play baseball since 1999.

Also on the bidding block was a Willie Nelson autographed Pelicans jersey. Like the Dylan jersey all proceeds from the auction went to charity. Nelson's jersey

benefited the Help 4 Kids program of Horry County. This organization has been an outreach for local children and sponsors such programs as Clothe A Child, Backpack Buddies (a campaign to feed low income children on

weekends), a local food warehouse for emergency situations and holiday gift distribution programs. In addition, Help 4 Kids provides books for literacy programs, school supplies and awards for good grades. The poverty level of Horry County is approximately 23 percent and Help 4 Kids provides programs to ensure success with these children. The organization has been working in Horry County for 15 years.

Both of the musical legends signed the jerseys during a concert in June at Coastal Federal Field.



## Pro Am Hits Hole in One in 2nd year



*Pitching coach Bruce Dal Canton and his foursome were just one of 25 groups to tee off in the 2nd annual tournament.*

Golfers gathered in June 2005 to make the 2nd Annual Pelican Pro Am another smashing success. More than 125 golfers joined Pelican coaches, players and other sports notables on the links to help benefit the local Youth Diamond Fund. Team manager Randy Ingle, coaches Bruce Dal Canton and Franklin Stubbs, CCU football coach David Bennett and local news celebrities teed off on a beautiful summer day.

Budweiser came through for a second year as the naming sponsor of the event, with San Francisco oven providing an Italian feast for the after party. Burning Ridge golf Course was the site of the tournament and several of their golf pros joined in the fun. Other local businesses helped the effort by donating raffle prizes and with foursomes and hole sponsorships. Almost \$6,000 was donated to the Youth Diamond Fund as a result of the day-long event

The 2006 tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 19th.



# Reading Club helps children win

In the hopes of sparking young readers' interest, volunteers took to classrooms and school libraries in the winter and spring 2005 for Dingers Home Run Reading Club. In its fifth year, the program is designed to excite schoolchildren with the possibilities of reading. In Horry County, more than 14,500 children in kindergarten through fifth grade participated in the program.

Pelican sponsors Wendy's, Dillard's, Golden Corral and Pet Dairy joined the team to make the program a hit. Adult readers went to area schools one morning a week to read aloud to the youngsters for ten weeks. Concurrently with the in-class volunteers, the kids had a chance to win prizes by reading on their own time and earning points for each book they finished. The prizes included unique Home Run Reading club visors, buffets, kid's meals, game tickets and ice cream bars. More than 6,300 children won prizes during the campaign.

As part of the reward program, children winning Pelican tickets were also invited to attend games on special "Reading Club nights". Hundreds of children had the chance to get their pictures taken on the field before the game and meet Dinger the Home Run Dog.

According to school district spokeswoman Teal Britton, "Dinger's Homerun Reading Club supports literacy by promoting reading among elementary school students. The program helps students to set goals and they are really motivated by the rewards."



Hundreds of school children proudly took the field over three Reading Club nights in June as Pelican fans cheered their accomplishments.

# Fiesta de Beisbol welcomes Hispanic fans

Nearly 30% of Major League Baseball consists of players born outside of the USA, with an overwhelming majority from Latin-American countries. In 2005, the Pelicans roster mirrored that statistic, as 30% of the ball club was made up of players that hail from Latin-American countries. To recognize that fact, the Pelicans hosted "Fiesta de Beisbol" – a celebration of Latin-American heritage on the Grand Strand.

"I think it's great that the Pelicans are recognizing the achievements of Latin Americans. I really think that professional baseball has certainly changed over the last 10 years and the Hispanic player definitely has a greater presence. The Braves organization has expanded its efforts to scout Latin players and we are concentrated in Latin America. Take a look at our Major League roster and within our Minor League system and you'll find that we have quite a few. I want to say that there are close to 40 Latin-American players in the Braves system alone," said Marco Paddy, the Atlanta Braves Director of Latin American Operations.

Fans had the opportunity to enjoy authentic Spanish food and multicultural music throughout the night at the ballpark. Spanish was the primary language of the day including the public address. For those who do not speak Spanish, English translations and subtitles were provided on the scoreboard. The evening was so favorably received that a repeat is planned for 2006.

## Ovations community contributions



Ovations, the food concessionaire for the ballpark, showed it's heart by giving back to the community. Not only did the food vendor contribute \$83,000 to its program that allows non-profit organizations to man concession stands, but also hosted several charitable events. Some of the programs and organizations benefiting from the non-profit opportunity at Coastal Federal Field were:

Ocean Strand Soccer Club  
Coastal Soccer Club  
Pawleys Island Masonic Lodge

Boy Scouts of America  
High School Cheerleader Squads  
Local High School Booster Clubs

Local Masonic Lodges  
Habitat for Humanity  
Civitans



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