



Flights of Fancy Newsletter

The Best Mother's Day Gift Ever

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The phone call came in late morning on Sunday, May 11. Mother's Day. The woman on the other end of the phone was distraught. They had started up an oil derrick out near Liberal, Kansas that morning and dislodged an entire nest of baby owls. The nest, with five babies, fell 20 feet down onto the hard gravel. The woman found only one baby still alive.

Worried for the life of the tiny baby, and unsure of what to do, she contacted Eagle Valley, then loaded up her family and made the long drive to Cheney, Kansas with their precious cargo.

Little did they realize that they were bringing a gift that had been awaited for many months.

Meet Miley, the newest addi-

tion to the EVRC family. She will replace our beloved barn owl Miles, who passed away last fall from complications from West Nile.

The photo below was taken the day after she arrived (with one of our Miles' ornaments in her box for inspiration), at 10 days of age.

Miley is a very sweet bird, who

already loves people and is delighting everyone who meets her with her personality and charm.

She might look young, but like all young owls, she is growing quickly and will soon be a fully feathered and begin to fly.

Watch for further Miley Bulletins later this month!



Owl Tidbits:

- Barn owls are very successful parents. They can raise two clutches of eggs each year, with anywhere from five to seven babies each!
- Female barn owls are slightly larger than the males, and also have darker feathers on their face.
- A single barn owl can eat 3,000 mice a year.



Miley, at 3 weeks of age, enjoying her first trip outside!

One, Two...Tree!

Boy Scout Robert Thompson from Goddard completed his Eagle Scout project at Eagle Valley this past month. He and other members of his troop pitched in to plant a tree row on the north side of the property.

The trees will not only beautify the landscape as they mature, but will also provide a wind-break and will help prevent soil erosion.



April Showers Bring May...Owlets?

May was a super-busy month for orphaned babies! In addition to our new baby barn owl, Miley, we also received 6 baby great horned owls, 4 baby screech owls, and 1 baby barred owl. That's a grand total of *twelve* new babies in a single month!

The screech owls and great

horned owls all had each other for company, but the poor barred owl was the only one of its kind to be brought in. Fortunately, resident barred owl Annie took the new baby un-



der her wing...literally!

Two other baby great horned owls that were brought to the center in April were deemed suitable for release. Susan Peters from KAKE TV met us at Rolling Hills Country Club, where they were found, and helped return them to the wild.

In the photo to the left, an orphaned baby barred owl wonders what this strange new environment has in store for him.

Happy Birthday to You!



Many birthday wishes and congratulation go out to EVRC Program Director Ken Lockwood upon reaching the Big Five-O!

His excitement upon receiving the longed-for baby barn owl was dampened slightly by the receipt of his official AARP

card. When asked if he was excited to be able to receive valuable discounts at local retailers with his membership, Ken replied that it was a nice idea, but he'd much rather be able to claim his birds on his annual tax return.

Happy Birthday, Ken!



Girl Scouts Surprised by Eagle Visit

Golden eagle Talon paid a surprise visit to the Girl Scouts at their annual Gold and Silver Banquet on May 4.

The girls did not know that an eagle was present, and were thrilled to get such an up-close and personal look at this majestic bird.

Some of the girls who were being honored had a chance to get their picture taken alongside Talon. In hindsight, it probably wasn't the best idea

to joke about Talon being hungry that day.



Cover Me!

This year, the Eagle Valley board of directors approved funds to construct a roof over the patio extension on the east side of the Westar Energy Pavilion. This roof will provide shade and cover from the elements.

We've had several bids on materials and labor and after re-

viewing several designs, have made our final decision.

Construction is expected to begin later this month.

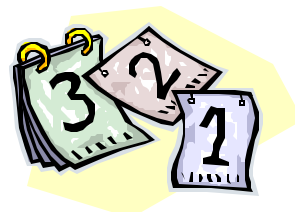
Did You Know...

Eagle Valley is a terrific place for family reunions, corporate outings, or just general get-togethers. Our pavilion can comfortably seat up to about forty people and we have a working grill for you to cook up some tasty burgers or even some steaks. Plus, a tour of our facilities and meeting with our resident birds is just the thing to whet your appetite!

Upcoming Events

This month's scheduled tours and programs include:

- American Legion Patriot Guard
- Camp Hyde YMCA
- Tutor Time
- West Link Christian Church
- First United Methodist Church of Augusta
- Harry Street School
- Hutchinson YMCA
- McConnell AFB



Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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Visit our website:

www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org

Caring for Nature's
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. With the twelve extra babies this month, as well as our resident birds, our food bill for May was astronomical!

Also, don't forget our "Walk This Way" sidewalk campaign, which is still on-going. We're still a long way from our goal, but you can help us get there!



I might look tiny, but I've got a huge appetite!



Name

Address

Phone

Email address

Yes! I'd like to help!

- Add me to your mailing list
- I'd like to volunteer or help with special projects.
- I am interested in Board of Directors/Committee membership
- I'd like to schedule a school/church program or tour of Eagle Valley's facilities
- Enclosed is my donation for the "Walk This Way" Sidewalk Campaign: \$ _____