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NEWS TIPS



Neighborhood News,
8455 College Blvd.,
Overland Park,
KS 66210

ATTENY I WAS WATCHING MY fourth grade daughter's soccer game. I was having a pleasant time until another parent informed me that the next day, a Sunday morning, they were hav-

UNIKS SO. SO DOES NASDAQ, NBA and Major League Baseball. Even ESPN 2 doesn't start bowling until 1 o'clock.
So the soccer gods took over Sunday mornings and no one That's w
Sandy K

BIRDS: Overland Park man founded rescue group

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Department of Health and Environment.

He started the organization because he wanted more people to understand the care of birds. He received his first bird, a cockatiel, for Christmas eight years ago. He got involved in breeding and several other clubs, but he wanted a club that would help him and others learn how to be better bird owners.

"I didn't know squat about birds," he said. "I wanted to be educated and knew others did, too."

Beak 'n Wings now has about 210 members. Most are from the Kansas City area, but some members come from as far away as Canada and Ohio. Members meet monthly, with birds perched on their shoulders and arms, at a local Petsmart. Beak 'n Wings brings in speakers, a veterinarian and someone to clip the birds' wings and nails.

The organization had fostered 290 birds by the end of 2005. People who wish to give away their birds contact Beak 'n Wings, and the birds are then placed in a foster home, where they are quarantined for 30 days.

Birds come to the organization in all conditions and for a variety of reasons, Tyson said. Most common are when the home environment changes because of a new baby, death or divorce. Sometimes birds become unmanageable and turn aggressive. A knowledgeable foster parent can step in and work with the bird until it is ready to go to a new home.

"We take them in plucked," he said. "We take them in with bad attitudes."

Will and Terri Coleman of Prairie Village are fostering two macaws that came to their home after they had been kept in a garage. They call the birds the "naked birds," be-

Beak 'n Wings event

Beak 'n Wings will be at the Pet Expo today and Sunday at the American Royal Center, 1701 American Royal Court in Kansas City. The event is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

cause they plucked each other because of boredom. The birds' names are Sam and Levi. In the Coleman's home, the birds are kept separated.

"One of them has a head of hair now — or feathers, I should say," Terri Coleman said.

The Colemans have 11 birds in their front room. It is a big change from two years ago when the Colemans found the club while they were looking to adopt their first bird.

Terri Coleman has seen many

birds that have been mistreated or abandoned because owners don't know the extent of care they require.

"It's sad to me that people think birds are pretty and you can do nothing with them and they can be OK," she said. "They won't."

Kathleen Siska of Liberty said Beak 'n Wings receives mostly cockatiels because their noisiness displeases some owners. Bird ownership also proves too costly and time-consuming for some people.

"It's not like a dog or cat you can throw in your back yard and forget about," she said.

Tyson said potential adopters go through a thorough screening process. Beak 'n Wings requires that they visit the bird two times for at least 30 minutes each time. Representatives from Beak 'n Wings interview candidates about their bird knowledge. For macaws and co-

nures, a representative visits the potential home. Finally, the adopters are required to sign a contract that they won't sell, breed or give away the birds. Beak 'n Wings also does a two-year follow-up with every bird. "I want to make sure this bird is going to the last home it goes to," he said.

Adoption fees range anywhere from \$5 for a dove to \$750 for a macaw. Tyson said Beak 'n Wings charges about half of what a breeder does, but he also wants to make sure the new owner values his purchase.

Tyson admits that raising a bird can be a challenge.

"It takes all kinds," he said. "Maybe it's the challenge. Birds can be just as loving as a dog or a cat."

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here! I enjoy the variety of activities; exercise class is my favorite. And the staff is so friendly and helpful—my apartment is cleaned, and my laundry is done individually, twice a week. The food is delicious, and the choices are