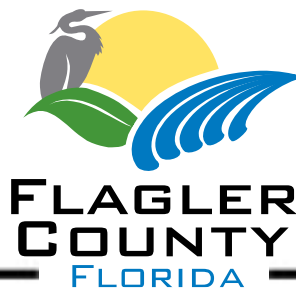


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Valentines gift: Eaglets at Princess Place

February 20, 2018 – The Eagles who call the nest home on the Loop Road in Princess Place Preserve have two eaglets that have hatched in the past six days.

“The chicks are too small to be seen from our viewing area,” said Joe Dziak, who along with his wife Judie have been monitoring the nest for 20 years and counting. “It takes about a week for them to gain enough strength to be seen upright in the nest when the parents are feeding them.”

There was no brood last year, as the new female eagle was unready to breed.

The Dziaks – members of the Florida Audubon Eagle Watch Program – are at Princess Place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays from the end of November until sometime in May when the eagles leave the area for the season.

“We are very fortunate to have the Dziaks in our area,” said Parks Manager Frank Barbuti. “They are the ones who set up scopes so that our park visitors can see these magnificent birds.”

The average time for a Bald Eagle egg to hatch is 35 days, according to the American Eagle Foundation. It can take from several hours to a day or two for the eaglet to emerge once it begins to hatch.

Eaglets rely on their parents 100 percent to protect and care for them.

They gain about a half pound to pound of body weight until they are 9 to 10 weeks old. At 3 weeks old, they are about a foot tall, and their beaks and feet are nearly adult size, according to a Q and A published by the American Eagle Foundation – www.eagles.org.

Between 10 and 14 weeks, the eaglets will fledge – fly away from the nest – but they will remain in the nest another month or so.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O'Brien, Jr.
District 5

“This is great news,” said Commission Chair Greg Hansen. “It is very exciting to be able to see these eagles and their young.”

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