

CIK9 Works to Bring K9 Training Facility to Hendricks County



Submitted photo
Twenty-two K9 teams recently completed a three-day training session in Indianapolis. A K9 training facility in Hendricks County would benefit all of central Indiana by reducing travel time, costs, and time away from being on the street for officers.

By Melissa Gibson

The Central Indiana K9 Association (CIK9), non-profit launched in the spring of 2019 with two goals in mind; build a permanent training site for K9 teams across central Indiana and to establish the Shadow Fund, a financial aid grant to assist retired K9’s with medical needs.

“There are 268 K9 teams across central Indiana, including state, local and federal and when they need professional training, they have to go outside of Indiana,” said CIK9 co-founder Theresa Brandon. “With our capital campaign to build a permanent training site, more will be able to attend and they won’t have to travel away from home, away from their agency, or incur the travel expenses. This is something that is needed.”

Currently, K9 teams attend quarterly training events that are often held in churches, open fields, warehouses and other locations.



Submitted photo
A handler and his K9 develop a bond like none other.

Corporal Kyle Schaefer of the Hendricks County Sherriff’s Office is co-founder of CIK9 and knows all-too-well the burden travel takes on the officers in need of K9 training. He’s been doing it for 14 years and saw early on, the need for a local site.

“I was fortunate that our previous and current administration allowed me to go all over the country to get a lot of training,” Schaefer said. “Every year, we go to different seminars. The more knowledge, the better and I want to learn as much as I can. This training is expensive, and keeping it local, we’re able to offer it at a cost that’s as minimal as possible. My goal is to eventually, make everything free.”

“If we can limit travel time and extra costs, time away from family and officers being on the street, it benefits the agencies, the handler and the community because everyone is able to stay here,” Shaefer added.

K9’s have proved to be a valuable tool for police officers over the years, but many don’t realize their necessity. Dogs come to the agency designated dual purpose or single purpose and have been trained to track everything from narcotics to missing persons.

“These are the elite pro athletes of the dog world; the Tom Brady’s of trained dogs,” Schaefer said. “They cost well over \$10,000 and when they are deployed, it’s generally a serious situation. They help keep the public safe and allow us to go home safe.”

For example, a K9 can be sent into dangerous environment, chase and apprehend a criminal or alert officers to drugs on the premises – a life-threatening position for the dog to be in, but safer for the officer responding to the situation.

Dogs typically retire due to a major health issue, after working in such strenuous and dangerous circumstances. They may need surgery; some receive cancer diagnosis and others need therapies to help with damaged limbs.

Upon retirement, the K9 is signed over to their handler for care till the end of their life and the financial burden of caring for a dog with significant health issues, is something CIK9 works to combat.

“Our Shadow Fund gives grants to those handlers that have a dog with injury or health issues,” Brandon said. “Last year, we granted about \$4,000 to two different dogs. One had served in the military and the other was with the Indiana State Police and had cancer in the leg. These dogs have literally put their lives on the line.”

The CIK9 organization has several fundraisers in the works.

Rigdon Construction has chosen CIK9 for their third annual charity golf outing at Twin Bridges Golf Club in Danville on Friday, September 10.

On Sunday, October 3, Koorsen Fire and Security is sponsoring a golf event at TOPGOLF in Fishers. Participants can enjoy the game, food, and meet several stars, including Calvert and Dixie, Justin Melnick of CBS’ SEAL team television show and artist Susan Bahary, a sculptress responsible for several working dog statues.

For more information, visit <https://cik9.org/events>.



Submitted photo
Corporal Kyle Schaefer and his K9 Deaks have worked together for four years.

Purdue Fast Start Program Helps High School Students

In 2020, in a move aligned with Purdue University’s land-grant mission, President Mitch Daniels announced the Purdue Fast Start program, designed to help Indiana high school students earn access to up to a year of college credit through free online courses and the corresponding College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

The program is the result of a partnership with ModernStates.org, a philanthropy dedicated to making a college degree more affordable and accessible. Modern States will offer the free, high-quality online courses and pay the test fee for up to 10,000 CLEP exams taken by those enrolled in the Fast Start program.

Fast Start is available to all residents of Indiana but will be especially beneficial to students in rural Indiana and those enrolled in inner-city schools that often lack access to the full offering of Advanced Placement courses, and those for whom college education is less affordable. Purdue will assure admission to students who pass a minimum of five CLEP exams through the program.

“Too many young Hoosiers miss out on college either because of its cost or simply a disbelief that they can succeed there,” Daniels said. “Our Purdue-sponsored high schools are one attempt to open a new pathway to Purdue, and this newventure is another, with special relevance to rural and small-town youth.”

The College Board, which administers Advanced Placement exams as well as the CLEP exams, announced earlier that the biggest shortage of advanced placement courses is in rural America. The Fast Start program is an on-ramp to helping these students attain their educational goals, leading to better jobs and higher earnings for their lifetimes.

CLEP exams can help students receive credit for up to 30 hours of general education courses, or about one full year of college credit. However, many students have been blocked in the past by lack of courses to learn the material and the \$89 test fee per course. Today, ModernStates.org provides the necessary courses for free to everyone; the more than 30 courses are like a digital public library, and a new \$1 million gift to Purdue from Steve and Maureen Sherry Klinsky will cover the cost of 10,000 CLEP exam fees for Indiana students. Maureen Sherry Klinsky is a trustee of Modern States.

Fast Start will allow Hoosier students to take the online courses and CLEP exams at no cost, meaning a participant could easily save their family thousands of dollars on tuition by providing the equivalent of a full semester or even a year of college for free. Passing five CLEP exams – the equivalent of one semester – can save students and their parents a semester, and almost \$11,000. Passing 10 CLEPs – the equivalent of one full year – can save more than \$21,000. Every individual CLEP passed is a big savings as well.

The Fast Start option also can move them toward early graduation and early entry into the workforce.

Purdue Fast Start will offer support to high school students enrolled in the program, helping guide them through taking courses and tests, and navigating admittance to Purdue. The students also will have access to Purdue alumni and friends for mentoring if desired. Once Fast Start students accept admission into Purdue, they will be known as Klinsky Scholars.

As Purdue Fast Start reaches out to prospective students, Purdue Extension, which has offices in every Indiana county, will be a vital resource in helping reach students and their families.

For more information, go to the Fast Start website at <https://purdue.university/faststart>, or call 765-494-1776 or (for hearing impaired) 800-743-3333.

Champion Heifers and Reserve Showmanship



Bryce Hofing of Coatesville came away prizes for this Angus heifers, as well as one for himself, at the 2021 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, June 26-28 in Fletcher, N.C.

Car Don Elba 123 won the Division 3 championship in the Phenotype and Genotype show.

Car Don Bardot 142 was the bred-and-owned intermediate champion heifer.

Bryce earned the title of Reserve Champion Showman in the Junior B division.

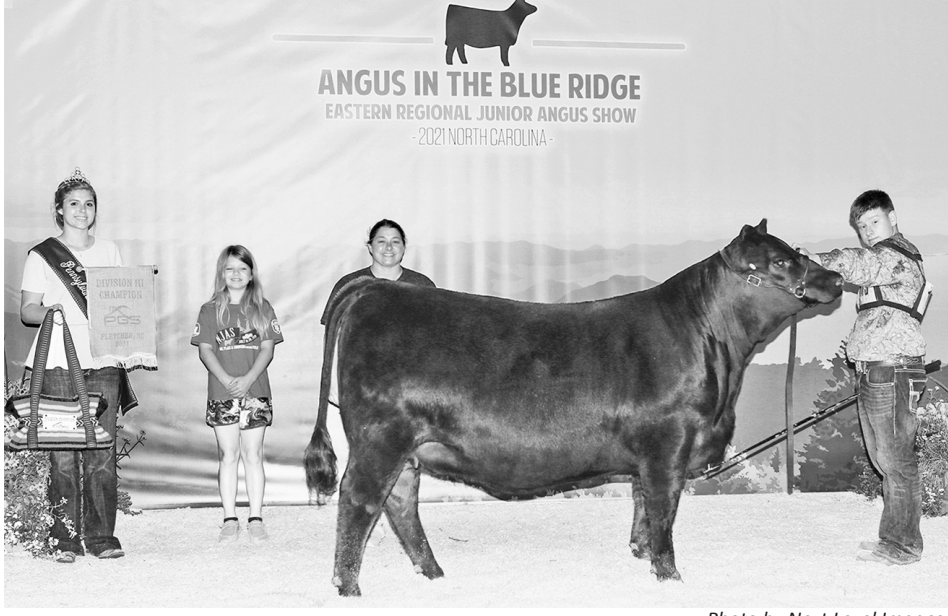


Photo by Next Level Images.
Car Don Elba 123 won division 3 champion heifer at the 2021 Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS) held in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, June 27 in Fletcher, N.C. Bryce Hofing, Coatesville, Ind., owns the winning heifer.



Photo by Next Level Images.
Car Don Bardot 142 won bred-and-owned intermediate champion heifer at the 2021 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, June 26-28 in Fletcher, N.C. Bryce Hofing, Coatesville, Ind., owns the winning heifer.

Volunteer for SHIP

A rewarding volunteer program at Hendricks County Senior Services is looking for volunteers for SHIP, the State Health Insurance Program.

This program is a free health insurance counseling service for people with Medicare. This is provided by the Indiana Sate Department of insurance and funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

“Our SHIP counselors provide free impartial information to assist consumers in making decisions regarding their Medicare choices and questions” states Deanne Sanders-Below, coordinator of In-Home Services at Hendricks County Senior Services. “Ship is not affiliated with any insurance company or agency and does not sell insurance. They are staffed by a crew of volunteer counselors who have completed intensive training to offer objective assistance in complete confidence,” states Below.

SHIP is driven by volunteers who are committed to helping people with Medicare determine the best healthcare choices for their individual situations and to be good consumers of Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medigap, Part D Drug Coverage, Long Term Care Financing and Low-Income Assistance Programs.

To become a SHIP counselor, you must complete a 30-hour training, either virtually or in-person; complete volunteer shadowing, additional training in the spring and fall and have a desire to help Medicare Beneficiaries in your community.

If you are interested in an important and rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact Deanne Sanders-Below at 317-910-5367 or the State’s SHIP office at 1-800-452-4800. You can also visit www.medicare.in.gov and click the “Become a SHIP Volunteer” link for more information.

Where do you get your NEWS?

The Republican

Your local source for local news

Be a subscriber!

317-745-2777