

CIK9 Association Celebrates; Raises Funds



The CIK9 training facility has been designed by SEBREE architect Salil Nair and includes many opportunities for community use in addition to the K9 training.

By Melissa Gibson

In an effort to continue raising funds for a K9 training faculty in Central Indiana, many gathered to celebrate the current progress at TOPGOLF in Fishers last weekend.

The red carpet was full of recognizable faces, including Brian Calvert and Dixie the Praying Dog and television’s SEAL Team Justin Melnick and K9 Dita.

“I met the people with CIK9 a while ago during a training. They do a really good job of helping law enforcement, setting up training and helping with medical needs for the K9’s so I was honored to come out and support them today,” said Melnick.

Calvert said he welcomed any opportunity to support the dogs who help and protect first responders and military personnel.

Other VIPs in attendance included, Central Indiana K9 Association (CIK9) co-founders, Theresa Brandon and Kyle Schaffer, world-renowned artist Susan Bahary, SEBREE Architect and President Salil Nair, PetPals host Patty Spitler and CIK9’s 2021 Working Dog of the Year, Liso-Lee and handler Lindsay Rozzel.

The focus for all attendees



Calvert, Melnick, Bahary, emcee for the event, Ken Owen and TSA Officer Keith Gray.

ees remained on the K9’s and CIK9’s mission to build a training facility for dogs and their handlers.

SEBREE architectural firm has designed the facility, complete with a monument, modeled after K9 Harlej (Fishers K9 who died in the line of duty) and created by Bahary.

Bahary has been recognized in Washington D.C. and across the country for her work on the country’s

first war dog memorial, “Always Faithful”, displayed at the Pentagon.

“I really got to feel the heart of the military and law enforcement and see how incredible the people are. They are so selfless. I was touched by that, whether it’s the human sacrifice or the animal’s sacrifice,” Bahary said.

“In a world where there tends to be division and going through a pandemic, it’s

great to recognize the good and there’s so much good about those who serve, including the animals. It’s something we can all agree on and we can all celebrate,” she continued.

The facility is estimated to cost \$2 million and the association is currently looking for 3-5 acres of property to build.

Training can often be expensive, require travel and time away from fam-

Fans Tune In to Hendricks County’s WYRZ For News, Music & Much More



Executive Director Shane Ray has been a familiar voice on WYRZ for six years.



By Melissa Gibson

The crew from WYRZ has brought local news, high school sports, locally produced programs and some great music to the airwaves since 2013.

“We’re an educational station,” said Executive Director Shane Ray. “Our mission is to teach young people interested in going into broadcasting. We give high school students time on the air; they help write or edit news stories and we’ve seen some of them go on to host radio shows or work with television stations.”

On-Air radio hosts include Ray, Daryl Chiletz (DCtheDJ), Paul Poteet, Allen Kiger, Brian Scott and Kevin Robinson (KRob) and listeners tune in to a variety of music and interviews with local non-profits, government officials and organizations such as

the Brownsburg Lions and the Carmel Symphony Orchestra.

While things have been going well for the past six years, earlier this year, the station hit a snag, causing many to lose their connection to their favorite radio station.

The non-profit, educational station, WYRZ has a license through the Hendricks County Education Media Corporation and relies on listener’s support.

“I was on vacation and started getting messages on social media that another station was coming in. That could be due to weather at times, but when I got back to town, I realized, it’s not the weather, it’s actually WMYJ,” Ray said.

The application through the FCC is actually quite extensive, but Ray believes, something slipped through the cracks this time.

“When you apply for a license with the FCC, you have to prove with an engineering report that your station will not interfere with a television station or another radio station,” Ray said. “When we went on the air, 98.9 was completely

clear, that’s why we chose that one. We’re a small non-profit and our antenna can’t be more than 100 feet high and we’re at 100 watts.”

This means, WYRZ should easily cover Hendricks County, certainly protected within the Town of Brownsburg (where the office is located) but reaching out as far as the southern part of Plainfield and west of Danville.

Today, Ray can hear WMYJ on his car radio in the heart of Brownsburg.

The Martinsville station was originally an AM station and use a translator to broadcast to their FM station, 100.5 FM. Recently, the station, owned by Mid America Radio of Bloomington received permission from the FCC to post a second translator in Mooresville, but they put the translator on the same frequency as WYRZ.

“It may look good on paper, but it’s not working out in reality,” Ray said. “The new translator from WMYJ is 250 watts and is 235 feet in the air. I contacted them and spoke to an engineer who said they were afraid [interference] might happen. They said it was accepted by the FCC

and they would make sure everything was in accordance.”

Ray suggested swapping the frequencies from Martinsville with Mooresville, lowering the chance of interference and was promised a call back but didn’t hear from WMYJ until The Republican reached out to inquire about the situation.

With no reply to The Republican or follow up with Ray at WYRZ from WMYJ, to resolve the situation Ray will begin the process of reporting the interference to the FCC. Approval for WMYJ was most likely an oversight but at this point, WYRZ will have to show the numerous attempts to resolve the issue on their own, as well as the disapproval and disappointment from listeners regarding the interruption.

“We need to hear from our listeners,” Ray said. “We need people that have been listening and haven’t been able to due to the interference from the other station and they aren’t happy about this change.”

In order to lend support and log a complaint, contact the station at 317-852-1610, email info@wyrz.org or email Ray directly at shane@wyrz.org.



Ray interviews local leaders like Avon Police Assistant Chief Brian Nugent (right) regarding an upcoming fundraising event.

Prairie Maze At McCloud



It happens only once every 17 years, so McCloud Nature Park in honors the cicada this year with the McCloud Prairie Maze!

Celebrate the 2021 cicadas with a trip through the cicada-themed prairie maze, now through October 31.. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear comfortable closed-toe shoes, and bring some water. Bring the nymphs, too, as this maze is appropriate for all ages!

Admission to McCloud Nature Park and the prairie maze is absolutely FREE, and both are open from dawn to dusk daily. To access the prairie maze, park in the Nature Center parking lot. Maps to the maze are available in the kiosk outside of the Nature Center, as well as in the kiosk at the entrance to the maze.

McCloud Nature Park is located at 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem.

Farmers Grow Community Grants

The Bayer Fund is hosting the 2022 America’s Farmers Grow Communities program, which has been revamped to make it even easier for farmers across the country to find and fund the organizations and institutions that keep their communities thriving.

From now 2 to November 1, eligible farmers can enroll for the chance to direct a donation to a local eligible nonprofit organization, school STEM or youth agriculture program. For 2022, Bayer Fund will double the individual donations to \$5,000, up from \$2,500 in previous years.

In 2020 a Hendricks County farmer directed a Grow Communities donation to the Cascade High School FFA to help build a greenhouse at the school. In 2021, another local farmer directed his donation to the Tri-West Dollars for Scholars program to provide scholarships for graduating seniors.

Farmers are eligible to enroll in Grow Communities if they are 21 years of age or older and are actively engaged in farming at least 250 acres of any crop.

To enroll or learn more about Grow Communities, including program eligibility and rules, farmers can visit www.AmericasFarmers.com or call 1-877-267-3332 toll-free.

Loan Medical Equipment

Hendricks County Senior Services maintains a limited supply of medical equipment available for loan for residents of Hendricks County as part of the Danville Rotary Club Foundations, Inc’s Durable Medical Equipment Loan program.

Equipment is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is no charge for borrowing the equipment. Donations are graciously accepted to help offset the cost of maintaining the equipment. We offer walkers, wheelchairs, rollators, and canes.

Call the Senior Center for more information at 317-745-4303.

If you are a regular listener of WYRZ on 98.9FM and have recently noticed another radio signal causing a disruption, please let us know by emailing shane@wyrz.org or calling 317-852-1610.