

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2022

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Gun Lake Casino Donates \$4,000 to Allegan County Sheriff's Department for K-9 Training

(Wayland, Mich.) – In support of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on January 9, Gun Lake Casino is donating \$4,000 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department to cover the cost of K-9 training. The department, which currently has four dogs, will be retiring six-year-old K9 Lajki in March due to health issues.

Additionally, two of the other three K9s are due for retirement in the next three years due to declining health. With the dire need for a quality and younger K9 within the department, the Gun Lake Casino donation will go towards training for Allegan County's three-year-old German shepherd, Thor and his new handler, Deputy Scott Vereeke.

Thor's previous handler, Sgt. Ben Haas is taking a promotion within the department that will require more time and responsibility, leading to the transfer of Thor to Deputy Vereeke.

"Due to some promotions, we had a need for some training dollars that weren't budgeted," said Allegan County Sheriff, Frank Baker, "Gun Lake Casino coming through with this donation at this time is very opportune for us."

The \$4,000 donated on Friday will pay for Deputy Vereeke's five-week training with Thor at Mid-Michigan Police K-9 in Eaton Rapids, Michigan in late March. Training will help the tandem develop a deeper relationship while undergoing education in narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, article searches and handler protection.

"Because of this donation, I'm able to go to training and I'm extremely excited about it," said Deputy Vereeke on his upcoming role as a K9 handler. "This is an opportunity that not many people will get in their lives, I'm so honored to have it."

The Gun Lake Tribe and Gun Lake Casino have continuously support local law enforcement agencies over the past decade-plus with several different donations. In fact, the Tribe and Casino have teamed up to purchase two K-9s for the Allegan County Sheriff's Department back in 2011 and 2019, when Thor was purchased.

"Gun Lake Casino is committed to making our community a safer place," said Gun Lake Casino President/COO, Sal Semola. "This donation is another example of our ongoing relationship with our local law enforcement to ensure they have the resources and training to be properly equipped."

According to Sheriff Baker, the Gun Lake Tribe and Gun Lake Casino donations have accrued for 75-percent of funding for the Allegan County K9 unit.

“Our relationship with Gun Lake Casino and the Gun Lake Tribe has been going on since the casino opened,” Sheriff Baker added. “We couldn’t more thankful for this donation to keep our K9 unit operating.”

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About Gun Lake Casino

Gun Lake Casino, a premier gaming and entertainment destination, is located off Exit 61 on U.S. 131, halfway between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The casino features a variety of thrilling gaming options, including 2,500 state-of-the art slot machines, 47 table games, a modern sportsbook, and keno. Gun Lake Casino is comprised of high-quality dining amenities, including Shkodé Chophouse with a contemporary take on American cuisine, CBK inspired by the brewery culture in Michigan, 131 Sportsbar & Lounge with over 1,000 square feet of viewing surface for panoramic views of live events, and Harvest Buffet featuring fresh ingredients, cooked to order.

Gun Lake Casino is owned by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi. For more information, visit www.gunlakecasino.com.