Final Winter Roundhouse Held

On the evening of March 9, the final winter roundhouse for the winter of 2023 was held at the Keshena Primary School (KPS).

Initially, March 2 was scheduled to be the last winter roundhouse, but the event had to deal with, well, winter as heavy snows and strong winds caused the event to be rescheduled to a week later.

CMN celebrates 30 years of Indigenous education

Marking the 30th anniversary celebration, CMN’s Restoring Nations Through Education Charter week saw the college celebrate the milestone with the Menominee community through a series of events that highlighted the colleges growth throughout the years and the continuing impact it has on students and the communities they come from.

Current CMN President, Christopher Caldwell, said it’s the continuing mission of CMN to provide a culturally-based education and pass down teachings of tribal ancestors to the Menominee people.

“Our work is based on Menominee history that is thousands of years old, a place-based history where people understand our relationship to each other, our non-human relatives, and also the environment that we come from,” Caldwell said.

Menominee Shawano PD Officers among those recognized for life saving actions

Two Menominee tribal members were among four law enforcement officers from the Shawano Police Department recognized for their actions that saved the life of a disabled man.

On Friday, February 24 Officer Ronald Frechette and Officer Jacob Korth, were the first to arrive on scene to an assisted living facility at 12 Oak Ct. in Shawano for a structure fire.

Barriers Being Eliminated for Those Seeking Help with Substance Use

For those struggling with substance use on the Menominee Indian Reservation, help is available and it’s quicker and less costly than in the past.

Inside this Issue

Calendar: 2  Education: 16-18
Community: 3-15  Sports: 19
Since the school’s humble beginnings holding classes at various locations around the community, the CMN campus has grown into a sprawling campus greeting visitors at the southern end of the Menominee Reservation.

In 1994 a double-wide trailer dubbed “Old Main” was put in place on CMN property. Shortly after, the Glen Miller Hall was built housing classrooms and office space. An expansion to Glen Miller Hall occurred in 1999 and 2004. Upgrades in 2009-2010 included geothermal wells, Student Services Offices suites, and nursing program classrooms/lab and offices.

The Cultural Learning Center was built in 2000 with upgrades in 2008;

CMN
continued from previous page

The Shirly Daly Hall was built in 2002 with four classrooms. In 2004 science labs and classrooms were added and in 2006, five more classrooms were added with a faculty office suite and a vending machine area.

The Campus Commons was built in 2003 with an addition in 2004. The Construction and Trades building was built in 2004 and two additional classrooms were added in 2007.

In 2008, CMN constructed the three-level, architecturally ‘green’ facility. In 2012 the library was renamed S. Verna Fowler Academic Library and in 2013 they incorporated the Menominee Public Library.

In 2012 CMN added the Community Technology Center as a base for community technology use and instruction made room for Trades office space.

In 2005 CMN expanded their reach by opening a branch campus in Green Bay.

In September, 1995 CMN applied for grant candidacy and were granted full accreditation on August 7, 1998.

Throughout the years CMN has also entered into articulation agreements with University of Wisconsin institutions and technical colleges throughout the state, expanding key degree programs from associate’s degrees to bachelor’s degrees.

Caldwell was appointed as interim president during the COVID pandemic and helped navigate CMN through months of uncertainty. The pandemic forced the closure of the campus compelling CMN to host classes online.

Caldwell said they were able to take advantage of the availability of COVID relief funds to replace aging technology and infrastructure.

Coming out of the pandemic, Caldwell offered an optimistic appraisal of enrollment numbers trending upward at TCU’s throughout the country, including at CMN.

Some of the highlights of CMN’s charter week celebration was the raising of a new CMN flag over the campus and a Round dance celebration held at the Menominee Casino Resort where CMN President, Christopher Caldwell, thanked the Menominee community for supporting CMN throughout the years.
Another highlight of CMN’s week-long celebration including a visit from former CMN leaders including Dr. Verna Fowler, who was instrumental in the establishment of a tribal college in the Menominee community.

Among CMN alumni, there is no doubt that the college has had a positive impact on their lives.

Ronna Guzman-Frechette was one of two people to earn be the first to graduate from CMN in 1995, earning an associate’s degree.

Guzman-Frechette said she initially attended UW-Green Bay but her educational path was delayed because she was a new mom.

“It was too hard to commute and take care of babies,” she said. “I told myself I’ll go back someday and when we got CMN it was a perfect opportunity because it was right here. I was really excited about having our own college. The classes were small and more personal. It felt comfortable, like you were at home.”

Following her time at CMN, Guzman-Frechette earned a degree from East-West University’s satellite office in Keshena. Since then, her children, Paul Frechette earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration in 2020 but his path to CMN as a student, graduate, and employee started in Prichard, Alabama, part of the Mobile metropolitan area.

“We lived in a very rough neighborhood. For like five years straight our city was the murder capital of the county. Lot of gangs, lot of drugs, lot of poverty,” Frieson said.

After years of wrestling with substance abuse, Frieson, an enrolled Menominee, came back to the Menominee Reservation in the early 2000s.

“Some day I would like to be successful.”

Trying to make the best out of a six-month stay at the Menominee Tribal Jail, Frieson said he did some introspective self-examination and wanted to move his life in a positive direction.

He said enrolling in CMN helped him to change his life.

In 2016, Frieson earned two associate’s degrees, one in social sciences, the other in sustainable development. In 2017 he earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration. In 2020, he was hired at CMN as a recruiter working with area high school students on enrolling in college classes. He said he relates his story to young students in the hopes of encouraging them to continue with their education.

“If CMN wasn’t around, if I didn’t have that in my life at the time, I would probably still be drunk or dead. That college was a gateway for me to a better life. It helped me focus on doing better, to improve myself not only for me but for my family and my community,” he said.

Jasmine Neosh is currently enrolled at the University of Michigan and is pursuing a Masters of Science degree in Environmental Justice but the foundations of her educational journey began at CMN.

“Although it just seemed like the convenient choice, I actually chose CMN because of our peoples’ history with forestry. I was passionate about the environment and, remembering the forest education I got here at MIMS as a child, figured that the best place to learn how to take care of the land was right at home where we’ve been doing that for thousands of years,” Neosh stated.

“Over the years I spent at CMN, I was amazed at how such an incredible school could have flown under my radar for so long. The teachers-- faculty and adjuncts alike-- were passionate and thoughtful and dedicated to their work. They challenged us to grow and think deeply but also to be courageous in who we are. It was clear that the entire staff-- from administration to the housekeeping staff-- cared deeply about us and was dedicated to putting forth the best possible environment for us in which to learn. And in fact I feel that I learned from every single person I met there.”

Citing a foundation built upon the community spirit of the Menominee community, Neosh said her time at CMN taught her that an Indigenous-based education can open the doors to boundless opportunities to explore her own career opportunities and further the cause of Native people.

“It was not a ‘community college’ as I had thought but a college built on a solid foundation of community. They created a safe space for me to explore my interests without going into massive debt, gave me mentors who pushed me to become more than I thought I could, and showed me that truly and really, Indigenous people can be anything we want to be,” she said.

“I am currently pursuing my Juris Doctorate at the University of Michigan Law School, an extremely prestigious institution, and there is no doubt in my mind that College of Menominee Nation is what gave me the foundation I needed to get here and be successful.”