



Town Crier

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Four Students To Fill Mackinac Island's EMT Ranks

By Karen Gould

Mackinac Island is in desperate need of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and, by this summer, four residents hope to become licensed and help assist the three men who have covered the Island's needs since fall.

Mark Bielinsk, Molly Green, Brandy Shunk, and Lorie Sturm travel to St. Ignace every Monday and Thursday night for EMT classes. They also have a Saturday class approximately every six weeks.

"On the Island, I don't know what we would do without

them," said Mark Wilk, Allied EMS Systems team leader and EMT instructor for St. Ignace and Mackinac Island. "They are very dedicated. They have committed to making sure that the ambulance is covered."

By the end of August, with EMT Pam Lach injured and

Christine Roguska moving off the Island, only Paramedic Rick Linn, EMT Specialist Allen Burt, and EMT Sam Barnwell were left to staff the Island ambulance.

"These four people are such a prize possession for us," said Mr. Barnwell of the new students. "They will double our summer staff."

Since this fall, Messrs. Barnwell, Burt, and Linn have been supported during the day by Island police officers, who are trained emergency medical first responders, to serve the 500 residents who live on the

Island in the winter months. As the summer population swells with workers, summer residents, and visitors, the police will be needed elsewhere, said Mr. Wilk.

"This class is solving a huge problem we have for staffing," said Mr. Barnwell.

An EMT earns \$2 an hour while on call and has a starting wage of \$8.10 while out on a call.

The challenge to become an EMT is demanding and to do so while living on Mackinac Island requires additional dedi-

* Please turn to page 5

Time for Skiing!



Second-grader Christopher Riggs leads a small band of elementary skiers toward Cadotte Avenue during a physical education session at Mackinac Island Public School Thursday, February 1. Following him are classmate Talon Greenlee (left), ski instructor Kris Clark, and, in tow, third-grader Keely Johnson. Because of a mild December, this was the first time this winter the students were able to ski.

Board Discusses How To Improve School

School Infrastructure, Adding Foreign Language Classes Top of Priority List

By Ryan Schlehuder

Finding a "musical, Spanish-speaking, special education teacher" was an idea teacher Karen Allen had to improve Mackinac Island Public School, one of many discussed in an informal meeting involving the school's Board of Education, teachers, and parents Monday, February 5. Fixing the exterior of the school building, however, was considered the highest priority by the board.

While Ms. Allen's comment was mostly a light-hearted suggestion, it did point out needs in school staffing.

The school has been looking to add music and foreign language classes to the school curriculum for years. It also lost its special education teacher, Andrea McClintock, in December. Sarah Doud of St. Ignace is filling the position on a part-time basis while the school looks for a full-time replacement.

Superintendent Roger Schrock has one applicant for the position, which he interviewed Wednesday, February 7.

Ms. McClintock, who

recently married, resigned to take another teaching job down state.

Wednesday evening's discussion centered around a chart listing areas of concerns that was created by the school board last fall. During a September meeting, board members dis-

tributed 25 votes among their areas of concern in an attempt to rate them on the basis of importance.

Receiving the most votes was improving the school's infrastructure, which received 24 votes, followed by evaluating the school's staff, (21 votes); maintaining the school's

* Please turn to page 14

Opening of Doud's Market Continues Family Legacy

Long-time Family-owned Grocery Store To Re-open in Mid-April Under New Name

By Ryan Schlehuder

The grocery store at the corner of Main Street and Fort Street on Mackinac Island, set to open in mid-April, may have a new name and a new look, but owner Andrew Doud hopes to establish Doud's Market as a reliable grocery store that reaches out to its customers, supporting the Island community.

"It's going to be more grocery-store oriented," Mr. Doud said of his new store, Doud's Market, formerly Doud Mercantile. "Yes, we'll have things

like phone cards, but it will be groceries first."

Doud Mercantile closed earlier this winter for the first time since 1943, when the original store, which was at the head of Arnold Line's dock at the time, burned to the ground. The store was founded by James Doud in 1884.

Andrew's brother, Franc, who had been operating the store and is a majority owner in the family business, has signed a building lease with option to purchase with Susie Lundgren

* Please turn to page 10

Island State Park Works To Repair Fort Mackinac Wall

By Karen Gould

The white limestone walls that protect Fort Mackinac have begun to deteriorate again. Built by British soldiers in 1780-81, the fort walls were restored five years ago for \$4.1 million and are the oldest structure in the state. But the mortar is crumbling prematurely, and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission is concerned.

"This was a major project and it is very disheartening to see these problems emerge," said Commission Chairman Dennis Cawthorne at a commission meeting in Lansing January 10. "We want to nip them in the bud before the

problem gets worse."

The two year project to restore the fort walls was completed in 2001.

"Now, just five years later, they're falling apart," said Director Phil Porter.

He and his staff have been meeting with The Christman Company of Lansing and Schiffer Mason Contractors, Inc. of Holt since December to review their construction techniques and engineering. Each company has offered suggestions on repairs and how improvements can be made, and could provide resources to

* Please turn to page 5

Island Community Enjoys Cold 31st Winter Festival



Urvana Morse and her three-year-old son, Dominic, enjoy some sledding at Great Turtle Park, which was one of the many family events held at Great Turtle Park during Mackinac Island's annual Winter Festival Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February 4. Sunday's events were held at the school. (See story and more photographs on pages 12 and 13)