

New EMTs Say Island Is 'Good Place To Start' Career

** Continued from page 1*
 cation, tenacity, and commitment. Travel to and from the St. Ignace Middle School classroom is hard enough in the winter. The students carry a three-inch-thick textbook and an emergency overnight bag in case weather leaves them stranded in St. Ignace for the night.

Since classes began November 13, the students have taken the last boat from the Island each Monday and Thursday, and returned by plane from the Mackinac County airport. If weather makes air travel impossible, class is canceled. So far, the weather turned unexpectedly bad during one December class and the students were unable to return to the Island. They spent the night at a St. Ignace hotel.

Classes will continue until April 14. By then, the students will have completed 182 hours of classroom training and will then be required to get 48 hours of clinical experience from hospitals in Cheboygan, Marquette, or Petoskey.

The students pay the \$315 for their book and tuition, are tested twice a week, must make arrangements for clinical work experience on the mainland, and need to pass state exams before they can become licensed.

Classroom work includes learning anatomy, all the bones of the body, and understanding the circulatory system and how it works, said Mr. Wilk. Students also learn how to take vital signs and how to physically transport a patient. Once licensed, they will be able to

do everything from managing an airway for breathing to controlling bleeding and applying a splint to a broken bone.

"There is a lot to learn in a short period of time," said Mrs. Shunk, who is taking the class for a change of profession, who was previously employed at Doud Mercantile.

She and her husband, Ryan, live in Harrisonville and have two children. Learning the medical terms is the hardest part of the class, she believes.

"My kids laugh at me all the time because I have homework like they do," she said.

Lorie Sturm, whose husband, David, works at Mission Point Resort, has lived on the Island since April. She attended college in Ohio and wanted to be a police officer, but her brother, who is a paramedic, sparked her interest in becoming an EMT.

"We learn a lot of information really fast," she said, "and someone's life really depends on it, so you have to know it. It's no small commitment," she said of the training.

Her comments were confirmed as fellow class members shouted out answers to questions asked by instructor Wilk like, "What happens when someone is in cardiogenic shock?"

Mrs. Sturm says she has every intention to continue her training to become an EMT Specialist.

"I thought this would be a good place to start," she said.

Molly Green, a resident for 14 years, lives in the village with her husband, Robert. She works 12 hours a day in the



Practicing on Airway Trainer Fred are Mackinac Island Emergency Medical Technician students (from left) Mark Bielinsk, Molly Green, Lorie Sturm, and Brandy Shunk. Not pictured is class instructor Mark Wilk of St. Ignace.

summer providing private carriage tours for Gough-Brodeur Stables, Inc. and she has a degree in equine studies.

"I like to learn about everything and I like to read," she said.

Mrs. Green said she learned while helping family members with medical problems that she is good at taking care of people, and has wanted to take the EMT class for 10 years.

Already showing a dedication as a future EMT, she regrets the limited amount of time she will be able to commit to the ambulance during the summer months because of her job.

"I will be able to do more in the winter," she said. "I feel bad I won't be able to do more."

As an EMT, she expects to respond to a lot of bicycle acci-

dents and treat fractures from the falls.

Mark Bielinsk of Harrisonville has worked for Mackinac Island Carriage Tours since 1982. During the summer he spends time on carriage maintenance and in the winter he is in charge of taking care of the horseshoes for the remaining horses on the Island. In the winter, he works five days a week and in the summer, he works every day.

He was motivated to become an EMT because being involved with Carriage Tours, he often is one of the first people on the scene when someone is having a medical problem. He cites the example of visitors with allergy or asthma problems or a child who rides a bike into a horse. He said while waiting for the ambulance to arrive, he has felt

helpless. He talked over his idea to take the class with his bosses, who supported his decision, he said.

A self-proclaimed "hands on kind of guy," he says the practical part of an EMT's job does not bother him.

While the twice-weekly testing can be intimidating, he said, "I've learned much more than I ever knew before."

One of the unexpected advantages from taking the class is watching medical shows on television, he said. Learning the medical terminology and how it applies has increased his understanding of the care being given to the television patients.

"I now know what they are talking about," he said. "Before that, I didn't have a clue."

Once they receive their license from the state, the students will be Basic EMTs and will be able to apply splints, control bleeding, and help people breathe. They will be able to provide diabetic care and give medication for an allergic reaction. They will also be able to use a defibrillator and treat asthma attacks.

"Basic EMTs are now required to learn more," said Mr. Wilk.

An EMT must earn more than 30 credit hours every three years to remain certified.

Mr. Wilk said he would like to get as many Island residents trained as possible.

The four students, he added, "are doing this for the dedication to their community and not for the pay."

Warm Winter Greetings from Your Friends at



Sat., Feb. 10:
80s Rock & Disco
 Party with DJ Hot Pants Hiemy

Wed., Feb 14:
Valentine's Day
 Champagne and Carnations

Sat., Feb. 17:
Beer Toasting-Irish Good Time
 With a Summer Favorite - The Pub Runners



Sat., March 17:
St. Patrick's Day
 Street Bash & Cook Out
 With Live Music by
 Blackhouse Monks

SUNDAY BRUNCH
 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
 BREAKFAST EVERYDAY
 8-11 A.M. ONLY \$5

SERVING BREAKFAST LUNCH, DINNER
 & LATE NIGHT MENU 7 DAYS A WEEK

HAPPY HOUR 4-6 - \$2 BOTTLE • \$2 WELL
 OPEN TIL 2 A.M. • 906-847-8255

Fort Wall, Restored in 2001, Deteriorating

** Continued from page 1*
 do so, said Mr. Porter. In the meantime, the park crew has done some patch work on the walls.

"We continue to negotiate with them that they have some ongoing responsibility to make sure this project is done right and we are satisfied with the wall," said Mr. Porter.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Frank Kelley, Mr. Porter said he would acquaint John Scherbarth, from the Michigan Attorney General's office, who attended the meeting, with the situation and keep him informed of future discussions with company representatives.

Mr. Kelley, a former attorney general, said communications with Mr. Scherbarth would be helpful in case the informal negotiations break down.

The wall was built on the south bluff of Mackinac Island 226 years ago by British soldiers, who sought protection against American troops during the American Revolution.

In 1999, a 72-foot section of the wall collapsed, although plans for restoration already



This winter, Mackinac Island State Park crews performed some patch work on the 226-year-old limestone walls at Fort Mackinac. The focus of a 2001 major restoration project, the walls are prematurely deteriorating, say park staff.

had begun. The two-year restoration was funded by the Michigan Legislature and received the 2002 Historical Restoration, Redesign and Renovation Construction and Design Award from the Engineering Society of Detroit and the 2002 Governor's Award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. In 2003, the

project earned the Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, Huron Valley Chapter, and the Historic Restoration Honor Award for masonry construction. Restorers were able to reposition 90 percent of the original stones in the project, which included repointing the walls and, in some sections, rebuilding them. Work was also done on the drainage system to help protect the walls from future water damage.

Fort Mackinac contains 14 original buildings, including the oldest buildings in the state, and is listed on both the national and state registers of historic places.

PATRICK M. SHANNON
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

<p>MACKINAC ISLAND 906-847-8139 906-847-8140 Fax</p>	<p>SAULT STE. MARIE 906-632-4706 Fax 906-635-1724</p>
<p>P.O. Box 503, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 P.O. Box 1901, Mackinac Island, MI 49757</p>	