

Fort Interpreters Show Women's Roles in History

By Diane Ivey

For most college students, dinner means zapping pre-cooked, frozen meal for less than five minutes in a microwave oven.

Cleaning up is just as easy. Toss the plastic packaging in the garbage, and all the work is done.

But for Claire Herhold and LeeAnn Ewer, making dinner is a more time-consuming effort than microwaving a plastic plate of budget gourmet.

They start around 11 a.m., chopping the ingredients for pasties, a meat pie brought to the Upper Peninsula by Cornish miners in the 1800s. Dicing potatoes, garlic, and carrots is only half the work, as they combine the vegetables in a pot to simmer for an hour or so before combining flour, butter, and salt to form the pasty's thin crust.

Although outside temperatures climb into the upper 70s, they remain cool inside Biddle House, one of Mackinac State Historic Parks' living history exhibits downtown, despite a fire burning on the kitchen hearth and layers of 1830s undergarments.

"I'm wearing three pantalets and a second petticoat," Ms. Herhold said. "But I'm actually not warm at all. It's kind of like wearing a giant potholder."

Turn to page 14: Women



Rachel Zimmerman, a volunteer from Cheboygan, and interpreter Claire Herhold chop potatoes and carrots for the pasty they are making for lunch at Biddle House. Demonstrations in cooking, spinning, and gardening are presented daily by female interpreters at Mackinac State Historic Parks' downtown historic buildings.

Businesses Report Drop in Traffic

Poor Early Summer Weather Hurt Commerce, but Hotel Stays Are Strong

By Ryan Schlehuber

With the summer tourist season passing the halfway point at the end of July, businesses on Mackinac Island are reporting the expected drop in traffic, although hotels are say occupancy is similar to last year, which was a good year for most busi-

nesses.

Michigan State University predicted this spring that tourist traffic would be down 2% and traveling costs would rise 4%.

On top of the anemic state economy, mortgage crisis, high unemployment, and lack of foreign visa workers available,

many Island businesses have been struggling to adjust to the city's amended sign and window display ordinances, which many owners say has hindered business.

Businesses that depend on good weather, such as golf

Turn to page 16: Business

Mitch Ryder To Headline Island Music Festival

By Allison Levy

Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, plus bands from as far as Texas and Colorado will participate in this year's Mackinac Island Music Festival to be held Tuesday, August 19, through Thursday, August 21. More than 15 acts will be involved at various locations, with genres ranging from Celtic to classical, folk to hard rock.

"We didn't want the festival to attract only one type of listener," said Becki Barnwell, president of the Mackinac Arts Council, which sponsors the festival. She expects a large turnout.

Born and reared in Hamtramck, Mitch Ryder rose to popularity in the 1960s with hits like "Jenny Take A Ride" and "Devil

Turn to page 11: Music



Daily traffic on Mackinac Island's busy Main Street has been down this year, say many downtown businesses, however, hotels are reporting good turnouts for overnight guests. Many businesses blame bad weather for a slow first half of the Island's summer tourism season, which extends from May through October.

Planning Underway To Keep Historic Landmark Status

By Ryan Schlehuber

When a panel of historic preservation experts and design consultants met with Mackinac Island city officials August 1, they agreed the city should create guidelines for remodeling historic buildings, constructing new buildings, and demolishing old buildings as the next step to preserve its National Historic Landmark status, which has been on "watch" level for several years. Experts say about half of the Island's buildings contribute to the historic preserva-

tion of the Island, and about half do not, meaning those who determine National Historic Landmark status are keeping a close eye on the decisions made here about how new buildings are made and how old buildings are maintained.

The panel met with members of the Mackinac Island Planning Commission.

"The first thing to do is to start with an analysis of the key features of the Island with its historic significance as it is

Turn to page 18: Landmark