



The latest artist rendition of the new Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center shows the two-story building proposed for the site, which is a change from the single story building originally proposed. The public will have the opportunity to review the new hospital plans at a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, May 28, at the North State Street site in St. Ignace. (Image courtesy of URS Corporation)

## Public Will See Hospital Plans at Groundbreaking

**Hospital:** Continued from page 1

department with X-ray, CAT scan, ultrasound, and digital mammography. The long term care unit will be 33,000 square feet in size and will contain four residential

living areas with their own fireplaces, living rooms, kitchens, and bathing areas.

Voters approved transferring management and assets of the Mackinac Straits Hospital

Authority to the new corporation, Mackinac Straits Health Systems, May 7, and the Authority will hold its last regular meeting June 16.

## Softball League Forming in St. Ignace

A sign-up and planning meeting will take place in St. Ignace Thursday, May 22, at 7 p.m. to begin forming a 10-week summer softball league. The meeting will be at Timmy Lee's Pub. Registration is free.

Jerry Fenlon, a member of the St. Ignace Recreation Advisory Committee, is seeking softball players to form teams for the league.

"I'm trying to get a league we had years ago going again, and get guys out of the house," said Mr. Fenlon. He has enough people interested to form at least three teams, and is trying to generate more interest within the community. A mixed league of men and women is possible, too, if enough people are interested in playing.

officiate for themselves, have an unlimited number of players to a team (although a player cannot play for two teams), and hold games two nights a week, possibly Wednesdays and Mondays, at LaSalle High School's baseball diamonds. No alcohol or tobacco is allowed on the premises.

"I'm also looking for someone to run the league," he said. "We need a go-to person, someone the city recreation league can contact for questions or concerns and to keep track of the game results."

There are only a few responsibilities for the league coordinator at this point, Mr. Fenlon said, so running the league will not be time-consuming.

People can also sign up for the league by calling Mr. Fenlon in the evenings at 643-8730.

## Les Cheneaux Community Library

### Teens Only Night Seeks Donations

Teens Only Night at Les Cheneaux Community Library has been a successful weekend program, and started last fall to give teenagers a place to go on designated Saturday nights. Teenagers are attending, and hope the program can continue.

Teenage participants have the library to themselves for games, movies, video games, high-speed Internet, library resources, computers, and are provided snacks.

The participants and coordinators are seeking donations of the following items. Donations toward the cost of items are also welcome. Teens Only Night is seeking art supplies, new games for the library, four guitars, four keyboards, one Guitar Hero game, and snacks. Snacks cost an estimated \$50 for 24 nights.

Sponsors are needed for an Artist in Residence program four times a year, at \$100 each night. It would provide artistic instruction for Teen Night participants.

Sponsors are also sought for the cost of 24 Teen Nights, at \$50 a night.

Contact Ronda McGreevy at the library in Cedarville for more information on donations and sponsorship.

# Weekend Marks Village's Big Celebration

## Hundreds Prepare for Reenactments

Honoring fallen soldiers and celebrating the history of the Straits of Mackinac area will be the focus in Mackinaw City from Saturday, May 24, through Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

The fifth annual Mackinaw Memorial Day Race will begin the events Saturday at 6 a.m. at Bridge View Park in St. Ignace. There will be staggered starts this year, owing to ongoing work on the bridge. Transportation for racers to the site begins at 5:15 a.m. and continues until 6 a.m.

The Mackinaw City Memorial Day Parade will be Saturday at 1 p.m., beginning at Conkling Heritage Park and ending at Colonial Fort Michilimackinac.

Fireworks will be shot over the water from the municipal marina around 9 p.m. Sunday.

Monday, May 26, a 10 a.m. Memorial Day service will take place at the marina park on South Huron Avenue.

The public is invited to a weekend filled with Native American, French, and British history and culture, in which actors recreate events that took place from 1715 through 1763. In colored tents, visitors will see reenactors create period devices using centuries-old methods. To make the food of the time, reenactors will also use accurate reproductions of era cooking utensils and recipes.

From Saturday, May 24, to Monday, May 26, there will be free performances recreating the 1763 Native American capture of Fort Michilimackinac on the grounds outside Colonial Fort Michilimackinac. Performances are at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, and 2:30 p.m. Monday.

The schedule for contests and other pageant events on the weekend is as follows:

Saturday at 9 a.m., there will be Michilimackinac Voyageurs and Spirits of the North muzzle-loading, rifle, and smoothbore competitions at the village rifle range. At 9:30 a.m., there will be a biscuit toss competition, lance throw, and primitive archery competition as well as knife and tomahawk competition at Mackinaw Bay Trading Company. Also at 9:30 a.m., there will be band competitions in the marina parking lot. At 3 p.m., there will be an 18th century fashion show at Fort Michilimackinac. At 6 p.m., there will be a Spirits versus Voyageurs tomahawk, knife, and primitive archery competition at the performance court in Mackinaw Crossings. At 7 p.m., there will be an open-to-the-public auction of 18th century craft reproductions



Four members of the Alexander family, (from left) Richard, Kelly, William, and Adam, pose in Mackinaw City Saturday, May 17. They are in authentic, 18th century French and British military garb, which they will wear this weekend in the Fort Michilimackinac Pageant. The clothing is authentic, however, some of the uniforms worn by soldiers who manned the fort in the 1700s were likely a little less sophisticated, the Alexanders said. Owing to limited supplies at what was considered the frontier of European expansion at the time, some soldiers made due with ill-fitting, old uniforms.

**Fort:** Continued from page 1

sought to eliminate the British soldiers in the area.

The pageant enables onlookers to glimpse June 2, 1763, as the natives lure the troops out of the fort, setting the stage for a surprise attack by engaging them in a game of baggataway, which is similar to lacrosse.

Indian women on the scene, dressed in large blankets, hide weapons for the braves. As the game proceeds, the ball goes over the wall of the fort, and a British soldier retrieves it. When the ball clears the palisades again, tribesmen are allowed into the fort to retrieve it. When it happens a third time, the natives attack the fort, retrieving weapons from the women as they rush forward to fight the British.

Having served several roles in the annual event since he was 15 years old, Mr. Alexander is well versed in the story.

"It is our history. It is who we are," he said.

Fort Michilimackinac has been rebuilt on the site of the original structure, so standing in the crowd of French soldiers, looking at the walls, the actors see what the soldiers would have seen at the time.

"You get a sense of what it was like, and an appreciation of what we have inherited," he said.

A careful mix of fun and realism, the pageant portrays harsh scenes common during the struggle for the land, like a scalping scene played by Mr. Alexander's son.

The pageant is a gift to those who watch it, he said. "I would definitely say that it is an important part of Mackinaw City," he said. "We are a small community, and this is a big deal."

Reenactments help onlookers project themselves into history. When watching the scene at the fort unfold, it is natural to wonder, "If I were there in that time, what would I be doing?" Mr. Alexander said.

at Mackinaw Bay Trading Company.

Sunday, the Michilimackinac Voyageur youth games at the high school will be at 10:30 a.m. At 1 p.m., Mackinaw Bay Trading Company will host a fire-lighting competition. At 2 p.m., there will be another 18th century fashion show at Fort Michilimackinac. There will be a knife and toma-

hawk throw at Mackinaw City High School Sunday at 4 p.m. Also at 4 p.m., the Michilimackinac Voyageurs will hold a hoop/cannon-ball roll at the high school. At 7 p.m., the Michilimackinac Voyageurs will hold a cross-dressing frying pan toss at the high school. At 8 p.m., the Spirits of the North awards presentation will take place at Mackinaw Bay Trading Company, and the Michilimackinac Voyageurs Awards will be presented at the Voyageurs Encampment behind the high school. At 10 p.m., the Voyageurs Encampment will be the site of a paddle dance.

A final 18th century fashion show will take place Monday at 2 p.m. at Fort Michilimackinac.

## Auditions Set for Country Music Revue

The Opera House in Cheboygan is holding auditions for a country music revue, "Pump Boys and Dinettes," Sunday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m. Cast requirements are four men able to play lead guitar, piano, bass, and rhythm

guitar, and two women who sing and can provide percussion with kitchen tools.

Audition material is available by contacting Barbara Beckers in Cheboygan at (231)627-6386.

**Classifieds Sell! Place Yours at 643-9150.**

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