CASPIAN—The annual spring membership drive for the Iron County Museum is under way.
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The purpose of the membership drive is to generate funds for the operation of the museum, which includes 26 different buildings. By purchasing a membership, the funds provide support for facility operation and maintenance.
The Iron County Historical and Museum Society undertook several major renovation projects in 2012. A new roof was constructed on the Carrie Jacobs-Bond house. The Bond house, which was moved from its Adams Street location in 1978, was one of the original Iron River homes, circa 1890. Roof and interior repairs were done to the St. Mary's Church, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 2012. The third major project of last year was the updating of the Stager Depot, the first railhead in Iron County, built in 1890 and moved to the museum in 1970.
Among the projects planned for 2013 will be an exhibit to commemorate the role of the Jewish congregation in Iron County. The Jewish community acquired a home in 1939 and converted it into a synagogue that remained in use until 1975. Work is also planned for one of the unique Finnish-style log cabins on the museum grounds.
The Museum Society Board of Trustees has planned a full schedule of special events for 2013 that includes a salute to the city of Caspian's early history. Scandinavian Log Cabin Day, Italian Day and the Miners Family Picnic will all take place this summer. The school visitations, which involve as many as 500 area students, is on the schedule for May, and there is a plan to continue the Environmental Day in August, another successful event for the young people.
There are several levels of membership ranging from the individual membership at $20 up to the benefactor membership at $150. Each level has benefits, including free admission to the museum, a 10 percent discount at the museum gift shop, priority admission to the wine and cheese event in July and the complimentary newsletters distributed twice per year.
Memberships, which are tax-deductible, can be submitted to the museum at P.O. Box 272, Caspian, MI 49915. Questions can be directed to either Ross Parcels or Michelle Blood at the museum at 265-2617. Information is available on the museum website www.ironcountyhistoricalmuseum.org.