



PREP FOOTBALL
Big Reds to open season with 175-mile road trip.

Sports

REPORT IN

Baby's death was not an accident. Houston Curtis died from a violent head injury.

Local-Region



WHOPPERS
Big fish hooked in area waters.

Explore

RETOOLING

Ford to spend \$75 million to upgrade former truck factory.

Page 7A

mlive.com

ONLY ON THE 'NET

Catch up on The Chronicle's Working Poor series.

www.mlive.com/chronicle

Index

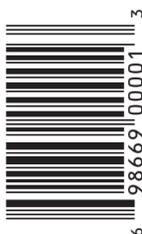
Astrology	3C
Births/Deaths	3B
Classified	1-4C
Comics	4D
Crossword	3C
Dear Abby	4B
Editorials	5A
Entertainment	4B
Explore	6B
For the Record	2A
Global Glance	2A
Jobs • Business	7A
Local • Region	1B
Lottery	3A
Michigan	3A
Nation/World	2A
Scoreboard	2D
Sports	1D
Sudoku	3C
Television	4B

Tonight's weather

High : Low
81 : 63



Forecast on Back Page



Labor Day bridge walkers can stay home

By Robert C. Burns
bburns@muskegonchronicle.com

The walk across the Mackinac Bridge is a breathtakingly healthy five miles long.

But if you live here in Muskegon, you'd have to drive 236 miles just to get to the starting point at St. Ignace in time for the 7 a.m. start of the 51st Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Walk.

Why not stay closer to home? This year, a number of Michigan communities — including Muskegon — are holding their own Labor Day Walks in support of an initiative called "Getting Michigan Moving."

Other walks in the area are in Grand Haven, Whitehall/Montague and Hart.

Locally, the city of Muskegon, the Muskegon County Health Department and the ambulance company Professional Med Team Inc. have joined forces to organize a first-ever Labor Day walk here.

Walkers will assemble for registration at Fisherman's Landing near the east end of Muskegon Lake at 9 a.m. Monday. They will follow the Lakeshore Trail east to the nature preserve in North Muskegon, then turn around and return to Fisherman's Landing for a total of 4.2 miles.

And there is a bridge involved — where Veterans Memorial Causeway passes over the north branch of the Muskegon River.

As is customary, Gov. Jennifer Granholm will lead a procession of

Please see **WALK 4A** ▶

If you go

- **What:** Unveiling of a bronze statue of slain Michigan State Trooper Kevin Marshall.
- **When:** 10 a.m. Saturday.
- **Where:** Marshall Memorial Park, 360 Adams, Newaygo.



Marshall

Park, statue will honor slain trooper

By Brian McVicar
staff@muskegonchronicle.com

NEWAYGO — For five years, Sgt. Linda Mys has been on a quest to preserve the memory of Kevin Marshall, a Michigan State Police trooper who was gunned down in Fremont in 2003.

Mys served with Marshall at the state police Newaygo Post from 1999 to July 7, 2003 — the day Marshall was shot and killed by a Fremont resident who had barricaded himself inside his home.

"It hit the post pretty hard," Mys said. "You get into a job like this knowing it's dangerous, but you can never be fully prepared when things like this happen."

So when Mys learned the city of Newaygo was creating a park in honor of Marshall, she and other community members decided they

Please see **TROOPER 4A** ▶

FOOTBALL 2008



Photo illustration • Associated Press and The Chronicle

Muskegon's Terrance Taylor exemplifies U-M's transformation from the Schembechler-Carr bulk-and-muscle era to new coach Rich Rodriguez's speed-and-athleticism game.

LEAN and mean

By Tom Kendra
tkendra@muskegonchronicle.com

The theme of downsizing, getting leaner and meaner and doing more with less is not limited to today's corporate world.

It's happening on the football field, too. The common theme coming out of the preseason is that bulk and fat are out. Speed and athletic bodies are in.

That applies to both college and high school players.

Many eyes will be on the University of Michigan this season as coach Rich Rodriguez starts a new era with a spread offensive and in-your-face defense. Part of his emphasis has been on getting players in tip-top shape with a year-round strength and conditioning program.

Terrance Taylor, a Muskegon High graduate and hulking, immovable force in the middle of Michigan's defense, is a prime example of that program at work.

He has embraced the "less is more" philosophy — literally.

Taylor has slimmed down from about 325 pounds last year to 300 pounds and is now the poster boy for Michigan's transformation from the bulk and muscle mass of the Bo Schembechler-Lloyd Carr era to the athleticism and explosiveness of the Rodriguez helm.

Please see **FOOTBALL 4A** ▶



Inside today

Just as businesses are downsizing, so are football teams. Strength training has shifted from emphasizing big muscle-bound football players to producing faster, stronger and more agile athletes. Today's football section focuses on the new trend and features team outlooks, photos and schedules.

SPECIAL SECTION E

Census: Poverty explodes in region

FROM LOCAL AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS

More people in West Michigan are hitting the bottom economically.

The U.S. Census Bureau shows the poverty level in Muskegon exploded in 2007, increasing from 11.4 percent of the population in 2000 to 15.6 percent, representing a total of 26,240 people.

There were 7,488 more Muskegon County residents living in poverty last year than when the 2000 Census was conducted, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

In 2007, there were 11,041 or 6.5 percent of Muskegon residents living in "extreme poverty." The government defines that as a yearly income of less than half the poverty threshold, or \$10,325 for a family of four.

In 2000, 7,358 people, or 4.4 percent, were in extreme poverty in Muskegon County.

In Kent County, 78,198 people were in poverty in 2007, or 13.2 percent, compared to 49,832 in 2000, or 8.9 percent. The number in extreme poverty jumped from 22,061 in 2000 to 36,597.

While the overall poverty rate in Ottawa County was about half that of Kent County (6.8 percent), those in poverty climbed more than 5,000 from 2006 to 2007, to 16,909.

The number in extreme poverty reached 7,176, nearly double the number in 2006.

The bleak numbers in the Census report do not surprise Gail Kraft, executive director of Love INC of Muskegon County, a faith-based agency that helps those in need find food and other resources.

"I'm surprised the numbers aren't higher, from what we've been seeing," Kraft said.

Last month, 87 new families, "people who have never called Love for help before," called the agency, said Yvonne Ramos, the agency's resource developer and clearinghouse manager.

Many of the calls were for rent and utility assistance, she said.

"We're seeing clients caught, they're losing their homes, because their landlords are behind on their (mortgage) payments," Ramos said. "They need assistance finding new places to live."

But Kraft said, "we still see a huge number of people who call for food. In fact, we could help more people if we had more telephone lines or people to answer them."

"At the end of the day, we tell each other: We have helped all the people that we could that day, and we just pray that if they couldn't get through to us, they got through somewhere else."

The increased need was reflected in numbers released by Muskegon County Department of Human Services, as well. In July, an additional 86 food assistance (food stamp) cases were recorded. There are 44,041 Muskegon County residents receiving some type of public assistance.

Michigan's rate of extreme poverty jumped from 6 percent in 2006 to 6.5 percent last year. Eight years

Please see **POVERTY 4A** ▶

Bill Clinton: Obama friend, foe or wild card?

CHRONICLE WIRE SERVICES

DENVER — The real drama of the heavily scripted Democratic National Convention may come tonight when former President Bill Clinton gives the keynote speech.

Much attention will be paid to what Clinton says about Sen. Barack Obama, the presumptive presidential nominee.

As Democrats gather for their third day here, the theme will be national security, an issue traditionally owned by the Republicans. Some of the Democrats' most experienced statesmen are expected to argue that Obama is the best candidate to strengthen America's national security.

But Bill Clinton may steal the spotlight. Some of the sharpest exchanges during the hard-fought Democratic primary season occurred between Obama's campaign and Clinton, who was vigorously campaigning for his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton, for the Democratic nomination.

On one occasion, Bill Clinton said electing Obama president would be to "roll the dice," and also called Obama's opposition to the Iraq war "a fairy tale."

The former president was perplexed and unhappy that he was asked to speak on the night when the theme is national security,

Please see **DNC 4A** ▶



Photo • Associated Press

"Whether you voted for me, or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose," Sen. Hillary Clinton told the DNC. **Page 6A**



Granholm talks energy at DNC.
Page 3A

GOP war room heating up.
Page 6A