

Two men charged in killing of woman

• Alliance police chief labels pair facing charges as 'extremely dangerous'

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ALLIANCE: Two men - one accused of hiring the other to murder a mother of five - were arraigned yesterday in Alliance Municipal Court.

David G. Thorne, 26, of Atwater, a former boyfriend of Yvonne Layne, 26, is accused of hiring Joseph I. Wilkes, 19, of Ravenna, to kill her. Her nearly decapitated body was found in her Alliance home by her mother hours after the April 1 slaying. Police say they have a motive but will not discuss it. Thorne is the father of one of Layne's children.

Wilkes is charged with aggravated murder for hire. Thorne is charged with complicity to the same crime. Both charges are capital crimes for which they could receive the death penalty, if convicted.

Wilkes and Thorne were labeled by Alliance Police Chief Lawrence A. Dordea as "extremely dangerous" because of their training as Shootfighters, a martial-arts form described as a cross between jujitsu and kickboxing.

For security reasons, Sheriff W. Bruce Umpleby said, his jailers weren't even told the time of the arraignment, only that they'd be notified when Alliance authorities were on their way to the Stark County Jail to get the suspects.

Afterward, both were returned

See **HIRE**, Page B2

HIRE

• One suspect hasn't talked since arrest

Continued from Page B1

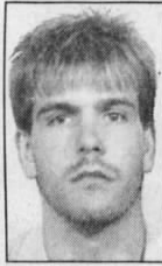
to the county jail in lieu of \$1 million bonds.

Thorne was arrested Wednesday at his girlfriend's home in Springfield Township.

Wilkes was arrested at his home about 2 p.m. Wednesday. Police said he confessed and led



Joseph Wilkes



David Thorne

officers to a storm sewer about two blocks from the victim's house, where the knife believed to be the murder weapon was found.

"We had searched storm sewers near the house earlier but our

search didn't extend to the point where the knife was found," Dordea said.

The chief said investigators believe "we probably have the case solved and everybody arrested, but since we haven't had Thorne's input we can't be sure that we have everybody."

Dordea said Thorne has not talked since his arrest.

The chief added that investigators also were looking into the welfare of Layne and Thorne's 2-year-old son, Brandon, who had been living with his father since shortly after the slaying. Brandon wasn't with Thorne when he was arrested.