

Wailing Waters

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They look and sound like they're from the '60s, but the classic rock band Wailing Waters is made up of four 17-year-olds. They are fond of some modern groups like The Killers and The Raconteurs, but these Nazareth High School classmates aren't quick to hop on contemporary trends. Even their original tunes have a vintage vibe.

"A lot of our influences are bands from the '60s and '70s," says drummer/singer Tyler Grady. "Travis [Hobbie], the songwriter, listened to a lot of Bob Dylan and Neil Young and The Band." Grady recalls exploring his own father's CD collection and getting turned on to bands like Led Zeppelin and The Doors.

Wailing Waters' sound continues to develop from an impressive beginning. The band won the 2005 Nazareth Day Battle of the Bands at one of its earliest gigs and now plays regularly in the Lehigh Valley. They also play often at the Grape Street Pub in Philadelphia -- a noteworthy original music venue. This year the band won Crocodile Rock Band Battlefest and was a finalist in the WZZO Backyard Bands contest at the Allentown Fair.

"Winning the competitions was a thrill, but we just enjoy playing out," Grady says.

In addition to original material, shows include songs by The Beatles, The Doors, The Who, Steve Miller Band and Neil Young.

Hobbie adds harmonica while Joe DiMarco, whose primary instrument is keyboards, also plays sax on some of the original numbers.

Members look forward to a day they can play only their own songs. "Our ultimate goal would be to be a signed band and to go on tour, but there's no guarantee," Grady says. "We'd like to stay together."

But first there's high school.

Josh Berk