



Sweet tradition
Manton family has been making maple syrup for more than 100 years
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\$1.50



ANTONIO COLEMAN | CADILLAC NEWS
Police escort a suspect to a patrol car after the man was allegedly found hiding in a home after fleeing a traffic stop near Marion on Friday.

Police: Suspect who fled traffic stop found hiding under bathroom sink

Suspect discovered inside home south of Marion

BY ANTONIO COLEMAN
CADILLAC NEWS

MARION — A man who allegedly fled a traffic stop south of Marion Friday was found after a two-hour search hiding inside

a home under a sink.

According to police, the suspect fled on foot after an officer attempted a traffic stop near the intersection of M-66 and M-61 south of Marion about 4:30 p.m. Friday. The suspect reportedly has outstanding warrants.

Police then received a tip that the man was hiding in a home on 19 Mile Road south of Marion.

Officers entered the home, and the man was found hiding under a bathroom sink by a K-9 unit. The suspect was arrested and is being held in the Osceola County Jail. His name has not been released.

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Michigan State Police.

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Inside



Italian court throws out Knox conviction

Amanda Knox, who maintained that she and her former Italian boyfriend were innocent in her British roommate's murder through multiple trials and nearly four years in jail, was vindicated Friday when Italy's highest court threw out their convictions once and for all.

See Page A7.

Vikings travel en masse to Breslin

Fans express pride in team effort as Cadillac's playoff run ends

BY MARC VIEAU
CADILLAC NEWS

EAST LANSING — The green-and-white confines turned a little blue and gold Friday, if only for a little while.

Supporters of the Cadillac High School basketball program turned Michigan State University's basketball home into their home court once again Friday evening.

The community supported its Vikings en masse — the third straight year they've done so — as Cadillac met Detroit Henry Ford in a Class B state semifinal game.

Unfortunately, for the third straight year, the run ended there as the Trojans beat the Vikings 64-38.

The loss ends Cadillac's season at 18-9 overall while Henry Ford (21-5) meets Wyoming Godwin Heights in the state championship game Saturday night.

"It's pretty special what this group of seniors has done," Cadillac senior forward Lewis Finch said. "We proved a lot of doubters wrong by getting here again."

"We wanted to win here and make the next step, but it didn't



MARC VIEAU | CADILLAC NEWS

Cadillac's Quinn Crago, Lewis Finch and TJ Baker spend some time with their fans after Friday's 64-38 loss to Detroit Henry Ford in the Class B state semifinal game at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Full coverage starts on Page B1.

go our way."

One of those who made the trip was retired pastor Allen McCreedy, who has been following the program for nearly two decades.

McCreedy was a minister in Reed City when the Coyotes won the Class C state championship in 1980, and he'd love his current

hometown to experience the same thing.

"What a great experience for a team and for the town," he said. "I've been here all three years, and I would dearly love for Cadillac to get to be a part of that."

"I got to know a lot of the kids on the team and the coaches.

What a neat thing to be a part of."

Basketball has been a part of McCreedy's life since graduating from Fairgrove High School in the Thumb in the 1950s. He played three years of varsity basketball there and was actually on the last team before Akron and Fairgrove merged schools.

FOR MORE, TURN TO PAGE A2

5-MINUTE CONNECTION

Your Local Weather

SATURDAY



High: 35 Low: 15

SUNDAY



High: 40 Low: 26

MONDAY



High: 44 Low: 26

Want to see your photos in the paper?

Send your photos to news@cadillacnews.com or drop them off at our offices at 130 N. Mitchell in downtown Cadillac and watch for your pictures on the Community page. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and info about your photos.

Deaths

Robert David Johnigan, 51, of Cadillac
Donald Walter Lager, 86
Lawrence Miller, 85, of Lake City

See obituaries on A4



CADILLAC NEWS FILE PHOTO

A movie based upon the rock band KISS visiting Cadillac is in the works, and one of the producers says they hope to film part of it in Cadillac this fall or late summer. Above, KISS perform in the Cadillac High School gym in 1975.

Ready to rock

Producer says status of film credits won't stop Cadillac's KISS movie

BY JEFF BRODDLE
AND RICK CHARMOLI
CADILLAC NEWS

One of the producers of the movie telling how the rock band KISS was literally given the key to the city of Cadillac says he wants to make at least part of the film here, regardless of what happens with Michigan film credits.

"I have the pedal down to shoot this late summer or fall," Lindsay Fellows told the Cadillac News.

Fellows is working on the project with Philip Steuer, producer of the "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,"

and Mark Johnson, producer of "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul."

The movie is based upon how KISS was invited to not only visit the quiet, unassuming town of Cadillac but to meet with civic leaders, be the toast of the homecoming parade and put on a rock concert at the high school in 1975.

Cadillac High School assistant football coach Jim Neff was successful in convincing head coach Dave Brines to start playing KISS records in the locker room prior to every game in an effort to break a slump.

FOR MORE, TURN TO PAGE A2



Movie

CONTINUED FROM A1

The change in focus, along with a few lineup changes, were credited with helping the team turn things around and return to their winning ways.

Neff wrote a letter to the band's management telling them how the music helped them get pumped up to win games. He was stunned to receive a phone call directly from Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley.

"They said they were excited about what we were doing, and wanted to know more," Neff said.

After that, Neff would call their road manager, J.R. Smalling, after each

game to let them know how they did.

"That's how the whole friendship got started," Neff said.

The band provided team members with tickets to see their spectacular show in concert, and the relationship grew from there.

It was like a teenager's dream come true when the rock band rolled in and essentially took over the school and the town for a couple of days.

Lights, camera, action

Producers have applied for Michigan Film Tax Credits to help get the movie made.

The Michigan House approved a bill ending the

state's film incentive program, although both Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof and Gov. Rick Snyder have said they do not support abruptly cutting off the film credits. Snyder said he would prefer a gradual ramp-down, and proposed allocating \$50 million in the next fiscal year.

Fellows said he would like to see the film credits continued to be offered in Michigan. Fellows is from Dearborn, and has a daughter who plays basketball at Hope College in Holland.

Fellows said the budget for the movie has been developed with the goal of filming the entire project within the state. Part, but not all of it, will be filmed

in Cadillac.

"We want it to be Cadillac," Fellows said.

He noted that its not unusual for the status of tax credits to change, and the same holds true for productions in the United States as well as Europe.

Even if the film credits were not available, Fellows said, certain scenes such as the homecoming parade, scenes by the lake and the band's exit by helicopter should be filmed in Cadillac, if possible.

As for the state's approach to the film credits, Fellows said Michigan should pursue a long-term commitment if it truly wants to build the industry here.

For example, Louisiana did not stand out as a movie

"Our goal is to not just make a movie, but make a great movie."

Lindsay Fellows
movie producer

location, but steady support for many years allowed the area to develop local talent filmmakers can depend on.

"Louisiana has a great crew now. They didn't in the beginning," Fellows said.

Neff noted that while some have argued that film is not a permanent industry, the same can be said for other industries, such as construction, in which many workers are on the job only when there is a project underway.

For a film executive, it makes a difference if they can hire local professionals to work on a project rather than send everyone to a certain location, Fellows said.

And as for "Cadillac High," Fellows said the film will get made, and it will get made right.

"Our goal is to not just make a movie, but make a great movie," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

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Vikings

CONTINUED FROM A1

McCreedy followed Central Michigan University's teams as a student there in the late 1950s and early 1960s before going to seminary in Evanston, Illinois. His first assignment was in Kalamazoo, but he was starting a family at the time, so following high school sports wasn't always an option.

From Kalamazoo, it was on to Reed City, and then to Cadillac as pastor at the United Methodist Church.

"When I came to Cadillac, one of the first people I met was Jeff McDonald," McCreedy said. "He was a school counselor, and I was a pastor, so it was a professional relationship."

"Later, I found out he also was the basketball coach."

The friendship developed beyond professional, though, and McCreedy became an avid Cadillac supporter in all sports.

McCreedy retired as a pastor in 2000 right around the time Viking graduate and Western Michigan University basketball alum Bri-

an Snider was beginning his stellar prep career as the program's all-time leading scorer.

In the years since, McCreedy has watched a lot of good players come through the blue-and-gold ranks.

"Jeff and I developed a very close friendship," he said. "One thing led to another, and it's been great."

McCreedy was at a girls basketball district final about eight years ago when the girls still played hoops in the fall. He struck up a conversation with McDonald about possibly being able to attend practice.

He's been there ever since and has even been around this season with the transition to Ryan Benzenberg as Cadillac's head coach.

"I just sit on the sidelines and watch," McCreedy said. "I don't interfere with practice in any way or with the players."

"I just like to watch." For McCreedy, it's a love of prep sports that keeps him interested.

"It's a love of the game for me and the love of high school sports," he said. "I get to as many football and girls basketball games as I



RICK CHARMOLI | CADILLAC NEWS

The Cadillac boys basketball team was greeted by cheers of students, staff and parents as they loaded a bus headed to East Lansing and the Class B state semifinals Friday. The Vikings fell to Detroit Henry Ford 64-38 on Friday night. Cadillac finishes the season with a record of 18-9.

can, and I go to the baseball games in the spring, too. participate in high school sports."

"I love watching kids

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The Day in History

Saturday, March 28, is the 87th day of 2015. There are 278 days left in the year.

Cadillac history

March 28, 1915

Louis Simms, 316 N. Mitchell St., was burned about the lower limbs at the chair factory. Simms, believing the steam was out of some boiler pipes which were to be repaired, started into do the work. On opening up the pipes, steam shot out, burning him.

March 28, 1965

A Marion student, Linda Bertal, placed first in the biological science division at the sixth annual Regional Science Fair at Northwestern Michigan College. She was named a delegate to the National Science Fair. Her winning project was "Experimental Hepatic Cirrhosis in White Mice."

March 28, 1990

Aircraft equipped with

speed-timing devices would begin patrolling the Cadillac area as an added deterrent for drivers who travel at excessive speeds. Airspeed timing on interstate freeways was one of several initiatives the Michigan State Police started to head off increases in traffic crashes.

World history

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington D.C. at age 78.



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Marldene has turned 90!



Her family wants you to know there is a party in her honor and we all want you to go. The Clam Lake Township Hall is reserved and waiting to be the special place for all to meet and share memories and maybe just see... if you might have a story or two, reminisce and laugh and eat. But the things that really matter are the friends that come to greet.

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