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SPORTS, 1B

## BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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# Work starts on Brooks Memorial Fountain



Construction on the Brooks Memorial Fountain in downtown Marshall on July 1. The nearly 100-year-old fountain is modeled after the Temple of Love in Versailles, France, and is in need of structural and mechanical repairs. BECCA MAHON/BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

## Downtown Marshall structure getting \$140,000 makeover

Liz Shepard and Rhonda Clark

Battle Creek Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Marshall’s 95-year-old Brooks Memorial Fountain has started getting a \$140,000 makeover. Thanks to a donation from Ford, the much-needed work on the fountain has begun. Yellow caution tape was seen around the fountain as of July 1.

### What work does the fountain need?

Nearly 100 years of wear and tear left the fountain in need of structural and mechanical repairs, said Marguerite Davenport, Marshall’s director of public services. “With Ford’s donation, we’ll be able to take the first steps of restoring the Brooks Memorial Fountain to its original glory,” Davenport said. “A new coating of paint is needed on the basin of the fountain, where the water is held, but first we have to remove

many layers of paint applied over the years.” The fountain is modeled after the Temple of Love in Versailles, France, and often serves as a backdrop for special events.

### Why did Ford support the Marshall fountain project?

Ford, which is expected to begin production next year at its nearby BlueOval Battery Park Michigan, donated to the fountain project following a survey of county residents. The donation is among several Ford has made across the region as it continues to build the BlueOval Battery Park, which will create 1,700 jobs and produce batteries for electric vehicles when production is expected to begin in 2026. “Ford has been an incredible community partner

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# More shows coming to Franke Center this season

Janis Reeser

Reporter assisted by AI  
Battle Creek Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

MARSHALL — A new season of concerts and events is scheduled to bring a wide range of music, theater and comedy to the Franke Center for the Arts at 214 E. Mansion St. in Marshall. The Franke Center’s upcoming season is set to begin on Sept. 13 with a performance by local superstars Chameleon, who are scheduled to sing a set of crowd-pleasing rock favorites. The season is expected to conclude with the Tom Franke Gala fundraiser on May 30, 2026, featuring “Tapestry: A Carole King Tribute,” according to a community announcement. Other highlights from the season’s lineup are expected to include Shawn Mullins, known for the 1998 No. 1 hit single “Lullaby,” a Country Christmas acoustic show featuring Jason Michael Carroll, Bluegrass Night with Wilson Thicket and a Stand-up Comedy Night featuring Yassir Lester. Lester is best known for being a staff writer on TV shows such as “The Carmichael Show” and HBO’s “Girls.” Returning favorites are also scheduled to make an appearance, including Wolf Tree Film Festival, Irish Pub Night, College A Cappella Night and Main Street Dueling Pianos. The Franke Center offers ticket packages in addition to individual tickets. The season FlexTicket allows patrons to choose six shows from among 10 choices, giving them the flexibility to tailor a season ticket to their interests. FlexTickets are set to start at \$150. The Michigan Stars Series is designed for people who shop local, eat local and want to listen local as well. The series introduces audiences to some of

See FRANKE CENTER, Page 2A



The Franke Center’s upcoming season is set to begin on Sept. 13 with a performance by local superstars Chameleon, who are scheduled to sing a set of crowd-pleasing rock favorites. PROVIDED BY THE FRANKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

# City issues statement on WK Kellogg sale

Liz Shepard

Battle Creek Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The city of Battle Creek issued a statement welcoming the Ferrero Group to the community following the announcement of its planned acquisition of W.K. Kellogg Co. Officials said city leaders are just beginning to learn the details of the sale, and while too early to predict what the change may mean for Battle Creek, the city looks forward to learning more from both companies. “W.K. Kellogg Co. has shown a strong commitment to Battle Creek since its formation,” said Interim City

Manager Ted Dearing. “We are hopeful that this commitment will continue under Ferrero’s ownership.” “We welcome Ferrero to Battle Creek,” said Mayor Mark Behnke. “We look forward to building a strong, long-term relationship that supports their success and secures their presence in our community for years to come.” The companies said in an announcement “Ferrero traces its roots to humble beginnings as a family business, still operating in the town where they were founded. After the transaction closes, Battle Creek, MI will remain a core location for the company and will be Ferrero’s headquarters for North America cereal.”

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Volume 125 | No. 351  
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