

Upgrade
YOUR HOME
AND SAVE BIG

Lower energy bills • Improve comfort • Boost home value
SUMMER SAVINGS

50% OFF
ALL INSTALLATIONS
+ NO PAYMENTS TILL 2027
BATHROOM UPGRADE BONUS
Save \$3,600 on Tub-to-Shower Conversions
1-2 Day Remodels Available

40+ YEARS
West and Northern
Michigan homeowners
have trusted AWS for
over 40 years.

All-Weather
Seal

NEW WINDOW SAVINGS
\$195 OR 50%
PER WINDOW OFF INSTALL
No Money Down • No Payments for 12 Months*

Call Today
Limited Summer Install Slots Available
231-252-1459
Free In Home Estimate — No Obligation

BATTLE CREEK

ENQUIRER

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

BATTLECREEKENQUIRER.COM

Michigan Democrats open new office in Battle Creek



Michigan Secretary of State and gubernatorial candidate Jocelyn Benson greets constituents at the Calhoun County Democratic Party office in downtown Battle Creek on Aug. 19. BECCA MAHON/BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

Dave DeMille
Battle Creek Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Democrats have opened a coordinated campaign office in Battle Creek, according to a community announcement.

The Michigan Democratic Party said the office is part of its One Team Michigan coordinated campaign effort. The party said it has opened more than 20 offices across the state and that organiz-

ers and volunteers are conducting voter outreach ahead of the November election.

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jocelyn Benson, 4th Congressional District candidate Sean McCann and state House candidate Jim Haadsma attended the opening.

“With the eyes of the nation around Michigan, as they are in this moment, we’re going to step up and show up and show who we are and what we’re fighting for,” Benson said. “A world and a state

in which health care is affordable and accessible, where housing is affordable and accessible. Ending corruption, taking on bad actors. Making sure educational opportunity is available to all, and our schools are preparing our young people for the jobs of tomorrow.”

This story was produced with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

Binder Park Zoo’s Msaga Shamba now features serval, cheetahs

Dave DeMille
Battle Creek Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Binder Park Zoo is preparing to open a reimagined exhibit space called Msaga Shamba, an African-inspired destination designed to give visitors closer encounters with animals while expanding opportunities for conservation education.

The project transforms the area formerly known as Forest Farm, according to a community announcement.

Zoo officials said the new name roughly translates to Miller Farm and honors Patricia “Patty” Miller, whose family provided the naming gift for the project.

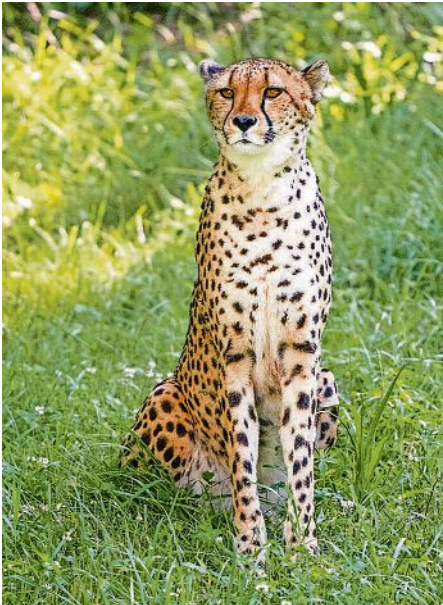
Zoo President and CEO Diane Thompson said the redesigned area

gives a familiar section of the zoo a new purpose focused on exploration, learning and conservation.

“Msaga Shamba is an opportunity for us to take a space that many of our guests may remember and give it a completely new sense of purpose,” Thompson said. “We want guests to feel like they are stepping into an experience. Every element has been thoughtfully considered to encourage curiosity, discovery and a deeper appreciation for farming.”

The project aligns with the zoo’s mission to “Connect. Inspire. Conserve.” and is intended to help visitors understand the relationship between people, wildlife and the environments they share, according to the announcement.

See MSAGA SHAMBA, Page 2A



Visitors to Binder Park Zoo can explore the reimagined Msaga Shamba, home to blue duikers, cheetahs and a new serval. PROVIDED BY BINDER PARK ZOO

Detroit Board of Ethics to investigate Conrad Mallett

Top City Hall attorney’s board seat questioned

Violet Ikonomova
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Board of Ethics voted Wednesday, Aug. 19 to investigate whether top City Hall attorney Conrad Mallett violated the city’s ethics ordinance by serving as a paid director of Lear Corp., an auto supplier receiving city tax breaks.

The investigation comes after the Free Press reported in August that Mallett received \$1.8 million in cash and stock awards from Lear while holding top city government posts. The company opened a large plant near City Airport in 2022 and is receiving an approximately \$4 million, 12-year tax abatement approved by the Detroit City Council in October that year.

At the ethics board’s meeting, Executive Director Christal Phillips said Mallett has failed to respond to recent requests from ethics board staff to disclose his position at Lear.

The meeting also produced a new allegation: Phillips said Mallett never disclosed that his son had applied for or accepted a job with the city of Detroit, in potential violation of an ethics ordinance provision requiring officials exercising significant authority to identify immediate family members

See ETHICS, Page 2A

