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# The Detroit News

Friday, December 12, 2025

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## Ford to end joint battery venture

Subsidiary of carmaker  
to run 2 Ky. plants;  
SK On to get Tenn. site

BY BREANA NOBLE  
The Detroit News

Ford Motor Co. and its South Korean battery partner are getting a divorce, signaling just how badly demand for electric vehicles is missing industry expectations.

SK On said Thursday it's reached an agreement with the Dearborn automaker to exit their electric vehicle battery joint venture that had invested \$11.4 billion into Kentucky and Tennessee. It's another sign of the dissipation of EV momentum in the United States. Consumers remain reluctant to buy EVs because of high prices, range anxiety and charging access concerns, and the Trump administration is following through on campaign promises to dismantle what the president called an "EV mandate."

The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2026. A Ford subsidiary will own and operate the two battery plants known as BlueOval Battery Park, a \$5.8 billion investment, in Glendale, Kentucky, while SK On will get the battery plant at BlueOval City in Stanton, Tennessee, that was a part of a \$5.6 billion project, including a fully owned Ford EV assembly plant. SK plans to continue supplying Ford and potentially other automakers, while also making use of the facility for energy storage systems to improve profitability because of low EV volumes.

"This agreement allows SK On to strategically realign assets and production capacity to improve its operational efficiency," SK On spokesperson Joe Guy Collier said in a statement. "It also enables the company to enhance productivity, operational flexibility, and respond more effectively to evolving market dynamics and diverse customer needs."

Ford spokesperson Ian Thibodeau said the automaker is aware of SK On's disclosure and has nothing further to add at this time. Ford shares closed up 1.6% to \$13.63, beating major market indexes.

"We believe the writing was on the wall," Dan Ives, analyst at advisory firm Wedbush Securities Inc., said in a statement, noting the difference in opportunity in EVs from a few years ago. "Ford has to make some difficult moves and this was a smart strategic one to rip the bandaid off."

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## Moore waits in jail as UM picks up the pieces



John T. Greilick / The Detroit News

Sherrone Moore was arrested Wednesday for an alleged assault, after he was informed of his firing by Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel.

## University grapples with its latest embarrassment

Sherrone Moore threw his Michigan coaching career away, that's on him. It's sad for all involved, and you hope the people who need help get it.

But that's not where this story ends. Michigan is threatening to toss its reputation, scandal by scandal. Moore's infidelities with a staffer aren't violations of football rules, but violations of decency and workplace standards. And it's further evidence of a discipline deficit in UM's program, right down to Moore's apparent lack of self-discipline.



BOB  
WOJNOWSKI

The next steps are absolutely critical. For Moore, it's a tragic turn, from a human and legal standpoint. He remained in the Washtenaw County Jail Thursday following an incident Wednesday, shortly after his firing. The Pittsfield Township police department said it was handling an assault investigation, and Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit's office said it would "provide an update once a decision on charges is made."

For UM, it's another awful look, from a



Katy Kildee / The Detroit News

Manuel, right, will be challenged more than ever after Moore dealt another hit to the University of Michigan's reputation.

credibility and sustainability standpoint. AD Warde Manuel will be challenged more than ever, and his own reputation (and job) should be at stake. According to UM's statement, the

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## Fired football coach due in court today after alleged assault

BY TONY PAUL  
The Detroit News

On Wednesday morning, Sherrone Moore was preparing to coach Michigan in the Citrus Bowl.

By Wednesday night, Moore was in a Washtenaw County jail cell, having lost his job — and potentially so much more.

Moore remained jailed Thursday as Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit's office weighed charges. Moore is expected to appear in court and be arraigned in Ann Arbor on Friday, according to police. He was arrested Wednesday for an alleged assault, after he was informed of his firing by Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, but before his firing had even been publicly announced.

What unfolded has made national and even global headlines — there's been a flurry of rumors and some confirmed facts — involving college football's all-time winningest program, and a program that won a national championship less than two years ago.

It's also a program that's now left, once again, to pick up the pieces from a salacious and self-inflicted scandal.

"You certainly can't wear your Block M with a same amount of pride today as you could yesterday," former Michigan star tight end Jake Butt said. "It just sucks be-

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Former players  
concerned  
amid fallout

SPORTS, 1C

Niyo: Should  
DeBoer be  
UM's next call?

SPORTS, 1C

## Autos sector keeps racking up tariff costs from Mexico

Customers browse vehicles at a dealership in Miami. Automakers have faced steep tariffs costs on vehicles and goods coming from Mexico in recent months, such as Ford's popular, Mexican-made Maverick small pickup.

Eva Marie Uzcatagui  
Bloomberg



BY GRANT SCHWAB  
The Detroit News

Washington — Auto importers in September again paid more than \$1 billion in tariffs to ship vehicles and parts from Mexico to the United States, according to new federal data released Thursday.

The data reflected a fifth straight month of companies shelling out 10 figures to the U.S. government for shipments that used to be taxed at a fraction of that. Duties charged on auto imports from Mexico this September were more than 27 times higher

than the same month last year.

"It affects automakers building in North America more than others, and that's not everybody. It's whoever's using Mexico most often," explained Stephanie Brinley, an auto analyst with S&P Global Mobility. "And there's not a lot of indication that the administration really wants to go back to a free tariff arrangement."

That is bad news for Detroit's automakers as the companies continue to rely on highly integrated supply chains with the United States' southern neighbor. They are hoping and pleading that Pres-

ident Donald Trump will offer relief — especially after other foreign trade partners already reached new trade accords — but the self-proclaimed dealmaker-in-chief does not appear to be budging.

"Mexico and Canada have taken advantage of the United States, like just about every other country," Trump said in the Oval Office last week while Ford Motor Co. CEO Jim Farley, Stellantis NV CEO Antonio Filosa and General Motors Co. Orion Assembly plant manager John Urbanic stood be-

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Peugeot heirs jockey for  
Stellantis board seat

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