



STATE  
**Senate OKs spending for tuition, tourism**  
News » A3



PREP HOOPS  
**Carson City boys bounce by St. Louis, 50-37**  
Sports » B1



ACQUISITION  
**PepsiCo to buy Rockstar energy drinks for \$3.85B**  
Business » A6

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# Morning Sun



WINDY  
High: 42 Low: 27 » PAGE A6

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### WINN

## GROOVIN' TO EDUCATION, CULTIVATION, CELEBRATION



PHOTOS BY SARAH WRIGHT — MORNING SUN

ABOVE, BELOW: Professor Ricky "Bird" Clarkson giving a hip-hop session to the students of Winn Elementary School.

### Professor 'Bird' Clarkson teaches hip-hop dance styles to Winn students

By Sarah Wright  
[swright@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:swright@medianewsgroup.com)

Professor Ricky "Bird" Clarkson held a Hip-Hop session at Winn Elementary School in order to help the kids experience different cultures and dance styles.

The session was held March 11 in the Winn Elementary School gymnasium and was available for all class participation.

"This session will provide exposure for children to the unique urban culture of street dance," Andrea Purrenhage, Mt. Pleasant School of Dance Artistic Director and Central Michigan University Department of Theater and Dance Instructor, said. "Winn reached out and asked Bird to show them hip-moves. He's in high demand."

Clarkson has been teaching hip-hop at CMU since 2009 and currently also teaches at Mt. Pleasant School of Dance, among other places within Michigan and the rest of

the country. "I wanted people to know what they're doing and understand the foundation, styles and techniques of hip-hop," Clarkson said.

Each session was a half-hour and included the different grades from Winn Elementary. The sessions began with Clarkson having the children introduce themselves by yelling out their names as a group and posing.

Clarkson would then have the kids warm up with different movements before he would teach the kids classic hip-hop movements like robotic dancing among other styles. He would also allow the kids to show off their own moves and teach them to the class.

"I'm hoping I can give the kids and experience where they can move around and say thanks to themselves and the people in their lives that help them out," Clarkson said. "Kids are always interest-

HIP-HOP » PAGE 2



### MT. PLEASANT

## Man dies of crash injuries; funeral set for Monday

By Morning Sun staff

A funeral service is Monday for a Mt. Pleasant man killed in a traffic crash northeast of Mt. Pleasant Tuesday evening.

Family and friends are mourning the death of Micheal James Dow, 40, who died after emergency surgery at a Saginaw hospital.

Funeral services for Dow are 11 a.m. Monday at the

Charles Lux Family Funeral Home in Mt. Pleasant.

Dow was airlifted with critical injuries after he crashed his car on East River Road near Vroman Road, state police from the Mt. Pleasant Post said. Troopers were called to



Dow

the scene about 8:30 p.m., where they said the vehicle had been westbound when it left the roadway.

"The vehicle then rolled over multiple times, and the driver was ejected from the vehicle," they said.

Dow was treated at the scene by MMR personnel for serious, potentially life-threatening injuries. He then received advanced medical care at McLaren Hospital in Mt. Pleasant.

He was subsequently transported by Life-Net to Covenant Health Care in Saginaw.

He was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash, and alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash, police said.

The crash remains under investigation.

Visitation for Dow is 2-6 p.m. Sunday and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

### MID-MICHIGAN

## Region now preparing for arrival of COVID-19

Though no cases identified, caution, common sense advised

By Eric Baerren  
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No cases of COVID-19 have been positively identified in mid-Michigan, but news that it is in the state is already prompting the curtailment of some group activities.

The Isabella County Commission on Aging announced Thursday afternoon that it canceling all activities and meetings at its 2200 S. Lincoln Road and congregate meal sites starting Friday. Meals and in-home services will continue, the announcement read.

Official events at the Clare Irish Festival, high school sports playoffs and storytimes and other programs at all branches of the Chippewa River District Library have also been canceled.

Health care providers are also preparing for the possibility of a local outbreak. One of them, McLaren-Central Michigan is planning specifically for one, said Rachel Blizzard, director of marketing and fund development. The hospital is in the process of implementing new restrictions for it.

Should someone suspected of having the disease seek medical treatment, health care providers are required to contact the health department, said Melissa DeRoche, emergency preparedness coordinator and public information officer for Central Michigan District Health Department.

Once that happens, the health department will consult the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and federal Centers for Disease Control to determine what precise protocols they need to follow to investigate the disease, she said.

Much of that investigation would focus on how many people were potentially exposed to it, she said.

A major outbreak brings the risk of creating more patients than there are beds in local health-

COVID-19 » PAGE 3

INSIDE: For a list of local cancellations and other coronavirus news and updates, turn to PAGE A3

### CLARE

## City cancels Irish Festival events

By Sarah Wright  
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Clare city officials have canceled all Irish Festival events as a precaution. However, many businesses will remain open to celebrate the city's Irish heritage this weekend.

Due to the state-mandated rules for the city of Clare, all city-sponsored functions are canceled for St. Patrick's Day.

According to a Facebook post from Clare Park and Recreation, the City of has canceled all Irish Festival activities for Saturday, March 14 on property owned by the city due to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes the Clare's Irish Fest Parade, Clare Irish Fest Bed Race, the Annual Irish Fest CFX Mainstage Entertainment Tent and the downtown food truck vendor area. The Irish Recipe Contest and the annual Irish Craft Show have also been canceled.

"The city encourages the safe celebration of this great event by alternative means this year and urges you to make plans to return to Clare for the the 2021 Irish Festival," a notice from the Clare Parks and Recreation said.

Businesses however are open at the owners discretion. This includes Doherty, Ruckles, Evening Post, the Venue, Time out Tavern, Cop's & Donuts and Gateway Lanes, among other Clare businesses.

Any questions or concerns related to these events can be addressed with the City of Clare.

