# Bellevue boys, girls sweep Marquette 1B

# IIIII TELEGRAPHHERALD.com IIIII TELEGRA FRALD

High 35° Low 22° Partly cloudy, 15A

**SUNDAY** 

December 10, 2017 • Dubuque, Iowa • \$2.50

What happened to

these landmarks? 1E

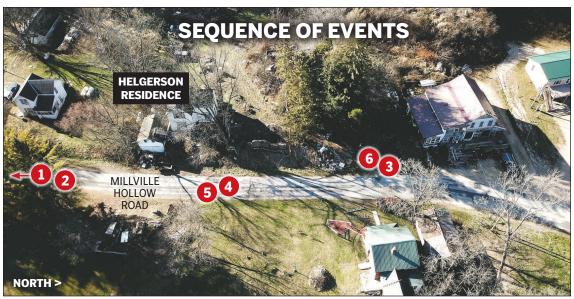
On Sept. 1, a Grant County Sheriff's Department deputy fatally shot an armed man. An examination of the confrontation and ensuing investigation.



1. Roger Helgerson Jr., traveling north on Millville Hollow Road in Grant



2. Smith turns around and pursues



3. Helgerson crosses the lane of traffic and pulls over near his home along the west side of the road. 4. Smith stops in the middle of the road, about 80 feet behind Helgerson, who exits his vehicle, brandishing a rifle.



5. Deputy Mason Nemitz arrives and takes cover behind Smith's vehicle



6. Helgerson, mortally wounded, falls into a patch of weeds.

TH graphic by Mike Day; TH photo by Dave Kettering; additional photos contributed by Grant County Sheriff's Department. Sources: Grant County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation

# Anatomy of a Shooting

BY ALICIA YAGER, alicia.yager@thmedia.com, AND BENNET GOLDSTEIN, bennet.goldstein@thmedia.com

OUNT HOPE, Wis. — Deputy Andy Smith set his AR-15 in the passenger seat of his Grant County Sheriff's Department vehicle just before 7 a.m. Sept. 1.

The man that he and another deputy planned to try to arrest had threatened a shootout with law enforcement, according to county dispatchers.

Smith, a 17-year veteran of the department, sat parked at the Millville Township building while another deputy was stationed about one mile south of Roger B. Helgerson Jr.'s home on Millville Hollow Road, south of Grant County C.

The deputies hoped to arrest Helgerson,



who had outstanding warrants, during a traffic stop when he left his residence - the safest tactical move.

Helgerson left his home and drove south on Millville Hollow Road — but stopped

when he spotted the other deputy's vehicle. Helgerson retrieved something from the trunk of his vehicle before turning around and heading north.

"I am not sure what he had in his hands," Smith heard the other deputy say over the radio.

Now driving south, Smith met Helgerson's vehicle on the rural, two-lane road as he fled



Helgerson

north. Smith turned around and followed.

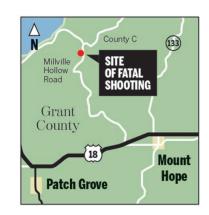
When Helgerson pulled over near his home, Smith quickly parked his squad vehicle and tried to get out before Helgerson did. He used his door as cover.

"Sheriff's office, let me see your hands!" Smith yelled.

Helgerson yelled back something Smith didn't understand, and Smith saw him point a rifle at him.

"Drop it! Drop it!" Three gunshots rang out.

See SHOTS FIRED, PAGE 6A



**Grant County Sheriff** Nate Dreckman discusses how law enforcement trains for use-of-force and the circumstances surrounding a fatal officer-involved shooting in September, TelegraphHerald.com



Robots get kids' gears turning at Lego League

# Iraq's war against IS has ended, official says 8A

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Telegraph Herald 181st year. No. 344

# ACLU questions debt collections

Group contends the process — and the 25% added fee — to recover unpaid court costs traps some lowans in a cycle of poverty.

**BY BEN JACOBSON** ben.jacobson@thmedia.com

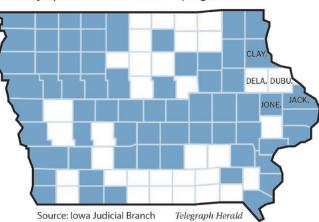
Iowa's system for collecting overdue court debt places an unfair burden on indigent residents, trapping them in a difficult-to-break cycle of poverty, according to a civil liber-

ties advocacy group. The 25 percent fee tacked on by the state's debt-collection service makes the arrangement untenable for Iowa's most vulnerable residents, according to the American Civil Liberties

"If someone enters the system as a poor person in Iowa, they're worse off not just be-

# **Debt collection programs**

Iowa counties (in blue) that have in-house, county attorney-operated debt collection programs



cause they're more poor, but service — an internal process because we actually treat them worse," said Phil Brown, a legal fellow working with the ACLU to study the issue.

But the optional alternative to a third-party debt-collection

operated by county attorneys conflicts with the political

philosophy of some elected officials, including Dubuque County Attorney Ralph Potter. "This is the state's money,"

he said. "This is the state's to collect."

And that system isn't without problems of its own, according to Alex Kornya, assistant litigation director for Iowa Legal Aid.

'There's at least the appearance of impropriety there," he said, adding, "(County attorneys are) in the debt-collection business, which is not necessarily 100 percent conducive with their primary mission, which is to seek justice for Iowans."

# THE SYSTEM

Dubuque and Delaware counties are among 34 statewide that defer collection of overdue court costs to the state. Court costs can include fines and penalties, costs for court reporters and attorney fees.

Prior to 2015, the Iowa Department of Revenue operated the Centralized Collections Unit, which was tasked with

See DEBT, PAGE 2A

Tools to Protect Your Credi

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- former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, 61 • actor-director Kenneth Branagh, 57 • TV chef Bobby Flay, 53 • rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla), 46
- actress-comedian Arden Myrin, 44 • rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes), 43
- actress Emmanuelle Chriqui, 42 • rapper *Kuniva (D12), 42 • rock* musician Noah Harmon, (Airborne Toxic Event), 36 • actor Patrick John Flueger, 34 • country singer Meghan

Linsey, 32 • actress

Raven-Symone, 32

# **lotteries IOWA**

SATURDAY EARLY

Pick 3-Midday: 0-2-3 **Pick 4-Midday:** 6-9-7-8

FRIDAY EVENING

Pick 3-Evening: 4-3-2 **Pick 4-Evening:** 1-6-2-9

## **ILLINOIS**

SATURDAY EARLY **Pick 3-Midday:** 7-1-0 Pick 4-Midday: 8-5-4-1 **Lucky Day Lotto-Midday:** 8-9-14-27-39

FRIDAY EVENING

Pick 3-Evening: 9-2-9 **Pick 4-Evening:** 9-2-3-8 **Lucky Day Lotto-Evening:** 9-14-23-26-27

# **WISCONSIN**

SATURDAY EARLY **Daily Pick 3: 2-8-5 Daily Pick 4:** 3-5-8-8

FRIDAY EVENING

**5 Card Cash** 3C-8C-2D-10H-10S **Badger 5:** 1-11-15-17-22 Supercash: 14-17-23-30-33-38 **Doubler:** Y

MEGA MILLIONS 6-37-46-60-70 Mega Ball: 24 Megaplier: 2 Jackpot: \$176 million

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## **Actress Fran Drescher hosts** Hanukkah celebration

BOSTON - Actress Fran Drescher hosted a major Hanukkah celebration in Boston on Saturday.

The Nanny" star hosted a celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights at the Union for Reform Judaism's convention

at the Hynes Convention Center. The organization said it's the largest Jewish religious gathering in North America, with some 5,500 Jewish leaders from 57 states and provinces in atten-

The organization said the Hanukkah celebration included stories and songs highlighting Hanukkah as a "call for more social justice and compassion in the world.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and is celebrated for eight days and nights. The holiday runs from Dec. 12 to Dec. 20 this year.

## Bono tells paper he takes tax probe 'incredibly seriously'

BERLIN — U2 frontman Bono said he takes the investigation into his business arrangements "incredibly seriously" and wants them to be transpar-

Bono was named in the "Paradise Papers" leaks that detailed the offshore tax arrangements of numerous high-profile individuals.

The documents obtained by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung showed the rocker, whose real name is Paul Hewson, to have been a stakeholder in a company based in low-tax Malta that owned a shopping mall in Lithuania.

Anti-poverty campaigner Bono told the newspaper in an interview published Saturday that once the investigation into the matter is complete, "I will be the first to report on all the de-

The paper quoted Bono saying he wants fans to know: "Should anything fishy have happened, I would be at least as angry as they would."

## Tears, pomp, extravagance as France mourns rocker Hallyday

PARIS — France bid farewell to its biggest rock star Saturday, honoring Johnny Hallyday with an extravagant funeral procession down Paris Champs-Elysees Avenue, a presidential speech and a televised church ceremony filled with the country's most famous faces.

Few figures in French history have earned a send-off with as much pomp as the man dubbed the "French Elvis," who notched more than 110 million in record sales since rising to fame in the 1960s.

Hallyday died Wednesday at 74 after fighting lung cancer.

In an honor usually reserved for heads of state or literary giants like 19th-century novelist Victor Hugo, Hallyday's funeral cortege rode past Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe monument and down the Champs-Elysees to the Place de la Concorde plaza on the Seine River.

Adding a rock touch to the event, hundreds of motorcyclists accompanied the procession. It was a nod to the lifelong passion that Hallyday, born Jean-Philippe Smet, had for motorcycles. His biker image included signature leather jackets and myr-

The Associated Press

# morning smile

# **Portrait of Hillary Clinton sets off** security dogs in Miami

MIAMI — When two security dogs reacted to a suspicious crate before an art show opening, Miami police officers briefly shut down the area to investigate the possible threat.

But when they opened up the crate Saturday morning, officers found something else instead: a portrait of Hillary Clinton in a studded jacket and shaggy pink haircut.

The Miami Herald reported officers ran the acrylic-onwood artwork through an X-ray machine, which turned up no suspicious material.

The painting — titled "Punk Hillary" — had been shipped with a similar portrait of President Donald Trump (called "Trump Pimp"), depicting him in a zebra-printed hat with a gold dollar-sign chain around his neck. The Trump portrait had been removed from the crate before the security check. Both were done by Orlando-based artist Scott Scheidly.

The Associated Press

# 'Abnormal' snowfall shuts down South

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — An unusually heavy December snowfall across much of the Deep South tapered off Saturday, icy road conditions were still a threat and thousands remained without electricity throughout the region.

Forecasters warned that moisture on the roadways could freeze overnight Saturday and cause black ice to form. The National Weather Service said that even after snow flurries ended by midday, areas including metro Atlanta would still be cold enough for transparent layers of thin ice to form on bridges and other elevated roadways.

The frigid temperatures behind a cold front combined with moisture off the Gulf of Mexico to bring unusual wintry weather to parts of the South.

Preliminary reports to the weather service showed up to 10 inches of snowfall in northwest Georgia, with 7 inches of accumulation in parts of metro Atlanta. Another 10 inches of snow was reported in Anniston, Ala., while up to 7 inches were



The Associated Press

Laura Washington shovels her walk after a heavy snow Saturday in Kennesaw, Ga.

reported in Mississippi. Rare flurries were even reported in New Orleans.

"It's very, very abnormal and rare that we would get totals like that this time of year," said Sid King, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in the Atlanta area. "It's really not even winter yet. I Louisiana.

would not be surprised if we broke a lot of records." But the snow wasn't expected to outlast the weekend. King said warming temperatures and sunny skies should melt most of it by Monday.

At the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which holds the world record for annual number of passengers, airport spokesman Reese Mc-Cranie said more than 400 flights were cancelled Saturday. That's after nearly 1,200 cancellations Friday.

Not everyone was anxious to flee. Members of a central Florida family found their way to Atlanta specifically to witness the white drifts.

"It's beautiful," said Tim Moss, while his two sons and wife threw snowballs at each other near a McDonald's parking lot early Saturday. He said the family made a spontaneous decision late Friday to leave 80-degree weather in Florida and drive seven hours to see snow for the first time

The snowstorms knocked out electricity to thousands across the South. More than 334,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity Saturday afternoon in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and

# **DEBT:** Collected delinquent funds increase

tracking down and acquiring payment from people delinquent in paying court costs.

But a state law change eliminated the CCU. Texas-based law firm Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, which had been used to oversee collection of some older debt, then was tasked with all debt collection.

County attorneys have always had the option — and now are encouraged — to establish in-house collection services. Counties that opt into this program are able to retain 28 percent of the overdue court costs collected.

"We have always thought this was a great program," said Tom Ferguson, executive director of the Iowa County Attorneys Association. "We think these programs serve both the interest of the criminal justice system and it serves the individuals that owe the money to the state, because counties are in the best position to (work with them)."

Jackson County operates such a program. County Attorney Sara Davenport said the county brought in about \$26,800 in fiscal year 2017, which ended July 1.

Having local folks collect debts is beneficial, because they're aware of what's going

on with the community. 'Some of the people we deal with, we

deal with them regularly," Davenport said. "We know where they are."

When Potter was elected 28 years ago, he inherited

opposition to county-run debt collections. 'My predecessor was very adamant about it," Potter said. "He didn't want to do it, either."

Nevertheless, about eight years ago, Potter explored logistics of establishing such a program. He initially proposed using money acquired through drug forfeitures to pay up-front costs, such as hiring a person to administer collections.

But federal authorities shot down the proposal, noting that forfeiture funds can only be used to create public safety positions, such as law enforcement officers. Potter hasn't looked into it since

"I just don't think that's our role," he said.

# **COURT DEBT**

than \$730 million in unpaid court costs dating back more than 20 years.

The pressure to collect that revenue has increased since the 2008 recession, said Kornya, who practiced in Dubuque in the late 2000s and early 2010s. Fallout from the financial crisis eventually hit the judicial branch

Delinquent funds collected by county attorneys has steadily increased.

In fiscal year 2005, county-based collection programs brought in \$1.7 million, a figure that includes money

kept by the counties and passed on to the state. In fiscal year 2010, that amount swelled to \$7.1 million, according to judicial branch statistics.

In fiscal year 2016, county attorney debt-collection programs brought in \$17.5 million across the state.

In fiscal year 2017, which ended June 30, Linebarger collected \$13.3 million. That generated \$2.5 million in fees for the law firm.

While Iowa Legal Aid doesn't seek out court-debt issues — it primarily helps with domestic violence situations, foreclosures and utility debt — holistic investigations into clients' inability to pay revealed challenges.

Then we ask the question, 'Why can't you pay rent? What's the underlying issue?" Kornya said. "After 2009, more and more the issue was their income was being diverted to pay this court debt and they no longer had the money to pay for their household."

# **CONCERNS**

Brown said.

Though Potter doesn't support a local debt-collection office, he isn't satisfied with what the state has in

"What I don't agree with is the group the state uses, they put this ridiculous surcharge on top," Potter said. In Iowa, those convicted of crimes can be assessed fees to offset losses to victims, cover staffing costs at trial

and costs for a public defender. Prior to 2015, residents of counties without a county attorney-run system would be sent to the CCU if they failed to pay off their debt or establish a payment plan within 60 days.

The CCU added a 10 percent fee to delinquent court debt to cover costs of collection administration. The law firm Linebarger now adds a 25 percent fee, the maximum allowed under state statute.

Essentially, a person who is too poor to pay for his or her court costs is punished with substantially greater fees as a result, according to Brown.

"No one gets sent to Linebarger unless they can't pay their debts, so the idea that they're asked to pay a quarter more, it's obviously concerning," he said.

Joe Householder, a spokesman for Linebarger, said the fees the firm collects are set by statute. We do understand and share the concerns the

Records kept by the Iowa Judicial Branch show more ACLU has expressed about disproportional impact on (poor residents)," Householder said. In Iowa, the issue is exacerbated by rules governing public defenders. Defendants can be assessed the full

> cost of their public defender's time, even if they were assigned to the office because they couldn't afford a private attorney. Of the outstanding court debt in Iowa, \$167.6 million

> is tied to attorney fees. "I think the issue is under current law, poor people are often paying more for the exact same offense,"

Today is Sunday, Dec. 10, the 344th There are 21 days left in the year.

# ON THIS DATE

- In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant parts of his 95 Theses, or face
- excommunication. • In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as
- the 20th state of the Union. • In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American

• In 1906, President Theodore

- Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War. • In 1931, Jane Addams became the
- first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; the co-recipient was Nicholas Murray Butler.
- In 1946, newspaperman Damon Runyon, known for his short stories featuring colorful Broadway denizens, died at a New York hospital at age 66.
- In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.
- In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind." • In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and
- six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona; one passenger, Ben Cauley, survived. In 1972, baseball's American League adopted the designated hitter

rule on an experimental basis for three

- In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev concluded three days of summit talks in Washington.
- In 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.
- In 1996, South African President Nelson Mandela signed the country's new constitution into law during a ceremony in Sharpeville.

The Associated Press