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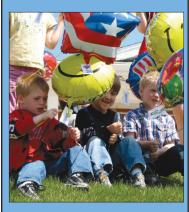
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### Residents are celebrating National Nursing Home Week



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# Dies testifies in hit-and-run case

### By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A Dubuque man who lost the use of his legs when he was struck by a pickup truck in Baldwin a year ago relived details of that day this week in Jackson County District Court in Maquoketa.

Justin Dies, 34, testified Monday afternoon, May 11, as the opening witness in the trial of Steven Patrick Dunn, 23, of rural Bellevue.

Dunn is charged with causing serious injury by vehicle, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and driving while intoxicated in connection with the incident, which occurred on the night of May 25, 2008 outside a bar in Baldwin.

A jury of seven men and six women was impaneled earlier Monday to hear the case, which was expected to take three days.

Dies, who is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of the accident, testified from his wheelchair, recounting a day of drinking and "hanging out" with friends in Monmouth and Baldwin on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Dies testified that he was with friends at a residence in Baldwin when word came that Trevor Stevens, a friend, was involved in a confrontation at a bar in Monmouth.

He recalled that he rode in a pickup truck to the scene "to help him or stop a fight."

He recalled that he was standing in the parking lot of the Baldwin-Monmouth Telephone Co., looking for his friend and the next thing he knew he woke up in a hospital 2 1/2 months later, his legs paralyzed.

He was struck by a pickup truck that drove past a crowd that had gathered outside the nearby tavern.

"I just wanted to find Trevor and see what the problem was," Dies



Photo by Jeremy Portje, pool photographer, Telegraph Herald, Dubuque

Justin Dies, 34, of Dubuque covers part of his face as he testifies from his wheelchair Monday, May 11, in Jackson County District Court. Dies is paralyzed from the waist down after he was struck by a pickup truck driven by Steven Patrick Dunn outside a bar in Baldwin last May.

Dies recalled that he was standing in the parking lot, about 10 feet from the edge of Iowa 64. He recalled hearing a roaring sound and pushed a friend, Carrie Bills, out of the way just before he was

He said he did not see what hit him, but said he remembered seeing the truck earlier being driven at a high rate of speed past the crowd that had gathered.

He testified he was certain he was intoxicated, as he had been

drinking beer since he arrived in Monmouth shortly after noon. After several hours at a friend's residence in Monmouth, he went with several companions to a friend's house in Baldwin.

He recalled making a trip to the Baldwin convenience store for more beer shortly before going back to Monmouth to check on Stevens.

Dunn watched Dies without expression throughout his testimony

Earlier, during his opening statement, defense attorney Todd Klapatuskas of Dubuque contended that "Accidents happen."

He did not deny that Dunn was driving the truck that struck Dies, but said testimony will show that Dunn was not intoxicated "and did not commit any crime."

He said Dunn passed field sobriety tests, which are exercises officers ask drivers to perform at the scene to help determine whether or not they are intoxicated.

He said a toxicologist from Cedar Rapids will testify that Dunn passed the field sobriety tests and was not

According to sheriff's reports at the time of the incident, after Dunn's truck struck Dies, he continued driving east on 64 until he was stopped approximately a mile west of Maguoketa

Sheriff's reports say he showed signs of being intoxicated, that he failed the field sobriety tests and admitted having consumed alcohol before driving. He refused to take a breath test to determine his blood alcohol content.

Testimony also was expected from others at the scene and from a bartender at the tavern where the disturbance took place and where Dunn had spent time before Dies was struck.

District Judge James Kelley is presiding at the trial, which was postponed several times after the Iowa Supreme Court implemented rules that reduced the amount of allowable travel by District Court judges as a cost-cutting move.

Jackson County Attorney Chris Raker is prosecuting the case, assisted by James Kivi, an assistant Iowa attorney general who has participated in prosecuting major cases in Jackson County in the past.



Photo by Jeremy Portje, pool photographer, Telegraph Herald, Dubuque

Steven Patrick Dunn, 23, of rural Bellevue listens to testimony Monday, May 11, during the opening day of his trial in Jackson County District Court in Maguoketa. Dunn is charged with causing serious injury by vehicle, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and drunken driving.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

- Betty J. Marcucci probate
- Delwood School Board - April 28, 2009 meeting
- Amend County Budget Public Hearing
- Maquoketa City Council May 4, 2009 meeting
- Proposed Ordinance 252
- Zoning Gary Drew ■ JC Board of Supervisors
- April 28, 2009 meeting ■ City Ordinance 1069
- Prohibited Parking Summit ■ JC Sheriff Sale US Bank v. Jennifer Denhof,

City of Preston Our public notices are also

published on the web at: http://www.publicnoticeads.com/ IA/search/searchnotice.asp

### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

- Jackson County
- City of Maquoketa
- City of Andrew ■ City of Baldwin
- City of Monmouth
- City of Delmar
- Delwood School District
- Maquoketa School District