

Bellevue boys, girls sweep Marquette **1B**

What happened to these landmarks? **1E**

TELEGRAPHHERALD.COM

TELEGRAPHHERALD



High 35° Low 22° Partly cloudy, 15A

SUNDAY

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

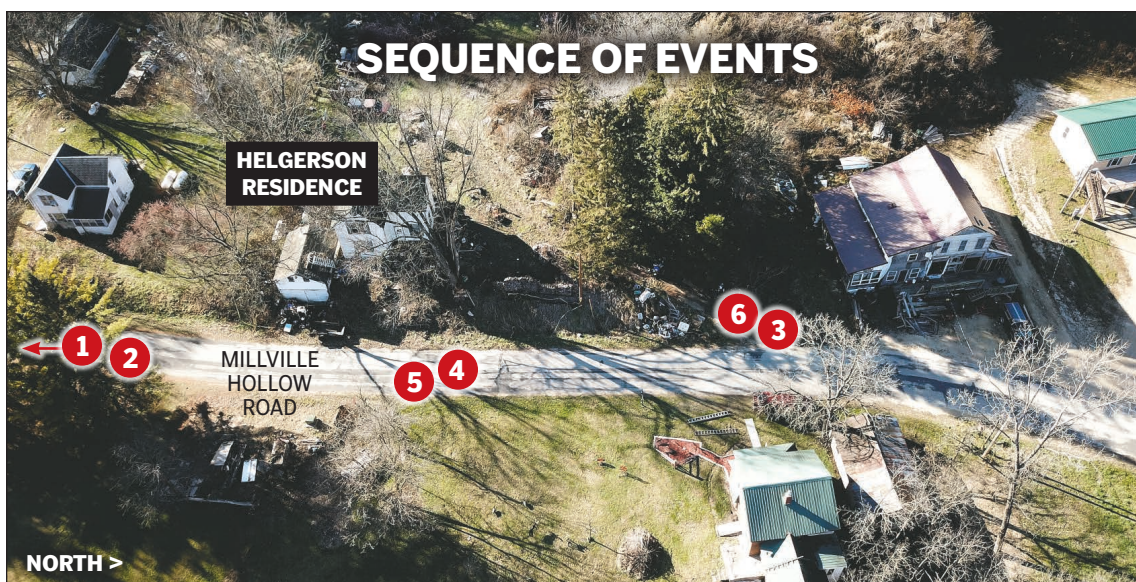
On Sept. 1, a Grant County Sheriff's Department deputy fatally shot an armed man. An examination of the confrontation and ensuing investigation.



1. Roger Helgerson Jr., traveling north on Millville Hollow Road in Grant County, passes Deputy Andy Smith.



2. Smith turns around and pursues Helgerson.



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 as shots are fired.



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

MOUNT 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,



Andy Smith

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



Roger Helgerson Jr.

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.

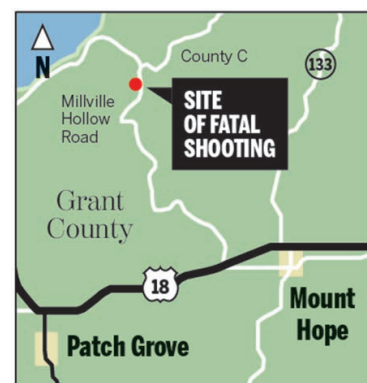
"Sheriff's office, let me see your hands!" Smith yelled.

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**



TH video 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**

today's TH



Robots get kids' gears turning at Lego League **17A**

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

Births.....	22A	Lunches.....	19A
Calendar.....	23A	Nation/world	2-5AA,
Crossword.....	9F	Obituaries.....	8-12A
Horoscope.....	2C	Opinion.....	20-21A
Illinois.....	13A	Parenting.....	3C
Inside & Out.....	6-7C	Record.....	22A
Iowa.....	14A	Sudoku.....	5C
Jumble.....	12F	Wisconsin.....	13A
Leisure.....	5C		



©2017
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

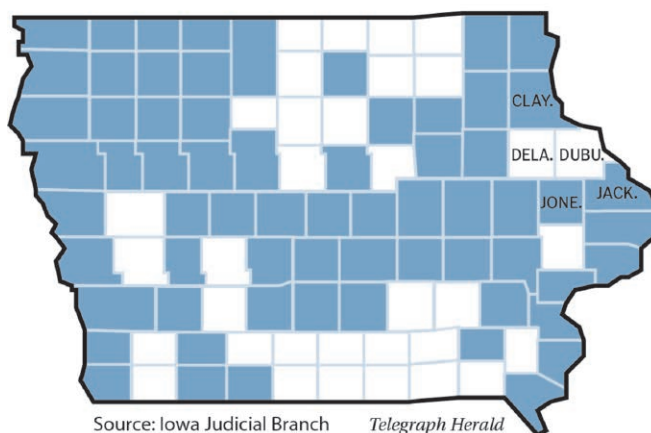
Iowa's system for collecting overdue court debt places an unfair burden on indigent residents, trapping them in a difficult-to-break cycle of poverty, according to a civil liberties advocacy group.

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 Union.

"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



Source: Iowa Judicial Branch
Telegraph Herald

cause they're more poor, but 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

service — an internal process 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 lowans."

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 Credit.

Now You Know.



Federally Insured by NCUA

adno=676102-01

