

Avoca man dies in fatal accident Saturday morning

AVOCA -- A 29-year-old Avoca man was killed in a one-vehicle accident near Avoca Saturday morning, and the alleged driver of the vehicle has been arrested and charged with homicide by vehicle.

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office said Robert Nowicki, 29, died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident. Tyrone Gillison, 37, Shelby, was charged after investigation of the accident.

According to reports, the accident occurred near 410th St. and Tamarack Road about 1 a.m. Saturday morning. Avoca Rescue was dispatched to the scene, and law enforcement arrived a short time later. Nowicki was allegedly found lying on the road while the vehicle, owned by Gillison's wife, was located in a ditch on the east side of the road.

Authorities determined that Gillison was the driver of the vehicle when it crashed. He initially reported the vehicle stolen but after being questioned, admitted to his role in the crash.

Nowicki was transported to Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan for treatment, and then by air rescue helicopter to a Sioux City hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Although the investigation is continuing, Pottawattamie County officials said they believe Gillison lost control of the vehicle, and it rolled into the ditch, with both men being ejected from the vehicle. Gillison sustained only minor injuries, officials said.

Gillison also was charged with false reporting, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and failure to have a driver's license.