

Dateline Iowa

From Register staff and news services

■ KANAWHA

Man's death linked to medical problem

Authorities are investigating the death of a man found in a ditch near Kanawha.

Hancock County sheriff's deputies responding Friday to a call about an accident found the body of Jamie Cook, 37. His undamaged car was found in the middle of the road nearby.

A preliminary autopsy indicated that Cook's death was the result of a medical condition.

■ VINTON

Audit: \$65,000 in fees not deposited

A state audit identified more than \$65,000 in undeposited collections by the Vinton Parks and Recreation Department.

State Auditor David Vaudt said in a report issued Monday that the money's sources included amusement and water park ticket sales, registration fees for swimming lessons and other city recreation fees.

The audit was done after city officials raised concerns about recreation department checks being cashed at a local convenience store.

The audit also found more than \$8,300 in cash deposits made to the personal bank account of a former department administrative assistant. The employee left the department in August 2007.

Copies of the audit were turned over to police and prosecutors.

■ COUNCIL BLUFFS

Scouts honored for storm response

More than 100 Boy Scouts were honored for risking their lives when a tornado ripped across the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in western Iowa in June.

Each was presented with the highest honor from the Boy Scouts of America on Saturday at a Mid-America Council ceremony.

Four scouts were killed and 48 others were hurt when the tornado hit the camp June 11.

■ BURLINGTON

Police say mother head-butted child

A Burlington woman who police said head-butted her 14-year-old daughter after they argued about chores has been charged with child endangerment.

Police say Shelly Lynn Worley, 34, sent her daughter to her room on Aug. 5 after they argued.

Worley was first charged with serious assault, but the charge was recently amended after it was learned the girl had suffered a bruised head and a sprained neck.

■ SIOUX CITY

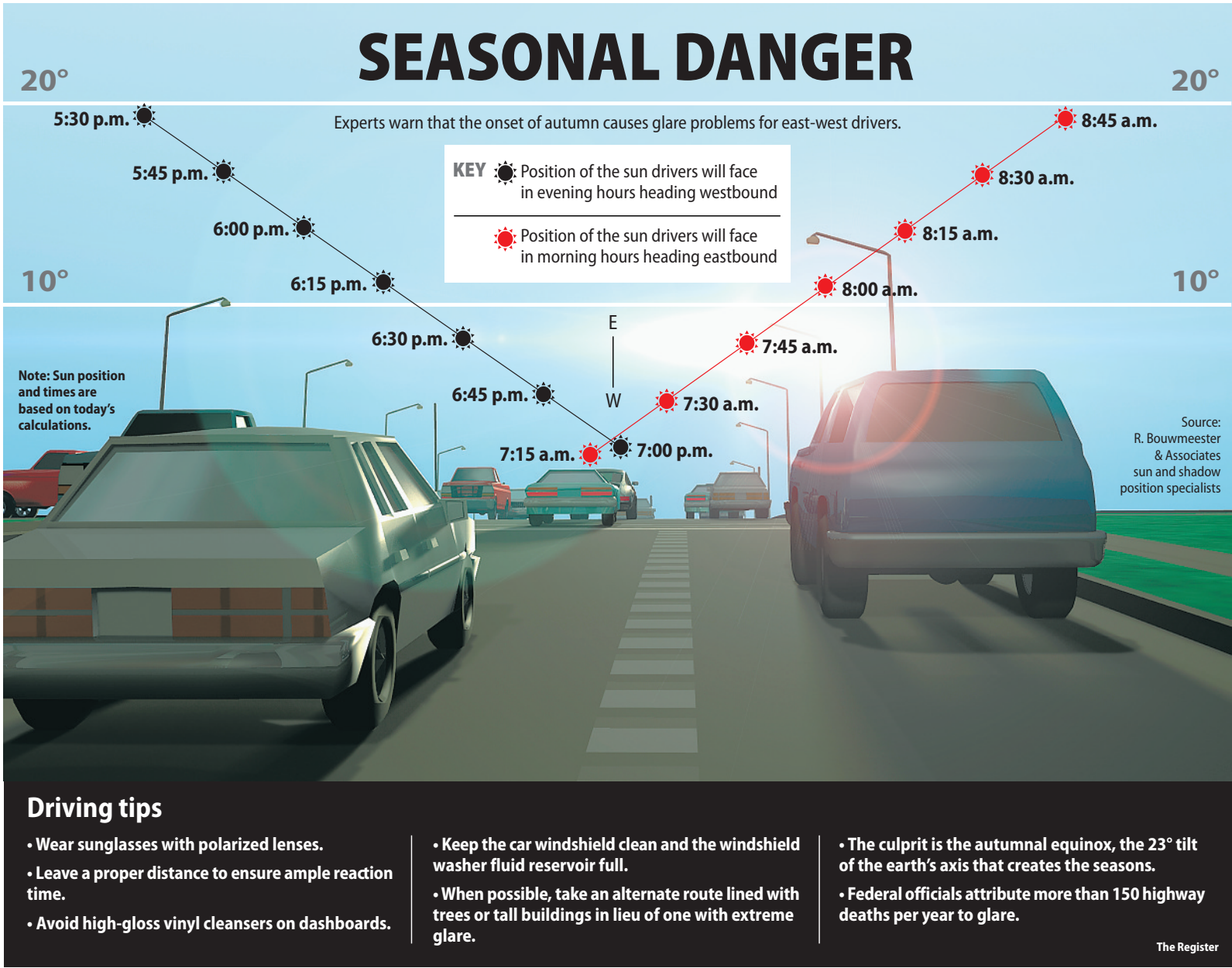
Three plead guilty in meth case

Three men accused of traveling the Midwest to buy ingredients to make methamphetamine have pleaded guilty to drug charges in U.S. District Court in Sioux City.

In a plea deal, Michael Roth of Spencer, Douglas Johnson of Primghar and Philip Schurke of Hull admitted traveling in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota to obtain pseudoephedrine.

The U.S. attorney's office said the men were convicted of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute meth; conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture meth; and traveling in interstate commerce to buy pseudoephedrine in furtherance of the drug conspiracy.

Roth and Johnson will be sentenced Dec. 8. Schurke is to be sentenced Dec. 16.



DOUG WELLS/THE REGISTER

Erin Evans helps her boyfriend, Octavius Bonds, put on a shirt Saturday. Bonds said Des Moines police officers injured him during a traffic stop the night before.

POLICE

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The case will be examined by the officers' supervisors, watch commander, the patrol bureau commander and the Office of Professional Standards before it goes before Bradshaw.

"There are a lot of checks and balances and scrutiny from the department when things like this come up," Valdez said.

He added that he could not provide details of the couple's complaint. Evans and Bonds, who were contacted Monday by the Register, said they were not ready to comment further on the matter.

Officers Mersed Dautovic and John Mailander in a police report said Evans and Bonds were uncooperative and unresponsive to their instructions during Friday's traffic stop.

Bonds and Evans dispute that and said the officers were unnecessarily hostile and aggressive throughout

the incident. Bonds said Saturday that he felt the officers, both of whom are white, treated the black couple with disrespect and that he felt "it was a race thing."

Bonds and Evans were struck during the incident with the officers' batons, and Bonds was sprayed with Mace.

Bonds was charged with interference with official acts and assault on a police officer.

Evans was charged with interference and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.

Dautovic and Mailander have each been with the police force for about a year, Valdez said. Neither of the officers has been suspended for misconduct, he said.

Bonds does not have a criminal record, and Evans has only traffic tickets on her record, according to Iowa court documents.

Valdez said he's uncertain how long it will take the department to complete the internal investigation.

■ Incident chronology

- Officers Mersed Dautovic and John Mailander responded to an emergency, with their lights and sirens on, late Friday, according to a Des Moines police report. The officers drove up behind a two-door Chevrolet Cavalier that was slow to yield so the patrol car could drive past, the report said.
- Erin Evans, the driver of the Cavalier, said she and Octavius Bonds did not immediately notice the police car's flashing lights and did not hear the sirens until the officers were directly behind her car. The two were on their way home from a movie they had seen at Southridge Mall.
- The emergency trip was canceled, so Dautovic and Mailander decided to pull over the Cavalier along Southeast 14th Street.
- Dautovic knocked on the driver's side window, but Evans would not open it, the police report said. Dautovic opened the car door and asked Evans why she wouldn't pull over. "She acted mad and nervous and wouldn't answer my question," the report said.
- Evans was asked for her driver's license but would not provide it, the officers said. Evans said the officers were yelling too loud to hear her say her license was lost.
- The officers said they advised Evans they would use Mace if she did not exit the car. The report says that Bonds told the officers not to touch Evans and that he "swatted" at an officer's hand to knock away the Mace. The officers said Evans did not cooperate, so they pulled her from the car and handcuffed her.
- Bonds was told multiple times to stay in the car, the officers said, but he reportedly jumped out and "took a fighting stance," which Bonds denies. Bonds said he was concerned the officers would hurt Evans and was trying to stress to them that they were not a threat.
- The officers sprayed Bonds with Mace after he reportedly disobeyed an order to step back. Bonds said he begged for mercy. Police used their batons to hit Bonds' shoulders, at which time he ducked and was struck once in the head, according to police.
- Evans reportedly tried to kick police and refused to back down, so Dautovic hit her with a baton and pushed her to the ground.
- Evans and Bonds on Saturday told The Des Moines Register that they were not trying to be uncooperative but that they were upset about the situation and felt the police officers treated them poorly throughout the incident.

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Teens accused of holding 18-year-old because of debt

The Des Moines Register

Cedar Rapids, Ia. — Four teenagers have been arrested on charges that they kidnapped another teenager and held him against his will because of a debt.

Joseph C. Darden 18, of Marion reported to Cedar Rapids police that he had been forced into a car and taken to a house in Cedar Rapids where he was allegedly held and assaulted for several hours on Sunday.

Andrew Castro, 18; Abraham L. Johnson, 18; James M. Kummerfeldt, 18; and Nicolas Z. Madison, 18, were arrested and charged with first-degree kidnapping.

Madison was also charged with possession of prescription medications, drug paraphernalia and manufacturing marijuana.

They were taken to the Jones County Jail.

Darden was treated at a hospital and released.