



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Three-car crash in Avon Park

AVON PARK -- A 7-year-old Avon Park boy was taken to the hospital for precautionary examination after the car he was riding in was hit broadside on U.S. 27 Tuesday night.

Highlands County Sheriff's Office reports show that a 2011 Chevy Malibu being driven by 26-year-old Trekia Shene Thompson of Avon Park was turning left across the northbound lanes in an effort to get to the Raceway gas station at U.S. 27 at Marble Avenue at 9:03 p.m. Thompson's car was hit by a 1991 Chevy pickup being driven by 53-year-old Joe Kerly of Avon Park. Thompson told deputies she never saw Kerly, who said he tried to brake, but didn't have time. The impact drove the rear end of Thompson's car into a 2009 Nissan Sentra sitting at the stop sign at Marble Avenue.

The 7-year-old, who was a passenger in Thompson's car, was conscious and talking and had no visible injuries, but was taken by ambulance to Tampa General out of an abundance of caution. Kerly initially told deputies he was not hurt, but later decided to go to Florida Hospital Heartland on his own.

Thompson was cited for failure to yield and also received citations for driving with an expired registration and without proper insurance. Kerly was cited for driving with an expired license.