



# HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## **PRESS RELEASE: Feb. 22, 2017**

### **Juveniles arrested for stealing golf carts**

SEBRING -- An 11-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother were arrested Tuesday, Feb. 21, and charged with stealing four golf carts near their homes in Sun 'n Lake.

Tuesday morning, Deputy Jay Carver was called about golf cart stolen overnight -- despite being secured with a chain and padlock -- from a home on Villabella Avenue. At around 2 p.m. that afternoon, he was called back to the same neighborhood for another stolen cart, this one on Matanzas Drive. When he got to the street, Carver noticed a golf cart matching the description of the one reported stolen that morning that was sitting in a driveway that was across the street from the newly reported theft. It turned out to indeed be the stolen cart.

As Carver was investigating the new theft, he saw two golf carts headed toward him, going south on Matanzas Drive. When the drivers saw Carver, they turned around and began driving away. Carver got into his patrol car, caught up, and pulled them over. He found three juveniles, two of which were the brother and sister and another who had just been picked up as he was walking home from school and was not involved in the theft.

Carver's investigation revealed one of the golf carts they were driving had just been stolen out of an open garage. The victims, who were home, did not even realize their cart had been taken until deputies knocked on their door.

The girl told Carver she, her brother and another boy had stolen the cart from the Villabella home on Feb. 20 and parked it at their home on Granada Boulevard. On Tuesday, they drove it around until the battery ran out on Matanzas Drive. They abandoned that cart, walked across the street and stole another one.

Another golf cart, this one taken from a home on Catalina Drive, was found at the siblings' home.

"This was an outstanding job by Deputy Carver for recognizing the stolen carts and for acting on his instincts to clear up these cases," Capt. Kenny Johnson said. "The residents were very happy to get their carts back so quickly."

*Note: Not all arrests lead to a conviction. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in court.*