



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE: April 24, 2017

Investigators looking for window-shooting vandals

SEBRING -- The Highlands County Sheriff's Office is investigating a rash of criminal mischief cases involving windows being shot out by BB and pellet guns.

The first report was on March 23 when several windows were shot out of cars in a salvage yard in Sebring, but the incidents picked up significantly this past weekend (April 21-23) when 33 cases (some involving multiple windows) were reported to the HCSO and approximately 30 cases were reported to the Sebring Police Department.

Detectives are trying to determine how many people are involved in these cases, which range from south of Sebring up to Avon Park Lakes.

As of Monday, April 24, the HCSO was investigating 51 cases, while the Sebring Police Department was investigating in excess of 40 complaints. A majority of the windows have been in vehicles, but there have also been several businesses and residence windows destroyed.

"Detectives are working hard to identify the person or persons responsible for these acts and we will file charges for every window that has been broken," Sheriff Paul Blackman said. "We would ask that anyone who sees a suspicious vehicle in their neighborhood that they think might be involved in these incidents to call us immediately."

Detectives also ask anyone who has a video security system with a view of the street and lives on a street hit by these vandals to review footage from this past weekend to see if they may have captured an image of any suspicious vehicles in the area late at night,

Anyone who has information about these incidents is asked to call Det. Amanda Dettman at 863-402-7820. Anyone who would like to leave an anonymous tip and be eligible for a cash reward can call Heartland Crimestoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477) or visit www.heartlandcrimestoppers.com