



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

**From:** Sergeant Donna Black  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** James Batten arrested for multiple vehicle burglaries

**Date:** June 17, 2011

**Case#:** 2011-20249, 2011-20254, 2011-20255, 2011-20264, 2011-20271,  
2011-20276, 2011-20278

**Defendant:** James Andrew Batten, DOB 06/11/1993, 5335 Tree Lane, Brooksville, Florida

**Charges:**

2011-20270: Unoccupied Conveyance Unarmed Burglary  
F.S.S. 810.02 Bond \$6,000.00 (Twelve counts)

James Andrew Batten has been arrested on 12 counts of unoccupied conveyance unarmed burglaries.

On June 16, 2011 Hernando County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the area of 6340 Glenchester Drive in Ridge Manor after receiving a call of a conveyance burglary that had just occurred.

The victim called the Sheriff's Office reporting that she observed a suspect inside her vehicle and when she saw him leave on a golf cart she got into her vehicle and began following him. She caught up with him on Arbor Drive and confronted the subject. When confronted, the suspect apologized for entering her vehicle and returned the items that he had taken. He then abandoned the golf cart and fled southbound on foot into the woods. The victim called the Sheriff's Office and reported the incident.

Deputies responded to the location of the abandoned golf cart within five minutes. There they observed a black canvas bag on the floorboard which contained various items that were later identified as being stolen from another vehicle burglary.

While the primary deputy was waiting for a tow truck to pick up the abandoned golf cart other deputies were in the area looking for the suspect. Near the intersection of Treiman Blvd and

Whispering Oaks, in Ridge Manor, Deputy A. Dowdell located a subject that matched the description of the suspect. The subject identified himself as James Andrew Batten. Due to the fact Batten matched the description of the suspect breaking into the victim's vehicle he was taken into custody. Deputies located numerous items on his person, which were later identified as stolen items from other vehicle burglaries that had occurred in the area. While the reporting deputy was speaking with the original victim, he was approached by a citizen who reported seeing a white male enter a green vehicle in a driveway at the intersection of Barker Blvd. and Juniper Ave. This witness was later able to positively identify Batten as the subject she observed entering into the green vehicle.

As this investigation continued, the Sheriff's Office received several other calls from citizens in the same general area who advised their vehicles were also burglarized. Batten has been charged with 12 counts of conveyance burglary. It is possible however Batten has burglarized other vehicles in the area which have not yet been reported. Detectives believe Batten's crime spree all took place during the early morning hours of July 16, 2011. The owner of the golf cart, has not been identified. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is asking anyone who suspects they have been a victim of a vehicle burglary, or the theft of a golf cart, in the area of Ridge Manor Estates area please contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6850.