

3 arrested for vehicle burglaries

By Chris Butler

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Always keep the doors to your vehicles locked.

That's the message Ruston police want people to learn after a 17-year-old Ruston man and two juveniles stole items from five unlocked vehicles near the Briar Hill Drive area.

"This all happened in a relatively safe neighborhood where there are very few calls for service," said Lt. Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

Ruston police arrested Victor Tyler Vandenburg, 17, 231 Shaman Road, Ruston, on Tuesday night and charged him with six counts of simple burglary. Five of those charges were related to vehicle burglaries, and the sixth was related to a residential burglary. Police also arrested and charged a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old, Hawkins said.

Police received a call about some stolen golf clubs and electronic equipment at a residence near Briar Hill Drive Monday night. Acting on a tip, police spoke to the 16-year-old, who confessed to committing five vehicle burglaries and one residential burglary. He also implicated Vandenburg and the 15-year-old in the burglaries. Police recovered numerous stolen items from Vandenburg's residence, Hawkins said.

More people need to lock their vehicles, wherever they are, Hawkins said.

"That's what the locks are for," Hawkins said.