

**Cart vandals...**

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into the club two months earlier and heisted some beer. He said alcohol also was involved in the freakish vandalism in late June. That's when the lads - including two 15-year-olds - crashed a car through the golf course gates late at night and made for the cart barn.

"They didn't have to break into the cart garage. One of the kids that worked for me gave them the combination to the lock," said Alexander. "That fellow no longer works here."

**SMASHING THE BENCHES**

Once inside the barn, the youths fired up the gas-powered E-Z-GO carts and moved out, cruising over greens, bashing into each other like bumper cars, and smashing down four-foot-tall yardage signs on the driving range.

"These new carts are so pliable that they don't smash up the way cars do," said Alexander. "The cart bodies almost bend in half, but the steering columns break if they get hit that hard. We had five or six carts with broken steering columns."

Several carts were left overturned, including one in the parking lot. "The kid hit a rope," Alexander said. "The rope caught his tires, and the cart flipped. It's amazing these kids didn't kill each other."

The youths even smashed carts into a large, solid cedar bench. "They went at the thing full tilt and got it turned over, then drove the cart over the top," he said. "One bench got stuck underneath a cart, so the cart couldn't move. That's why they took out 16 carts. They'd drive one until the thing wouldn't drive anymore and go get another one."

**SEARCH FOR MISSING CARTS**

All told, the youths spent more than two hours vandalizing the course. "They were up here for a long time, smashing the cars together," Alexander said. "Fortunately the

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## ...nabbed

Continued from previous page

ground was pretty firm, so there was no significant damage to the greens."

When it came time to leave, the boys helped themselves to three fresh carts. They toiled down the road in the middle of the night and disappeared.

Alexander spent a few days looking for the three vehicles, searching nearby canyons and forests. He finally went up in an airplane and still found no trace of them.

"They went about five miles, then turned onto a dirt road going up a mountain to a place where they partied. And that's where we found the carts," he said.

### ROUGH RIDERS

The boys left the three carts in rough shape. "The tops were ripped off," Alexander said. "They had stump-jumped them up through a bunch of stumps and Scotch broom. They were a mess."

He said a judge ordered the youths locked up. "They'll be on probation, basically, after they spend some time in jail," Alexander said. "If they live up to probation and pay restitution, they have a chance to get it wiped off their record in a year." ■

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## Extreme golf car

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"We have not only unearthed a huge, untapped cache of existing and potential new golfers whose first love is extreme sports, but we're also providing a vehicle for these athletes to comfortably cross over in to the golf world," said new business development manager Jon Jones.

According to company spokeswoman Kelly Mooney, 250 of the \$12,000 cars will be made, but OGIO does not expect to enter the golf car retrofitting market as a core business.

The cars, perhaps more suited for an off-road rally, will in fact be used on golf courses.

"The people who have already ordered them say that they will use them on the golf course, but they don't really serve any function beyond being a golf car," said Mooney. "People just want them because they are fun." ■

— Andrew Overbeck

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