

## **Gothenburg man arrested for stealing semi in Brady**

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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### **Suspect spent time in Oklahoma prison.**

A Gothenburg man and a 14-year-old boy were arrested Monday night after allegedly stealing a semi in Brady and leading police on a short chase.

About 10:20 p.m. Monday, the Lincoln County sheriff's office received a report of a semi and bull rack trailer being stolen from Duane Davis Trucking on the east edge of Brady.

Lincoln County deputies and Nebraska State Patrol troopers spotted the semi westbound on Highway 30 about 10 miles west of Brady, no longer pulling the trailer.

Deflating spike strips were placed at the North Platte River bridge just east of North Platte and also at the intersection of Newberry Access and Highway 30.

All three spike strips were deployed successfully and deflated both front tires and the right rear tires.

The semi-tractor continued westbound through North Platte with officers in pursuit, finally stopping in a residential area in the southwest part of town.

An 11-year-old male, 12-year-old male, 14-year-old male and 26-year-old Joshua Martens of Gothenburg were taken into custody without further incident.

Lincoln County investigators believe Martens convinced the 14-year-old to steal the semi. A string of Dawson County burglaries and thefts were also linked to these two.

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It appears, investigators said, that the other children became involved after the Dawson County incidents and had nothing to do with any of the crimes.

The semi theft caused street sign and light pole damages in Brady and North Platte as well as about \$20,000 damage to the semi-tractor.

The trailer was found on East Pawnee Road in rural Lincoln County.

Officials said the 11- and 12-year-olds were released to their parents. The 14-year-old was taken to the North Platte juvenile holdover and Martens is being watched by Lincoln County deputies at the hospital in North Platte where he complained of head and neck injuries.

When medically cleared, he will be booked into the Lincoln County detention center.

Martens and the 14-year-old were charged in Lincoln County with felony theft, felony criminal mischief and felony child abuse.

According to a sheriff's department press release, Martens was released from an Oklahoma penitentiary in November 2009 where he had served time for numerous assaults, protection order violations and failure to appear charges.

Martens admitted to officials that he violated his Oklahoma parole and said the four were headed to Missouri.