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## Cops: Teen held for 19 burglaries

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**COLTS NECK** — A Howell teenager went on a three-month tear, breaking into cars throughout the township, but is now in county jail on a list of charges that is expected to get longer, police said.

Austin Halvorsen, 18, is responsible for 19 burglaries this summer that stretched from the north side of town to the south, Detective Sgt. Joe Whitehead said. Halvorsen, of Kirsten Drive in Howell, made off with more than \$15,000 in stolen laptop computers, marine equipment, jewelry, electronics and cash, Whitehead said.

"He was pretty much on a crime spree all over," he said.

Halvorsen committed the crimes from June to August and went for the soft targets, he said.

"It's the same M.O. all the time: always unlocked cars," Whitehead said. "It was at night, in the early morning hours, between midnight and 3 and 4 a.m."

After a police investigation led detectives Whitehead and Richard Zarrillo to Halvorsen's home on Aug. 25, a search executed at the residence revealed Halvorsen was in possession of burglary tools, stolen laptops, iPods, GPS devices,

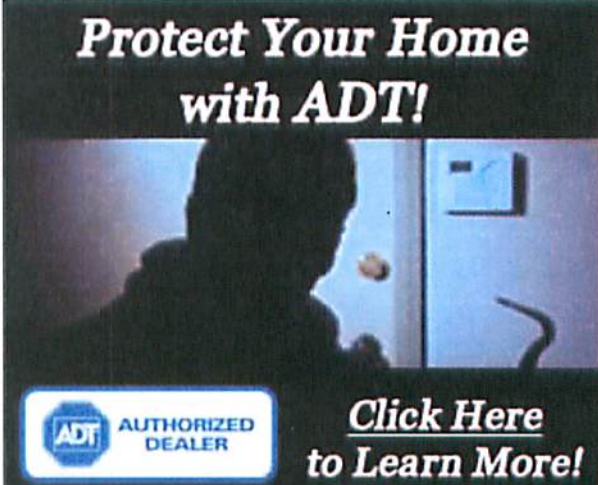
stolen prescriptions, steroids and hypodermic needles, Whitehead said.

Halvorsen's father, Kenneth Jr., was also found in possession of drugs during the search, and was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (steroids). He was released by police and had no involvement in his son's crimes, Whitehead said.

Criminal complaints against Halvorsen show that he began his alleged spree on June 13, when he broke into eight vehicles in the Clover Hill section of town. He hit another half-dozen vehicles in town on July 7, and continued to steal items from unlocked vehicles in areas along Route 537 and Five Points Road until Aug. 14, according to complaints.

The documents also show Halvorsen was active in other towns, stealing from boats docked at a Neptune marina and stealing prescriptions from a vehicle in Wall. Halvorsen tried using that prescription at Future Pharmacy in Howell on July 14, Sgt.

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Eileen Dodd said.

"We think there's going to be additional charges coming," Whitehead said

On Thursday, Howell police added obtaining by fraud, receiving stolen property and theft charges on Halverson.

He is also suspected of stealing various electronics from Howell residents, too, although he was not charged with the crimes because police have not yet been able to link the merchandise to reported burglaries he may have committed, Dodd said.

"There's a lot of electronics," she said. "A ton of iPods, a ton of GPS units and cellphones."

On Wednesday, Halvorsen was charged by Colts Neck police with 19 counts of burglary, 14 counts of theft, two counts of credit card theft, three counts of possession and dealing in stolen property, possession of forged prescriptions, possession of burglary tools, possession of a controlled dangerous substance (heroin) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

His bail was set at \$140,000 and he is being held in the Monmouth County Jail in Freehold Township. Police will continue to investigate, Dodd said.

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