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## Suspected burglar targeted North Port

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He stole safes, guns and even a penny collection, police say.

And that doesn't even scratch the surface.

Investigators report they've seized close to 900 items from Laquinton Hart's home in east Bradenton. North Port Police charged the 22-year-old man in connection to 12 residential burglaries in North Port and are determining if he was involved in more.

All together, the victims reported more than \$100,000 worth of belongings and money stolen, police reported. Hart is suspected of selling many of the most expensive things he allegedly stole, such as TVs and laptops. But police still found a trove at Hart's home, including a hunting bow, Ferrari-brand cologne and a pink iPod in a red rhinestone case.

"This clearly shows that the stolen items that had any monetary value were being sold, likely after being brought back to Manatee County," Hart's arrest report states. "This is indicative of a burglary ring which perpetrates their crimes with the intention of then dealing in the stolen property for profit."

Police suspect that Hart targeted secluded homes during the day, when their residents were at work. He scouted the neighborhoods before his burglaries and later sold his cache on the street.

"It appears he was targeting areas off the beaten path," city spokesman Josh Taylor said. "Some streets in North Port have only one or two homes."

Hart's arrest report states the burglaries were part of a larger trend of 32 reports of similar daytime residential burglaries that occurred from Sept. 2014 through May 2015. The trend reportedly stopped after police searched Laquinton's home.

"We believe Hart was involved in more cases. However, due to the evidence, these (12 burglaries) were the no-doubters," Taylor wrote. "It is very possible others could be involved. Some could have come on some burglaries but not others. We have some people of interest and are still investigating."

Hart has a criminal history. In April 2012, he was found guilty on felony charges of unarmed burglary and grand theft in a Manatee County court. He was 17 years old when police charged him with the crimes.

In May, police arrested Hart on three charges out of Sarasota County after executing a search warrant at his Bradenton home. He was charged with 28 more crimes this week, according to Sarasota County Jail records.

The additional charges took time because investigators were gathering evidence, Taylor wrote. Stolen property had to be identified and the owners located.

So far none of the stolen property has been returned, Taylor wrote. The State Attorney's Office will decide which items can be returned and which need to be kept

for court.

The case was cracked when a woman called North Port police and said she had information regarding local home break-ins.

The Bradenton Police Department served the search warrant at Hart's home with the assistance of the North Port Police.

Bradenton Police Officer Frank Coleman later wrote in an arrest affidavit that one of the home's rooms "appeared to be divided by items."

"On the west side of the room, boxes were located that contained packaged glassware and black trash bags containing clothes, along with a washer, dryer, and refrigerator," Coleman wrote. "On the east side of the room was a bedroom with a bed, plastic storage shelf bins, a TV and entertainment system. On the east wall the names Navarris and Laquinton were painted onto the wall, and hand prints below the names."

Items inside and around Hart's home were identified as stolen property from 12 burglaries. His driver's license and mail were also found inside the home.

Coleman wrote he also found handgun magazines, ammunition and a bucket filled with gun parts. The Bradenton Police Department sought additional charges against Hart for firearm and ammunition possession by a convicted felon, but those were dropped.

In total, police have charged Hart with 31 crimes: six counts of armed burglary, six counts of burglary of a dwelling, 12 counts of grand theft, six counts of grand theft of a firearm and criminal mischief.

The Sarasota County Jail is holding him on \$183,000 bond.

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