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## Front Page

December 6, 2007

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### Suspect in Wachusett car breaks in custody

BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM

REGION - A suspect believed to be a Worcester gang member is in custody in Worcester on unrelated charges while area police investigate his involvement in several dozen car robberies and car thefts in Holden, West Boylston and Princeton.

Holden Police Detective Chris Carey said warrants have been issued to charge Anthony Burns, 17, of Harlem Street, Worcester, with two car breaks and a car theft in Holden overnight November 25 to 26. Carey said Burns is suspected in nearly two dozen car robberies and two car thefts in Holden that occurred that night. Holden police fielded nearly 20 calls, some involving breaks into two vehicles at each address.

Burns is also a person of interest in as many breaks in Princeton, according to Princeton Sergeant Michelle McCaffrey- Powers. Those breaks occurred on October 28 and November 9 and included about a dozen breaks on each night as well as car thefts and a house break.

In West Boylston, police are charging Burns with nearly a dozen breaks on Goodhile Street, on November 26 as well. The police are also

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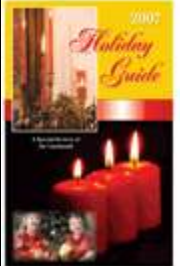
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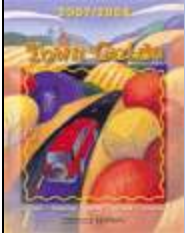
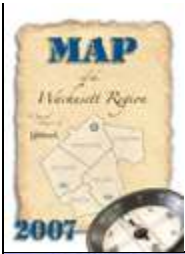
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investigating possible involvement in some breaking and enterings in businesses in that town, West Boylston Police Chief Dennis Minnich said.

Police believe the cars stolen on each occasion were used only for transportation to and from further car breaks.

Police in Rutland are also investigating whether Burns and any possible accomplices are involved in some Thanksgiving car breaks there.

Burns became a suspect in the Holden crimes after crime scene technician Meghan Wrinkle processed one of the stolen vehicles that was recovered, Carey said. Evidence found at the scene connected Burns to the car breaks and the theft.

The speed and volume of the thefts, Carey said, indicates that whoever committed the crimes had accomplices, possibly gang members from Worcester. Carey questioned Burns in Worcester after he was taken into custody on unrelated charges on November 28. As The Landmark went to press, Princeton Police had not yet questioned Burns.

The breaks involved thefts from vehicles that were left unlocked. Carey said mostly small items were stolen, like change, electronics and personal items. On one occasion, keys for one vehicle were left in another, resulting in the vehicle's theft. With the exception of the attempted breaking and entering into a home in Princeton, no forced entries occurred November 25-26.

Several of the car breaks in Princeton occurred around the same time police were investigating forced-entry car breaks into parked vehicles at recreation areas. James Doiron of Leominster, was arrested in November for those breaks.

The rash of breaks, both forced and unforced, have led police to issue repeated advisories to

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"If the vehicles had been locked, nothing would have been stolen out of them in these breaks," Minnich said. Holden Police Chief George Sherrill also advises residents to report any suspicious activity including any possible thefts or suspicious vehicles.

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