

Vandalism suspect arrested

Vandalism:

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Transcript Editor

Local woman, wanted in connection with racist graffiti, turns herself into police

A local woman wanted on charges of terroristic threats turned herself in to Norman police Thursday afternoon.

Allison Christine Johnson, 45, was arrested in connection with two different incidents of vandalism where racist messages were spray-painted at five different locations in Norman and Oklahoma City in the past week.

Normanites woke up Wednesday morning to racist graffiti defacing sculptures,

walls and sidewalks outside of the Firehouse Art Center, McKinley Elementary and the Cleveland County Democratic Headquarters. Last week, the Democratic Party's state headquarters and the Chickasaw Nation office in Oklahoma City were vandalized with similar messages. Norman and Oklahoma City police released surveillance footage from separate crime scenes that appeared to show the same woman, and police

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From **Page A1** said they believed they were looking for the same suspect.

According to NPD, the arrest was the result of the combined efforts of NPD, the Oklahoma City Police Department and the FBI.

Community members quickly joined together to wash away the graffiti Wednesday, although damage to a sculpture at the Firehouse Art Center will take special care to remove, executive director Douglas Elder said. A rally was held at Lions Park Wednesday evening, featuring a variety of local speakers as Normanites gathered to denounce the messages.

"The vandals define themselves by what they hate. We need to define ourselves by what we love," Rabbi Ephraim Judah, of Lion and Lamb Ministries, said at the rally.

Johnson, who lives in Norman, was booked into the Cleveland County jail Thursday evening and will likely be arraigned at some point today. Making terroristic threats is a felony in Oklahoma that is punishable by a maximum sentence of life in prison. Making a false terroristic threat is punishable by a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. According to the Oklahoma State Courts Network, Johnson has not previously been convicted of a crime in Oklahoma.

Residents, local organizations and elected officials denounced the vandalism. Rep. Kendra Horn (D-Okla.) said "hate lays the groundwork for violence, and these attacks fan the flame," while Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) said that "such despicable and hate-filled language and symbols have no place in our communities."

“It is vandalism pure and simple, but does more to unite our community than divide it,” read a social media post from the Firehouse Art Center.

Allison Johnson

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