

Vandal wanted to 'scare ... people of different races'

By Tim Willert Staff writer

twillert@oklahoman.com

NORMAN — A woman accused of spray-painting racist graffiti described in detail “committing all of the acts that had occurred in Norman and Oklahoma City,” police said.

Allison Christine Johnson, 45, said that her intention was to “scare Jewish people, and people of different races, other than white,” a police detective reported.

“Allison spoke at length about her racist beliefs and her efforts” to “wake people up,” the investigator reported.

One of the graffiti writings was: “Every race but white will die ... This WILL happen,” according to police.

Prosecutors on Monday charged Johnson with one felony count of malicious injury to property, three misdemeanor counts of malicious injury to property and one misdemeanor count of malicious intimidation or harassment, documents show. Prosecutors allege Johnson did more than \$1,000 in damage to a sculpture that was defaced outside Norman’s Firehouse Art Center on Wednesday, making it a felony.

The sculpture of a child’s head is by local artist Richard McKown.

Johnson, of Norman, appeared Monday before Special Judge Jequita H. Napoli during a video arraignment that lasted about 20 minutes. She informed the judge she did not have an attorney and did not wish to “bond out.” She remained in jail Monday on a \$25,000 bond.

At one point, Johnson asked the judge to explain the count of malicious intimidation or harassment. In the count, Johnson is accused of “maliciously defacing the driveway belonging to James Galey and Conrad Galey, with the specific intent to intimidate James Galey and Conrad Galey because of their native origin.”

“That’s just crazy,” Johnson replied. “I just put a ... swastika ...”

The judge abruptly interrupted Johnson and encouraged her not to “speak about what you did” because “it might hurt you or incriminate you.”

Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn characterized the count of malicious intimidation or harassment count as “basically a hate crime directed at a specific individual.”

“These allegations are based on a direct threat to an American Indian gentleman ... and so that’s why we charged that specific crime,” Mashburn said. “It wasn’t just a general statement about a general population, it was actually directed toward that individual.”

Johnson turned herself in Thursday afternoon to Norman police. She was booked into Cleveland County jail.

On Wednesday morning, Norman police were notified of graffiti, including swastikas and racial slurs, found at the offices of the Cleveland County Democratic Party Headquarters, Norman's Firehouse Art Center and McKinley Elementary School.

On March 28, similar graffiti was found in Oklahoma City on properties that housed the offices of the Oklahoma Democratic Party and the Chickasaw Nation. Both Oklahoma City and Norman police have said they believe the same person was behind the incidents. Norman police officials said Johnson is the only suspect in connection with the graffiti.

Norman police revealed for the first time Monday that the graffiti incidents have spanned four weeks and include two churches, two public schools, two homes, an art center and a political office, records show.

Also targeted was the Junior League of Norman, according to prosecutors.

Masburn, speaking to reporters, said more charges could be filed against Johnson.

"The important thing is we do have here on a fair number of counts, and it's my understanding that Oklahoma County will be filing a fair number of counts, as well," he said. "We'll be able to hold her accountable for a lot of different crimes, especially splitting it between the two counties like we have."