

La Pine school vandals work out compromise, avoid arrest

by Cheryl McDermott

LA PINE, Ore. — School officials have declined to press charges against several teenagers who admitted to vandalizing school walls, sidewalks, and parking lots with chalk on Sunday. La Pine High School - photo courtesy of Bend-La Pine Schools According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Lt. Deron McMaster, an anonymous tip was received just before midnight on June 1 alerting police to the mischief that left no permanent damage to La Pine High School. Several teenagers were contacted and identified, a report was taken, and the School Resource Officer assigned to the school followed up on the case, McMaster reported. The teenagers involved "came forward and admitted to the conduct," the lieutenant said, and school officials worked out a "civil compromise for the time it took to wash off the chalk." The teens were not arrested, McMaster stated, reminding the public and especially students that tampering with another's property is a crime. "In most cases of vandalism in which suspects are identified, the suspects are arrested and charged with appropriate crimes," he warned.

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