



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Graffiti vandals caught in the act

Riverside, CA -- Three adults and one juvenile were arrested Thursday for graffiti vandalism near the Van Buren drive-in. A fifth suspect remains at large.

A Riverside Police Officer assigned to the Graffiti Unit of the Central Investigations Bureau observed the five suspects committing acts of graffiti vandalism along the canal adjacent to the drive-in, in the 3500-block of Van Buren Boulevard, at approximately 1:15 p.m., Thursday, April 10.

At 1:30 p.m., with additional uniformed officers on scene, police approached the suspects, who fled. The missing suspect jumped the canal, climbed a fence and disappeared into the crowd at the drive-in's swap meet event. The remaining four climbed a fence into a rental car agency storage yard, then climbed a second fence. The female suspect sustained an ankle injury as she landed. Three of the suspects were arrested at the scene; a fourth suspect was arrested a short distance away.

Stephanie DRAGO, 19; Raymond HERNANDEZ, 19; Carlos FARIAS, 18, and a juvenile male suspect, age 16, all of Riverside, were arrested on charges of graffiti vandalism, possession of graffiti tools, conspiracy to commit a felony and resisting arrest. All are from Riverside. Drago was treated at a hospital for her injuries. Hernandez and Farias were booked into Robert Presley Detention Center and the juvenile was released to a parent. The suspects said they did not know the fifth suspect. Police booked seven cans of spray paint, a one-gallon bucket of house paint, a paint roller and two roller brushes, into evidence.

The City of Riverside Public Works Department responded to clean up the graffiti, at a cost of approximately \$650.

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