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Ten students face charges in vandalism

By **Matthew Bruun TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF**
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HOLDEN — Ten Wachusett Regional High School seniors were arraigned on vandalism charges yesterday in connection with an April Fools' Day spray-painting prank.

Spray-paint damage to several parking lots and softball field dugouts was reported around 7:40 a.m. April 1, according to Officer Robert Himmer's report in the case in Leominster District Court records.

"I observed most of the tagging to be obscene drawings. ..." the officer wrote. "A lot of the writing was relative to the class of '09 (seniors). It also had comments about it being April Fools' Day."

The vandalism was documented with photographs.

Investigators were able to determine the paint had been sold at the Lowe's store in Worcester, where a manager checked surveillance video that revealed 19 cans of spray paint were sold within 9 minutes on March 31, according to the officer's report. School officials identified four students from the video: Brian R. Conrad, 18, of 55 Cook St., Holden; Justin D. Hayes, 18, of 1689 Main St., Jefferson; Sean P. Phelan, 18, of 1690 Wachusett St., Jefferson; and Sean P. Quinlivan, 18, of 5 Colonial Drive, Rutland.

Police questioned the four, who first told police the paint had been purchased for a whiffle ball field. In later statements they acknowledged roles in the vandalism, according to

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court records. All four were charged with vandalism.

The investigation identified six other students involved in the case, according to court records. Keith E. Chestna, 19, of 78 Main St., Princeton; Cameron J. Brigham, 18, of 5 Ivernia Road, Worcester; Steven Drohan, 18, of 31 Bigelow Road, Princeton; James M. Coulombe, 17, of 6 Tanglewood Circle, Rutland; Christopher Hazelton, 18, of 24 A North Calamint Hill Road, Princeton; and Bryan F. Bunker, 18, of 41 Central Tree Road, Rutland, are also charged with vandalism.

All 10 were arraigned yesterday in Leominster District Court and released on personal recognizance. All are due back in court May 14 for pretrial hearings, according to court records.

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