

POLICE BLOTTER

REPORTED CRIMES

- Miscellaneous items and \$4,350 cash were reportedly taken from an unlocked residence in the 100 block of North Alvarado Avenue May 18.
- Cash and credit card receipts were reportedly taken following the forced entry to a building in the 800 block of North Ventura Avenue May 18.
- A rock was reportedly used to shatter a vehicle window in the 00 block of Almond Drive May 22.
- Gang-related graffiti was reported on and around the Boy Scout building at the Oak View Community Center May 22.
- Property valued at \$100 was reportedly taken from a building in the 2400 block of East Ojai Avenue May 23.
- Garden equipment valued in excess of \$400 was reportedly taken in the 100 block of Alvarado Avenue May 24.
- Landscaping tools valued at \$3,563 were reportedly stolen in the 400 block of Avenida del Recreo May 25.
- Vandalism at a residence in the 8700 block of North Ventura Avenue was reported May 28. The loss was listed at \$800.
- Spray-painted gang-related graffiti was reported at Libbey

Park May 29. CITES AND ARRESTS

- A man who refused to give his name or date of birth was arrested at El Paseo and Bristol roads May 22 on suspicion of misdemeanor hit and run causing \$580 in damage to city-owned property.
- A 30-year-old woman was arrested at her Robin Court residence May 22 on a \$1,500 warrant for failing to appear in court.
- An 18-year-old man was arrested at an El Roblar Drive parking lot May 24 on suspicion of possessing marijuana for sale.
- A 48-year-old Rancho Court man was arrested at his residence May 24 on a misdemeanor warrant.
- A 24-year-old man was cited at Highway 33 and Nye Road May 26 for allegedly possessing less than an ounce of marijuana.
- A 48-year-old man was arrested in the 8600 block of North Ventura Avenue May 26 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance.
- A 24-year-old man was arrested in the 4400 block of Teachee Road May 27 on suspicion of battery and felony vandalism.

Andy's mural Meiners Oaks inspiration

Laignee Barron
OVN contributor

Around the corner from Oak Grove School and two blocks away from Meiners Oaks Elementary is Andy's Liquor Store, on the corner of El Roblar Drive and Lomita Avenue. It's a busy site — locals pass by, as do kids and teens on their way to and from school. Taggers have also been frequent visitors to the site, using the blank wall as a canvas for their graffiti.

The side wall of Andy's has been repeatedly spray-painted with profanities and gang signs, which the owners quickly painted over. Just beyond the patches of black paint, however, the words were still decipherable and the intentions obvious.

Nearly everyone sees graffiti as an increasing problem in the Ojai Valley, but few have attempted to solve it. Last weekend, however, kids from the Once Upon a Wetland preservation group tackled the problem — with art.

Jacqui Burge, an Ojai resident for the past four years, initially proposed the idea. Like many parents, she was concerned and even annoyed at the sight of graffiti while driving her daughter to school. On their daily trip to Oak Grove, Burge and 4-year-old Ava regularly pass through Meiners Oaks, driving right past Andy's and the profane tagging. Inspired by her years of college in New York, Burge decided to borrow a trick from the "Big Apple."

"In New York City they would put up a mural by kids, and the taggers would leave that place alone out of respect for the art," she said.

The idea was taken a step further when Burge brought the idea to Sara Benjamin, coordinator of the Once Upon a Wetland Project. The project, dedicated to restoring Ojai's historic Meadows Preserve, began at Oak Grove two years ago. Last year, Nordhoff High School and Meiners Oaks Elementary jumped aboard, and this year, in addition to working at the preserve, students decided to help spread awareness of the program and simultaneously prevent graffiti with a mural.

"This isn't just a graffiti removal or prevention project," Burge said. "We're also trying to bring awareness to the wonderful wetland and watershed project these kids have been doing."

Both aspects of the project excited the local community. Andy's Liquor Store gladly volunteered their wall, and local

"In New York City, they would put up a mural by kids and taggers would leave that place alone out of respect for the art."

— Jacqui Burge



Artists create the mural on the once-graffiti-laden side wall at Andy's Liquor on El Roblar Drive and Lomita Avenue.

artists eagerly offered their help.

The Oak Grove preschoolers found a way to assist in the plans, too. They drew the original plans for the mural by collectively sketching what they had learned about the watershed. Artists David Kline, Jessica Perry and Soriya Blalock translated the drawing into a colorful blueprint for the project.

Before the project had even reached the painting stages many locals and organizations were ready to donate money and supplies. Paintbrushes and funds were generously provided by Curves, Linda.com, Oak Grove School, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and donations were made by individuals.

With 30 gallons of paint prepared and five months of planning behind her, Burge was ready to kick off the project last weekend. "One of the best parts about it was how easily it came together," Burge said. "There weren't any huge challenges; everyone just worked together."

On Friday, artists primed the wall, while on Saturday the background was painted by artists and high school students. Then on Sunday, kids, families and community members all joined in to help complete the mural.

Local neighbors were awed by the progress, and as the mural took shape, almost every passing car slowed down to catch a glimpse and offer a word of support. "It's been a great effort by everybody. It's one of those things that you just love getting involved in," parent and artist Holger Hampf said.

Many other parents, local artists and more than 30 kids, ages 2 through 14, dedicated their weekend to painting the mural. Some of the kids came from Nordhoff, Meiners Oaks or Oak Grove, and others were just neighborhood youngsters eager to help out.

"There was a great sense of community. People would go by in their cars looking and smiling and waving," said Benjamin. "It



Photo by Jacqui Burge inspires other projects like this one.

IN UNIFORM

Army Pvt. Devan N. Placial has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. She is the daughter of Dan and Cheryl Placial, of Ojai.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Placial is a 2006 graduate of Nordhoff High School.

AT SCHOOL

Ryan Muise, of Ojai, has received his private pilot certificate from the John D. Odegaard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota. He is the son of Lynn Muise, of Ojai, and a 2006 graduate of Nordhoff High School.

"To earn his private pilot certificate, Ryan successfully completed all academic and flight lab requirements as established by the Federal Aviation Administration and the John D. Odegaard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota. Each certificate is a challenge to attain here at the University of North Dakota, and Ryan should be commended for his achievements," said Bruce Smith, UND aerospace dean.

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OBITUARIES



Richard Alan DuBrin
Richard Alan DuBrin, 50, of Ojai, died unexpectedly Sunday, May 27, 2007, while traveling in San Diego. He had been an Ojai Valley resident for 12 years. He was born March 31, 1957, in Los Angeles, Calif., and grew up in

Southern California and central Kansas.

He graduated from the University of California at Irvine, with a degree in biological sciences and spent many years as a research analyst, most recently for the past 12 years for the city of Santa Barbara Water Department.

His interests included all things mechanical including watches and clocks, pens and radios, and especially cars.

Mr. DuBrin is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and his six children, Michael, Elizabeth, Jacob, Jared, Jessica, and Nathaniel "Josh."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stanley and Alice DuBrin, and two children, Benjamin and Jennifer.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 3, at 4 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 411 San Antonio, Ojai, and burial will be on Monday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura.

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Ojai Valley Weather Report

June 1, 2007

Seven Day Forecast

Friday
Partly Cloudy
High: 79 Low: 51

Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 81 Low: 51

Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High: 83 Low: 54

Monday
Partly Cloudy
High: 86 Low: 52

Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 86 Low: 54

Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High: 85 Low: 53

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
High: 82 Low: 55

In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 79°, humidity of 57% and an overnight low of 51°. The record high temperature for today is 97° set in 1996. The record low is 39° set in 1955. Saturday, skies will remain partly cloudy with a high temperature of 81°.

Last Week's Regional Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Wednesday	75	55	78/49	0.00"
Thursday	80	54	78/50	0.00"
Friday	76	57	79/50	0.00"
Saturday	76	57	79/50	0.00"
Sunday	75	56	79/50	0.00"
Monday	72	56	79/50	0.00"
Tuesday	74	57	80/50	0.00"

Rainfall since July 6.83" Average temp65.7
Normal rainfall 20.13" Average normal . . .64.4
Departure . . .-13.30" Departure+1.3

Today's Regional Map

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Last	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
6/8	Friday	5:45 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	9:17 p.m.	5:52 a.m.	First 6/22
	Saturday	5:45 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	10:10 p.m.	6:45 a.m.	
	Sunday	5:45 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	10:57 p.m.	7:44 a.m.	
	Monday	5:45 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	11:37 p.m.	8:48 a.m.	
	Tuesday	5:44 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	No Rise	9:54 a.m.	Full 6/30
	Wednesday	5:44 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	12:13 a.m.	11:01 a.m.	
	Thursday	5:44 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	12:44 a.m.	12:07 p.m.	

Local UV Index

0 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11+

UV Index
0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

National Weather Summary

The Northeast will see partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies and a few thunderstorms, with the highest temperature of 95° in Frederick, Md. The Southeast will experience partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies and scattered thunderstorms, with the highest temperature of 93° in Pope, N.C. In the Northwest, there will be mostly clear to partly cloudy skies, with the highest temperature of 98° in Pasco, Wash. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies, with the highest temperature of 105° in Blythe, Calif.

Weather Trivia

What parts of the world receive the most hail each year?

Answer: Northern India and Kenya, as a result of strong thunderstorms.

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