# Deputies respond to disturbance at Ridge Creek

By Matt Aiken The Nugget

Local deputies responded reportedly began to inflict damage on school property.

The incident began last Sunday morning with a threatened walk-out by a maschool formerly known as Hidden Lake Academy.

"About 45 students got upand there was no way they could stop them," said Investigator Darren Martin of the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office.

dents never left the Camp Wahsega Road campus, or lived rebellion was quickly quelled by staff members as well as other students who agers to stay put.

However, a few hours latbreak into buildings and destroy school property.

campus throwing rocks at extinguishers while others pus. knocked over office equipment, stated the report.

"The student activities center took the brunt of the damage," said Martin. "Some of the students were wrapping up shirts and jackets around their hands and busting up windows."

building as "demolished."

"Many windows brofire extinguishers had been sprayed, glass [was]everywhere," stated the walkout."

Lawsuit

the future.

heard here.

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alleges Powers will "... con-

tinue to lose such wages in

County Superior Court judge

granted Dahlonega a change

of venue, returning the case to the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Leibel originally filed the suit in Fulton because both Georgia Power and the subcontrac-

tor responsible of maintaining the lamp are based in Atlanta. Judge Cynthia Wright

ruled, however, that since the incident occurred in Lump-

kin County, and eyewitnesses

would be more easily accessible here, the suit should be

In late November the city

filed a motion for summary

judgment—a request for the

judge assigned the case to render a decision. On Dec. 17, Leibel responded to the mo-

tion, refuting the city's claim that it was not liable for the

accident since it did not own

the lamp post. Leibel's response claimed the city had a

duty to inform Georgia Pow-

er if the fixture needed repair

or replacement, and that the

Last October a Fulton

Four students, three 17year-olds and a 16-year-old, were arrested and issued to reports of a disturbance juvenile complaints for the at Ridge Creek Academy last charges of unruly child. weekend as multiple students criminal trespass and criminal damage to property.

Some students fled into the surrounding woods.

It was later discovered that these runaway teens had jority of the students at the hiked to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where they reportedly broke into the Camp Wahsega Road sanctuary and set and said they were leaving searched for a phone. There

> "The whole idea was to go to that church and call somebody," said Martin.

Martin said nothing ap-A majority of those stu- peared to be stolen from the church besides a blanket.

He added that four Ridge even caused any damage to Creek students had also been the buildings since the short- picked up, at 4 a.m., the morning before the incident at the Wal-Mart parking lot.

"They were trying to pass convinced most of the teen-themselves off as college students or locals." he said. "They said they were waiting er, several students began to on a ride from someone from the Gainesville area."

Martin said the Ridge Officers arrived on the Creek staff had not reported scene and reportedly spot- the students as missing from ted students running around the school, but once their identities were confirmed windows. Some set off fire they were returned to cam-

Of those students, two were involved in the reported destruction of property which took place later that day.

On Monday Len Buccellato, owner of the boarding school, said the incident was "not a major event."

"The campus is operating A report filled out by Dep- as usual," he said. "Some new uty Brad Farris described the students decided to do a walkout and campus is now operating as normal. This was only a very small portion of the student body who did the

> judgment, however, Leibel filed to dismiss the case with the possibility of re-filing within the six month period allowed. When asked if there the move, Leibel said that reveal.



## Tree-trimming helicopter

There's more than one way to trim a tree, as the helicopters pilots of Asplundh Tree Expert Co. demonstrated last week. Several choppers could be spotted throughout the week as they towed spinning saws along the tree line which bordered Amicalola EMC powerlines. Asplundh representative Tasha Shipp said the technique is new for the company but very effective.

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They may change their minds, however, when they learn that Sheriff Stacy Jarrard claims to have proven the sighting to be a hoax. Jarrard says he went out the next day to question homeowners in the area. At the first house he stopped at, he says, there were two young men, students at North Georgia College & State was any strategic reason for University, who were "acting really nervous. You could see was something he would not their hearts were beating really fast," he says.

The two did not admit to the prank right away, but later in the week they copped to one of them donning a gorilla suit and running across the road in front of vehicles on the night in question. Jarrard says he even has a photograph of the two boys with the gorilla suit.

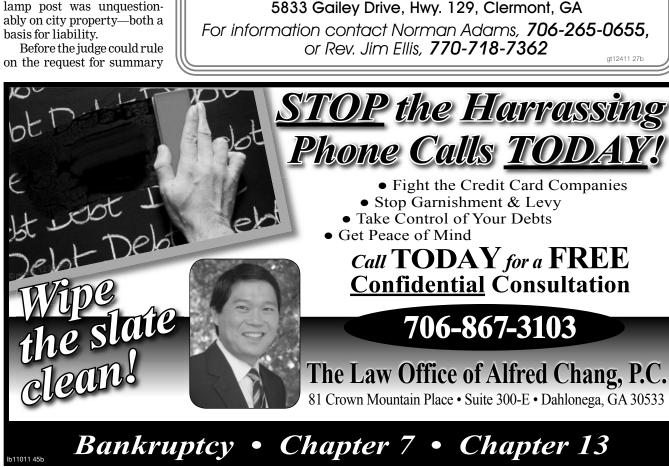
If Animal Planet does decide not to visit Lumpkin, they will probably still visit the North Georgia area.

"They sent us a letter requesting to film at Track Rock in Union County," said John Campbell with the National Forest Ranger Station in Blairesville. "The area is an archeological site and is purported to have a footprint on Bigfoot."



Saturday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. —Christian Hill Baptist Church,—

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