Hotel plan to include parking deck

By Greg Finn, Jr. The Nugget

Roberta Green Garrett’s plan to bring a 60-room hotel to downtown Dahlonega now includes a proposed parking deck that would sit just off the Public Square.

However, that plan hit a major speed bump last Monday when the Dahlonega City Council struck down her variance application, which sought to reduce the typical parking space size and also reduce sidewalk setback at the Parks Building site at East Main Street. The vote came in at 4-2 with the council acting in its capacity as the Board of Zoning Appeals.

City Manager Bill Schmid stated the decision by recommending that the board readdress the issue back to the Planning & Zoning Commission, based on the new design shown by Jack Bailey, the architect for the project, at the meeting.

Attorney Joey Homans, representing Garrett, told the board that the new site design would reduce the number of variances Garrett applied for from six to two.

“We have continued to work with the City and have reduced the number of variances we are requesting down from six to two,” said Homans. “We are simply asking for the variance to reduce the front set back so that the second and third floors of the hotel can hang over the public sidewalk so that the typical

See Hotel plan, 7A

Local impact of filming estimated at $300,000

By John Bynum

The weather was warm and the leaves still rustled in the trees surrounding the Public Square, but Christmas was just 11 days away—so that is according to a movie gag sign posted near the Dahlonega-Gold Museum.

Holiday decorations of all shapes from giant candy canes to fake snow covered the downtown area last week as the Hallmark Channel made-to-TV movie Christmas in Homestead was being filmed here.

Crew members were busily moving sets around the Square and fitting them in their correct positions as bystanders watched the action.

Nelson Hagood, lead man for the Set Decoration team along with Maxine Kao worked to assure all Christmas tree on a table across from the Gold Museum were “We are responsible for everything that is needed,” said Hagood, an East Point resident who remembers coming to Dahlonega as a child to activities such as gold panning.

Departments such as production, set decoration and art design worked to bring the film’s plan to life. Fake snow covered the ground in strategic locations to give an impression that winter had arrived.

See Movie filming, 6A

Wild buck wrangled by inmates

By Matt Aiken

Hannah McDonald found herself flinching over a gory scene as Valley Creek Park last Tuesday afternoon. And even in the midst of the chaos, she couldn’t quite believe it was happening.

“I was sitting on a bench, until tear reading (my Bible),” said the University of Georgia student. “And a man came running out of the woods. He had his baby with him and he yelled, ‘Hein, I don’t want to scare you but there’s a deer coming!’

Since McDonald comes from a family of hunters this didn’t strike her as something too alarming. That was until the four point buck made a sudden appearance.

“T see a deer charging out of the woods,“ she said. “I was like ‘Oh my gosh, this never happens!’”

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“I was like ‘Oh my gosh, this never happens!’” she said. “I put my stuff and I start running with him. And we’re both running from the deer back to Valley Creek Park.”

The buck in question had been spotted earlier in the day and seemed to have no fear of humans. Witnesses

See Wild buck, 16A

Calderwells crowned as King and Queen

By Sharon Hall

The couple have no children of their own, but have spent their entire lives working with children: “We had now kids every year,” Mildred said.

For nearly 40 years, Lynual worked as a cook at Lumpkin County Parks & Rec, mostly helping them, he said, and a lot more said their twin brother, Lyman.

See Calderwells, 3A

Early voting begins Monday

By Sharon Hall

Early voting for the General Election begins Monday, Oct. 17. The Lumpkin County Elections office at 39 Short Street will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for three weeks, including two primaries prior to the Nov. 8 elec-

tion day.

Days and hours are:
• Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Saturday, Oct. 22 and Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Monday-Friday, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Voters can also still request an absentee ballot, said Supervisor of Elections Ashley Pender.

“Ballots can be requested un-

til Nov. 4. There is a little plenty of time for us to mail an application and for them to return it to us,” she said.

All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. The voting location for the Jefferson Precinct will be the Lumpkin County Courthouse. The voting location for the Elberta Precinct will be the Jodrey Center. Absentee ballots can be picked up at the Union County Library, 305 Courthouse St., referred to the elections office, sent by fax (706-864-2772) or mailed to absentee@lumpkincountyga.gov, as well as hand-delivered.

See Election, 16A

ELECTION 2016

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Bonne Marie Morris, a longtime resident of Dahlonega, passed away shortly after a long period of illness on October 8, 2016. Bonnie was 93.

Bonne leaves behind her loving husband, David Morris, Sr. and loving children, David Jr. and Michelle. Other family members include: Deltis Adams, and extended family in the community.

Funeral Services were held Monday, October 12, 2016 at Dahlonega United Methodist Church. Interment followed at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Dahlonega, GA.

The family wishes to thank Southern Heritage Medical Center for their dedication to our mother. Arrangements by the professional staff of Dahlonega McDonald and Son Funeral Home.