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Hotel plan to include parking deck

By Greg Finan, 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 stand 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 side walk setback at the Parks' Building site at 40 East Main Street. The vote came in at 4-2 with the council acting in its capacity as the Board of Zoning Appeals.

► DOWNTOWN
Plans change for Parks Building project

City Manager Bill Schmid started the discussions by recommending that the board remand 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 had 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 setback so that the second and third floors of the hotel can hang over the public sidewalk and that the typical

See Hotel plan, 7A

Movie
filmed in
Dahlonega



John Bynum/The Nugget

THAT'S A WRAP

Local impact of filming estimated at \$300,000

Above, production equipment awaits the action to commence on the Public Square as the filming of the Hallmark movie *Christmas in Homestead* takes place. Left: Maxine Kao helps the rest of the Set Decoration crew install large props to make Dahlonega in October look like "Homestead" in December.



By John Bynum
The Nugget

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

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

Crew members were busily shuffling props 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 secure a tall Christmas tree on a table across from the Gold Museum.

"We are responsible for everything based on what is needed," said Hagood, an East Point resident who remembers coming to Dahlonega as a child to do activities such as gold panning.

Departments such as production design, 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
The Nugget

Hannah McDonald found herself fleeing an overly aggressive deer at Yahoola Creek Park last Tuesday afternoon. And even in the midst of the chase, she couldn't quite believe it was happening.

"I was sitting on a bench and I was reading [my Bible]," said the University of North Georgia student. "And a man came running out of the woods. He had his baby with him and he yelled 'Ma'am, 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.

"I see a deer charging out of the woods after him and I was like 'Oh my gosh, this never happens!'" she said with a laugh. "I get my stuff and I start running with him. And we're both running from this deer in Yahoola Creek Park."

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

See Wild buck, 16A

“The Lord was merciful. He spared us from the deer.”

► UNG student Hannah McDonald

★ GOLD RUSH DAYS ★

Caldwells crowned as King and Queen

By Sharon Hall
The Nugget

The Dahlonega Jaycees chose Lyndal and Mildred Caldwell to wear the crowns as this year's King and Queen of Gold Rush. Their dedication to the community—especially its children—makes them a great choice for king and queen, said Marisa Allen, who nominated the couple for the honor.

The couple have no children of their own, but have spent their entire adult lives working with children.

"We had new kids every year," Mildred said.

For nearly 40 years, Lyndal volunteered as a coach at Lumpkin County Parks & Rec, mostly helping them learn the game, and a lot more said his twin brother, Lyman.

See Caldwell, 3A



Mildred and Lyndal Caldwell will be crowned Saturday on the Gold Rush main stage at 2 p.m.

ELECTION 2016

Early voting begins Monday

By Sharon Hall
The Nugget

Early voting for the General Election begins Monday, Oct. 17. The Lumpkin County Elections office at 56 Short Street will be open for citizens to cast their ballot for three weeks, including two Saturdays prior to the Nov. 8 election day.

Days and hours are:
• Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 28
• Saturday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Oct. 31-Nov. 4

Voting on election day will

take place at the county Parks & Rec facility on Riley Road.

This is the first time a single polling place will be used for an election.

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

"Ballots can be requested until Nov. 4. There is still 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. Ballots can be mailed back to the elections office, sent by fax (706-864-0731) or emailed to elections@lumpkincounty.gov, as well as hand-delivered.

OPINIONS:

Aiken: The mystery of the millennials

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LETTER WRITER:

Too many cars in our town because of college students

► Page 5A

ONLINE

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OBITUARIES

► To have an obituary published in The Dahlonega Nugget, please email jbynum@thedahloneganugget.com

Bonnie Marie Morris Resident of Dahlonega



Bonnie Marie Morris, a longtime resident of Dahlonega, passed away after a long and brave fight against cancer. She was 62.

Bonnie was born in Raceland, La. to Roy and Bernice Adams. She graduated from Nicholls State and Louisiana State Universities with her degree in Library Sciences. After moving to Georgia, Bonnie worked at the University of North Georgia library for over 30 years. Bonnie had a love and passion for helping people, and she felt very connected to the town and her friends here in Dahlonega.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents Roy and Bernice Adams, maternal grandparents Batson and Octavia Per-tuit, and paternal grandparents Harry and Anita Adams.

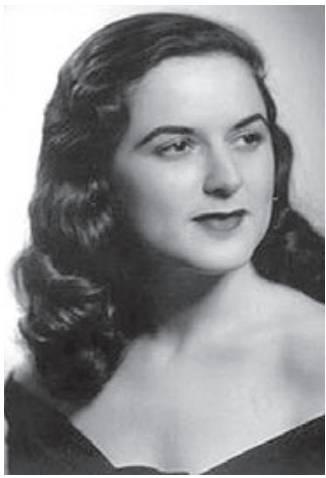
Bonnie leaves behind a very loving husband, David Morris, Sr. and loving children, David Jr. and Michelle. Other family includes her sister, Debbie Adams, and extended family in the Davis, Adams, and Boggus families.

Funeral Services were held Monday October 10, 2016 at Dahlonega United Methodist Church. Interment followed at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Dahlonega, GA.

The family wants to thank Northeast Georgia Medical Center and Comfort Keepers for their dedication to our mother.

Arrangements by the professional staff of Dahlonega Funeral Home 20 Gibson Road Dahlonega GA 30533 706-864-DOVE (3683)

Irene Shirley Cohn Pandres Resident of Winston-Salem, N.C.



Irene Shirley Cohn Pandres, born April 15, 1926 in Port Arthur, Texas to the late Hyman Cohn and Bess Bagelman Cohn, passed away on October 7, 2016 at her home at Arbor Acres in Winston-Salem, NC. She lived in Port Arthur until she graduated from Port Arthur High School in 1944. Irene attended the University of Texas, Austin from 1944 until 1948, when she married Leo Philip Goudchaux. Irene and Leo had two sons, Ronald Mark born in 1950 and Leo Philip born in 1952. In 1951, Leo

died in an automobile accident. In 1953, Irene married Dave Pandres, Jr., who adopted her sons. Irene and Dave also had a son, Keith Alan in 1958 and a daughter, Lisa Ann in 1962.

After raising four children and relocating the family several times in support of Dave's career, Irene returned to California State University, Northridge at the age of 45 to finish her degree, B.A. in Sociology. Irene was employed as a Social Worker from 1978 until 1988 in the Department of Mental Health by the state of Georgia. She cared deeply for those who she served and was proud of her life's work. Irene was an active member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Dahlonega, Georgia and served in many leadership roles during her time with Beta Sigma Phi. She also loved art and learned to paint and do needlework in her later years.

Irene's most important role was as a devoted wife and a loving and caring mother and grandmother. She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years Dave Pandres, Jr. and her four children: Ron Pandres of Castle Rock, Colorado, Philip Pandres of Eagle River, Alaska, Keith Pandres (Karen) of Asheville, N.C. and Lisa Pandres Purcell (Cliff) of Winston-Salem, NC. She is survived by a sister Pauline Sheinberg of Houston, Texas and a sister-in-law Libby Greene of Dallas, Texas. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren all who loved her: Jason Pandres, Jeremy Pandres, Shane Pandres, Russell Pandres, Elena Pandres, Shayna Purcell, Grant Purcell and Jade Pandres, and three great-grandchildren.

A burial service was held on Monday, October 10 at Mt. Sinai Cemetery led by Rabbi Mark David Cohn.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Arbor Acres Resident Assistance Fund, 1240 Arbor Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. The family is grateful for her many wonderful caregivers at Arbor Acres.

Online condolences may be sent to www.salemfh.com.



Johnnie Gay Peck Resident of Dahlonega

Johnnie Gay Peck, age 89, of Dahlonega, Ga. passed away on October 10, 2016.

Mrs. Peck was a lifelong resident of Lumpkin County, a homemaker, and member of Cavender Creek Baptist Church in Lumpkin County.

She was the daughter of the late William and Lillie Beasley Early. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Hugh Peck; and siblings, Willie Mae Anderson, Charlie Early and James Early.

Johnnie is survived by her daughter, Deborah Page, Dahlonega, Ga.; grandchildren, Chad Grizzle, Amy Anderson, and Nolan Grizzle; great-grandchildren, Kolby Ray, Loagan Ray, Madison Ray, Cole Grizzle, Kaden Grizzle, Emma Grizzle, Lexie Grizzle, and Calla Grizzle; step-grandchild, Brooke Higgins, grandson-in-law, Bryan Anderson. A special thanks to Kristie Martin, Melissa Garrett, and Brooke McGahee. Numerous other relatives also survive.

Funeral services for Johnnie are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday October 12, 2016 at Cavender Creek Baptist Church in Lumpkin County.

Rev. Stephen Adams and Rev. Lyman Caldwell will officiate.

Interment will follow in the Cavender Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at Banister Funeral Home in Dahlonega, Ga. on Wednesday October 12, 2016 from 10 a.m. until time of service.

Online condolences may be made at www.banisterfuneralhome.net.

Banister Funeral Home of Dahlonega, Ga. is in charge of the arrangements.

Death Notices

Laurel Weir Mackenzie, 56, of Dawsonville passed away on October 3, 2016. Dahlonega Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Paul Francis Peter Coenen, 71, of Cumming, passed away on October 8, 2016. McDonald and Son Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. No Services are scheduled at this time.

The Nugget strives to provide a complete record of deaths involving Lumpkin County residents and their families.

Please ask your funeral home or cremation society to call us or email us at jbynum@thedahloneganugget.com. These death notice listings are free and include the deceased's name, age, date of death, date and time of service and the name of the home handling arrangements. For a detailed family-placed obituary, please have your funeral home contact *The Nugget*.

LOCAL NEWS

Movie filming in Dahlonega impacts town in variety of ways



John Bynum/The Nugget

Traffic on the Public Square was sometimes affected during the filming of the Hallmark movie *Christmas in Homestead* during the recent three-week span. Filming took place at various locations around the Square as well as the Baptist Student Center across from the University of North Georgia.

Continued from Front Page

The sign in front of the Gold Museum had been repurposed to identify the fictional town of "Homestead."

THE RIGHT LOOK

Dahlonega's "charming historic downtown" is just one of many "unique and unmatched sites" that production teams find attractive for shooting, according to Rebecca Shirley, Director of the Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority.

The City of Dahlonega created a film office, North Georgia Film, "to facilitate filming requests and streamline the permitting process," she said.

Shirley is also Director of the North Georgia Film Office, which is a member of the Association of Film Commissioners International.

Shirley added that North Georgia Film partnered with the Chamber's Camera Ready Liaison, University of North Georgia, Lumpkin County and the state of Georgia's Film & Entertainment office with the aim of marketing Dahlonega-Lumpkin County "as the film and entertainment hub for the entire North Georgia region."

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic impacts for Dahlonega include a fee that is set by the City's Film Ordinance, Shirley said. The current fee sits at approximately \$15,000 but could change if the original scope of work changes during the last week of filming, she said.

But the bigger monetary impact has come from necessities such as lodging, per diem, site rentals, local labor and catering services, said Shirley, who cited an impact "upwards of \$300,000 locally."

Film and television productions in Georgia generated an economic impact of \$6 billion for the state in FY 2015 Shirley said.

And part of that impact can be right here in Dahlonega she added. "Incorporating filming into our community has the potential to create

jobs as well as other economic opportunities for people in Dahlonega and small businesses."

One of the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry is film-induced, Shirley said. "This form of cultural tourism has the potential to provide short and long-term tourism revenue to our community."

MINIMIZING DISRUPTIONS

With the local community in the middle of a busy time of year, the general use of space and inconveniences have been the main concerns the City hears, Shirley said.

"We are constantly evaluating and tweaking the plan and responding to feedback and questions in order to minimize disruptions to the best of our ability," said Shirley, who added that the film office is also documenting the process to be more prepared for future requests.

STAY A WHILE

During the three-week filming, around 600 people served as extras, said Shirley, who heard a lot of positive feedback from the community. "It has been fun to see folks come downtown throughout the day and night to watch the filming and take pictures of themselves on set."

From start to finish the production team will be here for approximately six weeks, Shirley said.

With the Gold Rush Days festival approaching fast, the filming is scheduled to conclude in the early hours of the morning on October 15, according to Shirley.

Post production, she said, will also take place in office space the production has rented downtown [located in the old Piazza building].

Christmas in Homestead is a romantic comedy starring Taylor Cole about a Hollywood movie production that takes in a small Midwestern town and disrupts its peaceful holiday traditions until the town's mayor and the film's movie star fall in love. The premiere date is set tentatively for November 23.

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