Movie legend in town

BY NORMAN CANNADA
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SENECA — The long-awaited Oconee County appearance of Hollywood legend Burt Reynolds finally came to fruition Monday.


Reynolds

Reynolds was at High Falls County Park near Seneca on Monday for the shooting of the romantic comedy "Elbow Grease," which began its third week of filming in Oconee County.

Shelby Henderson, casting director and associate producer for the movie, said Reynolds will be filming for the next few days but will not be staying for Saturday's Clemson-Florida State game at Memo-

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LEGEND: Leaving before Saturday

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rial Stadium. Reynolds played football for the Seminoles while a student at Florida State.

"He'll be here for a few more days," Henderson said. "He will not be here for the game on Saturday. That has been like the No. 1 question. He was invited, but he can't stay."

Henderson said filming went well with the Hollywood actor, who was one of the stars in the cast of "Deliverance" when it was shot on the Chattooga River — partially in Oconee County — more than 40 years ago.

"We had a great day on the set with him," she said. "He's extremely personable. He's one of the nicest men you ever wanted to meet, and we enjoyed him being on the set."

Phil Shirley, director of the Oconee Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, was at the park for the filming Monday.

"I'm not sure what he's involved in this week, but he did shoot three scenes there today," Shirley said. "I think he's got some other things going on, but everything went great (Monday)."

Shirley said he did not see today's schedule as to where Reynolds will be as he films additional scenes of "Elbow Grease" this week.

Henderson said she can't give out locations where Reynolds will be filming.

"We will be in Oconee County," she said. "All of his filming will be in the county, but I can't give specific locations."

Reynolds is playing a grandfather in "Elbow Grease," which is set in a fictional South Carolina town in the 1990s.

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