

SENECA

'Elbow Grease' premiere pushed back

Movie filmed in Seneca in 2013

BY ERIC SPROTT
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SENECA — It's been a long wait for a movie filmed in the area four years ago to have its Oconee County premiere, and the wait is going to stretch a bit longer.

However, Shelby Henderson, the casting director and associate producer on the film, is hopeful "Elbow Grease" will be able to premiere soon after it appeared the film would be ready to make its local debut this month.

"We are still planning on showing it here in Seneca," said Henderson, also manager of the Bertha Leo Strickland Cultural Museum. "The director (Jason Shirley) just recently came back from California with the

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last and final version of the movie, and he had the opportunity to get the movie's (Motion Picture Association of America) rating. So he asked me to hold off until we get the rating before we schedule it.

"He said he's waiting on it any day in the mail, so it's probably already been sent. Once he receives it, we'll schedule a date and have some showings."

The goal, Henderson said, is still for the film to debut at Premiere Cinema 8 on U.S. Highway 123. She previously said the hope is for the premiere to feature a question-and-answer session with some of the movie's cast and crew, including Shirley.

She added in addition to a host of locals who appear as highly visible extras, the film features scenes in downtown Seneca — in

addition to other spots around Oconee County — that will be plenty familiar to area residents.

"Some of the places, unfortunately, aren't even open anymore, so it's also kind of a history piece," she said. "Part of the movie was shot at Hometown (Food Store), and of course it's not there anymore, so there'll be some nostalgia, and it shows you how fast things can change."

The family-friendly romantic comedy shot in 2013, has been making rounds on the festival circuit since 2015. It stars a cast of relative unknowns alongside Hollywood veteran Burt Reynolds.

"He brings a lot to the movie," Henderson said of Reynolds. "I just wish he could come for the premiere, but he truly loves this area so much. He was right at home when he was here."

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