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Mayo To Integrate With SRMC On March 1

By ROGER WILLIAMS
J-H Publisher

"On the first of March, we will integrate our campuses and Satilla Regional Medical Center will become Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross," announced Dr. Kenneth Calamia, MCHSW's chief executive officer, before an excited group of Waycross Kiwanians at the civic club's weekly meeting Friday.

He noted that the Integration Agreement with the Mayo Clinic in Florida that was signed and agreed to on Jan. 30 establishes a legal closing date of March 1, 2012.

Dr. Calamia has been with the Mayo Clinic on Florida's campus since 1990 and completed his internship, residency and fellowship at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. He is board certified in internal medicine and rheumatology.

Plans call for Robert Trimm, SRMC's current CEO, to be retained and assume new duties as MCHSW's chief administrative officer.

During the past year, a team from SRMC and Mayo Clinic has worked on

an integration plan to address the priorities of the early months of bringing the two organizations together. Changes in signage, logos and identification badges are expected to begin in May.

Providing narrative to an informative PowerPoint screening, Dr. Calamia began by saying how impressed he and his colleagues have been with the positive reception they have received from the entire community during the lengthy process.

"Hopefully it (the merger) will be the first of several regional relationships in this region," he said, noting that Mayo's decision to open sites in Jacksonville, Fla. in 1986 and Scottsdale, Ariz. in 1987 set the course for eventual regional expansions.

He said that the Jacksonville campus now has 340 physicians on staff, part of 3,700 that Mayo employs at all of its sites, along with 3,200 residents and fellows.

Among the many impressive statistics that amazed his Kiwanis audience, Dr. Calamia reported that Mayo's total revenues reached \$7 billion in 2009, with \$236 million received via contri-

butions.

He noted that the three shields comprising part of Mayo's logo represent Research, Education and Clinical Practice, with the latter receiving the most emphasis.

"At Mayo, our primary value is making sure that the needs of the patient come first," he said. "It's a physician-led organization that relies heavily on teamwork."

Dr. Calamia read aloud the following Strategic Statement adopted by MCHSW: "Satilla Regional Medical Center and the medical staff as members of the Mayo Clinic Health System will transform the delivery of health care in Southeast Georgia through an integrated system that is patient-centered, physician-led and quality driven."

Continuing, he said, "Strengthening the ties between Satilla and Mayo presents exciting possibilities in transforming health care delivery. The evolution of health care will require a forging of new models to come."

Dr. Calamia also discussed the proud history of the Mayo Clinic and founders (see HOSPITAL, page 18)



Photo By ROGER WILLIAMS
Dr. Kenneth Calamia, the new CEO at the local medical facility, accepts a Kiwanis gift mug from Kiwanian Elaine Stephens.

Harrell Is Sentenced To Life

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — Minutes after a man pleaded guilty to kidnapping, raping and murdering 7-year-old Somer Thompson, who was dumped in a trash bin and later found in a landfill, the little girl's twin brother addressed his sister's killer.

"I hope you never get out of jail," 9-year-old Samuel Thompson said to Jarred Harrell from the witness stand.

In a deal sparing Harrell the death penalty, the 26-year-old Harrell was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Somer's family was in favor of the deal because Harrell agreed not to appeal any of his convictions.

"Your punishment does absolutely not fit your crime," said Somer's mother, Diena Thompson. "Remember now, there is no safe place for you. You do not have an impenetrable cell. There will be no peace in the afterlife."

Somer was a second-grader living in Orange Park, Fla. — a suburb south of Jacksonville — when she disappeared while walking home from school on Oct. 19, 2009. She was with her sister and some friends, but ran ahead of them after they had a spat.

It was a route she had taken many times before, and she often stopped at a home to pet a white dog. Usually, no one came outside. On the day Somer disappeared, authorities said Harrell lured her into the home where he was living with his mother.

Two days later, she was discovered in a landfill in southern Georgia.

Harrell wasn't arrested until about three months after Somer's death. Initially, authorities interviewed convicted sex offenders within a 5-mile radius of Somer's suburban north Florida home, but didn't come up with any substantial leads.

On a hunch, they tailed nine (see LIFE, page 18)

JACK WILLIAMS AWARD



Photo By MYRA THRIFT
Charles Eames (right) is presented the "Jack Williams Community Service Award" Friday during the annual Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce banquet by Roger Williams, publisher of the Waycross Journal-Herald.

Retired Librarian, Volunteer Charles Eames Wins Jack Williams Award

By MYRA THRIFT
Staff Writer

"Intelligent, but never arrogant. Servant, but never to be seen. Difference-maker, but always for others. A quiet disciple."

These were just a few of the words presenter Roger Williams used to describe this year's recipient of the "Jack Williams Community Service Award," Charles Eames.

The award was presented during the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce Friday evening annual awards banquet and board meeting.

The award is given annually to an individual who has been active in the community through chamber membership, volunteer service and serving the good of the community.

Eames, a retired librarian who lives a life of quiet servitude, a volunteer who shuns the spotlight, was taken by

surprise and his quiet demeanor was evident as he listened to Williams' introduction.

"This is a big surprise," said Eames. "There are so many more who deserve this more than I. My mother and father taught me about community service and I am thankful for that. And I thank the Lord for giving me the ability and the energy to do what I do."

Williams pointed out that even as he was reading the nomination about the fine work done by the nominee, Eames was in disbelief.

"He makes an enormous effort not to be seen and desires no recognition," Williams said. "Even being recognized tonight will make him uncomfortable. But that is all the more reason why Charles Eames should be recognized as the Jack Williams Community Service Award recipient for 2012."

Years ago Eames earned a masters

degree in library science and it is through his career in library services that this community best knows him.

"Although he is retired from his position as the director of the Okefenokee Regional Library, he is still active in our local library," Williams said. "He is a strong supporter of the Friends of the Library. His dedication to and love of reading extends beyond the walls of the library and across age groups as he routinely reads to the smallest students at DAFFODIL School while also serving on the Waycross College Foundation board."

Eames is active in other areas of the community as well, Williams said. He is currently serving as president of the Satilla Regional Medical Center Auxiliary and is active at First Christian Church where he is both an elder and a member of the choir.

(see JACK, page 18)

Rupp: Focus Is 'Quality Of Care;' Mission Is 'Patients'

Head Of Florida Mayo Clinic Spoke At Friday Night Chamber Event

By MYRA THRIFT
Staff Writer

Satilla Regional Medical Center's merger with the Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville, Fla. has created a team of physicians, researchers and medical personnel that will provide the best of health care to folks from the area for years to come.

William C. Rupp, M.D., CEO of the Mayo Clinic in Florida, addressed members of the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce and the local community Friday evening, presenting ideas about the merger and how it will impact the community.

The Mayo Clinic's focus is on quality of care and its patients are at the top of its mission, he said. Rupp said Mayo is committed to more than one service, it is continuing to teach academics and to conduct research on ground-breaking medical treatments, but that patient care remains the number one focus of the clinic's team.

He recalled how the Mayo founder William W. Mayo came to the United States as a vagabond. He was a pharmacist, then a tailor and in 1863 was appointed by Abraham Lincoln as the examining physician for the Army recruits in the Civil War.

"His two sons became superb physicians in the U.S. and Europe," said Rupp. "One hundred years ago, knowledge was growing so rapidly they realized they couldn't do it alone."

It was then the family decided to create a team that "worked together for the best interest of the patient," Rupp said. "The needs of the patient come first. Do the right thing for the patient. As we move to Waycross, the goal is to provide as many services as possible as close to home as possible."

Rupp noted that Mayo has 214 beds in Jacksonville that are full nearly all the time. He added that Mayo's best interest is to "grow" Satilla.

"Both are superb (hospitals) and we hope to learn from each other. Patients won't have just one physician but a team," Rupp said.

As of March 1 — when the Mayo Clinic is officially merged with Satilla Regional Medical Center — Mayo will be in six states, an \$8 billion

(see BANQUET, page 18)

Mostly Cloudy

Rain Chance Is 50 Percent

Hi 75/51 Lo

—page 3—

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Wealthy 'Queen'

Born June 22, 1864, Lydia Stone refused early in her life to live by the social restrictions commonly placed on women. She was determined to become wealthy, and she did. The marble marker at her grave (today's masthead photo) is indicative of a rich "Queen of the Swamp."

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