

Metter Advertiser

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Pictured, l-r: Jaime Riggs, Chamber of Commerce executive director; Kathy Dixon, Volunteer of the Year; out-going Chair Luke Lanier; incoming Chair Bryan Aasheim; and Krista and Dean Stone, owners of IHS Pharmacy & Gifts, 2016 Business of the Year.

Two arrested for cruelty to elderly person, animals

A mother and son were arrested on Friday on charges of elder cruelty and animal cruelty after a disabled woman in their care was found in squalid conditions.

According to Sheriff's reports, a welfare check was done on an elderly female at a Hwy. 46 West residence.

Investigator Melvin Ivey arrived at the residence to find the woman in "extremely unsanitary living conditions which jeopardized her health and well-being."

Arrested were Sue Perez-Lopez and her son, James Nicolas Waugh. They were each charged with cruelty to animals, a felony charge, and cruelty to person 65 years or older, a misdemeanor charge.

The victim was transported by Candler County EMS for medical treatment.



Sue Perez-Lopez



James Nicolas Waugh

Chamber holds 60th Annual Meeting

The 60th Annual Meeting of Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce was a time to recognize individuals, businesses and committees for their contributions to the community over the past year.

Business of the Year

Bryan Aasheim, incoming Chamber chair, spoke of IHS Pharmacy & Gifts, which was recognized as the 2016 Business of the Year.

In addition to having a pharmacy and gift shop that also provides full service deli meals, Aasheim said that IHS and owners Dean and Krista Stone are also

actively involved in the community. He emphasized a few of the many services the business provides, including their providing flu shots for local businesses and delivering telehealth medications to the schools.

As the Stones accepted the award, an emotional Dean Stone acknowledged the membership and those in attendance, saying that each one plays a part in making the community better.

Volunteer of the Year

Chamber Executive Director Jaime Riggs recognized the Volunteer of the

Year, Kathy Dixon.

Dixon, Riggs said, was very involved in the placement of downtown Christmas decorations and instrumental in helping set up for the annual Gala.

A newly-appointed Chamber director, Dixon was presented the Lynda B. Williamson Volunteer of the Year Award and will have her name listed on the perpetual plaque on display at the Welcome Center.

Committee of the Year

For their work with the Paint the

See **CHAMBER** p. 3



Logan Blizzard



Mya Boatwright



Emily Braner



Regan Carter



Emily Clifton



Mya Collins



Ella Grace Miller



Presley Smith



Alexis Snipes



Hagan Spears

Miss MHS to be crowned at pageant on Thursday

Thirteen girls will vie for the title of Miss Metter High School 2017 on Tuesday evening, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in Wilcox Auditorium. Admission is \$5 per person.

Through an application process, the girls are evaluated in the areas of academics, school and community involvement, and honors and awards.

A tea will be held Tuesday afternoon where the contestants will be interviewed individually by a panel of three judges. Tuesday night, the girls will be evaluated in an evening gown competition, and contestants who are chosen as a top five finalist will answer an on-stage question prior to the crowning of the new Miss MHS.

There will also be a People's Choice Award, a Miss Photogenic Award, and a Miss Congeniality Award given during the pageant.

Special entertainment will be provided by Studio South Dancers.

Jennifer Lewis, a Metter High School language arts teacher, and Mason Funderburke, Miss MHS 2016, will be the Masters of Ceremonies.

The proceeds from the Miss MHS Pageant support the Miss MHS Scholarship and Metter High School Band Program.

Proceeds from the People's Choice Award will go to the Metter High School Family, Career, Community Leaders of America Program.

Pageant participants are Logan Blizzard, daughter of Dwayne and Marie

Blizzard; Mya Boatwright, daughter of Reco and Hillary Coney; Emily Faith Braner, daughter of Butch and Jamie Braner; Regan Carter, daughter of Joe and Mandi Carter; Emily Clifton, daughter of Wes and Traci Clifton; Mya Collins, niece of Kendall Jordan; Ella Grace Miller, daughter of John and Kellie Miller; Presley Ann Smith, daughter of Matt and Regan Smith; Alexis Snipes, daughter of Billie Sue Fulmer; Hagan Mae Spears, daughter of Ben and Melissa Spears; Abby Sullivan, daughter of Clara Sullivan; Alaina Waters, daughter of Keith Waters and Leigha Byrd; and Abigail Zerwig, daughter of Randy and Holly Zerwig.

Five benches left for sale in downtown park

All but five of the downtown park's 19 benches have been sold. The remaining five can still be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis in memory or in honor of individuals, families or groups.

Benches are available for \$1,000 each, with a \$500 deposit (half the cost) due at the time of order.

Beth Odom of City Hall has a map with the bench's locations, so that specific benches can be purchased on a first come, first served basis.

The lampposts in the downtown park are not for sale as they were sold during an earlier park renovation phase. These lampposts will have new plaques to match other

plaques throughout the downtown area.

However, two lampposts are still available downtown -- one in front of IHS and one in front of Family Dollar. The lampposts can be purchased for \$1600 each.

For more information about benches or lampposts, call Beth Odom at City Hall, 685-2527.

ConnectCandler Class named

Ten community members were officially named to the 2017 ConnectCandler leadership class during Thursday's Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

The focus of ConnectCandler is to 'Create, Cultivate, Connect,' according to Chamber Executive Director Jaime Riggs.

Through the sessions, class members will be able to develop effective leadership skills, increasing their networking, engage in community projects, learn of Metter and Candler County's unique and diverse culture and develop skills in communication, active listening, group processing, team building and self evaluation.

The program will begin with a two-

day retreat March 3-4, led by Randy Peters, former president of Heart of Georgia Technical College in Dublin.

On April 5, the group will participate in a joint session with the Youth Leadership Class as the younger group graduates from their year-long session.

The second session, on May 5, will be held on conjunction with the University of Georgia and Chamber of Commerce Farm Tour.

The Poverty Simulation will follow on July 13, and a community assessment is planned for Aug. 10.

On Sept. 14, a Port Tour is in the planning stages and on Oct. 3, class members will participate in the

See **CLASS** p. 3



Monica Bohannon



Rose Marie Burke



Allen Cason



Tina Crooms



Jason Douglas



Audra Lee



Virgil Meridy



Tyler Riggs



Jessica Spears



Dustin Vernon

Obituaries

Eveleen Kemp Lanier
Judy Smith

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