



KIM JACKSON/ Lake Oconee News

Robert S. Cowles, driving force behind the Cowles Clinic.

Business Leader of the Year

Robert S. Cowles of the Cowles Clinic

Kim Jackson
Lake Oconee News

He's the father of two young children, the founder and driving force behind the Cowles Clinic in Greene County, and a founding parent of Redeemer Episcopal Academy in neighboring Putnam County.

Robert S. Cowles maintains a full-time medical and surgical practice in urology, and in his spare time is assembling the investment partnership that will underwrite construction of a 100,000-square-foot hospital for Saint Joseph's Health System at Ga. 44 and Old Linger Longer Road.

If it were possible to bottle and sell his energy, they would likely raise the money neces-

sary to build the entire complex by next Monday.

As it is, Cowles seems little daunted by the torpid economy prompting a number of hospitals – including Saint Joseph's rival Piedmont Health System – to downshift their expansion plans.

Few doubt his ultimate success. The 13-acre Cowles Clinic, which by now houses 36 medical specialties and 60 physicians, is only in its fourth year of operations, and already fulfilling its founder's vision of transforming rural health care in our time.

A few short years ago, the site was covered with the same species of Georgia pine that currently blankets the 100-plus acres destined for the new Saint Joseph's East Hospital.