



Family has feet in medicine

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SEWALL'S POINT -- The three brothers seated in an office of the medical building on Ocean Boulevard share memories of growing up in Martin County and a fondness for the community. Joe, Paul and John Jr. Schoppe, whose father has been a Stuart podiatrist since 1969, spent their childhood in Sewall's Point and played with children of other medical professionals.

And after time in South Florida, the Keys and Arizona, the three second-generation podiatrists returned to raise their families in the county where they grew up.

"It gave us a lot," said Joe Schoppe, 38, the oldest. "It made us who we are."

The three Schoppe brothers have combined practices in Ocean Medical Center in Stuart, which opened Feb. 24. The Family Foot and Ankle Clinic is in the building, 2220 S.E. Ocean Blvd.

All three brothers completed their graduate work at Barry University, where they used each others' notes and old tests to study.

When asked why his brothers entered the same medical field as him and his father, Joe Schoppe gave the answer you would expect to hear from an elder sibling.

"The truth is, they've always idolized me," he joked.

The brothers completed surgical residencies in various places before returning to Stuart.

Joe Schoppe completed a residency at Miami VA Health Care System and Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. He went into practice with his father in 2000. Paul Schoppe, 35, completed his residency in St. Luke's Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz., and returned to Stuart in 1999. John Schoppe Jr., completed his residency at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah and returned to Stuart in 2004 after working in the Keys. All had separate offices in the area before opening an office together.

Now, their dad is considering making it four Schoppes in one office.

Schoppe Sr. said he was glad when each of his sons decided to be a podiatrist.

"I knew they would be very happy in life," he said.

color Joe Schoppe, Paul Schoppe, John Schoppe Jr., John Schoppe

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