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## Early & Advance Voting Underway In Greene Cty.

Mike Malone, Greene County Election Superintendent, reports that Early and Advance voting will start on Wednesday, November 19th and continue through Wednesday, November 26th.

The voting location for the December 2nd election is the same as the General Election.

Seats to be decided in this election are U.S. Senate, Chairman of the Greene County School Board and Appeals Court Judge.

The hours of voting are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Registrars office is located at 1180 C. Weldon Smith Dr., Greensboro.

## The Ritz-Carlton's Lighting of The Lodge Is A Party with a Purpose



On Wednesday, November 26, The Ritz-Carlton Lodge will host its seventh annual Lighting of The Lodge, when some 1.5 million lights will illuminate the 251-room hotel on the shores of Lake Oconee. "They started stringing the lights in August," said Liza Kubik, Director of Public Relations. "This year, it will take a crew of 10 people 4 months to hang all the lights. They go all around the hotel exterior, in the trees, on the grounds and down our front drive. It's just an awesome display of sparkling white lights that will make you go "Wow!."

The lighting ceremony takes place around 6:30 p.m., but festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. and include a variety of activities guaranteed to light up little faces and immerse celebrants in the spirit of the season. Kids will enjoy a living nativity and petting zoo with chicks, ducks, goats, bunnies, sheep and a camel. The "Biggest Gingerbread House in the South" will be 10 feet wide and 14 feet high and be assembled in the resort's Lobby Lounge. This year's line-up of live, musical entertainment includes Saxophonist Jonathan Kilgore, Tenor Vocalist Dr. Greg Broughton, the Atlanta Vocal Project, and Mr. Charles Billingsley, recognized as one of the most gifted vocalists in contemporary Christian and inspirational music. The Lodge restaurants will offer guests a variety of seasonally-inspired food selections including Seafood Gumbo from Georgia's Bistro, BBQ Pork Biscuit from Gaby's on the Lake, and Linger Longer's famous Turkey Chili with Smoked Cheddar Cheese. These and other dishes will be served throughout the evening for a small fee, as well as several Cash Bars offering beer, wine, cocktails and soft drinks and fruit juices.

There is a huge charitable component to this event and last year over \$40,000 was raised and donated directly to support the efforts of local charities. Silent auction, live auction and raffle drawings held throughout the event benefit nonprofit organizations including the Greensboro Dreamers' Scholarship Fund and Camp Collinswood, providing programs for disadvantaged and disabled children. The raffle and auctions feature an outstanding selection of items from the area's finest companies, artwork

by extraordinary artists, unique luxury experiences and exciting vacations, and include trips to Ritz-Carlton Hotels including Cancun, Kapalua, Amelia Island, St. Thomas, San Francisco, Orlando, Sarasota, New Orleans, and Boston; golf at Reynolds Plantation and a private golf lesson with Charlie King; autographed sports paraphernalia and behind-home-plate seats at an Atlanta Braves game; lavish spa services; and a Thomas Arvid signed and numbered piece of artwork. Raffle tickets will be available at the event for \$5.

"We are thankful for the generosity and extraordinary support of our caring community that enable The Ritz-Carlton Lodge to operate at our greatest potential," said Steven Freund, general manager. "And we are dedicated to adding value to and strengthening those communities that we serve and in which our Ladies and Gentlemen live - this dedication is at the heart of our company's Community Footprints philosophies and that of our owners, who have left their own footprint of lasting contributions while building a foundation for the future."

### Santa doesn't always come by sleigh.

While most of the details for the event have been provided, information on Santa's Surprise Arrival is being kept secret by event coordinators to avoid any specifics being leaked that may spoil the surprise. Lighting of The Lodge attendees have been thrilled in past years with the jolly man's surprise entrance, arriving by hang-glider, hot-air balloon and on the back of a United States Marine Core 7-Ton truck, while eagerly awaiting children scream with excitement. This year, Santa's arrival is sure to be a most famous and memorable experience. Make sure you have a camera to capture all the special moments of this year's celebration.

There is no cover charge for attending the Lighting of The Lodge. Gates open at 4 p.m. and festivities are planned to begin at 4:30 p.m. - rain or shine. Most of the activities take place outside, so guests are encouraged to dress accordingly.

(See more on page 3).

## Greene County School System Celebrates 2008-2009 'Teachers Of The Year'



Representing the five schools in the Greene County School System, this year's individual 'Teacher of the Year' honors went to, L-R: Megan Adams, GCHS, Sarah Stewart, Union Point Elementary, Kim Linder, Greene County Preschool, Tasha Grier, Carson Middle School, and Heather Moon, Greensboro Elementary School

It's that time of year again! The Greene County School System has announced the 2008 'Teachers of the Year'.

Chosen by their peers, this elite group will undergo intense interviews this week as part of the selection process in naming the overall district's 'Teacher of the Year'.

Representing Greene County High School is Megan Adams. Ms. Adams graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Georgia. She worked for a law firm for several years, but felt pulled in a different direction, somehow always knowing that she would teach. With that career aspiration decided, she returned to school for her Masters in Education. She attended Piedmont College and focused on secondary language arts. Ms. Adams decided to become what Piedmont calls an 'apprentice' teacher, applied in Greene County, and was hired. The great benefit of that was that she had a mentor professor from Piedmont who observed her teaching for that entire first year.

This is her fourth year teaching English at Greene County High School. She has taught Ninth Grade Literature, Tenth Grade World Literature, SAT Prep, Journalism, and this year she is teaching AP Language and Composition and American Literature. Thus far, she has enjoyed teaching AP Language and American Literature most. She is focusing her doctoral studies at UGA on work done by our students in tutoring programs, and those were started by girls in her AP courses. Ms. Adams is also currently the sponsor for the yearbook, the sponsor of the GCHS Mentoring Program, and President of GAE for Greene County.

This is the first year she has acted as the Academic Advisor for our Play It Smart program. This is her passion. She works with the

football team to help them academically so that "we can turn our players into the best young men they can be". The goal is to help them on the field and in the classroom, and Play It Smart is a national organization that allows only a handful of schools per year. It is an honor to be a part of that, and an honor for our boys. Megan truly enjoys all of her students, and loves sharing their successes with them.

She allows the school to honor the academic achievement of students who are not always honored for their intelligence. Ms. Adams feels it's great to see students take pride in their ability in the classroom as well as their athleticism.

Tasha Grier has the honor of representing Carson Middle School as their 'Teacher of the Year'.

Ms. Grier is a 1997 graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts School. She is a 2001 graduate of Georgia Southern University. She is a 2004 graduate of Georgia College and State University. She is also a 2007 graduate of Georgia Southern University with a Specialist Degree in Teaching and Learning.

She is the Math Department Chairperson at the middle school where she also teaches 7th and 8th grade mathematics in both the gifted and regular education settings.

Ms. Grier is a member of the Professional Learning Committee of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators(PAGE). She is a member of the advisory board of the *Breath of God Magazine*, where she is also a contributing writer.

She is an ordained minister of the Rocky Branch Baptist Church where she is the Director of the Church Choir as well as the President of the Women's Auxiliary.

Tasha is a member of JUDAH, a music ministry of young adults from around Macon, Georgia.

She mentors and tutors and has a heart for helping children. In 2002, she was given the vision for the Good

Girls to Wonderful Women mentoring organization, designed to help young women excel to be the best they can be.

Sarah Stewart was chosen by her peers at Union Point Elementary as their 'Teacher of the Year'. Sara is a first grade teacher at Union Point Elementary School. She has taught for seven years in Greene County and for five years in Dooly County.

She has experience teaching Pre-kindergarten and third grade. Mrs. Stewart believes that her students learn best when school is exciting and learning is fun. She is a graduate of Mercer University and the University of Georgia.

Mrs. Stewart lives in Greene County with her husband, Travis, and her step-son, Micah.

Mrs. Hoyle, Instructional Lead Teacher at Union Point Elementary, commented: "Sarah is a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher who is child-centered. The passion she possesses for her students is evident on a daily basis. She enthusiastically works daily to do whatever it takes to get her students to learn! Additionally, she is respected by her peers and is consistently dependable in attending to all facets of her job."

The faculty at Greensboro Elementary School chose Heather Moon to receive their prestigious honor.

Heather Moon has been a second grade teacher at Greensboro Elementary School since 2001. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Georgia College and State University in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree from Troy State University in Educational Leadership.

Heather was born and raised in Greene County and continues to reside here with her husband Eugene.

She exudes patience, warmth

and compassion in her teaching and ensures that each child is successful. Heather is very organized and efficient with her work and always goes above and beyond her regular duties.

Our last tribute goes to The 'Teacher of the Year' for Greene County Preschool, Kim Linder.

Kim Boswell Linder joined Greene County Preschool in 2006 bringing 26 years of teaching experience and a Master's degree in early childhood from UGA and Georgia College and State University along with a sincere love for engaging children to learn, grow, and reach their highest potential.

There can be no more important agenda anywhere than to begin the educational career of every young mind on the most positive note possible. Being named Teacher of the Year for Preschool in 2007-2008 as well as 2008-2009 shows her clear vision of the importance of creating an exciting, nurturing environment where high standards of learning are set based on individual student needs.

Kim has proven results of student achievement with every level from inclusion to gifted students and strives to set the tone for learning by building self-confidence and a true love for learning in all students.

What a wonderful, enthusiastic group of teachers. Each and every one of these candidates vying for the honor of representing the district as 'Teacher of the Year', would be an extraordinary choice. They all exhibit a clear passion for education and having a small part of encouraging our youth at any grade level to reach for the stars. Because of that, they are all stars in their own right.

Congratulations to each and every one of them.

**JIMMY BRITT**  
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