



Healdsburg District Hospital names new emergency department in honor of family's \$2 million donation

The Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County and the Healdsburg District Hospital Board of Directors have announced that the new Emergency Department at Healdsburg District Hospital will be named after the Wetzel Family of Healdsburg. Harry and Maggie Wetzel recently made a donation of \$2 million to the Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County for Healdsburg District Hospital.

"My wife, Maggie, and I are delighted to make this contribution to benefit Healdsburg District Hospital and we are honored that they have named the Emergency Department after our family," said Harry Wetzel. "Healdsburg is a tight-knit community and we wanted to do something that would benefit our friends and neighbors. We are pleased that our gift has made an immediate positive impact on our town and that it will continue to benefit future generations."

Construction on the expanded emergency room at Healdsburg District Hospital began on Sept. 12, 2006 and is expected to conclude in March 2007. Overall the improvements will increase the emergency staff's speed and efficiency, allow-



Harry and Maggie Wetzel were honored for their \$2 million dollar donation to the Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County and in recognition of the gift the new emergency department at Healdsburg District Hospital will be named The Wetzel Family Emergency Department. The dedication and groundbreaking took place last Thursday, Oct. 26.

ing them to care for twice as many patients, while giving the patients more privacy. Significant changes include a centralized nurse's station and state-of-the-art monitoring equipment that can be accessed remotely for Web based consultations with doctors at other hospitals. The project is expected to cost approximately \$3 million. In an effort to save money on construction costs, the hospital is the first in the state to install a pre-built modular unit.

"It's crucial that we improve our emergency department. This is a critical chapter in our hospital's history and will be a catalyst for future strategic initiatives," said Evan Rayner, CEO of Healdsburg District Hospital. "Our philosophy is to bring more services to people who live and work in Northern Sonoma County."

The foundation has been raising money for this project for the past five years. "We are so grateful to the Wetzel Family and all the generous members of our community who have contributed to this effort," said Marian Van Alyea, vice president of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "Our Foundation supports the hospital's efforts to keep excellent healthcare close to home. The Wetzel's and other generous families are making that possible."

The Wetzel family has been a vibrant part of the community in Northern Sonoma County for decades. Maggie and Harry Wetzel bought property in the area in 1962 and then founded Alexander Valley Vineyards in 1975. Maggie is an expert on Alexander Valley history. She and her husband restored a home and buildings on their property, which originally belonged to pioneer Cyrus Alexander, after whom Alexander Valley is named. The Wetzel's have also generously supported the fine arts in Sonoma County and San Francisco.

A formal dedication and groundbreaking of the Wetzel Family Emergency Department was held last Thursday, Oct. 26.