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**West Florida Healthcare to Begin Construction of
New Freestanding Emergency Room in Perdido Bay Area**

PENSACOLA, FL – October 13, 2016 – West Florida Healthcare is proud to announce the construction of a new \$10 million freestanding Emergency Department on the west side of Escambia County near Perdido Bay. **The Perdido Bay Emergency Room** will be located on the northwest corner of Highway 98 and Blue Angel Parkway and will be ready to see patients in August of 2017.

“We are thrilled to be constructing a freestanding emergency room for the residents of the Perdido Bay area,” said **Jim Cronley**, Chairman, West Florida Healthcare Board of Trustees. “The population of that area continues to grow and we are happy to be part of that growth by providing new jobs and services that are designed to meet and exceed the healthcare needs of that community.”

The new Perdido Bay ER will include 11 private patient beds, laboratory and diagnostic imaging services, including a 64-Slice CT scan, ultrasound and digital x-ray. The 10,820 square foot building also includes an ambulance entrance and convenient parking.

“From the very beginning of discussions about this project, it has been our goal to make it a true emergency department by including a full complement of services, staff and technology,” said **Mark Stavros, M.D.**, Medical Director of West Florida Healthcare’s Emergency Department. “We will be equipped to handle everything from scrapes and sprains to patients who are experiencing chest pain and the symptoms of a stroke. Our nurses, physicians and staff will be trained in advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support.”

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“Our research indicates that we will serve more than 150,000 adults and pediatric residents of West Pensacola, Perdido Bay and South Alabama” said **Brian Baumgardner**, President and CEO of West Florida Healthcare. “This new emergency room answers the need for increased healthcare services in this community which have declined over the past few years, due in part by the closing of the Naval Hospital emergency room.”

“The physicians and staff of the ER at West Florida Healthcare have worked diligently over the past few years to focus on delivering both quality care and a compassionate patient experience,” said **Christopher Dorvault, M.D.**, Chief of Staff at West Florida Healthcare. “As evidence of this, West Florida is the only hospital in our area to be named a Top 100 Hospital in the nation two years in a row by Truven Health Analytics and receive in “A” rating in patient safety from the independent hospital watchdog The Leapfrog Group. This is the level of experience and expertise that West Florida Healthcare will be delivering in the new Perdido Bay ER.”

“To have West Florida Healthcare make this kind of investment in our community and to be providing jobs and services that are needed is a huge win for us,” said **Lynn Mortimer**, Perdido Bay Chamber of Commerce. “We have worked with West Florida Healthcare in the past and are looking forward to partnering with an organization that values quality, compassionate care.”

The Perdido Bay ER will provide 24/7 on-site emergency medicine physicians and maintain a staff of approximately 40 healthcare professionals. Officials at West Florida Healthcare are currently working with state and county officials to obtain the necessary permits and approvals. This phase is scheduled to be complete and a ground breaking ceremony will take place in March 2017.

Facts about Perdido Bay ER:

- 24/7 adult and pediatric emergency care
- 11 private patient care beds
- Dedicated trauma room
- Diagnostic imaging, including 64-slice CT scan, ultrasound and x-ray
- Laboratory services
- Physicians specializing in emergency medicine on-site 24/7
- 40 full-time employees

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- Nurses certified in advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support
- Convenient parking

About the Project:

- Construction will begin in March 2017 and slated to open August 2017
- Located on a 9-acre site
- Nearly \$10 million project
- 10,820-square foot, one-story facility
- Expected to serve more than 150,000 residents of West Pensacola, Perdido Bay and South Alabama per year
- Building architect: Devenney Group Ltd. based in Phoenix, Arizona
- General Contractor: Deangelis Diamond Healthcare Group, LLC based in Naples, Florida

About West Florida Healthcare

The first hospital in the area to offer all private rooms, West Florida Healthcare proudly provides market-leading quality outcomes performance. Named for the second year in a row as one of the “100 Top Hospitals” in the nation by Truven Health Analytics, the facility has also been recognized as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for five years in a row by The Joint Commission, earned an “A” rating in patient safety from The Leapfrog Group, and named by *Becker’s Hospital Review* to its 2016 national list of “100 Great Community Hospitals.” The area’s first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. The hospital is also an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and offers specialized Emergency Department services tailored specifically to the needs of seniors as well as a Kids’ ER dedicated to serving the emergency medical needs of children. The West Florida Healthcare campus includes the all private room acute care hospital, the area’s only comprehensive, CARF-accredited physical rehabilitation hospital, and a mental health facility. Affiliated with HCA, the nation’s leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community’s healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine. For more information, visit www.westfloridahospital.com or call (850) 494-3212.

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