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INSIDE



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Surgical sanctuary



Robin Athey, the director of cardiac at Northwest Hospital, demonstrates how the table can move in the largest operating room in Arizona.

Randy Metcalf/The Explorer

Pima County board opposes Rosemont Mine

CHRIS FLORA
The Explorer

Tentative approval for the Rosemont Copper Mine was shot down on Feb. 4 after the Pima County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to submit a formal objection to the Coronado National Forest Service's final environmental impact statement.

The board's majority vote, which came after an extensive closed-door meeting, supports the stance of Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry that the study, initially released last November, is in need of more work before any future talks will be held.

While the complete details of the objection will not be formally released until Feb. 14, Huckelberry in past memos to the board has complained about potential negative impacts that could arise with Rosemont Copper Mine's arrival.

These include an increase in highway accidents, the loss of up to \$7 million annually in visitor spending, the loss of significant natural vegetation, and the creation of an unclean lake pit.

Huckelberry has consequently expressed concerns that the mine pit would be situated in an area "unsuitable for such an industrial use," and that the consequences to the public's health and safety would be long term.

The project being considered is a 955-acre open-pit mine about 30 miles south of Tucson in the Santa Rita Mountains, land managed by the Coronado National Forest.

See ROSEMONT, P12

Northwest Hospital completes \$50 million expansion project

CHRIS FLORA
The Explorer

Northwest Medical Center just got bigger and more hi-tech after the completion of a \$50 million surgical wing.

The hospital opened the doors to its new wing on Jan. 27, just one year and two days after groundbreaking.

The 60,000-square-foot expansion

features 16 operating rooms as well as specialized suites for cardiac procedures, robotic-assisted surgery, and spine and brain surgery.

The wing's hybrid suite, which at 1,000 square feet is the largest of its kind in Arizona, combines a cardiac catheterization lab and cardiac and vascular surgery capabilities into one space.

The goal with the hybrid suite is to provide doctors and patients

with a more effective and efficient way to perform multiple cardiac related procedures at once while minimizing patient transportation.

The room features two large monitors for reference during surgery, as well as an X-ray and monitoring machine that reduces the typical amount of radiation by as much as 85 percent, making for a safer environment for both the patient and doctors. A rotatable oper-

ating table allows staff ease of access to patients during surgery.

"It makes things easier and more convenient," said Robin Athey, director of cardiac catheterization. "You can have multiple doctors working side-by-side on a single patient using the latest tools and technology."

The hospital will began patient admittance to the hybrid room on

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