

# New executive chosen by Watsonville hospital

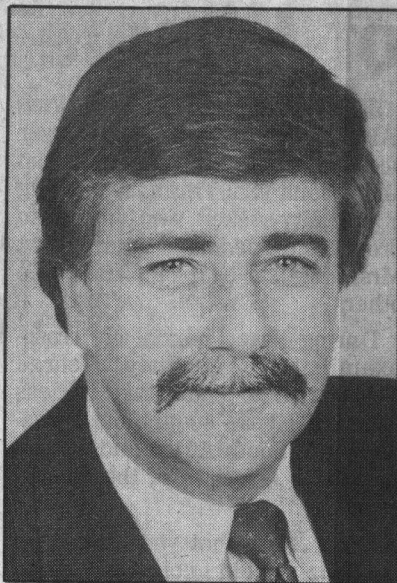
Watsonville Community Hospital has a new chief executive officer, John P. Friel, who began work Monday.

Friel has worked in the medical field for 25 years, beginning as a registered nurse and working his way up to administrative positions. He has been chief operating officer and chief executive officer for a number of 250- and 300-bed hospitals over the last 12 years.

According to a hospital press release, Friel most recently helped develop a 28-acre medical campus in Pleasanton, which is planned to become the hub of a multiple hospital system serving a population of 250,000. The release didn't say where the hospital was, and hospital officials could not be reached before press time.

Before that he was president and chief executive officer of Brookside Hospital in San Pablo for four years. During this period, the hospital's revenue grew as a result of his cost containment and revenue-enhancement programs.

The hospital board said Friel was selected for his demonstrated leadership in strategic planning, financial management, medical staff relations, employee and labor relations, board development and community relations.



**John P. Friel**

The 130-bed hospital is planning a new building to replace its current, earthquake-damaged one, and has been operating at a loss for some time. Friel replaces Paul Estess, who resigned from the hospital at the end of September. Sandy Grantz, a health-care consultant had been acting as interim CEO.

Friel and his wife, Connie, and their two sons, Jonathan, 11, and Brian, 7, will be moving to the area soon.