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## Hofstetter to leave Holy Cross

By J.R. Logan

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Taos Health Systems CEO Peter Hofstetter is resigning to take a job in Oregon.

Hofstetter broke the news in an email to Holy Cross Hospital employees Friday (June 6). Hofstetter said he will be leaving the first week in July, according to the email.

Hofstetter said in the email, obtained by *The Taos News*, the hospital board and Quorum — the company contracted to manage the hospital — would work to find an interim CEO “so that things remain relatively seamless.” Hofstetter said a search for a permanent CEO would also begin.

Hofstetter came to Holy Cross in 2009.

In recent years, Hofstetter has faced harsh criticism over his management of the hospital. Holy Cross lost three surgeons last year after administrators wanted to tie part of their pay to the amount of work they performed, and hospital employees have gone through multiple rounds of layoffs in an attempt to shore up a budget that's in the red.

Hofstetter has said the hospital's financial problems are largely tied to the amount of care the facility provides but which goes unpaid. He's also said the hospital has taken necessary steps to stay afloat.

Hofstetter said in the interview he felt no pressure from the board to leave Holy Cross.

Last fall, Hofstetter was a finalist for a CEO position at a hospital in Aspen, Colo. He was not chosen to fill the position.

Hofstetter said in his email to employees the job in Oregon would allow him to be closer to his family. Hofstetter's new position will be at Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville, Ore. He told *The Taos News* he has a daughter who lives in Portland, Ore.

Hofstetter also said in the email that he felt Taos Health Systems had made “great strides” in the face of a changing industry and other challenges specific to Taos.

“While I know that we have not always agreed on everything, I appreciate the hard work, support and efforts everyone has made to move us forward,” Hofstetter wrote.