



THE TAOS NEWS

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Letters

Concerned about Holy Cross Hospital

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When the majority of people voted in support of the Holy Cross Hospital bond issue, I assume they, like me, expected the generated monies would go toward much needed repairs and a guarantee of no more staff cuts. In fact, CEO Bill Patten even talked about hiring more physicians.

I was led to believe that the passing of the bond issue would safeguard care locally. However, this newest consideration by the hospital board to advocate for "critical access" designation would reduce the number of hospital beds, cut hospital stays to 96 hours and increase Medicare out-of-pocket expenses for those with no supplementary insurance.

Despite our support of the bond issue, care for Holy Cross patients would be jeopardized after all, if the critical access designation is approved. Any patient would have additional, perhaps devastating, expenses by having to pay for a move to another hospital if an illness warrants a stay longer than 96 hours and also buying a secondary health plan. Leading up to the bond vote, Patten assured us that that vote would secure good care in Taos. Now, it seems, the hospital is continuing to explore ways of generating more income for the hospital while jeopardizing patients' needs. How obligated are the Holy Cross administrators to the needs of Taos County residents? This question must be explored.