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June 22, 2016

Peggy Stout  
Mark Twain Health Care District  
P.O. Box 668  
San Andreas, CA 95249

Dear Peggy,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your support of Calaveras County's second annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This year's seminar topics were Developments in Dementia and Financial Fraud. We had the pleasure of hearing from three great speakers, Elizabeth Edgerly, Denise Davis, and Katie Carruesco. 58 individuals, including County Supervisors and Local Community-Based Organizations were educated on topics related to brain health, caregiving, Alzheimer's and financial abuse.

Elder abuse is a significant public health problem. Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited, showing the importance of educating the community.

We thank you again for the support in helping us touch the lives of so many older adults in and around the community. Everyone can make a difference, but together, we can unite as one nation. Take a stand against elder abuse!

Sincerely,

Kathi Toepel  
Commission on Aging

THANK YOU

June 2016

Thank you so much for the  
Scholarship! I truly appreciate it. It's going  
to help me greatly while attending Sac State.  
People like you help those like me shine.



Shelby Mason

(CHS)

Dear Mark Twain Healthcare District

I am extremely grateful to  
receive this scholarship.

This iPad will be an important  
tool throughout my schooling.

I can not thank you  
enough for your generosity  
and support!

Sincerely,

Buanna Zumet (CHS)



# Hospital deal misses deadline for November ballot



## Health district board considers independent operation

BY DANA M. NICHOLS  
DANA@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

Mark Twain Health Care District and Dignity Health on July 1 missed a deadline to put a proposed long-term lease before voters in the November general election. Now, says district Executive Director Damon Doss, negotiators are seeking to complete a proposed deal in time to hold a special mail ballot election in April and May of 2017.

The district board is also considering whether to hire

a consulting firm that could help the district make a plan for operating the hospital independently. During a special meeting Wednesday, the board voted 5-0 to ask for a detailed consulting proposal from Quorum Health, which provides consulting services to 150 hospitals, according to the company's website.

"The board has decided to listen to and, perhaps, engage a firm to do a consultation regarding the viability and the possibility of the Mark Twain Health Care District and the Mark Twain Medical Center being operated independently of any other health care system such as Dignity," Doss said.

Doss said the board will review the Quorum Health proposal at a public meeting on Aug. 3.

The question of who will

run the hospital has some urgency because the current 30-year lease expires at the end of 2019. Taxpayers own the hospital but it is run under the lease by Dignity Health, a nonprofit corporation that operates hospitals and care facilities in 17 states.

Dignity Health was formerly known as Catholic Healthcare West. When the organization changed its name in 2012, it also dropped its formal ties to the Roman Catholic Church.

Under California law, voters must approve any new lease or operations agreement for the hospital. Doss said that representatives of the district and Dignity Health still expect to come up with a proposal for a new lease, but were simply not able to complete all the language for such a deal in time to make the November ballot.

He said that the board needs to come up with a plan and get it approved in the next few years because it might take a year to put in place any significant change in operations, whether the hospital goes independent or seeks a new entity to run the operation.

This will be the first time that voters must approve the deal. State law did not require voter approval when the current lease was approved in 1989. During recent Mark Twain Health Care District Board meetings, members of the public have been asking questions about whether the existing agreement is in the best interest of county residents. Concerns raised include whether management fees the district pays to Dignity Health have the effect of draining resources away from the district.