

Letters to the editor

Thanks

Editor,

We all know how bad our health care system is and local hospitals do not work for the community, right? Does Sequoia Hospital work for you?

I would like to tell you about a recent experience I had at Sequoia Hospital. The short story is, I am soon to be a 47-year-old divorced self-employed male. The last time I was in a hospital as a patient I was 5 years old and they used ether as an anesthesia. Like many others, I have an expensive and useless medical insurance with a \$4000 deductible that I pay \$200 a month for. Well I was driving down 101 highway and a huge pain came over me in my back--I could not drive. I had no idea what was wrong but I knew something was bad and called 911 and was transported to Sequoia Hospital. I was diag-

nosed with a tumor in my kidney. The kidney was removed June 17 by Dr. Chris Threatt. I was out of the hospital in less than four days and home recuperating.

I found everyone at Sequoia extremely helpful and professional, whether they were a doctor, nurse, administrator, housekeeper or volunteer. All were pleasant and had me in mind at all times. Everyone was pleasant and the place was immaculately clean. Yes it's true, the best thing about being in the hospital is leaving breathing and it is no resort, but I have to say, I am totally impressed.

Does the health care system work? Is it affordable? Can you get the doctors and care required for any health care needed in a timely manner? Are local hospitals working? Do we have professionals working in our health care system? In my mind, you bet.

The four grand it cost me is a drop in the bucket of the total cost and countless people that helped me get back on my feet fast.

We can bitch all we want but look close and you will find it works and it worked better than any other place in the world. Thank you everyone from Redwood City Fire, AMS, Sequoia Hospital and most of all Dr. Chris Threatt. I wish to say, a big thanks goes out to all of you. You saved my life, family and friends. I will never forget the time, energy and kindness you put into our community hospital. I will remember how well it worked the next time they need support and if you read this, I hope you will as well.

**Bob Gutzell
San Carlos**