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WATSONVILLE

Hospital to receive zero-interest loan

State program to provide a total of \$300M in loans

By Nick Sestanovich
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WATSONVILLE » Watsonville Community Hospital was one of 17 health care centers throughout California to receive no-interest loans under the Distressed Hospital Loan Program, announced earlier this year by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Watsonville will receive \$8.3 million in loans.

The announcement was made

Thursday by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information.

The program was established through Assembly Bill 112, which aimed to author no-interest, working capital loans to hospitals and nonprofits facing financial difficulties. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Anna Caballero, D-Merced; Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, D-Salinas; and Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria, D-Merced. Soria authored the legislation following the closure of Madera Community Hospital in her district. The bill unanimously passed both the Assembly and Senate

and was signed into law by Newsom on May 15.

Included in the appropriations is \$2 million for Madera to cover basic operational costs as proposed administrator Adventist Health provides a comprehensive turnaround plan for the hospital, which once approved, will make Madera eligible for an additional \$50 million loan.

"I'm proud to have led this effort, and am grateful the Legislature and Governor moved quickly to ensure vulnerable communities across California have health care access when they need it most,"

HOSPITAL » PAGE 4



Watsonville Community Hospital received \$8.3 million in non-interest loans through the Distressed Hospital Loan Program Thursday.

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

WEST CLIFF DRIVE

Bethany Curve repair project inches forward



ARIC SLEEPER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

The area around the Bethany Curve bridge and culvert on West Cliff Drive experienced some of the worst damage during the winter storms.

Estimated cost of the project is \$10 million

By Aric Sleeper
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SANTA CRUZ » From ever-evolving traffic-calming strategies to the securing of federal funding and long-term visioning with a 50-year horizon, numerous departments in the city of Santa Cruz have their hands full with the restoration of West Cliff Drive.

The effort to repair the damaged, scenic roadway and pedestrian path caused by winter storms consists of two primary projects — the West Cliff Stabilization Project, or the construction of concrete infill walls and rip rap replacement at lo-

cations where the pedestrian path and roadway were heavily damaged, which are mostly along the 900 and 1000 blocks of West Cliff Drive — and the West Cliff Drive Bethany Curve Project. The Bethany Curve bridge and culvert currently serve as an impasse on the scenic roadway and will need substantial work before it is reopened to automobile traffic.

According to Santa Cruz Public Works Director Nathan Nguyen at the City Council's study session last week, finding contractors to construct the infill walls has been difficult.

"We've taken four infill projects out to bid in July," said Nguyen at the study session. "Unfortunately, contractors were really busy and we weren't able to obtain a contractor in early July. We are now actively

engaged with two local contractors to receive proposals by the end of this month to proceed with those four infill wall projects and we'll provide an update once we get those proposals in place."

Nguyen also said at the study session that the infill walls will ideally be completed by this winter, but the Bethany Curve project, which just received authorization to start accepting bids at the Santa Cruz City Council meeting Tuesday, should likely start in spring 2024. According to the City Council staff report from that meeting, completion of the culvert project is slated for next summer.

Santa Cruz city engineer Kevin Crossley gave a brief update at the Tuesday meeting about the bidding process for the infill walls and said that

they had been in contact with an interested contractor, Granite Construction, and were currently smoothing out the details.

"Things are progressing on that front," said Crossley. "Our hope is to get this package out to bid as soon as possible to start generating interest in this second phase of work."

The motion to start the bidding process for the Bethany Curve project, and use \$300,000 from the city's general fund for the culvert repair's design work was approved by the City Council in a unanimous vote.

The culvert restoration, which has a total estimated cost of \$10 million, is being designed by local consultant Mesiti-Miller Engineering. Although the culvert project is pricey, the city anticipates that the Federal Highway

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BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Founder Linda Burman-Hall dies at 78

She was a longtime music professor at UCSC

By Nick Sestanovich
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SANTA CRUZ » Linda Burman-Hall — an ethnomusicologist, musician and longtime UC Santa Cruz professor who brought the annual Baroque Festival to town, died suddenly Monday while traveling in Malaysia. She was 78.

Amy Beal, chair of the UC Santa Cruz Music Department, announced Burman-Hall's passing in an email to faculty.

"Linda joined the UCSC Music Department as a Lecturer in 1976, and has been a vital part of our community for the past 47 years," she wrote. "Her loss will be felt deeply throughout this community and beyond."

Burman-Hall had a lifelong love of music. Born in Los Angeles in 1945, she moved to Santa Cruz in 1970, where she hosted a radio show on KUSP. She received her Bachelor of Arts in music composition at UCLA and Master of Fine Arts in music theory at Princeton University. She served as a music theory lecturer at UCLA from 1973 to 1974 before moving to UC Santa Cruz, where she taught courses in early music, Balinese gamelan, research skills, theory and musicianship.

Leta Miller, a UC Santa Cruz music professor emerita, said Burman-Hall was the first faculty member she met when starting at the institution and the two became lifelong friends. The two performed together often, and Miller said Burman-Hall was a brilliant harpsichordist who was extremely knowledgeable about music history and many kinds of world music.

"Her facility on the instrument was absolutely amazing, but also her insight into musical interpretation into the inner meaning of the compositions she was performing was extremely perceptive," she said. "Her performances were heart-rending and beautifully moving."

Burman-Hall retired from teaching in 2014 but immediately took up the mantle of research professor at the university. Her research was centered on performance practices and improvisation in both Western and non-Western music, and specialized in Baroque and classical literature for early keyboards such as the harpsichord, organ and fortepiano. She was also an ethnomusicologist of traditional Euro-American and Indonesian music and had published articles on South American folk fiddling, traditional and contemporary Balinese and Sudanese gamelans and Ottoman music performances.

Burman-Hall's biggest contribution to the area was the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, which had its inaugural concert in 1972 and became a haven for the music of the era that dominated classical compositions from the 16th to 18th centuries. As artistic director, Burman-Hall curated the concerts and judged the youth chamber music and Bach chorale competitions. In addition to performing the great works of

OBITUARY » PAGE 4

CALIFORNIA

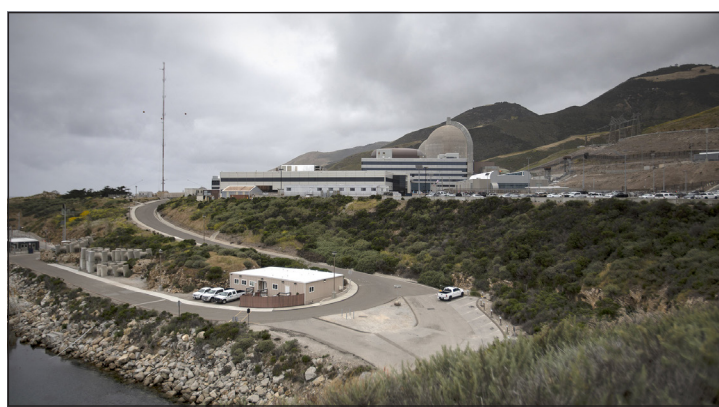
Group suffers setback in fight to close last nuke power plant

By Michael R. Blood
The Associated Press

A California judge on Thursday rejected an environmental group's lawsuit that sought to block the state's largest utility from seeking to extend the operating life of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Friends of the Earth sued in state Superior Court in April, hoping to derail a state-backed proposal to keep the twin-domed plant running for at least five additional years. The group was part of a 2016 agreement with operator Pacific Gas & Electric to shutter the state's last nuclear power plant by 2025.

Amid concerns over power supplies in a changing climate, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature opened the way for PG&E to seek a longer lifespan last year. In legal filings, the environmental group argued that the 2016 deal to close the reactors "is not fully extinguished," and that the util-



LAURA DICKINSON — THE TRIBUNE VIA AP

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is seen on June 1 in Avila Beach.

ity would break what it called a binding contract if it asked federal regulators to extend the operating licenses.

In an 18-page ruling, Judge Ethan P. Schulman dismissed the complaint, agreeing with the company that Friends of the Earth was asking the court to "impermissibly hinder or interfere" with state regulatory

oversight of the seaside plant, located midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

If the group's request was granted, the court would be placed in conflict with state regulators, and it would "enmesh the court in complex questions of energy, economic and environmental policy" that are best handled by the California Public

Utilities Commission and other agencies, Schulman wrote.

The group said it might appeal.

"The fight to shutter Diablo Canyon is not over," Hallie Templeton, legal director for Friends of the Earth, said in a statement. The group has a separate case pending in federal court involving regulatory issues tied to the plant's operation and possible extension of the licenses.

In a statement, PG&E spokesperson Suzanne Hosn said the company is following California energy policy "and our actions toward relicensing Diablo Canyon Power Plant are consistent with the direction of the state."

The operating license for the Unit 1 reactor expires next year, and the Unit 2 license expires in 2025. The company intends to apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the end of the year to extend operations by as much as two decades.

NUCLEAR » PAGE 5

Coast Lines

SANTA CRUZ

Summer paving program begins Monday

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development and Infrastructure announced that its summer paving program will begin road repairs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Sept. 1 on Smith Grade Road, between Empire Grade Road and Bonny Doon Road on Monday.

Traffic will be reduced to a single lane with traffic-control measures in place and the commuters traveling through the area are asked to plan for 15-minute delays.

For up-to-date information on county-maintained roads in Santa Cruz County, visit scroadclosure.org.

SANTA CRUZ

Natural Bridges seeks monarch docents

Natural Bridges State Beach is seeking volunteers to share the monarch lifecycle and migration with the public in the visitor center and outside in the grove. Help lead school programs and discover the many ways you can help at the park.

Come join the Natural Bridges docent team by attending the five-week monarch training session. Training is 2-6 p.m. every Sunday from Sept. 10 to Oct. 8. To sign up online, visit naturalbridgesvolunteer.com.

For information, call 831-423-4609 ext. 3 or email naturalbridges@ports-ca.us.

CAPITOLA

Senior center hosts Friday benefit dance

The Ten O'Clock Lunch Band will play for a benefit dance and concert from 7-9:30 p.m. Friday at the Mid-County Senior Center, 829 Bay Ave., Capitola.

Cost of admission is \$10.

The Mid-County Senior Center provides a variety of programs and activities for the local community. All ages are welcome to participate in the dances.

CAPITOLA

Dog training club offers obedience classes

The 57-year-old nonprofit Monterey Bay Dog Training Club Inc. is offering dog obedience training classes starting Saturday at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville and Monday at the Mid-County Senior Center, 829 Bay Ave., Capitola.

The club offers all stages of obedience training from puppy to advanced. Register for classes online.

For detailed descriptions of classes, location details and registration, visit montereybaydog.org/. The eight-session instruction is \$120.

SANTA CRUZ

Elks Lodge hosts Oktoberfest event

The Santa Cruz Elks Lodge will host its annual Oktoberfest fundraiser from 3-7 p.m. and it will be held at the lodge, 150 Jewell St., Santa Cruz.

Guests will enjoy a festive atmosphere featuring German food and live music by Alpinesound. Beer provided by Discretion Brewing will be available for purchase and the lodge bar will be open. All ages are welcome.

Doors open at 3 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids ages 10-17 and younger. The event is free for ages 9 and younger. To purchase tickets online, visit 2023santacruzoktoberfest.eventbrite.com. Larger groups can call the lodge for table reservations at 831-423-8240. All event pricing includes sales tax.

Proceeds from the event will support the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Inc. which provides free therapy for children with disabilities.

BEN LOMOND

Valley Churches to host anniversary gala

Valley Churches United will host its 40th anniversary Ruby Gala from 6-10 p.m. Sept. 22 at Roaring Camp's Bret Harte Hall, 5401 Graham Hill Road, Felton.

Join the festivities and celebrate forty years of serving the community. Come and hear the stories and learn more about an organization that provides vital services and bridges the gap for those in need throughout San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Bonny Doon.

Appetizers and a buffet will be provided by Bruno's Bar and Grill. The evening entertainment will also include a silent and live auction, local beer and wine and live music by the Joint Chiefs Band.

To purchase tickets, visit vcum.org. For sponsorships, auction donations and other details, call 831-336-8258 ext. 229.

WATSONVILLE

Taiko drum classes to begin Sept. 1

Watsonville Taiko's fall Introduction to Taiko class starts at 10 a.m. Sept. 1 at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville.

Introduction to Taiko class is recommended for individuals new to taiko drumming. You will learn basic forms and foundational skills needed for drumming. Beginning Taiko is for students who have already learned taiko basics and have begun to learn music pieces.

Friday schedule:

- 10-11 a.m.: Introduction to Taiko for adults.
- 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: Adult beginning Taiko.
- 4:30- 5:30 p.m.: Children's beginning Taiko (age 8 and older).
- 7-8 p.m.: Adult beginning Taiko.

Saturday schedule:

- 9-10 a.m.: Introduction to Taiko for adults.

The registration fee for new students is \$35. The class fee is \$120 per eight-week session for adult students. Children's beginning/intermediate Taiko fee is \$90. The fee for older children (16 and older) is \$110 per eight-week session. Bachi (drumsticks) are \$15.

For information, or to reserve a spot in a class, email info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

SOQUEL

Peace chorale opens rehearsals to public

The Santa Cruz Peace Chorale invites all interested community members to attend open rehearsals in September. The first rehearsal is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 2402 Cabrillo College Drive, Soquel.

The peace chorale is a non-audition mixed-voice community chorus now entering its 23rd season. It performs in concert halls and on street corners.

Masking is now optional, except for those who are not vaccinated and boosted. For information, email avandlt@cruzio.com or visit santacruzpeacechorale.org.

Send us your Coast Lines

If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays. To view previous Coast Lines items, visit SantaCruzSentinel.com/tag/coast-lines.

Hospital

FROM PAGE 3

Soria said in a statement. "We've delivered \$300 million in immediate aid. And in the Central Valley, Madera Community Hospital is on the path to receive \$50 million in financial assistance. This is tremendous news, and I'm hopeful Madera will reopen. We have more work to do, but this is a major step in the right direction."

Also included in the program is \$8.3 million for Watsonville Commu-

nity Hospital, which survived its own near-closure scare last year. In December 2021, the hospital's owner at the time — Hansen Healthcare — declared bankruptcy with plans to sell or shutter the hospital, which has been in the community since 1895. Watsonville's state Senate representative, Sen. John Laird, introduced Senate Bill 418 to create a health care district that would allow the hospital to keep operating. It was signed by Newsom in February 2022.

With this new district came the establishment of a fundraising arm, the Wat-

sonville Community Hospital Foundation, which is in the early stages of a strategic planning process. A community survey was also recently authorized to gauge community interest in a potential bond measure.

The program has also allocated \$10 million toward Hollister's Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital which, like Watsonville Community Hospital, falls within Rivas' district.

"I commend Assembly-member Esmeralda Soria and Governor Newsom for their leadership, and I am grateful that two Central Coast hospitals will

see immediate financial assistance," Rivas said in a statement. "I'm also proud that our state has been able to provide a lifeline to many small, rural hospitals, which are closing at record rates in other states, but California has shown a commitment to maintaining access to care for all. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that our communities continue to have the best health-care services. I am very pleased we were able to quickly deliver this financial help to our hospitals that need it most."

For information on the program, visit HCAI.ca.gov.

Project

FROM PAGE 3

Administration will reimburse about 88.5% of the cost, which leaves the city with a bill of around \$1.15 million.

In Mesiti-Miller Engineering's investigation and analysis of the culvert, a few repair alternatives were considered,

according to the staff report. Those alternatives included the rehabilitation of the existing culvert and headwalls or the complete replacement of the structures. Because of the substantial damage to the more than 100-year-old structure, the firm and city staff concluded that a total replacement would be the most cost-effective and resilient solution.

According to the staff

report, the tentative plan for the Bethany Curve project includes "the installation of new culvert headwalls, elevation of the road surface to reduce the potential for wave overtopping events, new concrete guardrails that will meet current height standards and further protect against wave overtopping, and restoration of paving, sidewalk and the reconnection of

drainage inlets."

Once a contractor is secured through the bidding process, Public Works staff will bring the matter back to the council to authorize the construction agreement and provide an update on the anticipated Federal Highway Administration funding.

For information and updates about the West Cliff Drive restoration work, visit cityofsantacruz.com.

Obituary

FROM PAGE 3

Vivaldi and Bach, Burman-Hall chose some inventive themes for each concert, such as a celebration of music written for Shakespeare's plays to a music collage set to the territory-marking sounds of Kloss' gibbons, an endangered primate native to the Mentawai Islands just west of Sumatra.

Burman-Hall told the Sentinel in 2013 that her goal was to not only perform Baroque-era compositions but to present a similar setting to what audiences might have experienced when witnessing this music, right down to having period-appropriate attire and instruments, a stark contrast to Santa Cruz Shakespeare's modernizations of productions from a similar time.

"When you look at what they do, they present actors in costumes and settings of various modern guises, but they don't change the words of the play," she said. "We don't do that. We try to produce everything authentic to the

period in which it was first performed."

Miller said she performed with Burman-Hall many times at the festival.

"Some of the times when I performed with her in the early years, she had us all appear in Baroque costumes," she said. "I still have a photo on my wall of myself in Baroque costume with a Baroque flute that was taken as part of the publicity for the festival in the early years."

Burman-Hall, who often performed music by Medieval mystic Hildegard of Bingen, was less strict about which compositions could be performed at the Baroque Festival, with some dating as far back as the Middle Ages and also including folk, Celtic, Turkish and Romani music.

"I would say we do about 75% of our program from the Baroque," she said in 2013. "But we will fearlessly run back to the Middle Ages as well."

Miller said the festival was a great showcase for musical talent.

"The performances were of that high-end caliber," she said. "She used some local musicians, but she

also brought in great artists from around the country and around the world. What the festival offered to the community is absolutely remarkable."

Burman-Hall performed or recorded with such artists as Meredith Monk, Steve Reich, Judith Nelson, Max van Egmond, Randall Wong, Elizabeth Blumenstock, the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Chanticleer, the American Baroque Ensemble, Music Pacific and Lux Musica, the Baroque Festival's house ensemble. She was named Santa Cruz County Artist of the Year in 1994 and received an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000.

She was also a board member for the Santa Cruz community radio station KSQD. The station paid tribute on its Facebook page, recalling how she and sound engineer Sandy Stone drove out to San Jose to pick up the station's eventual mascot, a 12-foot animatronic squid named Squidmore, after a caller said they wanted to donate a squid to the station.

"She was one of the key board members who was there at the very beginning," the station wrote.

"May her memory be a blessing and her life be an inspiration."

Mathilde Rand, the station's treasurer, said she was very resourceful in everything from the station's pledge drives to bringing in connections from UC Santa Cruz.

"She just knew how to put pieces in place into the whole puzzle of putting KSQD together that helped make it so compact and so functioning as it is right now," she said.

Miller said that Burman-Hall was very supportive of her students and department colleagues.

"There was a collaborative spirit in the department where we made music together," she said. "Linda really encouraged the collaboration, working together, and a lot of us made music together, which is just unbeatable."

Miller said Burman-Hall left an indelible mark on Santa Cruz's flourishing music scene.

"Her contributions to the music scene in Santa Cruz County are going to leave a huge hole," she said.

Details regarding a memorial service have not yet been publicly announced.

College

FROM PAGE 1

engage the wider community on a naming timeline and process that unifies rather than divides the greater college community."

In a recent Zoom interview with the Sentinel, subcommittee members and trustees Christina Cuevas and Adam Spickler along with Subcommittee Secretary and Cabrillo Superintendent/President Matthew Wetstein said that although they hadn't held a follow-up meeting and had no definitive plans to share yet, the three-month pause will give them time to reflect and brainstorm ways to address common concerns.

"One of the things that we keep hearing is that people were surprised that this was happening; that it seemed like all of a sudden this was news that they hadn't heard about," said Cuevas, who chairs the subcommittee. "That for us was like, OK, we need to regroup here and what kind of process do we need to consider as we move forward to engage various parts of the community more effectively?"

First and foremost, the subcommittee plans to address this by prioritizing in-person meetings going forward and moving away from the virtual format it had to adopt, in part, due to the coinciding disasters of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 CZU Lighting Complex Fire that ripped through the San Lorenzo Valley about a month after the subcommittee formed.

"The tenor of the (Zoom) conversations was really different than when we were able to meet people in person and that was made really clear to us during the forums we had this sum-

mer around the name selection," said Cuevas.

The subcommittee hosted five forums this summer — three of which were in-person — where the five name finalists were publicly shared and discussed. Cuevas said that when compared to virtual settings, the in-person forums allowed for better engagement, question-and-answer periods and a general openness from attendees to actually changing their minds.

The prospect of changing the name first arose in July 2020 when a group of more than 100 students, faculty and Cabrillo staff submitted a petition for the change following a critical analysis of the school's namesake, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. According to a 70-page report prepared by the subcommittee, Cabrillo is famous for his 16th-century expeditions along the California coast and went on to amass a large personal fortune. However, his expeditions "set the stage for colonial conquest of California and the subjugation of natives who had lived in this region for centuries."

The board voted 6-1 to find a new name for the school at a November meeting last year.

In 2021, the subcommittee hosted eight community dialogues and six public educational sessions on Zoom while the COVID pandemic was still raging. Recordings of the educational sessions along with frequently asked questions, a detailed timeline of the name exploration process and other resources are online at cabrillo.edu through the "governing board" page.

Wetstein said he feels that an effort to reach beyond the computer screen could also help shed a brighter light on opinions from the school's student population.

"Trying to make a decision in August doesn't allow for student input. ... We tend to have underrepresentation of student voice," said Wetstein, noting that while previous surveys and forums did capture it to some extent, virtual meetings prevented it from breaking through to an appropriate degree. "There might be some creative ways to think about student voice and engagement that we haven't touched on yet."

Additionally, because the process began more than three years ago, many of the Cabrillo students in 2020 are likely no longer taking classes at the school, meaning the subcommittee will need to engage with many new students for the first time.

Asked about commissioning a scientific poll or survey to see where the community lands on the issue, Wetstein said the subcommittee needs to talk through the possibility. It has already conducted several community surveys both before and after the name change decision, but all have limited reliability due to issues such as non-random sampling and over-subscription to certain demographics.

But scientific surveys are expensive and the board has pledged not to spend any public funds on the renaming effort, which has been estimated to cost \$400,000 to \$600,000.

So far, roughly \$2,500 in private funds have been pledged for the name-change effort, causing some in the community to voice concerns that the financials for the change aren't adding up. But Spickler clarified that the fundraising campaign was soft-launched in response to some in the community wanting to contribute to the effort and that when the time comes, there are

other grant opportunities to explore through charitable foundations that support the kind of work the governing board is engaged in.

"The kind of work to raise money that is grant-driven is a completely different ballgame than throwing up a GoFundMe-type link and asking the local community to donate money," said Spickler.

Wetstein also wanted to dispel the narrative that the renaming effort has prevented the board from working toward other priorities for the past three years. According to Wetstein, the school has brought in \$11.7 million in state and federal grants since 2021 for initiatives that have included becoming a Hispanic-serving institution, expanded availability of learning technology and the launch of the Rising Scholars Program. Cabrillo also continues to pursue a student housing project at its Aptos campus.

"There's a lot of substantive work that the college is doing that's really fascinating that's getting lost in this discussion/debate," said Wetstein. "This is an incredible college and the reason people have affection for it is the hard work people are doing to try to transform people's lives in this community."

As for the idea that the subcommittee's work to develop a community engagement strategy might include the board reconsidering its decision to change the name, Cuevas said that is not part of what was asked of the subcommittee.

"We did not get a direction from the board in August that we should include going back to the original decision," said Cuevas. "My feeling is that the board is still with us on that notion that we are moving forward with the name selection, just not now."