

Cabrillo will begin classes in Watsonville next month

By JESSE CHAVARRIA
STAFF WRITER

Plans by Cabrillo College to establish a center in downtown Watsonville will reach fruition next month.

The opening of the Cabrillo Watsonville Center at the La Manzana complex will be Aug. 10, and instruction begins Aug. 24.

The center — three classrooms, a reception area and an administrative office — will be open days and evenings, offer about 30 courses, and serve an estimated 600 students.

The establishment of the center comes after months of planning and preparation by college administrators and trustees, who want the college to do a better job of serving the Pajaro Valley.

Doug Barr, the Cabrillo College administrator in charge of getting center programs started, said, "We're so excited about being there, it's great. Everything's being put in place, the equipment has been

ordered, the remodeling is under way and we are in the process of determining staffing."

Barr said 17 daytime and 12 or 13 night courses will be offered, including basic English and math, business supervision and accounting, political science, history, nutrition and English as a second language.

Students can register as soon as the center opens, Barr said. The Aug. 10 opening date might suffer a delay of a day or two, depending on the progress of remodeling.

The interior will feature light-gray carpeting, off-white walls, and light-blue and tan furniture of wood and Formica.

Students who want to register for courses at the main Cabrillo campus in addition to courses at the Watsonville center can either mail registration forms or attend registration at the main campus next month.

Copies of the fall schedule will be mailed to area households next week and will include information about the

Watsonville center.

Cabrillo President Bob Agrella said this morning a special page in the schedule will highlight courses offered at the center.

"There will also be a strip across the front cover announcing the opening of the center. It will get lots of publicity because we have 80,000 copies of the schedule going throughout the county," he said.

Agrella spoke to the Watsonville City Council a couple of weeks ago in an effort to persuade some council members that the center would be good for Watsonville and should be allowed to operate downtown.

Council members had been concerned about the location and the potential to complicate downtown parking problems. After Agrella's appearance, the council approved Cabrillo's plans.

The Watsonville center is an effort by Cabrillo to increase enrollment by attracting students, particularly minority students, from the Pajaro Valley.