

# Bethany College's move postponed

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Bethany College will not be moving until 1995 at the earliest, the president of the college said Tuesday.

The college's board of trustees last year approved a plan to move the school to the Sacramento area by summer of 1994, but the college has yet to find a new home, said Bethany president Tom Duncan.

"We don't have a final place located. We really have two or three options that we've been looking at," said Duncan, who has been president of the college for the past two years.

The college, located in the hills near Highway 17 since 1950, signed a deal in December with two developers who want to buy the property.

Escrow won't close until certain conditions are met, said John Nicholson, who plans to develop the site with San Jose developer Barry Swenson.

One of those conditions is the developer's filing of a revised plan for the development with Scotts Valley planning officials, Duncan said.

"Assuming that Nicholson and Swenson can submit it next month or so, I expect Scotts Valley could deal with it by early fall," Duncan said.

Environmental impact reports and public hearings on the plan are more conditions that need to be met, Nicholson said.

If escrow closes, the school won't be forced to move out, Duncan said.

"We wrote our agreement so we can go ahead and close (escrow) with the buyers and we would lease the campus back for up to a year," he said.

Nicholson and Duncan would not say how much money Bethany will be paid for the college's



Bethany's Tom Duncan said the school is looking for a home.

buildings and 80 acres of land.

The school's land, gymnasium, child-care center, office buildings and homes have valued at about \$30 million, although Duncan said real estate prices have dropped since that estimate was made.

If the college doesn't find a new home right away, development could begin on parts of the property not used by the school, Duncan said.

"We're not using all of our property now and they could go ahead and develop certain pieces of it," he said.

One of the sites considered by Bethany officials is the Capitol Christian Center in Sacramento, Duncan said.

The center has a large church and adjacent acreage the college could lease from the Sacramento school district, Duncan said.

"We have been having conversations with them," he said.

The college will have to move during one of the school's semester breaks in the summer or winter of 1995, he said.

The housing development proposed in 1992 has undergone few changes, Nicholson said. The proposal included a 186-unit housing development, a town center, swimming pool, general store or possibly tennis courts, Duncan said.

The school's gymnasium will be torn down under the revised plan for the site because the city doesn't want it, Nicholson said.