

CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE**WORKERS INSTALL FINAL TOUCHES ON DIENTES BUILDING**

SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Daniel Alaniz and Jose Manuel Orosco guide the final exterior beam into place on Wednesday as Dientes Community Dental Care's new 11-chair clinic takes shape at 1500 Capitola Road. The project at the site is a collaborative initiative which also includes a 20,000-square-foot, two-story Santa Cruz Community Health facility that will provide medical, behavioral health, and specialty care with a focus on pediatrics, and 57 affordable residential units by MidPen Housing. Wednesday's "Topping Ceremony" including placing a beam signed by staff at Dientes in a traditional rite traditionally held by builders when the last beam. The practice of "topping out" a new building can be traced to the ancient Scandinavian religious rite of placing a tree atop a new building to appease the tree-dwelling spirits displaced in its construction. The Dientes and Santa Cruz Community Health clinics are projected to open concurrently in 2022 while MidPen Housing's units will be completed in 2023. Santa Cruz firm Bogard Construction is the main contractor on the project and underground utility installations and related site infrastructure work activities continue. The walls are up for the Dientes clinic and framing continues. For Santa Cruz Community Health's clinic, structural steel arrived this week installation is scheduled to start shortly.