

# LEDGER DISPATCH

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## Pittsburg center on time, on budget

By ROWENA COETSEE

L-1 (AUG 29)

**PITTSBURG** The red-tinged steel beams of the framework are in place, the floor's in and the walls are rising up next.

Commuters driving by on Highway 4 can still see the crane topping the city's new civic center and the structure is starting to look like, well, a civic center.

Work crews recently finished installing the corrugated metal curtain that will become part of the structure's three floors.

They're now busy laying wires for telephones and computers using that

floor decking on the upper floors, and in turn covering the whole thing with concrete slabs, said Joe Sbranti, who's overseeing the project as the Community Development Department's senior civil engineer.

Once the concrete slabs for the floors are in, people will see walls start going up, he said.

And for those watchdogs who impatiently have been ticking off the weeks and months since construction began in late October 1997, he has another message. The project's on time and on budget.

Workers are putting up the trussing that will form the basis for the

roof, Sbranti said, while some are grading the parking lot, pouring concrete for curbs and otherwise preparing the area to be paved in the next couple of weeks.

Although last winter's rains brought work to a halt a total of 73 days, Sbranti said the Benicia contractor "more than likely" will be done ahead of the agreed-upon September 1999 completion date.

The project's budget hasn't budged either, he said.

City officials still put the final cost at \$22.4 million.

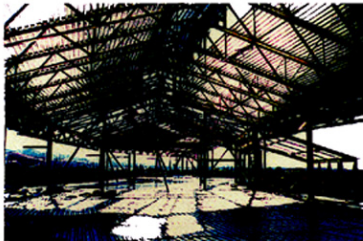
The contractor's bid accounts for \$18.8 million of that; the remainder

includes the cost of soil and welding inspections, asbestos removal, finishing the building and moving employees into it, Sbranti said.

The 71,000-square-foot building will bring most of the city's departments under one roof.

Along with the council chambers and city manager's office, the structure will house Pittsburg's leisure services, finance, community development, police and housing rehabilitation departments.

Public services administration managers also will report to work there.



DANIEL STANLEY/CLIPART

THE NEW PITTSBURG Civic Art Center stands out against the hills.