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Tarmo Hannula

Helping break ground for the Aegis Assisted Living facility in Aptos Tuesday are (from left) Tom Becker, Steve McCullagh, state acquisitions and development for Aegis, Karen Hibble, director for the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, Pam Zamani, vice president and branch manager for Coast Commercial Bank, Glenn Hammel Ph.D., Dwayne Clark, CEO of Aegis, and Sue Farrow, Aegis vice president of operations.

## Ground broken for assisted living facility

### STAFF REPORT

**APTOS** — Ground was broken Tuesday for a new assisted-living development which will house approximately 90 senior citizens in 84 units, in an effort to provide housing for an increasing population of elderly citizens. The \$10 million project is scheduled for completion in early spring.

The development — which is being built by Aegis, a company which has four other centers under construction — will include special accommodations for Alzheimer's patients, as well as senior citizens who require less assistance. The center will include video conferencing and other amenities designed to allow residents to lead active lives.

In addition, exercise areas — with drinking fountains available every 30 feet to avoid dehydration — will allow residents to exercise in a safe, controlled environment.

Tom Becker, executive director of Aegis, said during the ground-



An artist's illustration of the Aegis facility which will flank Soquel Drive on Heather Terrace just south of Cabrillo College.

breaking ceremony that the project is being designed to be a part of both the neighborhood and the community.

The demand for assisted living

centers has risen in the last few years, due to an increase in the average life-expectancy in the U.S. As people live longer, the competition for housing has increased.