

First pavilion coming down



The first of seven temporary pavilions erected after the earthquake is coming down.

Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Tent not needed as businesses move

By MARK BERGSTROM
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SANTA CRUZ — Since when is the closing of a building downtown a sign of recovery? When the building is a Phoenix pavilion, a tent-like structure erected after the earthquake to house retailers until they could get back on the Pacific Garden Mall.

One of those seven pavilions, located at the corner of Cedar and Locust streets, now stands empty and is due to be dismantled early next month, according to Linda Neall of the Downtown Association.

The Pavilion's major tenant, Cat n' Canary, has moved into new and permanent quarters near Cathcart Street, joining about a dozen other business open for business on the mall. Shandrydan, the pavilion's other tenant, has moved to another pavilion.

"It's a good sign that it's coming down," said Julie Hendee, co-owner of Cat n' Ca-

nary. "We'll always be grateful for the pavilion. It allowed us to survive in business," she said.

Hendee said she was at the Capitola Mall the day after the quake, looking for a new home for her clothing store, which had been in the Pacific Western Bank building.

"Then the pavilions emerged and we decided to stay (in Santa Cruz) and wait it out until the first building opened up," Hendee said.

The Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association and Cultural Council joined forces right after the earthquake to lease the pavilions at a cost of \$15,000 per month for sublease to homeless merchants.

Less than a month after the earthquake, a volunteer army of union craftsmen raised the huge tents, just in time for the Christmas shopping season. Hendee said Cat n' Canary

at first was allocated 1,900 square feet and then was able to double that space.

Last month, the first permanent space became available on the mall and Hendee and her partner, Kathleen McBurney, grabbed it.

"We did well enough in the pavilion — we made a profit — that we were able to leap into the new building. It was a big jump and it will be a big jump for all of the businesses when the time comes," she said.

Cat n' Canary opened on the mall July 5 but the owners waited until last Saturday for a formal grand opening. "There was a line at 10 o'clock in the morning and we had to force people to leave at 7," Hendee said. She said the store doubled its previous sales record in the store's 14-year history.

"Business has been beyond our wildest expectations," she said. "People are hungry to come back downtown," she said.

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REFERENCE

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