

## Louden Nelson Center renovation moves ahead

SANTA CRUZ — Renovation work on the Loudon Nelson Community Center is proceeding apace, with workers now fitting steel reinforcements into the walls, ceiling and foundation of the building.

"I'm impressed that there has been no vandalism at the building," said Recreation Supervisor Dannettee Shoemaker. "It's been shut since Dec. 31, and there has not been as much as a window broken. The neighborhood is really looking out for the center."

The center was closed down last year after a building inspection revealed a structure so shaky it was in danger of blowing

over in a strong wind.

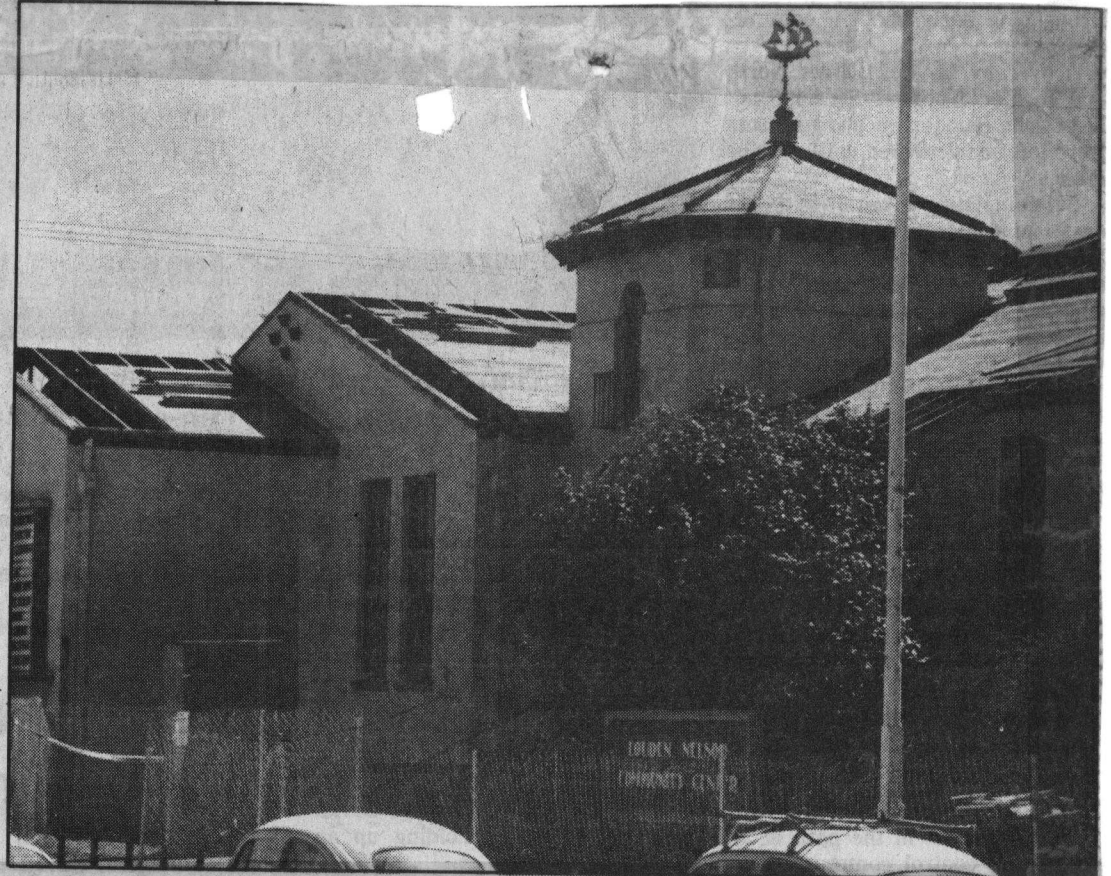
"It was like a house of cards," said Shoemaker. "The ceiling, walls and foundation were just stacked on top of each other."

According to Shoemaker, the structural work should be finished in December and the building will be reopened in January.

Progress at the center is being closely followed by the many community groups that were suddenly left homeless after the inspection. Some of the groups have found temporary homes in other places, such as local churches, the Civic Auditorium and at Harvey West Park.

Only one program, the weekly Popcorn Palace movie theater for kids, has been suspended until the center reopens.

Once the safety problems are taken care of, construction crews will expand the senior's dining area and build a new senior's lounge. The center's auditorium is also slated for major improvements.



Dan Coyo/Sentinel

The roof is gone off the Loudon Nelson Center.