Local news

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Felton hall still a bit short of funds

By KAREN CLARK Sentinel staff writer

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FELTON — A revised construction tally for the town's Community Hall shows the rebuilding effort is about \$185,263 short of having enough money to complete the project.

The latest report, which was revised on Thursday, reveals that the total cost of construction will be \$656,568, which includes a kitchen facility and furnishings.

The Felton Community Hall Club has

raised \$515,305 from insurance settlements, donations, a county grant and other fund-raising events. That money has paid for two phases of the rebuilding project, but isn't enough to finish the interior work or landscaping.

Gene Martin, president of the community club, said members still plan to raise the additional money to complete the project. Club Vice President Ralph Becker has been appointed events coordinator to help plan fund-raisers.

In addition, said Martin, the club will

apply for a special non-profit status that would allow people who give money or materials to the hall to write that donation off on their taxes. "We discovered that we were missing the boat on a lot of things," said Martin.

Scotts Valley attorney Jeff Almquist, who is running for Fred Keeley's seat on the Board of Supervisors, is helping prepare that application.

The club's fund-raising possibilities also are strengthened by the latest membership report. According to Mar-

tin, membership has jumped from 20 earlier this year to 107 this week.

The club's next meeting will be Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Felton firehouse. New members are welcome to attend and offer ideas on how to raise more money for the community hall. The cost is \$5 to join.

The 5,600-square-foot rebuilding project was necessary after the original hall, located on Highway 9 by the fire-house, burned down in 1990.