

Funds needed to complete Felton Hall

Sentinel staff report

FELTON — The rebuilding of the Felton Community Hall is nearly done, but supporters still need about \$120,000 to finish the job.

The auditorium and the kitchen have yet to be completed, said Jim Bricken, president of the Felton Community Club, the non-profit group rebuilding hall that has been the heart of the mountain community.

Supporters had hoped that the 5,600-square-foot building could be partially opened in time for the sixth anniversary of the fire that destroyed the original hall on Aug. 9, 1990.

At last word, a partial opening would be closer to Sept. 1, Bricken said.

Volunteers who have weathered insurance claim disputes and mounted fund-raising campaigns remain upbeat about the last phase of rebuilding.

Besides the donations and insurance settlements, Santa Cruz County paid \$100,000 in exchange for the ability to use the Highway 9 site as a disaster relief center for the next 30 years. When completed, the project will likely cost a total of about \$750,000.

The club has reached this point without owing any money, Bricken said.

Officials are hoping some big donations will come in to finish the hall. The original hall was built in 1925, largely by volunteers.

Through its rich history, it has served as a community center a church and a school. The town library was even housed there briefly, in the waiting room outside the women's restroom.

It has also been the scene of countless wedding receptions, anniversary parties and town plays.

Felton

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