

Facelift for Colusa courthouse

Appeal-Democrat

Colusa County will renovate its Civil War-era courthouse, which has been plagued by a leaky roof and a fallen cornice that forced closure of one entrance.

The Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to spend \$645,000 of the county's share of the state's settlement with tobacco companies for the renovation, said Planning and Building Director Stephen Hackney. No money will be taken from the county's general fund.

After a rainstorm more than two years ago, a piece of cornice weighing more than eight pounds fell near the south entrance to the building's Hall of Records section. Soon after, Hackney ordered the entrance closed.

A leaking roof that allowed water to penetrate the tall white columns of the Southern-style building caused the cornice section to fall.

County Clerk Kathleen Moran, who's in charge of the Hall of Records, said she'll be happy to see the project completed.

"We haven't been able to get in the front door for almost three years," said Moran.

The leaks also caused unsightly yellow stains on the walls of the Board of Supervisors meeting room, said Hackney.

In addition to a new roof, the project will include replacement of rotting door and window frames, repair of cracked walls and an exterior paint job, said board Chairman David Womble.

Even the golden bear that stands guard on the roof above the north entrance will be refurbished, said Hackney.

Yuba City's Hudspeth Corp. submitted the winning bid and will complete the project, which should be completed this year, according to Womble.

To top off the project, the courthouse grounds will be landscaped in a Southern style consistent with the building, which was dedicated in 1864, Womble said.