



COURTESY

Members of the Stark community rehabilitated this covered bridge, one of the only 20 Paddleford truss bridges remaining in the world, and were recognized last week by the NH Preservation Alliance.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

◆ **Honored:** New Hampshire Preservation Alliance held an awards ceremony recognizing attempts to protect and enhance historic sites.

By **KIMBERLEY HAAS**
Union Leader Correspondent

PORTSMOUTH — Portsmouth and a number of other communities throughout the state were recognized for their contributions to historic preservation by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance during an awards ceremony last week.

The Portsmouth African Burying Ground project, located on Chestnut Street between Court and State Street, was recognized for exemplifying the power of community engagement. Partners teamed up to protect and rebury exhumed human remains, stabilize the archeological resource and protect the site from further degradation, accord-



Hubbington's Furniture rehabilitated Drake's Farm in North Hampton.

ing to Preservation Alliance Executive Director Jennifer Goodman.

Strawbery Banke's Heritage House Program was recognized as an inspiring example of businesses, vol-

unteers and municipalities working together to help revitalize neighborhoods using advanced building science techniques, Goodman said. Ten museum buildings were upgraded

for new museum, office and residential uses.

Assistant City Manager David Moore said on Wednesday that people are

► See **History**, Page C2

Judge: If town wants to dismiss lawsuit, it should file a motion

◆ **Pleading:** A Gorham resident cites violated rights in his lawsuit against the town.

By **JOHN KOZIOL**
Union Leader Correspondent

GORHAM — Without addressing the merit of either party's claims, a Coos County judge recently told the town that if it wants to dismiss a resident's lawsuit, it should file a motion to do so.

In an order issued May 12 and recorded a day later by the court clerk's office, Justice Lawrence MacLeod Jr. indicated that the town, which is represented by Attorney Samantha D. Elliott of Concord's Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell P.C., used the wrong mechanism to achieve its aim of dismissing the lawsuit filed March 25 by Robert Balon.

Balon, who is representing himself, wants the court to order the town to fire Police Chief Paul Cyr Jr. and to pay Balon \$875,000 in compensation for Cyr's alleged violation of his "constitutional rights with demands and threats."

Balon claims that Cyr, with whom he has had a strained relationship since he raised questions years ago about the police department's shooting range, abused his office and that he violated the town's Code of Ethics last February when he gave Balon an official letter warning that Balon could face arrest for harassment unless he ceased commenting about the chief's family on social media.

On Balon's behalf, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire subsequently pointed out to the town that while Balon's comments may have been distasteful, they were constitutionally protected speech, which was even more protected because it was directed at a public official.

In a letter through its then-attorney to the NH-ACLU

► See **Judge**, Page C2



History

Continued from Page C1

attracted to Portsmouth because there is modern day usage of, and access to, historic treasures.

"Portsmouth is known for its historic downtown, and especially the stewardship of these historic resources, including the historic buildings," Moore said.

In nearby Epping, major community advocacy led to the rehabilitation of town-owned Watson Academy, Goodman said.

Carol Clapp, who went to Watson Academy when it was a school building, said the two and a half story wood frame structure is known as the "gem on the hill." Built in 1883, the building is the only known Queen Anne style school building in southern New Hampshire.

Today, the building is used by the town's recreation department, Goodman said.

In northern New Hampshire, where one of only 20 Paddleford truss bridges remain in the world, the town of Stark was recognized with two other small towns for having the vision, energy and resources to plan and execute large, complex proj-

ects, Goodman said.

Members of the Stark community rehabilitated their deteriorated covered bridge, which is one of the most photographed and painted spots in the Granite State.

The town of Langdon revitalized their meetinghouse. Town meetings have been held there since 1803, Goodman said.

The Town of Rumney added an addition to their historic Byron G. Merrill Library to provide barrier-free access for this well-loved and well-used community gathering place, Goodman said.

Throwback Brewery's reuse of Hobbs Farm, and Hubbingtons Furniture's rehabilitation of Drake Farm in North Hampton; work done on the Brewster Memorial Hall in Wolfeboro; the rehabilitation of the Hew Hampshire Historical Society in Concord; and the revitalization of a vacant blacksmith shop along the Newmarket waterfront were also recognized by the alliance.

Portsmouth's Albacore museum opens for season

By **KIMBERLEY HAAS**
Union Leader Correspondent

PORTSMOUTH — The Albacore Submarine and Museum on Market Street in Portsmouth opened for the year on Friday.

The popular family site, known for self-guided audio tours recorded by former crew members, and overall hands-on experiences for children, was late in opening this year, due to work being done around the submarine.

The basin the USS Albacore sits in was completely rehabilitated over the course of the winter. Construction is still taking place nearby along Route 1 Bypass into Maine, but the area is no longer a hard-hat



After having the basin redone over the winter, employees were able to reopen the USS Albacore submarine for public Friday.

zone, according to employee Jim Sears.

Sears said the submarine, museum and gift shop will be open every day starting in December. Hours

Keene residents advocate

◆Facebook

campaign: Several residents have launched

