

Merrimack

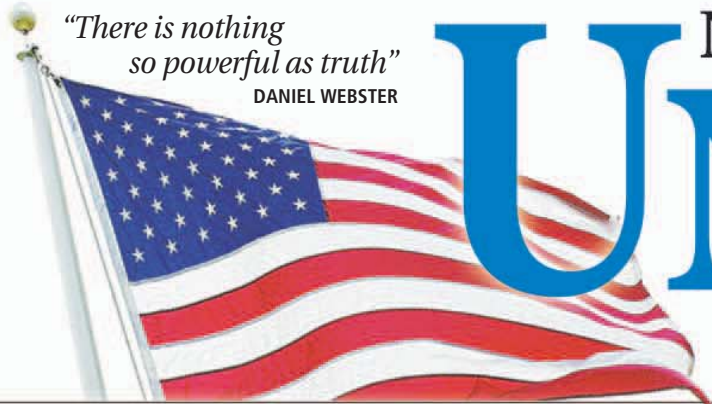
Former legislator dies | Page A2



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"There is nothing so powerful as truth"
DANIEL WEBSTER



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REBUILDING THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



A new look

THOMAS ROY/UNION LEADER

Passers-by on Manchester's Chestnut Street get a clear view all the way through the Hillsborough County North Superior Courthouse last week, with the building virtually gutted for renovation. There is plenty of work to be done inside and outside, but construction is expected to be finished by July 1.

\$17 million upgrade to focus on security, space, energy efficiency

By DAN TUOHY
New Hampshire Union Leader

MANCHESTER — Reconstruction of Hillsborough-North Superior Court is on schedule and under budget, according to project managers.

With the passing of each day, the old courthouse on Chestnut Street, which was gutted early this year and had extensive asbestos removed by July, looks less and less like a giant, steel shell.

The project, scheduled to be finished by July 1, is being funded

through \$17 million the state appropriated in 2009 to cover everything from asbestos abatement to exterior landscaping.

Construction crews are working on numerous parts of the building, from the roof to plumbing, said Jeff Shute, project manager with the Bureau of Public Works, state Department of Administrative Services.

"It'll look very different from the way it was," he said.

The Superior Court operations

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Before and after



LAVALEE BRENSINGER

These images of the courthouse, from the Veterans Park side, show the original facade, at top, and how it will look after reconstruction.

Court

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packed up and shipped out late last year for an 18-month relocation to Hillsborough-South in Nashua.

Separate operations at the Spring Street courthouse in Nashua resumed Jan. 4.

The Chestnut Street courthouse, which first opened in 1969, will have at least six courtrooms, greater public access to business offices and windows, and better security, including a sally port for law enforcement officers to deliver and pick up court patrons who require security escort.

Project managers aim to achieve the highest rating possible through LEED certification, a rating program of the nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Salvaging and reusing parts of the old courthouse were central to that effort, said Stephen Lorentzen, administrator of the Bureau of Court Facilities within the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services.

Another component for LEED is the use of natural light; renderings of the building show courtrooms with skylighting.

Lorentzen said the renovation is designed to make the courthouse as energy-

efficient as possible.

"We've made significant progress on the work completed to date," Lorentzen said. "There's a lot of stuff happening simultaneously."

John Harper, project manager for Lavalée Brensinger Architects, said nearly 100 tons of materials have been removed from the building to date for recycling and salvage. Of that, an estimated 95 percent or greater was diverted from landfills or incineration, or repurposed for use by others.

Some of the materials have gone back into the courthouse renovation, such as granite panels to be reused, in part, for a public plaza along Chestnut Street.

Other features include waterless urinals, electronic faucets powered by 30-year energy cells, regional wood materials from managed forests and sensors that turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.

Technology improvements, which feature up-to-date wiring for media outlets, include modern X-ray, magnetometer and scanning checkpoints, and enhanced emergency exits and fire protection systems, according to Lavalée Brensinger Architects.