

## Two men charged in beating of another

By **TAMMY WELLS**  
Senior Staff Writer

LIMINGTON — A man was beaten by two other men Sunday afternoon after his former girlfriend struck up a conversation with him, county law enforcement officials said. Then, the alleged perpetrators left the area.

The pair later returned to the scene and were arrested by York County sheriff's deputies.

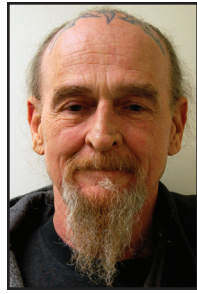
The victim, whose name

was not released, was bleeding from the mouth and two of his teeth were knocked out, said Sheriff Bill King. As well, he said the man may have suffered broken ribs in the affray. King described the beating as severe. The victim was taken to Maine Medical Center in Portland by Limington Fire and Rescue.

The incident took place at about 2 p.m. Sunday. King, in a prepared statement, said

deputies Wilfred Vachon and Gil Hudson were called to Hemlock Lane to answer a call of a man being beaten by two others.

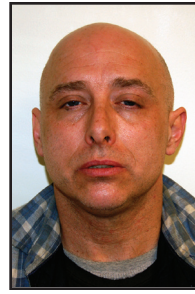
King said incident took place as the man was snow-



**Shaw**

blowing a driveway. He was apparently approached by a former girlfriend. The two had a discussion and the woman left.

"The female appar-



**Gilliam**

See **Limington Beating**  
PAGE A3



## Striking FairPoint workers ratify tentative agreement

By **DAVID SHARP**  
Associated Press

PORTLAND —

FairPoint Communications workers ratified a new contract during three days of voting, ending a four-month strike by more than 1,700 workers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, two unions announced Sunday.

Workers for northern New England's primary telephone company were eager to return to their jobs this week after a bitter strike in which both sides made concessions that eased some of the terms the company sought to impose.

Todd Bedard, a FairPoint worker in Concord, New Hampshire, said he's satisfied with the outcome.

"They have to do what's best for their business model. We as employees have to do what's best for us. In any contract, if people on both sides are unhappy, then I guess you have yourself a good contract," he said.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Communications Workers of America announced the voting results upon conclusion of voting that occurred

on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The unions didn't provide the exact vote count.

FairPoint CEO Paul Sunu said the contract provides excellent pay and benefits for workers while allowing the company to invest in new products and infrastructure.

"With this contract in hand, and the flexibility to manage our workforce more effectively, we are better positioned to provide the telecommunications services northern New England wants and needs," Sunu continued. "We know that our unionized workforce shares FairPoint's core goal of providing great customer service and competitive prices for communications products and services."

Workers, who return to their jobs on Wednesday, went on strike in October after the company began imposing terms of its "final offer" that froze workers' pensions, imposed pay reductions for new employees and required workers to contribute to health care costs for the first time. It also eliminated health

See **Fairpoint Agreement**  
PAGE A2



ANGELO J. VERZONI/Journal Tribune

Wesley Gallant, 7, of Old Orchard Beach, took his non-traditional sled for a spin on the man-made sledding hill on Old Orchard Street during OOB365's Winter Carnival Saturday.

## OOB Winter Carnival draws revelers from near and far

By **ANGELO J. VERZONI**  
Staff Writer

OLD ORCHARD BEACH — Dozens of children crowded Old Orchard Street Saturday, sleds and tubes in hand, as they clambered up a steep hill of snow, only to come zipping down the slippery chute, which stretched about 100 yards toward the

glistening Atlantic Ocean. In the biting cold, warmth came by way of wood crackling in fire pits, hot cocoa poured into paper cups and clam chowder simmering in pots. Concert-sized speakers thumped out sing-along pop songs such as the Village People's "YMCA" and Aqua's "Barbie Girl," and everyone

there, from infants to the elderly, giggled and grinned at the winter fun.

"What today's about is just the smiling faces of the kids," said Sharri MacDonald, who heads OOB365, the non-profit organization that puts on the event each year.

The Winter Carnival, as it's known, is in its fifth year,

said MacDonald, and each February local businesses and citizens volunteer to make it happen. In the middle of winter, over the course of three event-filled days, she said the festival draws hundreds to the streets of

See **Winter Carnival**  
PAGE A3

## 'Birdman' tops Oscars defined by advocacy, originality

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood is smarter than you thought. Whether by design or chance, the 87th Academy Awards elegantly and subtly shifted the tone of the season from a reductive fixation on snubs and fact-checking to a positive celebration of original filmmaking and purposeful advocacy for causes as diverse as immigration, suicide and equal rights.

The self-obsessed industry might have given its best picture and director prizes to Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Birdman," a trenchant examination of actorly narcissism, but the vanity seemed to stop with the opening of the envelopes. Even in their moments

of singular glory, most of the winners chose to talk about something other than

themselves.

The Mexican-born Inarritu, who's "Birdman" also won for cinematography and original screenplay, said he prays his native country finds "a government we deserve" and that immigrants to the U.S. "can be treated with the same dignity and the respect of the ones who came before and (built) this incredible immigrant nation."

Host Neil Patrick Harris set the tenor of the evening, toeing the line between reverent merriment and self-referential parody, with a biting joke about one of the season's most criticized truths. "Tonight we honor Hollywood's best and whitest — I mean brightest," he said in his opening, referencing the lack of diversity in the slate of nominees.

Patricia Arquette, who

See **Oscars**  
PAGE A2



ANGELO J. VERZONI/Journal Tribune

Assistant professor Michael Burman explains a concept to high school students, front to back, Marta Herzog, Samuel Gray and Jillian Sheltra at the UNE Brain Bee Boot Camp Friday.

## BHS student to compete in International Brain Bee

By **ANGELO J. VERZONI**  
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — Brains were on the brains of three high school students at the University of New England Brain Bee Boot Camp Friday.

Two of the students — Biddeford High School's Jillian Sheltra and Presque Isle High School's Marta Herzog — will compete in the International Brain Bee's national round in Baltimore in March, and from there, one could go on represent

the United States in the final, international round in Washington, D.C., in August.

The IBB, which started in 1998, tests high school students' knowledge of neuroscience in a quiz-bowl style competition that draws about 30,000 competitors from more than 30 countries annually, according to the University of Maryland's website.

"We think that Maine has some strength in biotech and some strength in neu-

rosience that we're trying to nurture. ... Our goal is to shine a spotlight on Maine and Biddeford and show the good stuff we have going on," Michael Burman, an assistant professor in UNE's Department of Psychology, said Friday.

Burman has helped Maine high school students get involved with the IBB for the first time this year, and when the southern Maine regional Brain Bee

See **Brain Bee**  
PAGE A3

## Sanford may limit road weights

By **TAMMY WELLS**  
Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — The city is considering posting some roadways that would prohibit travel over them by heavy vehicles this spring.

It is a measure taken by a number of municipalities for local roads, and by the state as well, on state-owned roads and roads that are considered state-aid highways. According to the state transportation department, limiting road weights to 23,000 pounds per vehicle is designed to prevent damage in the spring freeze-and-thaw cycle.

A hearing by the City Council on the prospect of weight restrictions last week drew no public comment. Public Works Director Matthew Hill told the council he sent a letter to 40 businesses that could be affected by the posting, and received two responses - one from a local trucking company and another from one in Lebanon.

"Spring roads are partially thawed and partially frozen," Hill explained to the council. "When a wheel goes across it, it has an adverse effect;

See **Road Weights**  
PAGE A3

### INDEX: 12 PAGES

#### DEATHS, A5

• Terry Critchley, Dayton  
• Gerard Paul, Biddeford

- Local/Region **A3**
- Community **A4**
- Opinion **A5**
- Obituaries **A6**
- Sports **B1-3**
- Comics **B4**
- Television **B5**
- Classifieds **B6**

