

# 50 YEARS LATER, SHE STILL WHISTLES WHILE SHE WORKS



Gregory Rec/Staff Photographer

Barbara Linnehan-Smith detaches a lane divider at the Kiwanis pool in Portland on Friday. She has spent years teaching adults and children with disabilities how to swim, and taught aquatic therapy for those with diseases like multiple sclerosis.

At age 67, Barbara Linnehan-Smith is Portland's oldest lifeguard. She has taken pride in protecting others since her certification in 1971, and she's not quitting any time soon.

By **JOHNNY LIESMAN**  
Staff Writer

In April, Barbara Linnehan-Smith was midway through her 22nd lifeguard recertification test at the Riverton pool when she was struck with a realization: She's been doing this for a while.

The moment hit her when lifeguard instructor Ben Kim was walking Linnehan-Smith



*I've just always wanted to be there for people, and to help people when they need it most.* — **BARBARA LINNEHAN-SMITH**

and three others through one of the rescue drills and mentioned when he'd first started doing the drill.

"I looked at him and thought, 'Oh, buddy, I've got a few

years on you,'" she recalled, laughing.

Linnehan-Smith is the oldest lifeguard for the city of Portland and is celebrating 50 years on the job this year.

Even with a head of gray hair, though, she said she still feels like the 17-year-old lifeguard she once was.

"It's funny, when I work with people who are teenagers, I don't consider myself 50 years older; I just kind of think of myself as a peer," she said last week while sitting in the

Please see **GUARD**, Page B3

## Did Beyond Meat COO bite a man's nose? It's not impossible

Beyond Meat's chief operating officer was arrested on Saturday on allegations that he bit a man's nose during an altercation after a college football game in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Doug Ramsey was arrested on charges of terroristic threatening and third-degree battery, court records show. Ramsey was allegedly at a parking garage when a Subaru inched in front of his Bronco, coming into contact with the front tire on the passenger's side, according to a report by local station KNWA/KFTA.

## Man steals stolen SUV, runs the risk of being redundant

It may have been something like an offer that's just too good to refuse: A stolen sport utility vehicle just waiting to be swiped again.

Omaha police said the SUV was abandoned by a man and woman after being stopped late Thursday afternoon by police, and then it was stolen again by another man.

Police said two officers made a traffic stop on the maroon Dodge Durango near 17th and Charles Streets because the vehicle did not have license plates. The SUV stopped and David Anthony, 41, and Kyndra Garrett, 30, got out and ran, police said. They were arrested after a short chase.

While this was going on, police said, the abandoned Durango was stolen again, this time by Dalon Johnson, 25. Johnson was in a park north of the Siena-Francis House at 17th and Nicholas Streets when he spotted Anthony and Garrett getting out of the SUV.

## Do you schmear what I schmear?

Forget figgy pudding. Bagels are the new Christmastime tradition. Local bakeries say demand for the once quintessential Jewish bread spikes during holidays, including Christian ones.

By **PEGGY GRODINSKY** / Food Editor

Please join us in a quick game of holiday culinary word association: Thanksgiving: turkey. Valentine's Day: chocolate. St. Patrick's Day: corned beef and cabbage. Christmas: bagels. Say WHAT?

According to sales figures from several well-known Maine bagel bakeries, bagels — "the archetypal culinary staple of our people," as Liel Leibovitz wrote in "The Most 100 Jewish Foods" — are hugely popular at Christmastime.

"Christmas is bonkers at the bakery," emailed Allison Reid, co-owner and head baker at Scratch Baking in South Portland, a place nationally known for its bagels. "This time of year, we usually make about 2,000 bagels on a typical weekend day. On Christmas Eve, we will probably be making 3,300." In a later conversation, she upped that to 3,500.





# HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, SQUID



Ben McCanna/Staff Photographer

Seamore, a 120-foot squid-shaped kite, towers over George Jenkins, Ollie Jenkins, Jamari Jenkins, Sasha Rogers and Sigo Rogers at Bug Light Park in South Portland on Wednesday. "This park is one of the best places to fly kites," kite owner Steven Durost said. Check out another kite on Page B2.

## 'Jeopardy!' streak is over, but bartender gave it his best shot

By DENNIS HOEY  
Staff Writer

Dennis Coffey's reign as "Jeopardy!" champion ended on Wednesday night, but not before he seized his moment in the national spotlight to remind Americans that the opioid crisis needs to be addressed.

The bartender from Old Orchard Beach brought up the opioid epidemic during the segment of the show where host Alex Trebek offers each contestant a brief opportuni-



DENNIS COFFEY

ty to talk about their life and background.

Coffey, who has worked at a number of different jobs over the course of his life-

Please see **COFFEY**, Page B2



Mayor Ethan Strimling told his counterpart in Portland, Pennsylvania, that he'd shave his head if the Pats lost the Super Bowl. He kept his word.

## In politics, cooler heads prevail

By RANDY BILLINGS  
Staff Writer

It was a moment of sheer joy, at least for everyone in the room except Portland Mayor Ethan Strimling.

After two weeks of highly publicized anticipation, Strimling finally made good on a Super Bowl bet and parted ways with his impeccably manicured salt-and-pepper mane.

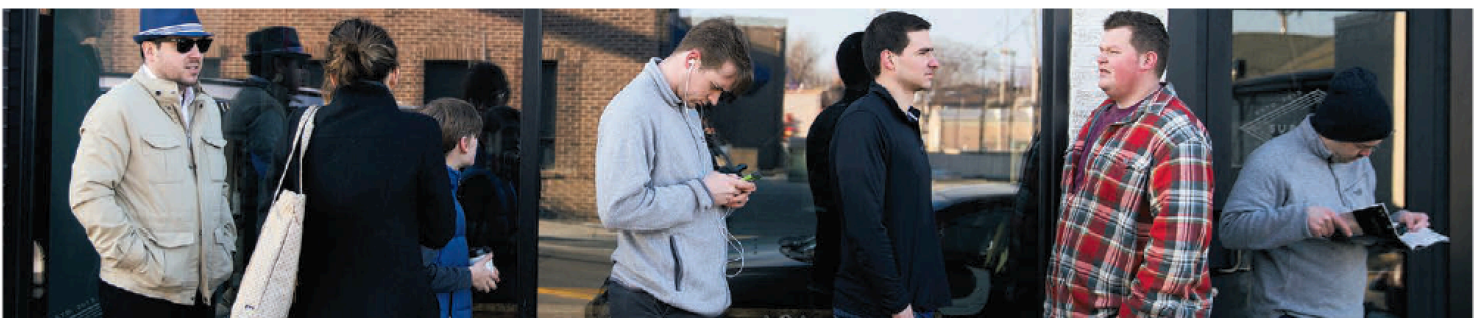
Strimling's well-coifed wave was shaved in front of a cheering crowd of about 250 students at Presumpscot Elementary School on Friday afternoon. Also in attendance was Lance Prator,

Please see **STRIMLING**, Page A7



Staff photo by Derek Davis

## Barber queue Patrons at a Blackstone District barber shop might wait hours at a time, but they keep coming back. Living







Photos by Shawn Patrick Ouellette/Staff Photographer

Tom Schmeelk, an entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, near a chokecherry tree in Brunswick that has become infested with browntail moth caterpillars. "You'll see them crawling on people's houses by the end of May," he said.

**HARPSWELL**

# Who will bring home the beacon? Feds offering up lighthouse

The town might acquire the Little Mark Island Monument, one of six U.S. lighthouses being given away for free to nonprofits or other entities.

By **TIM CEBULA**  
Staff Writer

The federal government is giving away a lighthouse on an island off Harpswell, and the town may consider taking ownership.

Little Mark Island Monument is among six lighthouses that the U.S. General Services Administration announced this week it would transfer ownership for free to qualifying nonprofits or government entities, along with four others it

Please see **BEACON**, Page A8



Press Herald photo by Gordon Chibroski

The beacon-topped monument on Little Mark Island was built in 1827 as a lightless daymarker.

# THE PEST IS YET TO COME

In the next few weeks, browntail moth caterpillars will leave their nests, shedding hairs that can cause itchy rashes and breathing issues. Southern and central Maine may see fewer moths this year, but the insect is creeping farther north and west.



By **JOE LAWLOR**  
Staff Writer

**BRUNSWICK** — The quarter-inch long browntail moth caterpillars squirmed in their nests this week in a cluster of chokecherry trees in a field across the street from Brunswick Executive Airport.

For now, the caterpillars are still small and emerging from their nests to feed. But they will leave their nests and grow exponentially in the coming weeks, shedding microscopic hairs that become airborne and cause itchy rashes on people in a growing number of areas in the state.

"As the caterpillars get larger, there's more of those irritating hairs on the cater-



Cumberland County hot spots like Brunswick, Freeport and Yarmouth may be less inundated with caterpillars this season compared with last year and 2021.

pillars," Tom Schmeelk, an entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, said Wednesday as he pointed to a web filled with the tiny caterpillars. "You'll see them crawling on people's houses by the end of May."

How bad infestations will be this season is not yet clear. Populations appear to be down in some parts of southern and central Maine, but the moths are also spreading north and west into new areas.

Cool, wet weather at the end of April through early May could potentially lead to proliferation of a fungus that kills the caterpillars, which

Please see **MOTHS**, Page A6



Aimseal Ponti/Staff Writer

**JURASSIC PARKED**

A dinosaur awaits unsuspecting drivers on Commercial Street in Portland early Wednesday. The dinosaur arrived for Jurassic Quest at the Cross Insurance Arena. The four-day event begins Thursday.

**OOOPS! ... ICE DID IT AGAIN**

# Westbrook's floating sensation returns

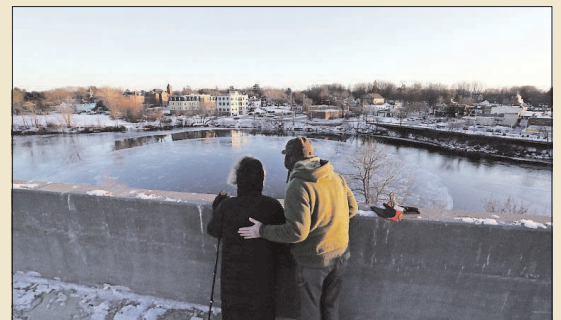
By **GILLIAN GRAHAM**  
Staff Writer

The moment fans of Westbrook's world famous ice disk have been waiting for is here: The disk appears to be reforming.

Westbrook officials shared a photo Tuesday on Facebook of a thin disk of ice floating on the blue water of the Presumpscot River.

Back in January 2019, a previous ice disk captured

Please see **DISK**, Page B3



Ben McCanna/Staff Photographer

Lisa Willey and Bob Critchfield of Casco view the latest iteration of Westbrook's ice disk on Tuesday from atop a parking garage. An earlier disk in 2019 gained international fame.



# THE HAVES AND THE HAVE YACHTS



Gregory Rec/Staff Photographer

A man kayaks past the bow while others work on the deck of a luxury yacht tied up at the Portland waterfront on Wednesday.

## What all the humbug is about

A documentary explores the Playhouse's 'A Christmas Carol'



Omaha Community Playhouse Artistic Director Carl Beck is interviewed for the NET documentary "Casting Call to Curtain Call," which premieres Friday.

BY BOB FISCHBACH | WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

You've read Charles Dickens' classic book. You've seen the Omaha Community Playhouse's "A Christmas Carol" on its main stage. Now you can catch the documentary film about it on Nebraska public television. The film will first air Friday, which also is opening night of the annual clas-

sic's 37th run at the Playhouse. "Casting Call to Curtain Call" follows the 2011 production of "A Christmas Carol" from start to finish in an hourlong show brimming with humor, history, backstage drama and local personalities. NET Television producer-director Michele Wolford, who grew up in Omaha, had long

harbored the idea of following a community theater play from page to stage. She pitched it in May 2009, spent nearly two years finding funding and began meeting with staffers at the Playhouse in early 2011. Wolford didn't have "A Christmas Carol" in mind then. "This could have been any theater, any show," she said. "I just

knew that the world of community theater always has struggle and great characters. I wanted to capture the cadre of volunteers, staff, actors and crew — people who put incredible hours into this art form, most of them unpaid." The Playhouse, the nation's largest community theater, was

See Carol: Page 2

## WAITER?

# CHIC, PLEASE



Photo by Erin Little, above; Shutterstock.com, top  
Batson River Brewing & Distilling in West Bayside used a pandemic-induced closing to reimagine a more wide-open space.

Goodbye exposed brick walls and mismatched tables. Many of Portland's newest breweries, bars and restaurants are embracing high-concept design.

By JORGE S. ARANGO  
If all goes well, the developers of the Time & Temperature Building, T.T. Maine Ventures, will give the stately edifice new life in 2023 as a luxury hotel. One feature will be a yet-to-be-named double-story bar and lounge intended

who is working on interiors. The duo recently debuted the Canopy Hotel's Salt Yard Café & Bar, which showcases an elegantly contemporary maritime-inspired aesthetic, and the "organic chic" rooftop lounge Luna. "We are really driven by location," McGee explained of her design approach.

man National Bank. The 1920s glam bar at the Time & Temperature will be the latest in a slew of restaurants and bar/lounges in the city that have been amping up their interior design game. The city's image as a down-to-earth, no-fuss, mostly rustic farm-to-table culinary





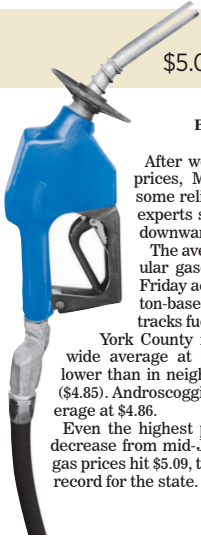
Photos by Derek Davis/Staff Photographer; illustration by magicoven/Shutterstock.com

Peter Davis of Gorham, who drives often for his real estate business, fills up Friday at Panda Market in Buxton. The U.S. average for gas has dropped for four weeks straight, the longest decline in average prices since before the pandemic.

# AS GAS PRICES DECLINE, SOME DRIVERS ON CLOUD 9

The average cost of a gallon in Maine is now \$4.77, down from \$5.09 a month ago. But the (relative) relief may not last, experts say.

10



By HANNAH LaCLAIRE  
Staff Writer

After weeks of record-breaking gas prices, Mainers are starting to see some relief at the pump, but industry experts say it's too soon to say if the downward trend will continue.

The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in Maine was \$4.77 on Friday according to GasBuddy, a Boston-based fuel price analysis firm that tracks fuel prices across the country.

York County reported the lowest county-wide average at \$4.61 a gallon, significantly lower than in neighboring Cumberland County (\$4.85). Androscoggin County had the highest average at \$4.86.

Even the highest prices in the state reflect a decrease from mid-June, when Maine's average gas prices hit \$5.09, the highest per-gallon cost on record for the state.

Please see **PRICES**, Page A6



May Yang, owner of Panda Market on Parker Farm Road in Buxton, said offering gas prices as low as \$3.99 was a strategic decision.

# Effort to build offshore wind industry may hinge on 73¢

Gov. LePage imperils a 2014 power contract for floating turbines off Monhegan Island that would raise consumer bills less than \$1 a month.

By TUX TURKEL  
Staff Writer

A decadelong effort to establish an offshore wind energy industry in Maine is at a turning point, its future hinging on whether state utility regulators vote to reopen a power contract to test a patented technology for deep-water floating wind farms.

## 'WE WERE BLINDSIDED'

by a January Public Utilities Commission meeting where the University of Maine-led project came under scrutiny, says UMaine associate counsel Jeff Thaler. The three panelists, appointed by LePage, voiced concern over the Maine Aqua Ventus project's above-market cost of power.

Supporters of the University of Maine-led Maine Aqua Ventus project fear that a vote by the Public Utilities Commission to alter the power-rate terms could doom the venture, just as it reaches critical stages for financing and permits. The project involves two floating wind turbines that the university and its partners are preparing to test off Monhegan Island.

If the project stays on schedule, it likely will be the first full-scale floating wind project in North America. Testing the platform technology is considered key to deploying cost-effective wind farms in deep waters off the East Coast. The 2014 power contract, which would increase consumer electric bills by less than a dollar per month, also is crucial because both public and private investment is tied to it.

The immediate risk, advocates say, is \$87 million in federal funding, thousands of

# McDermott: Great on the court, or your coffee table

A sculpture of the Creighton legend is up for grabs in an auction running Sunday through Dec. 14

By BETSIE FREEMAN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Creighton University has one. The family of basketball standout Doug McDermott has another.

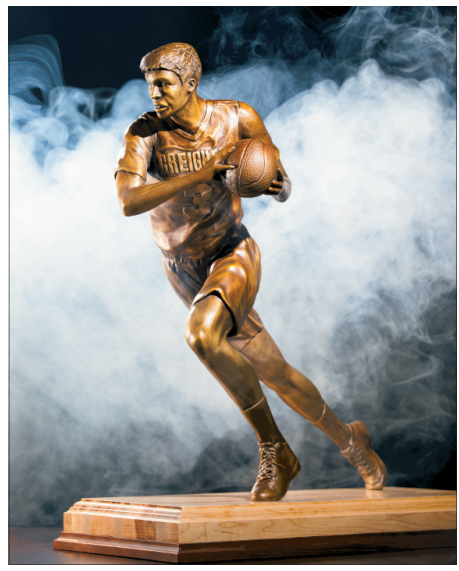
Now readers of The World-Herald have a chance to own the third copy of a bronze statue celebrating McDermott, who was a senior last season at CU and now plays for the Chicago Bulls in the National Basketball Association.

**TO BID**  
Visit Omaha.com, click on the Goodfellows button in the upper right hand corner, then select the auction choice.

The World-Herald commissioned Omaha artist James Lepert to create three 20-inch-tall, 45-pound statues of McDermott, who scored 3,150 points in his college career, the fifth highest total in NCAA Division I history.

The statue will go to the highest bidder in an auction that runs from Sunday through Dec. 14 on Omaha.com. Proceeds will go to The World-Herald's Goodfellows charity.

See Goodfellows: Page 2



KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD



# AWAITED BLANKET



Shawn Patrick Ouellette/Staff Photographer

Diane Zamos, left, and Ellie Breitmaier, both of Kennebunkport, ski at Harris Farm in Dayton on Friday. Farm owner Dixie Harris said people seized the opportunity to get out on the trails with their cross-country skis and snowshoes.



Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer

Milo Lake, 3, helps his dad, Ben Lake, clear snow from their driveway in Portland. "He loves to shovel. Dirt, snow, it doesn't matter," Ben Lake said. Eight inches had fallen at the jetport by 7 p.m. Friday.

## An overdue wintry blast drops at least 4 to 6 inches of snow on most of southern Maine.

By GILLIAN GRAHAM  
Staff Writer

Maine finally got a dose of winter weather as a storm dropped more than a half-foot of snow in some areas Friday, and the next one is on its way.

Most of southern Maine had already received 4 to 6 inches of snow by Friday morning, with heavy snowfall ending by sunrise. Several more inches accumulated throughout the day before the snow tapered off Friday afternoon, the National Weather Service said.

The weather service reported at 7 p.m. that 8 inches of snow had fallen at the Portland International Jetport and 6.7 inches in Gray. Other Cumberland County snowfall reports included 8.1 inches in Cumberland, 7.7 in Gorham and 6 in

Please see **STORM**, Page A5

# Smoke has cleared, and air smells of litigation

M's Pub owners hire an attorney amid an OSHA probe of the contractor digging before the fire

By RUSSELL HUBBARD  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

While the flames from the M's Pub blaze are extinguished, a possible legal battle is just heating up.

Omaha trial attorney David Domina said Tuesday that he has been hired by the owners of the destroyed M's Pub to handle legal matters. That could mean lawsuits are coming after the Saturday fire that tore through the landmark building in the Old Market, leaving only a scarred hulk.

"We are actively investigating alternatives for the owners of M's Pub Inc.," Domina told The World-Herald on Tuesday.

## Swift to Bredesen: I'll write your name

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Taylor Swift's first big jump into politics might have gained her some extra haters, but many observers don't think her endorsement in a competitive midterm U.S. Senate race will result in a massive backlash.

Republicans have criticized Swift following her surprise statement endorsing Tennessee Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Phil Bredesen over Republican candidate Marsha Blackburn.

But she stuck to issues that were important to her, including women's rights, observers say, and she isn't likely to face strong backlash that could hurt her career.

## COASTAL MAINE, FAMOUS FOR ITS WHITECAPS



Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer

A fresh dusting of snow sits atop roofs in Portland's East End on Wednesday, when conditions returned to December norms after two days of warmer weather. Thursday's high will be in the upper 20s to low 30s. **Weather / Back Page**



## Murder, he wrote

Horror fans take their pick of the best, worst and downright weirdest film adaptations of Stephen King's work. **Go**



# Maine gyms hope regulators will go with a lighter weight



Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer

Tony Napolitano works out at Beyond Strength. The pandemic has halved membership at the Falmouth gym, from 160 to about 70, and Maine's COVID-19 restrictions mean the 4,000-square-foot space can serve 10 people at a time.

Struggling fitness centers point to low COVID-19 transmission rates as they urge the state to rein in occupancy restrictions.

By **GLENN JORDAN**  
Staff Writer

February is normally a busy month in Maine's fitness industry.

Most New Year's resolutions are still going strong. High school athletes are training for their sports. The

weather generally hinders outdoor workouts that don't involve skis or skates.

"We're getting busier," said Peter Clark of Beyond Strength, a gym in Falmouth, "but it's not anywhere near where we were before."

The coronavirus pandemic

prompted state officials to close gyms and fitness centers for nearly three months last spring. Some never reopened. Others are hanging on. Few are flourishing, given restrictions that limit

Please see **FITNESS**, Page A5

## MAINE COVID-19 VACCINE TRACKER

**1ST DOSES GIVEN.....130,551**  
Percent of Maine's population....**9.71%**

**2ND DOSES GIVEN.....46,410**  
Percent of Maine's population....**3.45%**

SOURCES: Maine Center for Disease Control and U.S. Census Bureau

## Wisconsin man drinks beer, followed by a chaser

Police say he walked out of a Belfast pub with his Bud Light, then led them on a high-speed pursuit.

By **ETHAN ANDREWS**  
Republican Journal

**BELFAST** — A Wisconsin man led officers on a high-speed chase from Belfast to Searsport on Monday night, police said.

Authorities received a call about 10:30 p.m. from a downtown Belfast pub saying a man had ordered a beer, paid for it



Luke Morzenti said 'I gotta do what I gotta do,' moments before the chase, said a Belfast bartender.

icated, asked him to get out of the car.

Morzenti refused, McFadden said, and while officers were talking to him, he put the car in gear and sped off toward Searsport. A short distance down the road, he shut off his headlights and tried to outrun the police. McFadden said Morzenti reached speeds between 70 and 100 mph and twice crossed into the opposite lane, nearly colliding with oncoming traffic.

Belfast officers in two cruisers tailed Morzenti and called ahead to Searsport police. The department had a cruiser parked on Main Street and the

## THE LOUNGING OF THE GUARD



Staff photo by Brianna Soukup

Old Orchard Beach lifeguards Sean Bowers, left, and Noah Paradis, both of Scarborough, stand watch Friday over a nearly empty beach on a windy, chilly first day of June. "Yeah, it's pretty slow," Bowers said. They said the beach doesn't start to ramp up until school is out and the temperatures get warmer later in the month.



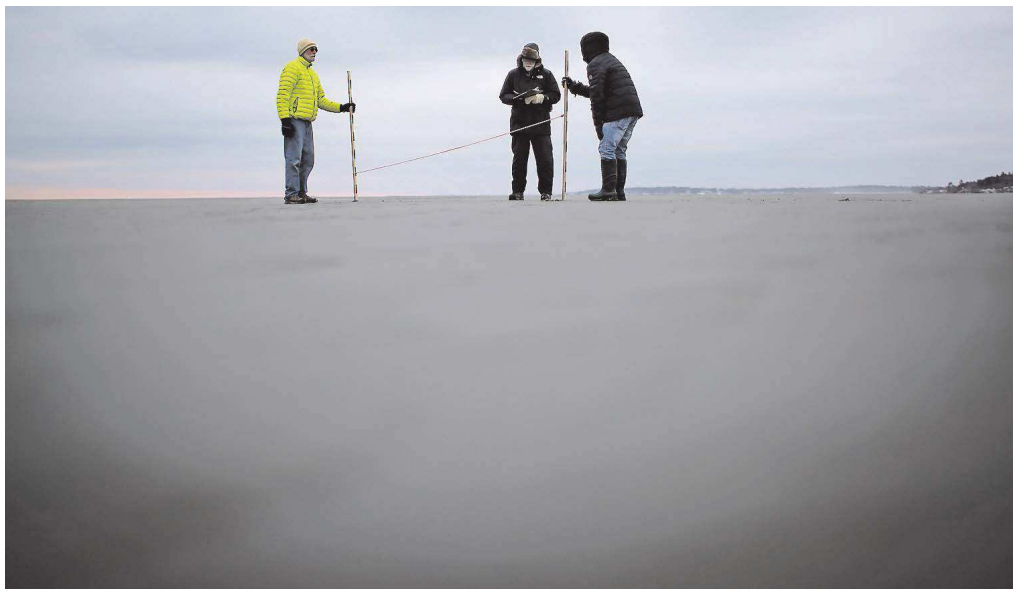
# HEAVY, WET SNOW IN APRIL

*Return to sender*



*Gregory Rec/Staff Photographer*

A girl watches a combination of sleet and snowfall Friday as Matt Gauthier, a U.S. Postal Service carrier, delivers mail to the Graham Street home in Biddeford. Parts of western and southern Maine got 1 to 3 inches of snow, which caused hundreds of outages. Wet roads also contributed to nine vehicle crashes. **Story, B1**



## ENTER SANDMEN

Above, Scarborough residents Larry Litten, left, Don Salvatore and Michael Diggins measure beach erosion and accretion using the "Emery Method" at Higgins Beach on Wednesday. At left, Salvatore helps with measurements that the volunteers take once a month as a part of the Maine Geological Survey.

*Photos by Derek Davis/Staff Photographer*