

**MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY WEEKEND**

# Pouring it on



Joe Phelan/Kennebec Journal

Programs Manager Lauren Kircheis stirs a boiling pot of maple sap Saturday at the barn at Viles Arboretum at 153 Hospital St. in Augusta. Kircheis and another staff member, Harrison Lobb, collected and boiled sap to make syrup to be served on pancakes during Maine Maple Sunday Weekend.

**MISSISSIPPI**

## Daunting recovery underway

### State digging out following tornado

BY MICHAEL GOLDBERG AND EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS  
*Associated Press*

ROLLING FORK, Miss. — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through several towns late Friday. A man was also killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

“Everything I can see is in some state of destruction.”

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JARROD KUNZE  
VOLUNTEER

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

Jarrold Kunze drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to volunteer “in whatever capacity I’m needed.”

“Everything I can see is in some state of destruction,” he said. Kunze was among volunteers working Sunday at a staging area, where

RECOVERY, PAGE A6



Associated Press

Ezell Williams cries while talking Sunday about the damage caused to his properties and those of his neighbors in Rolling Fork, Miss.

## Eager to support local operations, Mainers brave the chill



Kaitlyn Budion/Morning Sentinel

Visitors see sap being turned into maple syrup Sunday while browsing maple products during Maine Maple Sunday at Wilson Family Maple Syrup at 652 Benton Road in Albion.

BY KAITLYN BUDION  
*Morning Sentinel*  
AND EMILY DUGGAN  
*Kennebec Journal*

Visitors to Dead Stream Alpaca & Maple Farm in Readfield walked out of the barn Sunday, their arms loaded with tubs of maple syrup, a celebration of Maine Maple Sunday Weekend.

Cyara Harriman, 14, who helps run the farm with her grandmother, Karen Dube, estimated that by 11 a.m., about 200 people had made their way down the farm’s muddy, winding driveway to taste the maple products that had been laid out

for the event.

Dube flipped pancakes in a skillet so visitors could later top them with maple syrup, or, as one visitor did, top the pancakes with ice cream and maple syrup.

“I am overwhelmed,” Dube said. “It’s outstanding and warms my heart. I didn’t expect all of these people. It warms my heart, too, to see everyone come out and support a family-owned business.”

Maine Maple Sunday Weekend is an annual event on the fourth Sunday in March. Sugarhouses across the state open their doors for visitors to see the maple syrup-making process and taste the final products.

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**ABORTION**

## Division between states widens

### GOP lawmakers push to increase restrictions; Democrats try to expand access

BY KIMBERLEE KRUESI AND GEOFF MULVIHILL  
*Associated Press*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A group of Tennessee Republicans began this year’s legislative session hoping to add narrow exceptions to one of the strictest abortion bans in the country, armed with the belief that most people — even in conservative Tennessee — reject extremes on the issue.

Tennessee law requires doctors to prove in court that they were saving a woman’s life when they performed an abortion. Surely, the lawmakers thought, they could win concessions that would allow doctors to

use their good faith judgment about when abortion is necessary to save a woman’s life. But after a key anti-abortion group stepped in, the lawmakers had to settle for a stricter legal standard that moves the needle very little.

Like lawmakers in several GOP-led states who started the year thinking about moderating the nation’s toughest abortion laws, Tennessee’s lawmakers found no appetite among their colleagues for loosening the rules.

During the first legislative sessions in most states since the U.S. Supreme

DIVISION, PAGE A6



Associated Press file

People line up March 20 outside a hearing room at the Oregon State Capital in Salem, Ore., where a public hearing is being held on a bill seeking to expand access to abortion and gender-affirming care.

## Justice Department keeping a hard line in death row cases

### Study: White House maintains Trump effort to uphold inmates’ sentences

BY MICHAEL TARM AND ALANNA DURKIN RICHER  
*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Rejon Taylor hoped the election of Joe Biden, the first U.S. president to campaign on a pledge to end the death penalty, would mean a more sympathetic look at his claims that racial bias and other trial errors landed him on federal death row in Terre Haute, Indiana.

But two years on, Justice Department attorneys under Biden are fighting

the Black man’s efforts to reverse his 2008 death sentence for killing a white restaurateur as hard as they did under Donald Trump, who oversaw 13 executions in his presidency’s final months.

“Every legal means they have available they’re using to fight us,” said the 38-year-old’s lawyer, Kelley Henry. “It’s business as usual.”

Death penalty opponents expected Biden to act within weeks of taking office

DEATH, PAGE A6



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