Buckets of fun

New Hampshire celebrates its annual Maple Weekend

March 16 to 22
Free and sticky


March 16, 1918: In Ossipee, the 80-year-old Austin H.F. Quimby, veteran of the USS Kearsearge of Civil War fame, tells reporters he’d like to join the navy and take a shot at a German submarine.

March 16, 1933: Judson Hale is born. He will grow up to be editor of Yankee magazine and the Old Farmer’s Almanac.

March 17, 2001: Many Bow residents wake up to a surprise, learning that the school bond they defeated the night before isn’t dead just yet. Hundreds of voters went home after a proposal to build a $5.9 million elementary school had failed. Much later in the meeting, however, the issue was reopened when a motion to reconsider was approved by the remaining voters. Ultimately, the initial vote will stand.

March 17, 2000: The attorney general announces a breakthrough in the 1981 murder of Concord resident Yvonne Fine. Joseph Whitney, who’s been in prison on an unrelated attempted murder conviction since 1990, is now charged with first-degree murder in the death of the 81-year-old woman.

March 18, 2001: The college basketball season for Concord’s Matt Bonner and his Florida teammates comes to an abrupt end when the Gators, a No. 3 seed, are routed by No. 11 Temple in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Bonner, a sophomore, scores 13 points and grabs 11 rebounds in the loss.

March 18, 1949: Concord native Edward H. Brooks wins promotion to lieutenant general in the U.S. Army. From a second lieutenant of cavalry during World War I through his post-World War II service in the Caribbean, Brooks has had a distinguished military career. He won the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in World War I and the Silver Star, Bronze Star and French Croix de Guerre, among other decorations, during World War II.

March 18, 1852: From Exeter, the provincial capital, Dr. Josiah Bartlett writes to his fellow congressman and fellow signer of the Declaration of Independence, William Whipple, in hopes that Whipple will procure from Spain hard currency to pay the army. New Hampshire’s soldiers have been paid in paper that has depreciated, and Gen. John Stark and other state commanders have petitioned the General Court “to have the wages of our soldiers in the Continental Army made good according to contract.”

March 19, 1867: The calendar says spring is about to start, but few believe it. The low temperature in Concord falls to 16 below zero, tying the record for the coldest March day in the 20th century. This follows a reading of 13 below the day before and 10 below the day before that.

March 20, 2002: An apartment fire on Maplewood Lane in Penacook leaves dozens of residents homeless. Nobody is hurt.

March 20, 2001: With back-to-back winter storms having drained snow removal budgets around the state, Gov. Jeanne Shaheen asks President Bush to declare a federal snow emergency for New Hampshire. The cost of cleaning up from the most recent storm was estimated at $1.5 million.

March 20, 1779: From Exeter, the provincial capital, Dr. Josiah Bartlett writes to his fellow congressman and

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Magazine and the Old Testament fire on Maplewood Hill, to the right of the home of the man who had been living there. The fire began about midnight, but no one was injured and the damage was not estimated.

March 22, 1901: The Massachusetts-New Hampshire boundary is finally settled.

March 23, 2001: Concord was New Hampshire’s fastest-growing city in the 1990s, the U.S. Census Bureau announces. The official 2000 population is listed as 40,687.

March 23, 1770: Eighteen days after the Boston Massacre, a black-bordered issue of the New Hampshire Gazette depicts the victims with drawings of skulls and crossbones and coffins. A subsequent issue will feature a letter stating: “O AMERICANS! This BLOOD calls loud for VENGEANCE!”
Interview like an expert

Making a bad hire is a costly mistake for your company, and it’s also unfair to the candidate. In this webinar, KMA recruiting consultants Johnna Major and Jenn Bradford will discuss best practices for interviewing candidates. They’ll cover how to ask questions that elicit the answers you’re really looking for, some red flags to be on the lookout for in an interview, gray areas to avoid in your questions, and how to uniformly evaluate candidates for their experience, skills, capabilities, and potential for success.

KMA HR Consulting will present ‘How to Conduct Candidate Interviews Like an Expert’ on Thursday, March 16 from 12 to 1 p.m. This event is virtual.

Children’s author visits Gibson’s

Award-winning author/illustrator Matt Tavares visits Gibson’s Bookstore on Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. to share his new graphic novel, “Hoops.”

A work of fiction inspired by a true story, Matt Tavares’s debut graphic novel dramatizes the historic struggle for gender equality in high school sports. It is 1975 in Indiana, and the Wilkins Regional High School girls’ basketball team is in its rookie season. Despite being undefeated, they practice at night in the elementary school and play to empty bleachers.

Unlike the boys’ team, the Lady Bears have no buses to deliver them to away games and no uniforms, much less a laundry service. They make their own uniforms out of T-shirts and electrical tape. And with help from a committed coach, they push through to improbable victories after improbable victories. Illustrated in full color, this story about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality.

Fifty years of antidiscrimination

Sherry Boschert, an award-winning journalist, visits Gibson’s Bookstore to present a sweeping history of the federal legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in education, published on the fiftieth anniversary of Title IX, “37 Words: Title IX and Fifty Years of Fighting Sex Discrimination,” on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

By prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded education, the 1972 Title IX law has been credited with significantly improving educational opportunities for women. Fifty years of antidiscrimination.

College Scholarships

Rotary Club of Concord
Arell Scholarship Program

Rotary Club of Concord is now accepting applications for the Arell Scholarship Program. You must be a current student, recent graduate of a high school in Concord or a resident of Concord or Penacook.

Scholarships range from $1,000 to $10,000.

"The Rotary Scholarship means that I don’t need to work full time while I am also a full time student. I would not be where I am today without the generosity of the Rotary Club and I am eternally grateful.”

Kelly B

Application Deadline is: May 2, 2023

For More Info and Application: ConcordNHRotary.org
legislation popularly known as Title IX profoundly changed the lives of women and girls in the United States, accelerating a movement for equal education in classrooms, on sports fields, and in all of campus life.

**Town Meeting**

Drawing on research from her book, “Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future,” Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions, and history of town meeting. Hosted by Boscawen Public Library on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**Storytelling through music**

Through traditional music, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki relays some of the adventures, misadventures, and emotions experienced by Irish emigrants on Wednesday, March 22, at Pembroke Town Library. The focus is on songs about leaving Ireland, sometimes focusing on the reasons for leaving (a man who is driven from his land by English persecution), sometimes revealing what happened upon arrival, and sometimes exploring the universal feeling of homesickness of a stranger in a strange land. The presenter discusses the historical context of these songs, interspersing their stories with tunes from Ireland that made their way into New England’s musical repertoire, played on his fiddle or guitar.

**Ghosts**

Award-winning journalist and author Christine Kenneally visits America and Gibson’s Bookstore to present the tragic and shocking secret history of twentieth-century orphanages, which for decades hid violence, abuse, and deaths within their walls, in her new book, “Ghosts of the Orphanage: A Story of Mysterious Deaths, a Conspiracy of Silence, and a Search for Justice.” This book talk will be at Gibson’s on Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.
**book of the week**

**Braking Day**  
By Adam Oyebanji  
(359 pages, science fiction, 2022)

The three-ship fleet of Archimedes, Bohr, and Chandrasekhar has been in space for 132 years, leaving behind an Earth ruled by AIs called LOKIs. The Destination World is approaching fast and engineering trainee Ravi McLeod is part of the team making sure the Archimedes is ready. Ravi is hoping to escape his family’s well-earned reputation as criminals and ne’er-do-wells by joining the officer class, but something is wrong with Ravi: he’s dreaming someone else’s dreams, remembering someone else’s memories, and worst of all, seeing someone who can’t be there – a woman floating outside the ship with no spacesuit.

Ravi and his disreputable cousin Boz try to solve the mystery of what’s happening to him, which requires some less than legal activities, putting Boz in serious danger due to her criminal record. Then there are the Bon Voyes, who want to save the Destination Planet from humanity by never landing at all. And, of course the class frictions between the Officers and everybody else.

Debut author Oyebanji tells a rousing tale and builds a believable ship’s culture as well as characters you care about. I was rooting for Ravi and Boz all the way. This is a satisfying story especially for those who like their science fiction to be in outer space and fairly techy.

Visit Concord Public Library online at concorpubliclibrary.net.

Julia Miller
New Hampshire’s sugaring season is over for another year but as we enjoy Concord-area maple syrup on our pancakes (and any other edible that strikes our fancy), it’s fair to wonder what exactly “sugaring season” means any more.

This year saw what was probably the earliest commercial syrup boil in New Hampshire history, when Ben’s Sugar Shack in Temple fired up operations on Jan. 1. To our west in Vermont, which is by far America’s leading maple-syrup producer, it is no longer unusual to see boiling start before Christmas.

Compare that to the sugaring season from Currier & Ives days: Trees were tapped in early to mid-February to gather sap, with...
sugar shacks doing the bulk of the work boiling sap down into syrup into March.

What changed? Weather and technology.

As a good New Hampshirite, you know that maple sugar depends on freezing nights and above-freezing days, which makes tree sap in many hardwood species move from the roots into the leaves and back again. Drilling holes in the tree lets us capture some of that moving sap. (Sugar maples have the highest sugar content in their sap, which is why they’re the best for syrup.) If it stays below freezing during the day or stays above freezing at night, the sap doesn’t move; what’s needed is the proper diurnal temperature range.

In past years, that pattern didn’t happen consistently in northern New England until February or March, but...
climate change has scrambled weather patterns. Now we can get stretches of suitable up-and-down days any time during the winter.

This is where technology enters the picture. Old-time taps, the sort that buckets hung on, couldn’t be left in trees for too long or bacteria would get in and cut off the flow of sap, so tappers never tried to take advantage of any early-season suitable spells. But modern taps seal off the hole, so they can be left in.

Another important factor is the vacuum that draws sap out of the tree into long tubes, where it’s carried a mile or more to large tubs. Not only does this speed up collection – no more gathering sap from tree to tree – but the vacuum also inhibits bacteria growth.

As a result, taps can be inserted into trees early in winter and left there for months, gathering sap every time there’s a temperature swing.

That helps explain why New Hampshire had a banner 2022, producing 167,000 gallons of maple syrup, a whopping 31% higher than 2021, which was a bad year due to weather, and just short of the record of 169,000 gallons in 2016.

These improvements are needed, however, as warming weather and shrinking winters are going to make this industry more and more difficult to maintain. We’re already near the southern of the trees’ range, and warmer weather with its shrinking winters is going to slowly drive them further north.

So enjoy that local syrup while you can.

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You probably know that maple sugar depends on freezing nights and above-freezing days, which makes tree sap in many hardwood species move from the roots into the leaves and back again. Drilling holes in the tree lets us capture some of that moving sap.
It’s that time of year: follow your favorite sweet treat from the local sugarbush to your table this March by taking part in New Hampshire Maple Month. In addition, the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association is celebrating 80 years of educating the public and promoting the maple industry in the Granite State and beyond!

Local maple producers all over the state will host open houses to share their sweet products and show off the maple-making process throughout the month, but especially on Maple Weekend, March 18 and 19. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience one of New Hampshire’s most beloved traditions as local producers offer demonstrations of the boiling process, as well as giveaways and sales of products like syrup, maple popcorn, candies, cotton candy, ice cream, and more.

“From backyard kitchen producers to those with 100,000 taps, we all share a common passion for this New Hampshire tradition dating back centuries,” said Andrew Chisholm, president of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association. “Our association has grown significantly in 80 years. Working together, all of us can contribute to the New Hampshire maple industry, ensuring we pass down this proud tradition for future generations.”

Maple producers have been busy getting their trees tapped and lines run and now are getting into collecting and boiling. While it’s never a sure bet what the season will bring, the summer of 2022 was not as dry as the summer of 2021 and this winter has had some cold nights, both of which are good for maple-producing trees.

Maple is one of the top ten agricultural crops produced in the state, and in 2022, New Hampshire produced about 3% of the United States’ total maple crop. While sugarbushes produce sap for maple syrup during the maple season, all year round they contribute to a healthier environment, are habitat for many animals and birds, and provide recreational opportunities for people.

To find a producer near you, visit nhmaplemap.org. Each sugarhouse will have their own hours and offerings, so be sure to check their listings or call ahead for details before visiting.

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Shaker Village to host sugar camp hike tour

On Saturdays, March 18 and April 1, visitors will have the unique opportunity to explore the expansive grounds at Canterbury Shaker Village during its popular annual Sugar Camp Guided Hiking Tours.

On this exclusive tour, participants walk back in time through the remnants of a once thriving Shaker Village maple sugar camp. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Shakers spent their early spring days gathering sap and their nights boiling maple syrup and making candy.

At the height of the American Civil War, the Shakers at Shaker Village set out nearly 1,200 wooden buckets to gather sap, which resulted in about 700 barrels of maple syrup. “The syrup was not only an important sweetener for the Shakers, but an important cash crop for sale to the outside world,” noted Education Manager Kyle Sandler.

In addition to learning the history behind the sugar camp, participants will hear an excerpt from a journal entry written in the late 1880s by Shaker Brethren Nicholas Briggs, who describes life there. All participants will also receive a 1.7 ounce nip of maple syrup from North Family Farm and a maple syrup map of Shaker Village to take home.

SEE SHAKER PAGE 0

Welcome to North East Apartment Community, an animal-friendly apartment community in Manchester’s highly desirable North End.

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A Shaker gathers sap in a historical photo.

**Canterbury Shaker Village**

A Shaker gathers sap in a historical photo.

**SHAKER FROM PAGE 11**
candy.

Canterbury Shaker Village’s Sugar Camp Guided Hiking Tour is 4-miles total in length and takes place on Saturday, March 18 and Saturday, April 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The hike takes participants through the backcountry and is considered strenuous with uphill portions. Sections of the trail may be covered in snow, ice, and/or mud, so appropriate attire is advised.

Tickets for the Sugar Camp Guided Hiking Tour are $25 for members and $50 for non-members. To purchase tickets, or learn more about the Village, visit shakers.org.

Featuring 26 restored original Shaker buildings and 694 acres of forests, fields, gardens, nature trails, and mill ponds under permanent conservation easement, the Village is a National Historic Landmark for its architectural integrity and significance.

Canterbury Shaker Village is a member of the NH Heritage Museum Trail, which connects the public with culturally rich heritage institutions in New Hampshire. For more information, visit nhmuseumtrail.org.
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– Sue S. age 58

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– Laurie S. age 53

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– Elizabeth W. age 51

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