

Letters to the Editor

Victim – Offender – HUMAN

To the Editor,
 As I watch my community react to an issue that has been going on for years, I find myself wondering how many of these people have sat back and reviewed their own actions in life. The new town talk on the bullying issue is welcomed if it creates an environment for positive change. From what I have seen in the past few weeks the community environment is currently unstable and it could go both ways. I have watched the outrage from parents, peers, and kids that bullying is happening. I have read many stories and letters about people being bullied in school. My heart breaks for the people that have had to endure emotional and physical abuse in any form. I am writing this letter to say that I too have endured both physical and emotional abuse in my lifetime; I am a surviving victim of bullying. With that being said, I am also an offender. Yes that's right I am standing up in front of all of you, my peers and my community, and admitting that over the course of my lifetime I have bullied someone. My sister took it pretty rough as children because I would endure all of the emotional garbage of not being "popular" while away dur-

ing the day and become equally offensive to her and everyone else in my path at night. I'm sure that she was not my only target. I am not proud of the way I treated people, I made a choice to change. My point is; I am HUMAN! This is not an excuse. Humans are built with a fight or flight reaction that we are stuck with, like it or not. When cornered we will either run away or stay and fight. As I watch this reaction unfold in the community, I see that we as community members need to control the urge to yell and scream and BULLY the schools into doing something. If we attack school administrators, teachers and staff about the subject we are no better than the offensive humans causing the problem in the first place. So I say to you, be a part of the solution, not the problem. The adults and children that want to get involved in the process of change, need to come together on a peaceful and united ground and approach this issue with finesse and tact, not insults and lynch mob mentality. I DARE all of you to look into your own lifestyle and find places to make some changes. To the children of the community I say to you, I may not know every one of you

by name, but I do know that you are all great in some way! You are the future force of this community. Someday, most of you will go on to be selectmen, volunteers, business owners, employees and have families in this community. Know that you are an important part of this society. You have the right to be proud of yourself for everything that you are, don't let anyone take that away from you! I also want you to know that bullying doesn't just happen at school. It happens to some capacity at workplaces, volunteer groups and at the family level. You will

never be able to change the mean people of the world, what you can change is the way you view yourself. Let's bring this community together and change

our thoughts and actions in a positive direction.

Callie Dingman
 Lancaster

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Town Meeting is our opportunity to make choices

To the Editor:
 Whether one's politics are "right", "left" or "center" I believe most of us feel entitled to participate in the process which shapes our future: our Declaration of Independence lays this out with the promise that the government derives its "just powers from the consent of the governed."

Our Declaration also states, "Whenever any form of government becomes destructive" to the ability of people to govern themselves, "it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it...laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its power in such form, as to ...most likely affect their Safety and Happiness."

Although our system is theoretically designed to allow us to influence the outcome, whether it's Northern Pass, or box stores like Family Dollar, it seldom works that way. It is true that we have our say...then they do what they want. In fact, the regulatory process used at the local, state and federal levels favors the applicant.

Our annual Town Meeting offers us the opportunity to do this. We will be asked if we would like to alter the way our Planning Board is established, from the traditional appointment by the selectboard to that of elected positions. This is a powerful position with only the courts for redress if we don't like the outcome.

Municipalities and corporations have tax revenues and deep pockets, respectively, to draw from. Planning associations, engineering firms and legal consultants are also available for those with sufficient money. It falls upon the unsuspecting abutter, landowner or citizen to decipher complicated planning and zoning regulations and state statutes while bearing any court costs in their own defense.

Proponents of the right to choose our energy future and protect our beautiful landscape will offer the townspeople a choice, as well. We will have the opportunity to declare our right to decide whether we will allow huge corporate entities to roll over us without our say-so, or, lay a new "foundation" to affect our safety and happiness.

Lucy K. Wyman
 Lancaster

Monthly Lancaster Weather Summary

	January 2012					30-YEAR AVERAGE
LANCASTER, NH	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	
AVE MAX TEMP	28.2	23.8	26.2	18.9	30.2	25.3
AVE MIN TEMP	8.5	4.3	9.0	-5.6	8.7	3.0
AVE TEMP	18.4	14.0	17.6	6.7	19.5	14.2
SNOW	10.8	22.9	23.1	31.8	12.3	17.7
MELTED PRECIP	2.36	1.76	1.47	1.81	1.18	2.23
HEATING DEGREE DAYS	1440	1574	1462	1802	1404	1564
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0

January was much warmer than normal. Precipitation was near normal, although snowfall was well below normal. It was the least snowfall in January since 2007. At the end of the month there were four inches of snow on the ground and the water equivalent of the snow on the ground was 0.21 inches. Last year at this time there were 15 inches of snow on the ground. There were three days with freezing rain.


In February we gain one-and-a-quarter hours of daylight over January and temperatures average three degrees higher than January, although in two of the last five years, February was actually colder than January. Snowfall averages a couple inches less than January. The coldest day in February was minus 40 degrees in 1979. The warmest day in February was 63 degrees in 1981.


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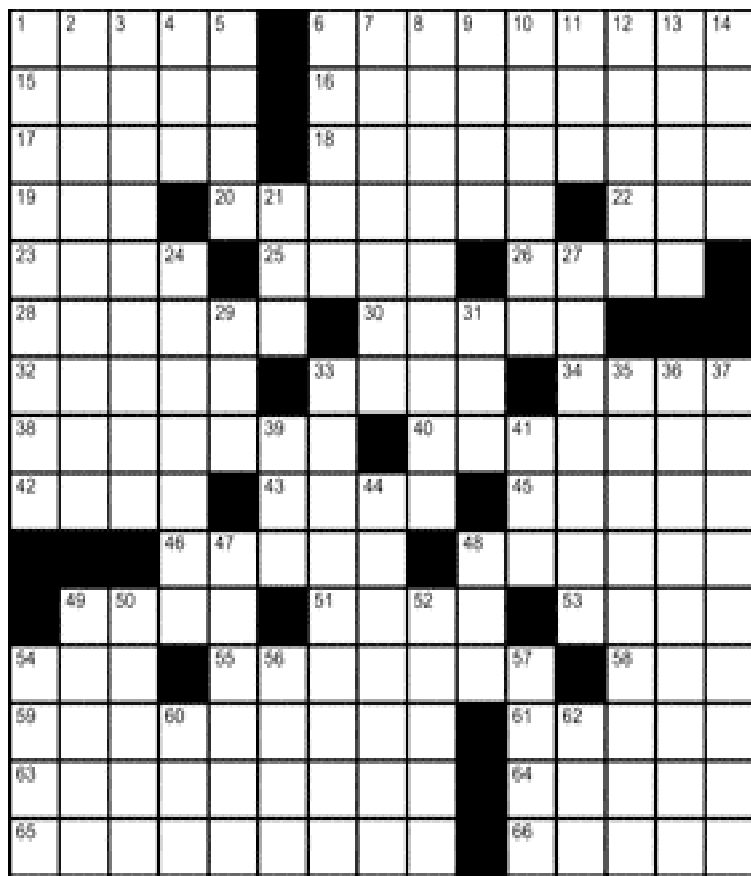
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Fun things to do

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Handle the party food
6. Auditorium's sound qualities
15. Convex molding
16. Port city in SE France
17. Merry old times
18. Space between margin and line of text
19. Conk out
20. Hutzpah, e.g.
22. Amazon, e.g.
23. Smeltery refuse
25. Freshman, probably
26. "___ bitten, twice shy"
28. Waterproof hip boots
30. Mrs. Bush
32. Black
33. Put up, as a picture
34. Ball field covering
38. "So soon?"
40. "The Canterbury Tales" author
42. Makeup, e.g.
43. ___ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
45. Brunch serving
46. Estuary
48. Moors
49. Clip
51. Acclivity
53. Harp's cousin
54. Gloomy

55. Unhurried walkers
58. PC linkup (acronym)
59. Branch that connects with capillaries
61. Cast out
63. One who drools
64. Hindu queen
65. Those who boldly state an opinion
66. Ornamental embroidery

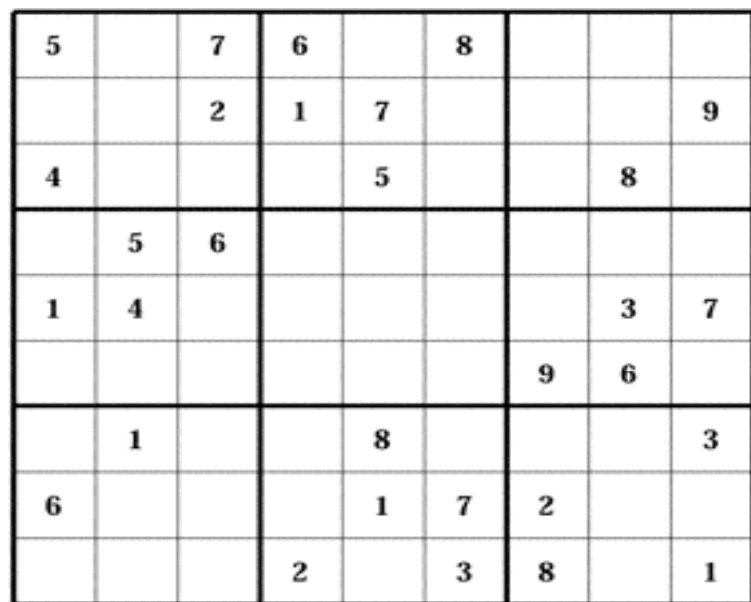
12. ___ artery
13. Copy
14. Transmitted
21. "___ alive!" (2 wds)
24. Inherited, such as disease
27. Musical mark
29. Swedish shag rug
31. "Bleah!"
33. Exaggeration
35. Metal welding gas
36. Expressed in different words
37. One who is given something
39. 10 liters
41. Trick taker, often
44. ___ and Meara comedy team
47. Closer
48. "___ Town Too" (1981 hit)
49. Runs smoothly
50. Con men?
52. Clairvoyants
54. Arp's art
56. Soft roe
57. Balkan native
60. "The Three Faces of ___"
62. Long-jawed fish

Down

1. Physical reaction to fear (2 wds)
2. At hand
3. Bullfighters
4. ___ Grove Village, Ill.
5. Like Santa's cheeks
6. Organic compound containing CONH2 radical
7. Unit of luminous intensity
8. City government statute
9. A Swiss army knife has lots of them
10. Portugese Mr.
11. Little bird

Crossword answers on Page 10

Sudoku



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 thru 9.

Difficulty: MEDIUM

Sudoku answers on Page 10

Word Search




- | | | | |
|------------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Age | Flown | Nor | Rose |
| Air | For | Nut | Rude |
| Apt | Gin | Oar | Runs |
| Are | God | Oath | Rural |
| Ate | Grab | Obtained | Safe |
| Ban | Hind | Oil | Sign |
| Bee | How | Once | Sir |
| Bells | Ill | Ore | Spy |
| Bow | Iron | Pat | Start |
| Box | Jar | Pig | Struggled |
| Cot | Jug | Pit | Toe |
| Cry | Lays | Playing | Tooth |
| Dense | Leak | Poked | Trapped |
| Department | Lock | Pop | Turn |
| Die | Lone | Put | Type |
| East | Maple | Rag | Want |
| Egg | Meal | Ram | Warn |
| Eighth | Mined | Rang | Way |
| Elf | Moan | Rat | Wear |
| Eye | Mom | Raw | Weep |
| Fails | Mum | Red | Who |
| Fat | Nest | Riots | Win |
| Fear | Nib | Rob | Worms |
| Fit | Ninth | Rod | |

Answers on Page 10


HOROSCOPES

February 2012 — Week 1




CAPRICORN
December 22–January 19

Lady Luck smiles on you, Capricorn, and life takes a turn for the better. Connections are made, and a last ditch effort to save a project works!




ARIES
March 21–April 19

A break in the action gives you the opportunity to reconnect with a loved one. Look for something fun the two of you can do together, Aries.




CANCER
June 21–July 22

Now, now, Cancer. What's done is done. There's no use in ruminating. Direct your energies to the new project at hand and get a lift on the right track.




LIBRA
September 23–October 22

Nonsense, Libra. You have the know-how to see the project through, so take the leap. The rewards will more than compensate for the time you put into it. An auto issue persists.




AQUARIUS
January 20–February 18

You're invited to take part in an event. Don't dismiss the importance of preparation. The more tricks you have up your sleeve, the better impression you'll make, Aquarius.




Taurus
April 20–May 20

Watch it, Taurus. What you're hearing may not be what's going on. Wait for the pieces of the puzzle to come together. A health scare is just that—a scare.




LEO
July 23–August 22

You're not in the best of position financially, Leo, but that doesn't mean you don't have something to contribute. Get in there and make a difference.




SCORPIO
October 23–November 21

It's time you took the bull by the horns and ended the madness at home, Scorpio. There is too much at stake for you to just let it slide.




PISCES
February 19–March 20

Smile, Pisces. Good news is headed your way. The pace picks up at work. Get a move on or prepare to give the reins to someone else.




GEMINI
May 21–June 21

Yikes, Gemini. You might have gotten in over your head. Take a step back to re-evaluate the situation. Then call on the pros for the assistance you need.



VIRGO
August 23–September 22

Calling all Virgos. An organization near and dear to your heart is close to a goal. Do what you can to put it over the top. A film leads the way!



SAGITTARIUS
November 22–December 21

Change can be good, Sagittarius, so don't buck the tide. Go with the flow, and you will be pleasantly surprised where it takes you. An interest is revived.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY



RUMORS, RAMBLINGS & RACING

with Steve Poulin

Finally the start of the 2012 racing season and NASCAR's AJ Allmendinger drove to his biggest racing career win Sunday in the 50th Anniversary Rolex 24 at Daytona. The newest driver for Roger Penske in the Cup series, piloted his Michael Shank Racing Ford Riley Daytona Prototype powered by Roush-Yates, to a convincing win in front of a sold-out infield crowd to give Ford its first trip to Victory Lane in the Rolex 24 in 13 years. Ford Daytona Prototypes dominated all three podium spots. Sharing the cockpit with Allmendinger in a record-tying distance record of 761 laps were IndyCar driver Justin Wilson and Grand-Am wheelmen John Pew and Oswald Negri. In the GT Class, road race ace Andy Lally earned his fourth career 24 Rolex win and accompanying Rolex watch trophy with help from co-drivers John Potter, Rene Rast and Richard Lietz.

The American Canadian Tour (ACT) crowned Brian Hoar of Williston, Vt., and Patrick Laperle of St-Denis, Quebec as the ACT Tour and Série ACT Castrol stock car racing champions respectively, at the ACT Banquet of Champions on Saturday, January 21 in Burlington, Vt. It was the first ever combined banquet for the sister championship stock car racing series. Hoar earned his eighth career championship on the U.S.-based ACT Tour during another strong season in which he earned five wins in 12 events. The five wins solidified Hoar atop of the ACT Late Model career all time wins list with 33 and added wins to his resumé at four new tracks including New Hampshire Motor Speedway. He also won the Showdown at Chaudiere in Vallee-Jct., Quebec and the 49th Annual People's United Bank Milk Bowl at Barre, Vt.'s Thunder Road. Hoar and car owner Rick Paya earned their third straight ACT Tour title as a team. Laperle earned his second career title on the Quebec-based Série ACT Castrol. He finished the season with four wins in his 12 events; including his first ever win in the Quebec season finale St-Eustache 300 at Autodrome St-Eustache. Laperle and his crew chief brother, Eric, now have 13 career wins on the Série ACT Castrol. Patrick was also the 2008 ACT Tour (U.S.) Champion and three-time People's United Bank Milk Bowl Champion. The 43rd Annual Don MacTavish Award went to ACT veteran Jimmy "Scruffy" Linarydy of Somerville, Mass. The prestigious MacTavish Award is named for legendary New England racer Don MacTavish who was killed in 1969 while racing at Daytona International Speedway.

Linarydy received the award for his continued support of ACT and Northeast stock car racing and his always positive attitude.

Thunder Road's Tom Curley and Devil Bowl's Mike Bruno have announced a Vermont State Late Model Championship Series for the 2012 season. Four extra distance races for Late Model teams will determine the 2012 Vermont State Late Model Champion. The series will kick off on Sunday, May 27 with the 50th Anniversary running of the Mekkelsen RV Memorial Day Classic 100. The series will move to Devil's Bowl on Friday, June 8 for a 100-lap event before returning to the Road's High Banks for the Vermont Governor's Cup 150 on July 12th. The first Vermont State Champion in many seasons will be crowned at the series' finale on Sunday, Sept. 16 in a 100-lapper at the Bowl. Over \$10,000 in point fund monies has been posted for the four race series. "This combined effort to give the weekly teams around the region an opportunity to have a four race, weekly type series and honor the first Vermont State Late Model Champion, is a nice balance between tour racing and weekly racing. I think it will be well received by Late Model teams in the region," said Tom Curley, long-time promoter of Thunder Road and the American Canadian Tour.

Dr. Joseph Mattioli, Pocono Raceway Founder and Chairman of the Board, passed away on January 26 at the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center, surrounded by his loving family, following a lengthy illness. He was 86. "Doc" as he was known to friends and associates, was one of the most respected and admired men in automobile racing. He founded Pocono Raceway in the early 1960's and has been at the helm of Pocono ever since. Under his leadership, the track grew in stature and has hosted 68 very successful NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Events. His passion and drive helped Pocono Raceway succeed when other tracks fell by the wayside. Pocono Raceway is the only remaining family owned and run track on the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series schedule. He was always concerned that race fans and race car drivers and their families were treated with the upmost respect and constantly upgraded procedures and Raceway facilities to meet that goal. Dr. Mattioli is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dr. Rose, daughters Louie and Michele and son Joseph Mattioli III, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His passing leaves a void in the NASCAR community and especially to his family and extended "Pocono Raceway" family.

Garage Garble

The USAC Dirt Midget Association (DMA) held its final pre-season meeting at Seals-It headquarters last week and reviewed plans for an every-other-week schedule at Bear Ridge Speedway in Bradford, Vt. More than 60 current and potential members were on hand. Additional members from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut provide every indication that weekly fields should run between 20 and 25 cars at the Ridge.

Riverside Speedway General Manager Curtis Robinson announced last week that long-time Riverside competitor and employee Diane Roy has recently accepted the position of Speedway Sales Manager. The Danville, Vt., resident will be responsible for advertising and sponsorship sales with her main goal of continuing the long standing relationships the track has had with its long term sponsors, while also seeking new "marketing partners" to join in the excitement. A former racer herself, Diane is excited with her new role at the speedway reaching out to businesses and individuals, letting them know



Newly crowned 2011 American Canadian Tour Champion Brian Hoar made a habit of claiming checkered flags last season. (Photo by Steve Poulin)

that racers and their fans are the most loyal consumers out there, and that sponsorship and advertising packages can be tailored for all budgets.

What they're saying

"I think there's always a lot of work to do because it's a moving target, whether it's the economy or different elements that affect the way that you do things or causes you to do things. I think there's always a lot of work to do. And I think we're still in a cycle of business models being adjusted. Some agreements overlapped at critical times, some come up, some go away, and that's fairly tradi-

tional in our sport. When relationships come time to renew, most of them renew. Some of them don't, but certainly the economy plays a big part in that. But I think what we're beginning to see is the return of the level of energy around attendance at the racetracks, viewerships that contribute to the interest level of sponsors and other partners to be involved in a sport. But it's always a work in progress. There's always a lot of work to do to maintain." — NASCAR President Mike Helton talks about the economy, sponsorship and attendance



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We would like to thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at next year's festival. The Jefferson Festival Committee, PO Box 54, Jefferson, NH 03583. A not-for-profit organization.

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Happy Hiker

Story and photos by John Compton

Mt. Parker—Great Views!

Mt. Parker! It's not a mountain that comes to mind, as readily as the names of New Hampshire's 4K peaks. As a matter of fact, Mt. Parker barely makes it as a 3K peak with an elevation of only 3,004 ft. For anyone unfamiliar with the location of Mt. Parker, it is situated nearly due north of Bartlett. It's on the southeast edge of the Presidential Range Dry River Wilderness, and is the southernmost 3K peak on the main branch of the Montalban Ridge.

The shortest route to Mt. Parker is to use the Mt. Langdon Trail to link up with the Mt. Parker Trail. This route entails a round-trip distance of 7.8 miles, with a total elevation gain of 2,800 ft. That round-trip distance and elevation gain is far greater than for many of the 4K peaks, such as Mts. Osceola, Tecumseh, Hale, Jackson, Pierce, and Tom. Even a round-trip trek to Mt. Eisenhower via the Edmands Path is only 6.6 miles with an elevation gain of 2,750 ft.

Perhaps the distance and elevation gain involved for a mere 3K peak is part of the reason for this mountain's lack of popularity. Another possible deterrent is the fact that there is no practical way to include Mt. Parker as a part of a loop hike. It is an out-and-back hike via the same route. Plus, you need to ascend and descend Oak Ridge on the way to Mt. Parker, and then ascend and descend this ridge again on the return leg of the hike. A sizeable chunk of the elevation gain for this hike results from ascending this ridgeline twice!

Whatever the reason for this mountain's lack of fame, it surely cannot be due to the lack of spectacular views in all direc-



Easterly view toward Iron Mountain and Doubleheads

tions. By far, the most striking view is looking northward up the Montalban Ridge and Rocky Branch valley toward Mt. Washington and the southern Presidentials. On my trek to Mt. Parker, I took photo after photo of this magnificent view.

Besides the awesome view northward toward the Presidential Range, there are other views to the south, east and west that have a beauty of their own. Some of the more recognizable peaks and mountain ranges that can be seen include Mt. Resolution, Mt. Crawford, peaks in the Willey Range, the Twin Range, the Nancy Range, Mt. Carrigain, the Osceolas, Mt. Tremont, the Tripyramids, Mts. Whiteface, Passaconaway, and Chocorua, as well as North Moat, the Wildcats, Carter Dome, peaks in the eastern Mahoosucs, the Baldfaces, the Doubleheads, plus Iron Mountain and Kearsarge North. Way off in the distance, the westward view even includes the summits of Mts. Lincoln and Lafayette. There has been recent logging along the first mile of the route (from the trailhead for the Mt. Langdon Trail to the boundary for the Presidential Range Dry River Wilderness). Although I've hiked to Mt. Parker many times, this was the first time I've done so in the aftermath of the logging. With the snow-covered ground, things didn't look too bad. There are now a number of new logging roads diverging from the main roadway that the trail corridor follows. However, at points where it could be con-

fusing as to which way to go, there are signs to direct you. And now there is even a sign to direct you to Cave Mountain, whereas this spur trail was unsigned prior to the logging.

It is a 2.5-mile trek from the trailhead in Bartlett to the junction of the Mt. Parker Trail. The corridor for that trail is a bit overgrown, and it is sparsely blazed. However, in the warm-weather months, the Mt. Parker trail is relatively easy to follow, since you can see the worn treadway at your feet. However, in winter months, it can be challenging when snow covers the ground. For my trek, I had the benefit of having travelled the trail many times in the past, plus there was an old snowshoe track to follow, which accurately followed the trail corridor. When hiking this trail in previous winters, there have been tracks that meandered off the true route to the summit, but they usually got you there nonetheless.

To sum it up, in my opinion the trek to Mt. Parker is well worth the 7.8 miles and 2,800 ft. of elevation gain that it takes to get there. I suppose my only word of advice would be to choose a good viewing day when visiting this little mountain. It would be disappointing to travel that distance and gain all that elevation and then be unable to see all that Mt. Parker has to offer.

(You may contact the author by e-mail at randonneur8@yahoo.com, or visit his Blog at <http://1happyhiker.blogspot.com/>)

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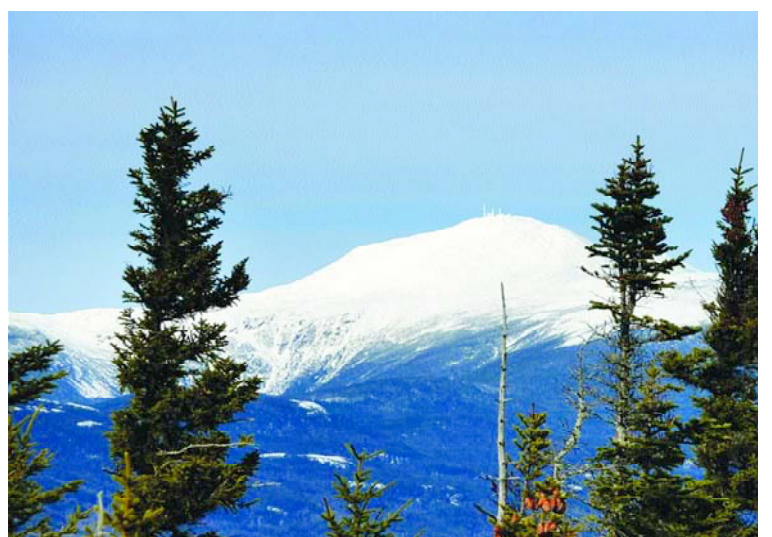
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—Beulah Johnson

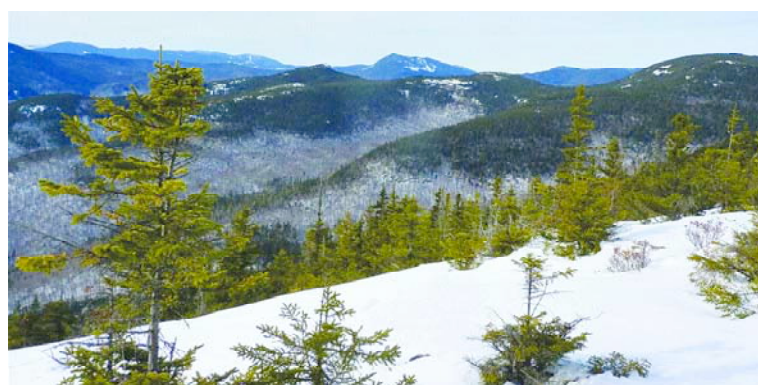


Weeks Medical Center

WeeksMedical.org



Zoomed view of Mt. Washington from Mt. Parker



Northeasterly view toward Baldface Range