

—Slug:.....COMM-0842.bf.world\_AIDS\_day  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section.....Town and Village  
—Format.....News - no byline  
—Dateline.....Bellows Falls  
—Article Number:.....42643

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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Dr. Taronte Venable to perform for World AIDS Day event

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TEXT BODY:

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Dr. Taronté Venable, certified chiropractic neurologist  
and owner of Temple Chiropractic in Bellows Falls, is also a  
singer-songwriter embarking on performing publicly.  
Bellows Falls Pride is delighted to invite him to join the  
program on Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Rockingham Free Public  
Library, where a 12 foot by 12 foot section of the AIDS Memorial  
Quilt will be on display from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free.

11 The quilt will be displayed in the third-floor meeting room at the  
12 library, which is elevator accessible.

13 "The iconic AIDS Memorial Quilt has signified loss and  
14 love like no other memorial for the last 40 years," organizers  
15 wrote in a news release. Since 1985, when the quilt was  
16 conceived by Cleve Jones, "it has served to provide context as a  
17 teaching tool for a generation that cannot comprehend the  
18 enormity of AIDS pandemic devastation in the world."

19 This year, the Quilt section will include a panel for Ron  
20 Squires, who made history as Vermont's first openly gay legislator,  
21 representing the towns of Guilford and Vernon. "A tireless  
22 advocate, he championed legislation to ban discrimination  
23 against gays and lesbians before his untimely death from AIDS-  
24 related illness in 1993."

25 The day-long event focuses on the acknowledgment of  
26 World AIDS Day and features several partners. The AIDS Project  
27 of Southern Vermont, located in Brattleboro and Bennington, will  
28 provide information and walk-in HIV/Hep C testing free of charge  
29 throughout the day.

30 At 6:15 p.m., Venable will perform songs of love and loss  
31 that personify the AIDS pandemic, followed by Attorney Michael  
32 Haley from GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD Law),  
33 at 7 p.m.

34 Haley has worked on two lawsuits challenging the  
35 administration's ban on transgender military service, as well as  
36 cases challenging employer discrimination against transgender  
37 employees, and GLAD Law's first-in-the-nation challenge to the  
38 executive order attempting to bar transgender girls from sports.  
39 He has been a part of legislative efforts in both New Hampshire  
40 and Vermont and will offer updates for the coming session.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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