



# VALLEY NEWS

# 2025

## REPORT TO READERS

The Valley News update to the community -  
what we've done and how we're preparing for our future

## TO OUR READERS

# From the publisher

By **RICH WALLACE**  
Publisher

Local journalism is not a passive endeavor. It requires showing up — to selectboard meetings and school board hearings, to courtrooms and playing fields, to the moments that define a community and the quieter ones that shape it just as much. That's what the Valley News has done for over 73 years, and 2025 gave us plenty of reasons to feel good about the work we're doing and where we're headed.

### Highlights of 2025

This past year we launched a new website, redesigned from the ground up with our readers in mind. The new [vnews.com](http://vnews.com) is faster, cleaner and easier to navigate — whether you're catching up on breaking news, searching for a story you remember from last week or exploring our archives. It represents a significant investment in the digital experience we offer, and we're proud of the result.

We also rebuilt our morning newsletter, and the numbers tell us you've noticed. Each weekday, a member of our newsroom staff introduces the day's top stories with context and perspective you won't find in an automated digest. Our newsletter audience has grown steadily throughout the year, and it remains one of the most direct and personal ways we connect with readers every day.

The Valley News app launched this year as well, giving readers a dedicated mobile experience for our journalism. Whether you're on an iPhone or Android device, the app makes it easier than ever to stay connected to local news on your own schedule, wherever you are.

We also continued a significant transition in how we deliver the print paper, shifting from traditional route drivers to mail delivery across much of our coverage area. It's an adjustment that reflects the realities of the modern economy — finding and retaining reliable delivery



### ON THE COVER

Top: Hartford Memorial Middle School eighth grader Charlie Witzgall, 14, sings along to the music during an overnight dance marathon at the school in White River Junction, on Friday night, March 21, 2025. The event was a fundraiser for a Hartford family who lost their home in a fire, the Upper Valley Haven and CHaD. (Valley News — James M. Patterson); Left middle: Teacher Stephen Pascucci asks a question during a Claremont School Board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025 in Claremont, N.H. About 500 people attended the meeting to get answers about the Claremont School District's finances. (Valley News — Jennifer Hauck); Lower left: From left, longtime server Mary Ryan laughs with Donna Marzouk, visiting from Bradenton, Fla., and Ann Richardson, of Hanover, N.H., after taking a photo to send to Marzouk's daughter at Four Aces Diner in West Lebanon, N.H., on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Ryan, who has worked at the diner for 35 years, has known Marzouk and her family for many years. (Valley News — Alex Driehaus)

drivers has become increasingly difficult for newspapers across the country. Mail delivery ensures we can continue getting the print Valley News to your door dependably, and we're grateful for your patience through the transition.

We also said goodbye — warmly and gratefully — to two colleagues

who gave enormously to this newsroom and to the Upper Valley. Jim Kenyon and John Lippman each brought decades of commitment, curiosity and craft to their work here. Their contributions to this community, through journalism, are lasting. We wish them well in retirement.

### Plans for 2026

Looking ahead, 2026 is a year of continued growth, and we have a clear sense of where we want to go.

We are expanding our social media presence with more intentional, consistent storytelling across platforms. That means more than just posting links — it means meeting readers where they are with content designed for those environments, whether that's quick updates on breaking news, behind-the-scenes glimpses of our newsroom or highlights from the communities we cover.

Video is a growing part of how people consume local news, and we intend to be part of that. In 2026 we'll be developing more original video content — bringing the people, places and stories of the Upper Valley to life in ways that text and photography alone can't always capture. This is new territory for a newsroom our size, and we're approaching it deliberately and with ambition.

Arts and entertainment coverage is also a priority. The Upper Valley has a remarkably rich cultural life — theater, music, art, food, community events — and we believe it deserves deeper, more consistent coverage than it has sometimes received. We're committed to expanding that coverage in 2026, giving readers more reasons to turn to the Valley News when they're looking for something to do, something to experience or simply something to enjoy.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for subscribing. And thank you for believing, as we do, that a community is better off when it has a strong local newspaper.

## INSIDE



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Meet the team that delivers news and information about the Upper Valley every day.

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## CONNECT WITH US

# WHO TO CONTACT

*Our journalism is produced by people who live here, raise families here and understand this community. We are not a remote newsroom parachuting in. Our journalists and sales representatives are embedded in the Upper Valley. And we cover everything from school boards to town meetings to major institutions that shape daily life.*



**Rich Wallace**  
Publisher

### REACH US

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**Community**  
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**Arts, Entertainment and Lifestyle**  
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**Opinion**  
forum@vnews.com

#### SUBMIT INFORMATION THROUGH OUR FORMS

**News tip:**  
vnews.com/submit-a-news-tip/

**Letter to the Editor**  
vnews.com/submit-a-letter-to-the-editor/

#### CORRECTIONS POLICY:

Our goal is to always provide accurate information. If we learn that information we published is factually inaccurate we will publicly correct the mistake as soon as possible. In print, corrections and clarifications run on Page A8. They are also added as an Editor's Note either above or below a previously published online article. To report inaccuracies, please email newseditor@vnews.com.

### NEWSROOM



**Matt Clary**  
Editor



**Geoff Hansen**  
Managing editor



**Nora Doyle Burr**  
News and engagement editor



**Michael Coughlin Jr.**  
Sports



**Alex Driehau**  
Staff photographer



**Alex Hanson**  
Staff writer and opinion editor



**Jennifer Hauck**  
Staff photographer



**Lukas Dunford**  
Staff writer (intern)



**Jim Kenyon**  
Columnist



**Alex Ebrahimi**  
Staff writer



**John Lippman**  
Staff writer



**Dan Mackie**  
Over Easy



**Patrick O'Grady**  
Sullivan County



**James M. Patterson**  
Staff photographer



**Emma Roth-Wells**  
Staff writer (item)



**Liz Sauchelli**  
Calendar and community news



**Clare Shanahan**  
Staff writer



**Steve Taylor**  
A Look Back



**Marion Uempley**  
Staff writer

### ADVERTISING



**Cole Chapman**  
Advertising sales



**Mark McGonis**  
Advertising sales



**Patrick Pelletier**  
Advertising sales



**Kelly Vigue**  
Customer relations

## OUR PRODUCTS

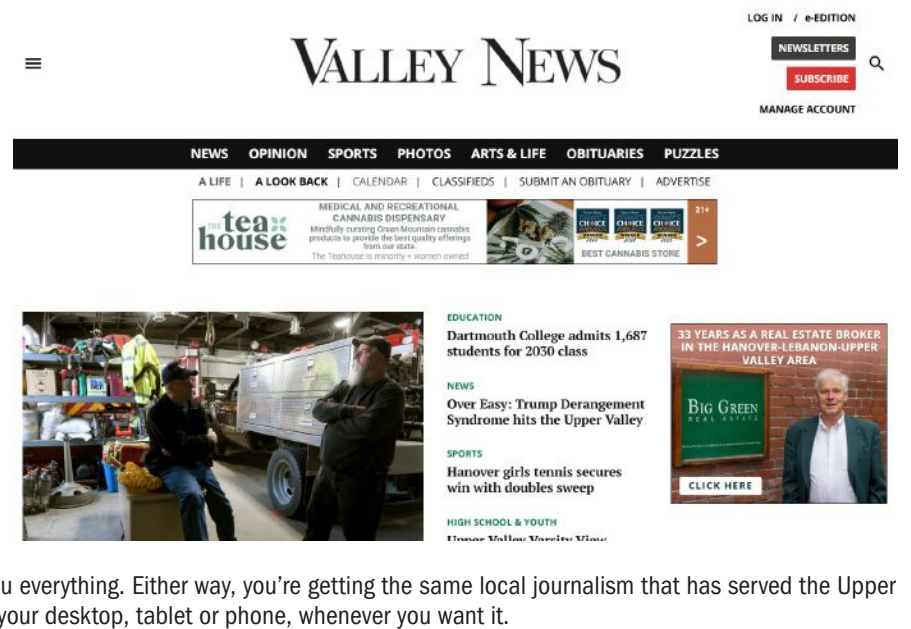
# READ ALL ABOUT IT

We print newspapers six days a week at our company's press in New Hampshire. But an Upper Valley news organization like ours does so much more. We produce seasonal special sections, a quarterly business magazine called *Enterprise*, a quarterly family-focused publication called *Valley Parents*, and a whole lot more. Online, we publish all day on [vnews.com](http://vnews.com), and we reach our audience through Facebook and Instagram. We host two podcasts — one dedicated to Dartmouth sports and one covering high school sports across the region. Readers can also access our journalism through the Valley News app. More than ever, we're connecting with readers through digital newsletters. In short, we reach readers across the Upper Valley in a variety of ways. Here's a look at our products.



### vnews.com

is where Valley News journalism lives around the clock. Our reporters and editors are publishing throughout the day — breaking news, developing stories, sports results and more — so there's always something new when you check in. In most cases, you'll see our coverage online before it appears in print. Print subscribers automatically have full digital access. Prefer to go paperless? A digital-only subscription gets you everything. Either way, you're getting the same local journalism that has served the Upper Valley for decades — on your desktop, tablet or phone, whenever you want it.



### THE DAILY PAPER

We print a newspaper six days a week and deliver across the region, much of it through the Postal Service. The Upper Valley is where most of our readers live. The Valley News is \$2 Monday through Friday on the newsstands and \$2.50 for our Weekend edition on Saturday. Of course, you get a much better rate with a print subscription, which also gives you full digital access.

## WHERE PRINT MEETS DIGITAL

### THE E-EDITION

This is a digital replica of the newspaper and it's available to all print and digital-only subscribers. So, why would someone want to read a newspaper on the website or an app? Well, it actually has a lot of advantages. Here are some of the reasons readers turn to the e-edition:

- They like their news to be organized in a newspaper format, but they don't necessarily want to get the paper sent to their home each morning.
- Unlike the website, when you never feel like you're done with the news for the day, you can read the edition on your iPad, desktop or phone and put it away until tomorrow.
- You have access to archive editions.
- Want to print out a puzzle and do it on paper. That's easy — just use the clipping tool and highlight what you'd like to print.
- Plus, there are other great features like audio playback, email notifications based on your desired search term and an ability to adjust the type to the size that works best for you.

# OUR PRODUCTS



## ENTERPRISE

The Upper Valley has a business community worth knowing. Enterprise, our free quarterly magazine, goes beyond the transactions and announcements to tell the stories behind the region's companies, entrepreneurs and economic life. available online at [vnews.com](http://vnews.com) and distributed widely in print across the region.

## VALLEY PARENTS

Raising kids in the Upper Valley comes with its own joys, challenges and community. Valley Parents, our free quarterly magazine, is written for the families who are living it — with local perspectives on parenting, child development, education, health and everything in between. It's available online at [vnews.com](http://vnews.com) and distributed widely in print across the area.



## FOLLOW US



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You'll find some of our content on Facebook and Instagram, and we're always evaluating new platforms that allow us to better connect with our readers. Of course, this all takes work on our part, so we do the best we can to choose the platforms where we can reach the most people. It's easy to find us — we have links at the bottom of each of our articles and at the bottom of our homepage at [vnews.com](http://vnews.com).

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

Throughout the year, the Valley News publishes special print sections that go beyond our daily coverage. Keep an eye out for these and other special sections in your print edition throughout the year.



REPORT TO READERS

# Accountability reporting

*Decision-making by major institutions and school and municipal governance affect every resident in the Upper Valley. Our reporting tracks these issues consistently and in depth. By covering public institutions and major employers, we fulfill our watchdog role and help ensure accountability to the people these systems serve.*



Jennifer Hauck / Valley News  
**Woodstock Police Chief Joe Swanson, left, listens while Woodstock Municipal Manager Eric Duffy testifies during a hearing before the Woodstock Village Board of Trustees on March 19, 2025, in Woodstock. Swanson asked for the hearing about his job performance to be done in public.**

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NEWS

## Upper Valley school districts explore merger to meet state goals

By CLARE SHANAHAN  
 October 4, 2025

Three Vermont school districts in the Upper Valley have expressed their willingness to be combined into one educational unit, in order to meet the state's goals while protecting their communities and ensuring the long-term sustainability of their schools.

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VALLEY NEWS

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TOWN-CITY-GOVERNMENT

## Report: Lebanon Public Works employees misused city property for side jobs

by Clare Shanahan Valley News Staff Writer  
 February 18, 2025

Reader Avail

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EDUCATION

## Dartmouth preparing feedback to Trump administration's college compact proposal

By MARION UMPLEBY  
 October 7, 2025

Dartmouth's president issued a statement defending the school's independence and academic freedom in response to the White House's request for universities to commit to its political goals in exchange for federal funding.

LATEST E-PAPER SAVED EVENTS PLAY

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NEWS

## Kenyon: DHMC nurses mourn failed attempt at unionization

June 9, 2025

When a small group of the 1,400 registered nurses at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center embarked on a grassroots unionization drive in early 2024, they expected backlash from the hospital's administration. Hostile bosses, they could handle. Petty moves by management, such as requiring pro-union fliers be on laminated paper, were minor inconveniences.

LATEST E-PAPER SAVED EVENTS PLAY

## REPORT TO READERS

# Navigating daily life

*From housing challenges to health care access, the Valley News provides reporting that helps Upper Valley residents under the issues shaping everyday life in their communities.*



ALEX DRIEHAUS / Valley News

**A helicopter carries a wire mesh sheet as workers attach it to the side of a rockface next to the southbound lane of I-91 in Fairlee on Nov. 14, 2025. The wire mesh is part of a multi-year stabilization project.**

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■ TOWN-CITY-GOVERNMENT

### Lebanon's new housing plan aims to balance conservation and affordable housing



By LUKAS DUNFORD  
September 14, 2025

A group of advocates for land conservation and developers gathered in Lebanon to discuss how to work together on a new housing plan that balances conservation and housing needs.



During a walk hosted by the Lebanon Conservation

POLICE-FIRE-COURTS

### Decades of delay culminate in emergency closure of West Lebanon bridge



by CLARE SHANAHAN Valley News Staff Writer  
March 10, 2025



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Lebanon Department of Public Works employees Hunter, left, and Charles, both of whom declined to give their last names, close the Route 12A dry bridge to vehicular traffic at the intersection of State Route 12A, South Main Street after a recent inspection, will be closed until further notice. (Valley News - Alex Driehaus)

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■ NEWS

### Public session in West Lebanon to discuss New Hampshire's climate action plan



By CLARE SHANAHAN  
October 28, 2025

Upper Valley residents will have the opportunity to comment on a list of measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in New Hampshire on Thursday at a public information session hosted by the state Department of Environmental Services and other groups.



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■ NEWS

### Agritourism boom: Farms thrive by selling experiences, not just produce



By LUKAS DUNFORD  
November 7, 2025

Agritourism has exploded in the Upper Valley, with farms shifting from production to consumption and offering experiences such as pick-your-own, on-farm dinners, and farm-themed festivals, resulting in a significant increase in revenue from \$265,000 in 2002 to \$4.54 million in 2022.



🏠 LATEST 📄 E-PAPER 🔖 SAVED 📅 EVENTS 🎮 PLAY

REPORT TO READERS

# Connecting our communities

*Local journalism isn't only about problems — it's also about place. The Valley News covers the people, traditions and creative life that give the Upper Valley its identity. From arts and entertainment to community events, this coverage fosters connection and helps people feel invested in where they live.*



James M. Patterson / Valley News

**Madelyn Chambers hugs Stevens goalie Audrina Pelton as teammates Kayleigh Ferland, left, Shawna Morin, second right, and Bailey Morin, right, converge on them to celebrate their 1-0 win over Raymond in the NHIAA D-III state championship in Bedford, N.H., on Nov. 8, 2025.**

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NEWS

## New owners take over two Blue Sky restaurants in Hanover



By MARION UMPLEBY  
October 20, 2025

The owners of Blue Sky Restaurant Group have sold Jesse's Steaks, Seafood & Tavern in Hanover to its general manager, and Dunk's Sports Grill in Hanover to an unnamed buyer, while Tony Barnett will retain Snax Restaurant in Lebanon.



LATEST E-PAPER SAVED EVENTS PLAY

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NEWS

## A Look Back: How the disappearance of steam locomotives changed the Upper Valley



By STEVE TAYLOR  
September 7, 2025

The last steam locomotive to run in New England, Central Vermont's 6208, made its final run in 1957, marking the end of the steam age in the region and the beginning of the diesel age.



LATEST E-PAPER SAVED EVENTS PLAY

DINING OUT

## Upper Valley donut maven Muriel Maville dies at 87



by Marion Umpleby Valley News Staff Writer  
April 9, 2025



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ARTS & LIFE

## Thrift shopping creates community in the Upper Valley



By MARION UMPLEBY  
October 3, 2025

The Gifford Medical Center Auxiliary Thrift Shop in Randolph, Vermont offers affordable prices on clothes, household items, and antiques, while vintage boutiques in the area offer curated selections at higher prices, and KIS Thrift in Wilder combines a clean out service with a thrift store to provide low prices and a social atmosphere.



LATEST E-PAPER SAVED EVENTS PLAY

REPORT TO READERS

# There during critical moments

*When the Upper Valley faces public emergencies or breaking news events, the Valley News provides accurate and timely reporting to communities informed.*



JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News  
**Lebanon firefighters and EMTs provide medical care and work to extricate the driver of a car in a head-on crash between exits 17 and 18 on Interstate 89 northbound in Lebanon on May 27, 2025.**

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**POLICE-FIRE-COURTS**

## Dartmouth alumnus gets 20-to-40-year sentence in rape case

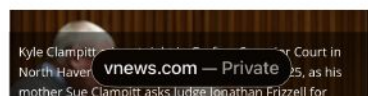
by **John Lippman** Valley News Staff Writer  
 April 14, 2025



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**TOWN MEETING 2026**

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**POLICE-FIRE-COURTS**

## Newbury, Vt., man who killed daughter ruled to be 'not guilty by reason of insanity'

by **John Lippman** Valley News Staff Writer  
 April 20, 2025



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EDUCATION

## Claremont School District deficit revealed: \$5 million shortfall

By **PATRICK OGRADY**  
 September 25, 2025

The Claremont School District has announced a deficit of just over \$5 million, which is expected to be lower by the end of the current fiscal year, but will still require additional funding to be addressed.



[Latest](#)

NEWS

## Family hopes for answers in son's tragic death in Woodstock

By **JOHN LIPPMAN**  
 December 2, 2025

Benjamin Johnsen, a 19-year-old college student, was found dead on the bank of the Ottauquechee River after his car crashed into a tree on Route 4, and his father suspects he may have been suffering from a head injury and disoriented when he walked away from the scene.



## REPORT TO READERS

# Our reach

*The Valley News is the dominant source of local news in the region. Every day, thousands of residents rely on us in print and online. Our digital audience continues to grow, reaching hundreds of thousands of readers each month. In a crowded media environment, we remain the primary source people turn to for verified, local information.*

### Town By Town



5,593 daily  
print readers

2,387 digital  
subscribers

350,000  
monthly  
site visitors

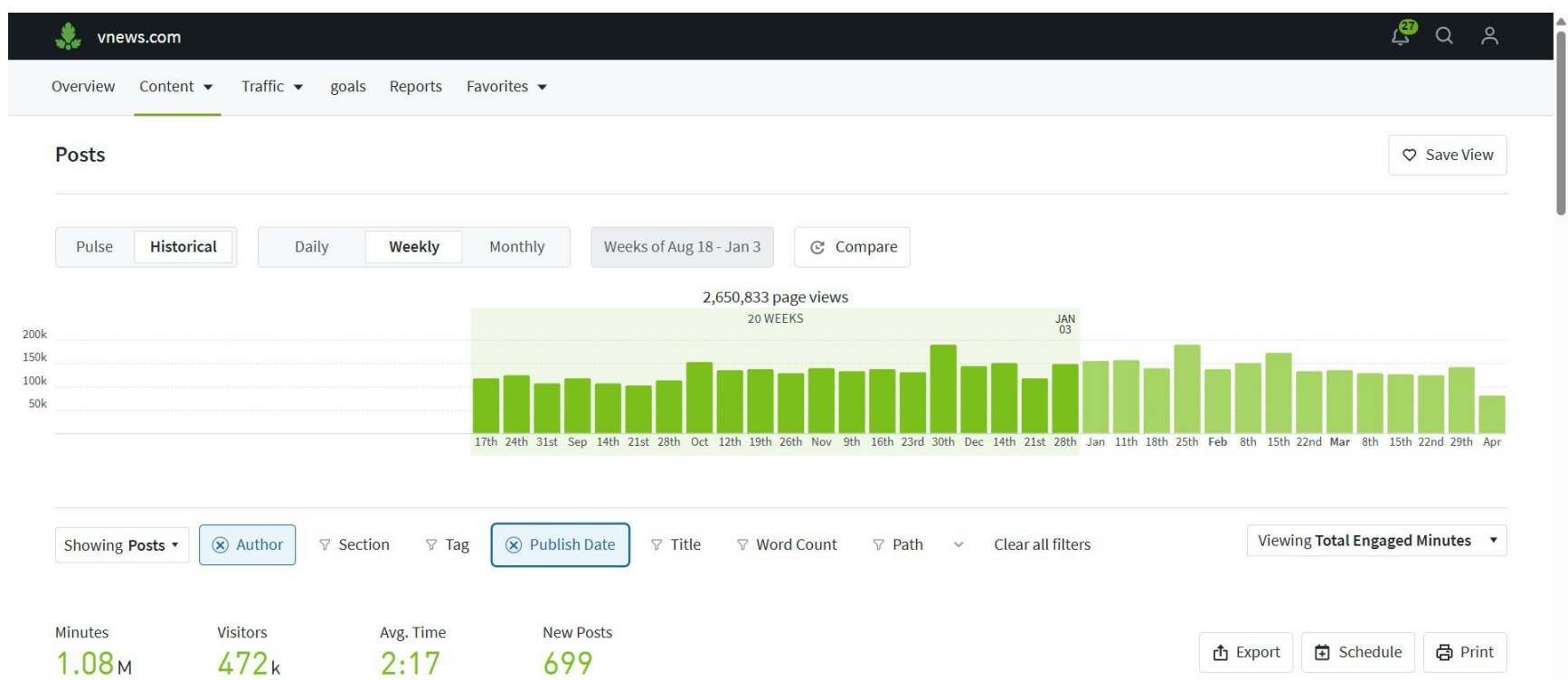
600,000  
page views  
per month

14,287 receive daily  
headline alerts

Open rate  
averages 46%

29,000  
Facebook  
followers

7,000  
Instagram  
followers



## OUR REACH

# HOW WE HELP BUSINESSES

*Our impact extends beyond news coverage. Valley News advertising helps local businesses reach customers and supports the local economy. Our opinion pages provide a forum for civic dialogue. By promoting events, nonprofits and initiatives, we help strengthen the social and economic fabric of the Upper Valley. Newspapers continue to be a big piece of what we do, but we offer many other options, from digital to magazines, as we build our audience. We suggest local advertisers look at it the same way. You need to reach your customer. Some buy the newspaper. Some read our site. We can connect you with both. Some may not read the paper or the website, but we reach those homes as well. Contact us, and we'll help you explore the ways you can expand your business.*

# Reasons to advertise through the Valley News

Valley News advertising plays a crucial role in benefiting both the community and local businesses in several ways:

### Community Awareness

Valley News advertising informs residents about events, services, and businesses in their area, fostering a sense of community. Whether it's a new restaurant opening or a community event, advertising in the Valley News ensures that locals are aware of what's happening around them, encouraging participation and engagement.

### Support for Local Economy

By promoting local businesses through advertising in the Valley News, it encourages residents to shop locally rather than going to larger chains or shopping online. This supports the local economy by keeping money within the community, which can lead to job creation, increased tax revenue, and overall economic growth.

### Connection and Trust

Advertising with the Valley News helps build connections between businesses and the community. When residents see familiar faces and businesses in the Valley News, it fosters a sense of trust and loyalty. This connection can lead to long-term relationships between businesses and customers, benefiting both parties.

### Promotion of Local Events and Initiatives

Advertising with the Valley News is instrumental in promoting community events, fundraisers, and initiatives. Whether it's a charity run, a school fundraiser, or a local festival, advertising helps spread the word and increase participation, ultimately

benefiting the community as a whole.

### Increased Visibility for Small Businesses

For small businesses with limited marketing budgets, advertising with the Valley News provides an affordable way to reach their target audience. It allows them to compete with larger corporations by targeting the specific demographics in their area, increasing their visibility and attracting new customers.

### Fostering Entrepreneurship

Advertising with the Valley News encourages entrepreneurship by providing a platform for small businesses and startups to promote their products and services. This can inspire aspiring entrepreneurs to pursue their business ideas, knowing that there are avenues available to market and grow their ventures within the community.

### Cultural and Artistic Promotion

Valley News advertising often highlights cultural events, artistic performances, and local talent. By showcasing these aspects of the community, advertising with the Valley News contributes to the cultural vibrancy and identity of the area, making it a more attractive place to live and visit.

In essence, Valley News advertising serves as a bridge between businesses and the community, fostering economic growth, community engagement, and a sense of local pride.

The dominant local media outlet providing coverage of 44 cities and towns in New Hampshire and Vermont with local journalists

Local opinion page (letters, editorials and

guest columns)

We connect with your audience through a fully integrated, omnichannel advertising approach designed to maximize reach and engagement.

Our print platforms deliver trusted, local visibility in a highly engaged readership, while our targeted digital advertising ensures your message reaches the right people at the right time.

Through connected TV (CTV), we extend your brand into premium streaming environments, capturing audiences in a high-impact, non-skipable format.

We also leverage proprietary and highly targeted email marketing to deliver messages directly to opted-in subscribers with precision segmentation.

In addition, our display banner advertising expands your presence across local and regional digital properties, reinforcing frequency and brand awareness throughout the customer journey.

Together, these channels work seamlessly to build awareness, drive action, and deliver measurable results.

### Your support stays local

We're a family owned company that values the role a news organization plays in its community. When you advertise through us, your support is reinvested in our local newsroom, making us more capable and your community more informed.

# SUPPORT THE VALLEY NEWS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## Consider a gift to our newsroom



Good journalism requires good journalists. That sounds obvious, but in the current media landscape, finding and keeping talented reporters at a community newspaper is one of the hardest challenges we face. The Valley News community-funded staff writer program is our answer to that challenge.

When our Report for America partnership concluded a couple of years ago, we didn't walk away from the model of bringing emerging journalists into our newsroom. We built something of our own. Thanks to two lead donors and a growing base of community supporters, we have been able to fund two full-time staff writer positions each year — reporters who expand what we can cover and deepen our presence across the 46 communities we serve in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Upper Valley is a remarkable place. It deserves journalism that matches its complexity — coverage of its schools, its courts, its businesses, its people and the decisions that shape daily life here. A larger reporting staff means more stories told, more sources cultivated, more corners of this region that don't go unnoticed.

This program depends entirely on community support. Our lead donors have been extraordinarily generous, and last year's matching funds campaign exceeded our expectations. But sustaining two full-time positions every year requires ongoing commitment from readers who believe in what we do.

If you value local journalism — and the kind of coverage that only a newsroom rooted in this community can provide — we hope you'll consider making a gift. Every donation, large or small, helps us do more of the work that matters most.

### HOW TO GIVE

**Online:** Use the QR code to the left or visit [vnewsr.com](http://vnewsr.com) and click on the yellow bar at the top of the homepage.

**Check:** Send a check to: PO Box 877, White River Junction, VT 05001

## A GIFT DONATION

*Do you have someone in your life that you think would benefit from a print or digital gift subscription? Giving someone access to the news is easy. Just visit [vnews.com](http://vnews.com), and follow the “Subscribe” link at the top of the page.*