



A conversation with Vermont's governor-elect

By ANGELO LYNN
Addison Independent
Editor & Publisher

MIDDLEBURY — Ask Gov.-elect Peter Shumlin what's on his mind as he prepares to take over the reins of state government on Jan. 6, and he'll tell you about tackling the biggest battles: getting broadband to every last mile in Vermont; getting health care costs under control; figuring out how

to pay for the early education and corrections initiatives he proposed during the campaign; and reducing a projected \$150 million deficit so he can balance the next state budget.

He'll also tell you that none of it will be easy. In a brief interview at the *Addison Independent* this Tuesday, he provided clues as to how he will address those issues, and others, and what challenges and obstacles he expects to face.

Why do you consider health care a priority?
"We've got to get (health care reform) done... We're going to bankrupt the system, if we don't... The problem is that the state has made promises that we can't keep. And Vermonters can understand that. But it's going to make them really mad, really sad, really unhappy... You can't tell people (as we did in the past decade) that you're going to give
► See A CONVERSATION on page 10A

St. Albans

Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010

Friday, Dec. 24, 2010

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010

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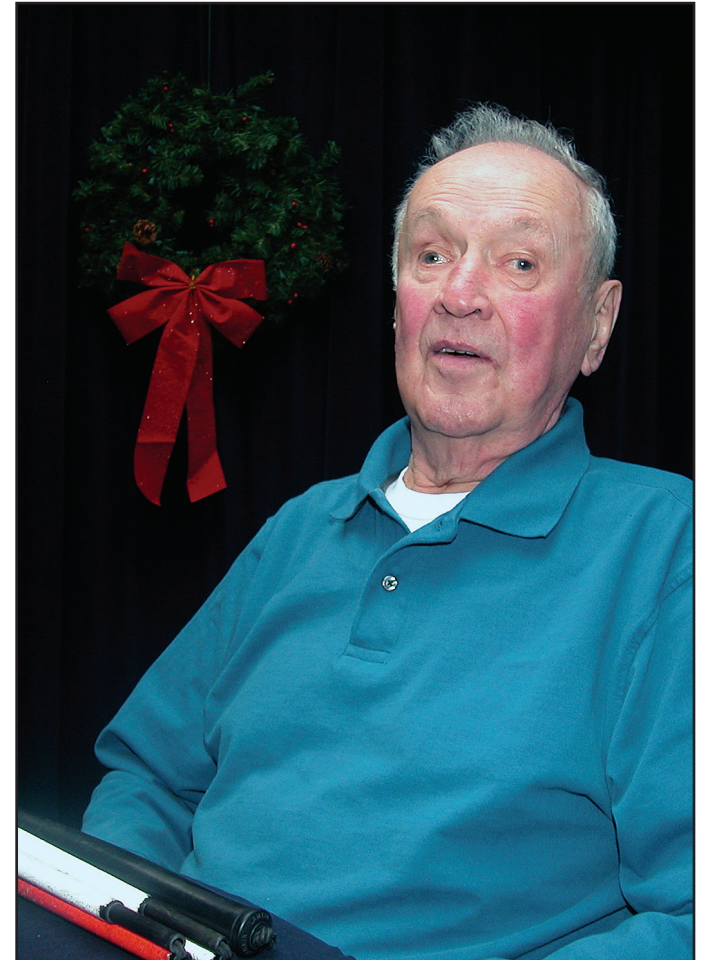
Laura Walker and Scott Sewell, of Comfort Cookie, offer baked samples.



www.chrisburgerford.com

Holiday Album: Our county neighbors

Above, local photographer Chris Hungerford's view of a wreath-wearing covered bridge in Fairfax. Today's Christmas weekend edition, however, is dedicated more to people than it is places. Start with the stories on this page.



NAT WORMAN photo

Stan Beauregard, of St. Albans, talks about his life and accomplishments in the Channel 15, public access TV studio.

Cookies, anyone? Comfort Cookies at your service

By LEON THOMPSON
Messenger Staff Writer

ST. ALBANS CITY — Somewhere on Bank Street, on any given day, seven days a week, strong-willed Elizabeth Bennett is cracking eggs, mixing flour, and measuring butter with dapper Fitzwilliam Darcy.

"Do you talk by rule, then, when you're dancing?" Mr. Darcy asks.

(Crack, crack, crack!)
"Yes, sometimes it is best," Ms. Bennett replies. "Then we may enjoy the advantage of saying as little as possible."

(Whirrr! Whirrr, whirr, whirrrrrrr!)

"Do you consult your own feelings in this case, or seek to gratify mine?" he wonders.

"Both, I imagine," she says. "We are each of an unsocial, taciturn disposition, unwilling to speak unless we expect to say something that will amaze the whole room."

(Clink, clink, clink! Clink, clink, clink!)

"This is no very striking resemblance of your own character, I'm sure," Mr. Darcy says dryly.

(Whirrr! Whirrrrrrrrr!)

To some, the dialogue is certainly recognizable from A&E TV's now-classic, five-hour take on Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," only it isn't spoken by the lead actors, Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth. It comes from ► See COOKIES on page 3A



LISA M. BOUCHER photo

Saini family members, of Fairfax, pose in the store. From left to right, are: Parkash, Surjit, Kunal, Geetanjali, Mareena (in back), Ravinder (in front), Shivram, and Karan.

From India, but they're all loving Fairfax

By LISA M. BOUCHER
Messenger Correspondent

FAIRFAX — Living in the same community for many years, the things you encounter daily tend to become part of the landscape to the point that it seems everything has always been the way it is.

The appearance of "always having been there," is indicative to assimilat-

Saini family celebrates every day

ing well into your surroundings, having made any transition seamless.

Thus is the case of the Saini (say-nee) family of Nan's Mobile. This hardworking family of five arrived in the dark of night in May 2001 from

Queens, N.Y. and moved into a place on Colonial Road, then very sparsely populated.

They had purchased the store from Nancy Pigeon, on a whim — a gamble of life savings. It was one of several they had been looking at and decided, for no special reason, to take it.

"We moved here in the middle of the night, so when we were coming up, we
► See SAINI FAMILY on page 3A

Hard'ack recreation area earns improvement permit

By MICHELLE MONROE
Messenger Staff Writer

ST. ALBANS — Earlier this week, the District Commission granted an Act 250 permit to Hard'ack Inc. for improvements to the recreation area off of Congress Street.

The improvements include a covered ice rink, with a wall along the north side, a new ski lodge, new snowmaking equipment, and an upgrade of the roads and parking

area.

Future upgrades include additional athletic fields.

The project had already received site plan approval from the St. Albans Town Development Review Board (DRB) and water and wastewater allocations from St. Albans City.

In announcing the permit receipt, Hard'ack extended thanks to Ruggiano Engineering, which has provided \$45,000 in engineering services and permit assistance free
► See HARD'ACK on page 5A

Stan, the man Community Santa in his own way

By NAT WORMAN
Messenger Correspondent

ST. ALBANS — Stan Beauregard, 78, hasn't a white beard or any elves like Santa's, but he has a way of making gifts that last a lifetime.

The other day, as Dec. 25 jingled into view, Beauregard sat down at the heart of something his hands helped build — St. Albans Public Access TV Channel 15.

He talked about how human traits can turn a collection of houses into a caring community.

Since graduating from Bellows Free Academy with the Class of 1951, Stan has had a knack for finding the missing ingredients in his community.

Before Channel 15, there was Community College and the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. Moreover, his fingerprints also are on the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, the St. Albans Bay State Park, and the city manager form of government in St. Albans City.

His sidekick in these campaigns was the late John Finn, a sheriff and state senator. Both of them had guru natures; they sat

► BEAUREGARD on p. 5A



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