

# The REPORTER

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## Proctor board reorganizes; to host Zion Growers' public hearing, March 28

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — At its reorganizational meeting Monday night, the Proctor selectboard re-elected Judy Frazier as chair of the selectboard and Ben Curtis as vice-chair, while also discussing a public hearing set for March 28 during which the public would hear Zion Growers' plans for the Proctor Marble building and its hopeful redevelopment.

Town Manager Michael Ramsey said the industrial hemp processing firm is seeking a \$60,000 planning grant from the Vermont Community Development Program that needs the town to act as a grantee, while Zion would be the sub-grantee. The grant comes with a 10% match, which would be covered by Zion Growers.

(See Proctor select board, Page 6)

## Retains board leadership Brandon seeks federal funds to boost Davenport's recognition

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — At its annual reorganizational meeting Monday night, the Brandon selectboard also supported an effort to seek federal funding to promote Brandon as the birthplace of Thomas Davenport — the inventor of the world's first electric

motor. Stephen Jupiter, president of the board of directors at the Brandon Museum, outlined a proposal to the town in which the museum would seek funds for signage, museum exhibits, perhaps even annual program on electric power that would draw

(See Brandon select board, Page 2)

## OVUU to reconsider budget vote

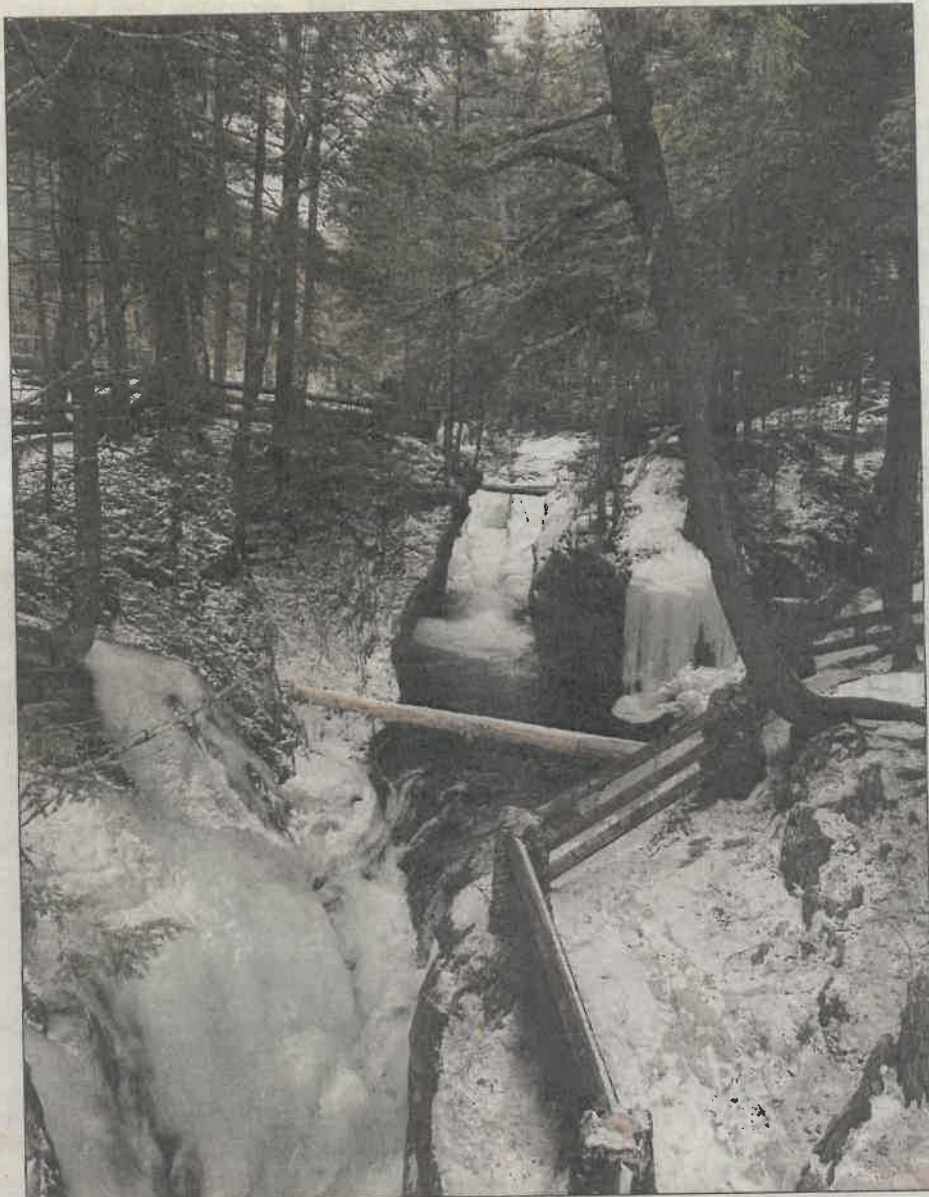
BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The OVUUSD board has some heavy topics to discuss at its Wednesday, March 16 meeting as it debates when to schedule the next budget vote and how — or whether — to adjust the budget amount. The latter question largely depends on how board members interpret the

budget defeat, which went down 522-462 on Town Meeting Day.

The board will also introduce Kristin Hubert as the school district's newly hired superintendent who will be taking the place of retiring Jeanné Collins as of July 1, 2022.

During Wednesday's meeting (See OVUU budget, Page 16)



### Frozen in time

SPRING'S HALTING PROGRESS on display at Texas Falls creates stunning layers of ice under running water.

Reprter photo/Sepl Alavi

## Rutland Northeast hires Kristin Hubert as its next superintendent

BRANDON — Last week, the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union School Board decided to choose its next lead administration in-house, tapping Kristin Hubert, the district's Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, to be its next superintendent.

Hubert will replace retiring Superintendent Jeanné Collins on July 1, 2022.

Hubert, who has accepted the po-



KRISTIN HUBERT

sition, has worked for the district for three years.

"I am excited to serve the communities and students of RNESU in this position," Hubert said. "I have great respect and appreciation for our teachers, administrators and staff for their unwavering commitment to students and families. I look forward to continuing to support the great work already underway in our system."

RNESU Board Chair Laurie Bertrand noted that three years in the district has given Hubert a chance to learn the schools and the people they serve. Rutland Northeast provides pre-K through high school education to kids in Brandon, Leicester, Whiting, Goshen, Sudbury, Chittenden, Mendon and Pittsford.

"We are very excited that Kristin will be our next superintendent,"

Bertrand said. "She has done a phenomenal job of leading our curriculum and assessment program for the past three years, particularly during COVID and the switch to remote learning. She is familiar with our

(See RNSU superintendent, Page 7)







**THE BAND EXTRA Stout will be the main attraction at the Brandon Inn's first anniversary St. Patrick's Day party this Thursday, March 17. The event, which is being called, "Let the Shenanigans Begin," starts at 5:30 and runs, with lots of dancing and celebration, through 9:30 p.m. For ticket information go to [www.brandoninn.com](http://www.brandoninn.com)**

## RNESU superintendent

(Continued from Page 1)  
communities and our staff and students and will bring continued stability to our district as we continue to evolve in our focus on student achievement."

Prior to this position, Hubert served as teaching faculty at the Upper Valley Institute focused on supporting new and aspiring principals. She was an elementary school principal for 13 years in Rutland and Arlington and was an elementary teacher in Fair Haven before that. Hubert was named the National Distinguished Elementary Principal in 2016 and has served in a number of state level committees, including the Vermont Principal Association, Vermont Equity Practitioners Network, Vermont Equity Advisory

Group and the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Advisory Board.

She teaches courses in principal preparation as an adjunct faculty at Castleton University.

Hubert, who grew up in Castleton, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Elementary Education from the University of Vermont, Master of Art in Educational Leadership from Castleton University, and an Educational Doctorate in Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Leading from Northeastern University in Boston.

Hubert decided to apply for the superintendent's post after the school board's initial round candidates fell through and knowing she had the job skills to lead the district forward. In that round, the board

had honed the list down to three candidates, but the lead candidate chose another job, and the other two candidates withdrew their interest, prompting the board to reopen its search. It also happens to be a year with high leadership turnover in Vermont's school districts with a dozen school districts in the state seeking new superintendents.

Bertrand said the board was thrilled when Hubert came forward with her interest, saying she knew the community, faculty, students and school programs and would be able to "hit the ground running."

RNESU is comprised of six schools with two distinct school districts, Otter Valley and Barstow, representing eight towns.

## Rusty DeWees comes to Brandon Town Hall, April 16th along with Patrick Ross

Rusty DeWees comes "DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN" to Brandon Town Hall, April 16th 2022, and Patrick Ross will be there playing.

Actor/Comedian DeWees is known for his beloved and valued THE LOGGER persona through which he offers his stellar, hard earned, talents as full-on comedian, musician, ad libber, and story teller.

Rusty's comedy show has been described as Blue Collar Comedy meets Prairie Home Companion. The Boston Globe says "Inventive, Exceptional."

Rusty DeWees show load is heating up in 2022 and he says "Looking forward to playing the Brandon Town Hall, extending our twenty-five year relationship, which you know what, might be near a record for entertainer and theatre - I'll say the area audi-

ences are like family, at this point ... no joke."

Rusty DeWees passed his 25th Anniversary year, 2021, doing THE LOGGER sans celebration, cause .. "Celebrate ... why would ya? I ain't over yet."

Comedy is the celebration, every show with Rusty's THE LOGGER-style authentic thoughts and jabs on present day life, and he'll shine up a couple of the 25 year - old fan-favorite bits like "Deer Jackin'" and "LIDDLE."

The past two years un-welcome slowdown saw Rusty D., THE LOGGER, improve his flat picking guitar work, and vocals, and he's written a bunch of fresh material Brandon Town Hall's audience will thrill to ... including, well, including what you might, and or might not expect. Come see and hear ...

THE LOGGER COMEDY

& MUSIC SHOW "Down from the Mountain" is designed to pair with Brandon Town Hall perfectly, so please do not miss Rusty DeWees coming "Down from the Mountain" (Elmore Mt.) to Brandon Town Hall, Saturday April 16, 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25, are available at [brandonrec.com](http://brandonrec.com) and also at the door. Beer and wine



**RUSTY DEWEES**

If I have been at fault for too much casualness in this column over the years, let me also confess some inattentiveness as an English teacher (my day job): I have let my George Orwell get too dusty. For a couple of years now I have let the wisdom of this author sit dormant on my shelves — perhaps a literary sin from wrongheaded assumptions about an evolving and improving world. Or maybe a refusal to believe that Orwell's prophetic vision would again visit us in red-hot relevance.

But it has.

Over the past weeks we again witnessed one of the most haunting and egregious displays of Orwell's warnings. As hospitals and residential areas were being ruthlessly bombed, Russian audiences were fed nefariously-engineered lies of benevolent Russians soldiers serving humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. Independent news outlets were shut down. And the

## Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

### Standing with Ukraine

As readers of this column can tell you, Hard Tellin' has been faithfully sidestepping news of any substance for almost 5 years now. (It's been a matter of principle that this space has concerned itself only with the windy ramblings of a self-absorbed author.) If ever there have been events to sober the pen of a superficial storyteller however, it would be the tragic developments in Ukraine these past few weeks.

Like the rest of you I opened my newsfeeds on February 24 and learned that an aggressor nation had illegally and immorally invaded a sovereign nation. And the world confronted the reality that what we knew about our geopolitical world order was about to change dramatically.

Humanitarian relief, my inner voice was telling me, not comic relief, was what this tragically battered country desperately needed. Also needed was the complete attention of the world (and its newspapers/media) to look this story full in the face and demand the truth of this invasion be told to every corner of the earth, even to those in Russia where Putin controls his selective "narrative."

The collective emotional responses today are certainly complex. We see what is happening and we feel outrage. We feel shock. We feel deep sadness. And we feel frustratingly ineffective with the limited range of options we have to help this brutalized nation.

News, history, morality, and reality were all within the dictates of the government, and again Orwell's words echoed: "The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their most essential command." For embedded in the lies of the authoritarian government, are not just deceptions, but also threats — and therein lies the motivation to accept them.

It is difficult to witness the events of these past weeks and not reflect on questions of power, governance and truth. But also the sad, inescapable fact that despite all our humanistic hopefulness 20th Century misbehavior can easily be 21st Century misbehavior. The awful playbooks of his-

world was again astonished at the power and shocking audacity of a state to monopolize, manipulate and malign the news.

It goes without saying that references to Orwell over the years have become quite popular, but also a bit glib, I'm afraid. Yes, we know that Orwellian governments are oppressive and bad. And that Doublespeak has something to do with the manipulation of language. But what made Orwell's work such an achievement is how well he understood the doctrine of deception of the state-sponsored lie.

The state-sponsored lie, both Orwell and Putin understand, is far from stand alone exaggerations, cover-ups and half-truths. It is the enterprise of architecting whole new realities. It is, in the words of one banned Russian independent newsman quoted in the New Yorker: "Lies and hatred on a fantastical scale."

Like Orwell's corrupt governments of "1984," citizens are again being told — force-fed really — that 2+2=5. Reality is as the state decides. Trump and his campaign of "alternative facts" practiced this same strategy and much of the GOP has played along. And if language, in Orwell's 1984, had to be outlawed so be it. (Readers of this book might remember Orwell's famous "Newspeak" language which aimed to reduce words and therefore the range of thought.) As it stands today, Russian reporters using the word "war" or "invasion" could face up to 15 years imprisonment; and Republicans who haven't bought into Trump's big lie about the election being stolen are banished from the fold.

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(See *Standing with Ukraine*, Page 13)