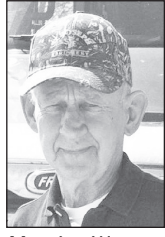


OBITUARIES

MAURICE (MORRY) WEGNER February 27, 1937 — June 25, 2022

HOLMEN - Maurice (Morry) Wegner of Holmen, formerly of Tomah, WI passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Morry was born February 27, 1937 in Maurice Wegner Sparta, WI to Paul and Irene (Harris) Wegner.



showing the grandchildren how he could wiggle his ears.

He is survived by his wife Ginny, daughters, Pamliia (Wayne) Butterfield, Lesa (Darrel) Pierce, and Tracy (Tony) Culver. Grandchildren, Jana, Amy, Meri, Tiffany, Nick, Ariel, and Dusty. Great grandchildren, Abigail, Austen, Trey, Tinley, Lincoln, Clara, Rosalie, Harriet, Braxton, Taron, Kendahl, Charley, Penelope, and Cece. Two sisters, Jean (Eldon) Skogen and Joy (Earl) Edwards, and a brother, Fred Wegner.

He was proceeded in death by his parents and brother, John.

Private family services will be held on Wednesday June 28, 2022.

BRIAN JAMES HENSLEY

January 16, 1957 — June 16, 2022

Brian James Hensley, age 65, formerly of Tomah, passed away June 16, 2022 at his home in Pueblo West, CO. He was born on January 16, 1957 to James and Ruth (Kloppenborg) Hensley in Denver, CO. He was a member of the Norman High School graduating class of 1975 in Oklahoma. On May 31, 1986, Brian was united in marriage to Lori McHugh at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Tomah. She preceded him in death on August 6, 2017.



younger years, he loved to go scuba diving in different parts of the US as well as Bermuda. He was a devoted Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers fan and always enjoyed cheering them on.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor, boisterous laugh, and generosity.

He is survived by his daughter, Brianna Hensley, mother, Ruth Hensley, brother, Kyle Hensley, sister, Erin Hensley Howe, and friend and caregiver Lynn Wallace.

In addition to his wife, Lori, he was preceded in death by his father, his son, James Hensley, and his sister, Kathleen Hensley Woods.

According to his wishes, a private family burial will be held at Oak Grove Cemetery. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

DEATH NOTICES

FREDERICK "BUD" G. GARECHT JR. June 24, 2022

SPARTA - Frederick "Bud" G. Garecht Jr., 90, of Sparta, died Friday, June 24, 2022 at Morrow Memorial Home, Sparta. A funeral service will

be announced by Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta. Online condolences may be offered at schanhoferfh.com

FRANCES E. STONE June 22, 2022

SPARTA - Frances E. Stone, 99, of Sparta, died Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at Gundersen Health Systems in La Crosse. No services will be held at this time. Online condolences

may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com. Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.

SMOKY

Continued from Front Page

Clay Chastain, a second-generation driver for UD Motorsports, was the NTPA 2021 Grand National Truck Champion with his Super Modified Two-Wheel Truck "Fistful of Dollars."

He said this was his fifth year at the Tomah event.

"We ran this set-up the last two or three years," he said. "We got a new blower this year."

Prior to the pull, Gregg Randall, executive director of the NTPA, thanked local organizers and the teams.

"Look at all these guys and ladies right over here," he said. "One of the things that I think is pretty cool in the last couple of years, we talked about family. We have got people that have made friendships that are here."

Randall also recognized that pull fans come from all over.

"We've got international travelers, will have folks from Canada here," he said. "But, one of the coolest things, I think probably, is the number of people that are behind the pulling organization and a pulling team."

To find out more and livestream all of the pulls from the Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull at Tomah, go to tomahtractorpull.com.



ABOVE Travis Schlabach shows off the "Bone Twister," an International Super Stock diesel pulling tractor. RIGHT This is the unique paint job on the "Bone Twister." Herald photos by Rhonda Hess.



SASD

Continued from Front Page

"they have gone years without receiving services." The complainant cites the content of the all-school communication as an example of Dr. Van Deuren's lack of empathy and disregard for District employees. This complaint also mentions the "sense of arrogance" of Dr. Van Dueren stating that she treats the board "like a bunch of uneducated fools who couldn't possibly have a better solution than the one she has presented."

According to the report, credible evidence supports a conclusion that Superintendent Dr. Amy Van Deuren has regularly violated SASD anti-harassment and anti-bullying policies by engaging in a pattern and practice of bullying and creating and sustaining a hostile work environment for members of the SASD cabinet. Additionally, the evidence supports the conclusion that she has failed during her tenure to meet, to a lesser or greater degree, those critical essential functions and responsibilities of her position, according to policies.

The report cites an event on March 25, in which the two directors that filed complaints met with the District Compliance Office/ Sparta High School Principal Sam Russ. One director talked with Mr. Russ over the telephone that morning regarding a complaint which she had received. The complaint was an email from an employee concerned about hostile conduct by Dr. Van Deuren. Director 1 alerted Director 2 of the complaint and later in the day met with Mr. Russ.

Dr. Van Deuren ended up showing up at the high school during this meeting and went to Mr. Russ's office door. Dr. Van Deuren knocked on the door during the meeting. Mr. Russ did not invite her in but opened the door so that the directors could be seen. Mr. Russ told Dr. Van Deuren that "now is not a good time; I think it's best

TIMELINE, continued

- **April 20** Special Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation.
- **April 25** First contact the investigators had with Dr. Amy Van Deuren, according to Dr. Van Deuren's Augmentation.
- **April 26** A Regular Board meeting in which current President Josh Lydon resigned and Anthony Scholze became Board President.
- **May 10** Special Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation. Board President Scholze's statement- "At this time we cannot provide further information in regard to the current employee investigation. To be clear, this investigation does not have anything to do with matters regarding student health or safety. There is no concern with misallocation of district funds. We are hoping to come to a resolution and provide information as soon as it becomes available. At that time we will provide any information we can within the law."
- **May 19** Special Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation. Same statement from President Scholze.
- **May 24** A Regular Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation. Same statement from President Scholze.
- **May 26** Special Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation. Same statement from President Scholze.
- **June 14** Special Board meeting with a closed session agenda item regarding the investigation. Statement from President Scholze indicates the findings of the investigation.
- **June 17** Dr. Amy Van Deuren sends in her augmentation to the investigation report.
- **June 24** The Herald received the investigation report.
- **June 28** A scheduled Regular Board meeting with a closed session item regarding the investigation is on the agenda.

See the full investigation report at monroecountyherald.com

if you come back" twice before Dr. Van Deuren left.

After the meeting was finished, Mr. Russ then placed a call to the board president at the time, Josh Lydon, to report that he had been made aware of the two Director complaints of hostile work environment and to advise Mr. Lydon that policy required him to call legal counsel.

According to the report, Dr. Van Deuren's recollection of the event on March 25 was seen as not credible.

The reporter interviewed eight members of the District cabinet, including three district directors and four school principals. Every cabinet member interviewed, corroborated and supplemented examples and instances of

inappropriate, disrespectful, and aggressive conduct by Dr. Van Deuren that the directors alleged in their harassment complaints.

Additional findings include verbal abuse, aggressive conduct, hostile work environment, invasion of boundaries, and misuse of power.

The conclusion of the report states, Jill Pedigo Hall, Esq. has conducted many investigations into leadership over the last few decades. In such an investigation, there is often equivocation by some interviewees who do not see conduct in the same way as the complainant. Here, strikingly, there was no such equivocation. Each person interviewed reported the

same inappropriate, volatile and aggressive conduct, the same intimidation and shared fear and lack of trust of the Superintendent. The Director complainants and several other administrators volunteered to this reporter that they could no longer work with the Superintendent, indicating that if she remained in place, they would leave SASD.

In Dr. Van Deuren's Augmentation, submitted on June 17, she states "I did not engage in any harassment, boundary invasion, isolation, or creating a hostile work environment of which I am accused. To read in this report how my behavior was perceived completely breaks my heart."

She states, "with my reputation at stake, I cannot let this report stand as it is written without responding."

According to her augmentation, Dr. Van Deuren was placed on paid leave starting Wednesday, March 30. She was not interviewed until April 25.

Dr. Van Deuren's conclusion states that, "my actual behavior and the allegations do not align. I did not act out of character by stopping by Sparta High School to see my cabinet members before I left for the weekend, nor did I have nefarious intent. I did not use threatening language, nor make any physical motions that would have indicated that I posed a physical threat to anyone."

Many of Dr. Van Deuren's recollection of the events were found not credible by the investigator.

The board has stated that they will have an evidentiary hearing in closed session with Dr. Amy Van Deuren present, to afford her due process and to determine disciplinary action, if any, pertaining to the items found in the report. The board has not picked a date as of yet for the hearing.

See the full 46 page report at monroecountyherald.com.

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