

Hovind remembered for humor, commitment to journalism

Former Freeman publisher dies at 62

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WAUKESHA — In an industry with tight deadlines and plenty of stress, former Freeman Publisher Jeff Hovind was there to support and raise everyone's spirits.

Hovind died at age 62 in Lincoln City, Oregon, on Oct. 25.

He was born in Milwaukee and went to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he earned a degree in journalism. From there, he worked as a reporter and editor in Beaver Dam before joining The Freeman as publisher.

Longtime retired Freeman Sports Editor Lee Fensin remembers Hovind as a man who was passionate about jour-

nalism and also knew how to make people laugh.

"He had a great sense of humor — he laughed and joked. He combined his sense of being a tremendous newsman with a sense of journalistic integrity and he supported his staff with his sense of humor. That sense of humor buoyed the staff," Fensin said.

The two worked together for several years.

"He made working there enjoyable and he was very serious about the product that we were putting out and he would always support his staff," Fensin said. "I always remember that in a serious business he would never lose his sense of humor."

Bill Yorth, publisher & editor-in-chief for The Freeman,



Hovind

remembers Hovind as a committed newspaper man.

"Jeff cared very much about local journalism and was a champion for open government. I learned a lot from him. I always admired his dedication to the paper and to our profession," he said.

After his time at The Freeman, Hovind owned and operated a newspaper in Merrill before moving to Oregon.

Hovind also enjoyed the outdoors, watching the Packers and Badgers and riding a Harley-Davidson.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, daughter, Jackilyn, stepchildren Derek Heilmeyer, and Deana Sweeney, as well as other family and friends.