

EPA chief reinstates science advisory board he dismantled

Matthew Daly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday he has fully reinstated one of two key advisory boards he dismantled earlier this year in a push for “scientific integrity” at the agency.

The new seven-member Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee features four scientists who have served on the panel previously – including two who were on the board when it was dismantled in March. The five women and two men on the panel include three people of color, making it the most diverse panel since the committee was established more than 40 years ago.

“From the very beginning of my tenure, I have committed to ensuring that science is restored as the backbone of everything EPA does to protect people and the environment from pollution,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement. The new advisory panel will provide “credible, independent expertise to EPA’s reviews of air quality standards that is grounded in scientific evidence,” he said.



Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan speaks during a briefing May 12 at the White House.
EVAN VUCCI/AP

Regan has said that advisers appointed under the Trump administration were overly friendly to business, adding that his March 31 “reset” of the clean-air panel and the Science Advisory Board would return EPA to its practice of relying on advice from a balanced group of experts.

Regan’s overhaul removed more than 45 members of the two advisory boards, including some whose terms do not expire this year. The panels provide scientific expertise and recommendations for air quality standards and other policies intended to protect public health and the environment.

The new chair of the clean-air committee is Lianne Sheppard, a professor in environmental and occupational health sciences and biostatistics at the University of Washington. Sheppard, who has expertise in epidemiology, biostatistics and exposure assessment, served on the committee from 2015 to 2018.

Other members include James Boylan, an air protection official with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Boylan served on the panel under President Donald Trump and was on the committee when it was dismantled, along with Dr. Mark Frampton, a physician and professor emeritus in medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Judith Chow, a professor in atmospheric sciences at the Nevada-based Desert Research Institute, served on the panel from 2015 to 2018.

Also serving on the committee are Michelle Bell, environmental health professor at Yale University; Christine Fuller, associate professor of environmental health at Georgia State University; and Alexandra Pomette-González, associate professor of geography and the environment at the University of North Texas.

Members of the much larger Science Advisory Board have not been selected.

Horner

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Final fight set for June 26

That in-ring joke will come to an in-ring end as Horner Jr. announced he will have his final match June 26 at Fight for Fremont 4, the biggest event of the year for Live Pro Wrestling.

After more than a decade of memories, cheers and chants, Horner is planning to rest after a year of dealing with COVID-19 shutdowns and nine operations to relieve pressure in his neck and lower back.

Following his wrestling debut, the next week he was announced as Tim Horner Jr. and the ribbing became real, so he had a choice to make. Would he fight back and keep the Studman character alive or would he go along with the rib and make it his own.

Horner Jr. said the following week, he began investing into becoming Tim Horner Jr., learning all the moves and movements of his namesake. And it worked, Horner said, as he was never ribbed in the wrestling business again.

“I did know who he was, because he was a talented hand in this business,” Horner said. “If you’re from the 80s, Tim Horner was to the boys one of the most respected guys out there.”

Horner’s career has been a great rib in many ways but has opened doors for him that other wrestlers in his position would never cross through, because of his connection to the past.

“I would venture to guess I’ve done his name proud,” Horner said. “I wouldn’t have gotten a lot those opportunities if I were Timothy Studman or Tim Jones, because the name has to stick out.”

Looking back at it, Horner said Timothy Studman was a terrible idea but it was the idea he had in mind in wrestling school.

Instead, a joke turned his wrestling career into a memorial journey that will come to an end at Fight for Fremont 4.

Horner Jr.’s career will leave an indelible mark in Fremont, according to mayor Danny Sanchez.

A fan of LPW, Sanchez said Horner Jr. has “re-energized” the wrestling market in Fremont and said monthly LPW events have become a staple in the community.

“It’s very comparable with the sprint car races (at Fremont Speedway),” Sanchez said.

The real Tim Horner

The real Tim Horner, born in Morristown, Tennessee, began wrestling in Alabama in 1978 and would go on to have an underappreciated career in Jim Crockett Promotions from 1984-87 in a tag team with Brad Armstrong known as the Lightning Express. The two won

the Universal Wrestling Federation tag team title by beating Sting and Rick Steiner in 1987 and also won the National Wrestling Alliance tag team titles.

Horner then signed with the then World Wrestling Federation, the top promotion in the world that was signing talent from across the various national territories to create a superpower wrestling brand.

Although Horner was a great worker in the ring, the WWF mostly used him as a jobber — a superstar that is often used to enhance other talent in the company resulting in many losses.

After a year in WWF, Horner would leave for World Championship Wrestling (WCW) and Smoky Mountain Wrestling where Horner said he really shined in nightly matches with legends like Ric Flair.

Although Horner has never seen Horner Jr. wrestle in person, he watched a few matches on YouTube and said the man that took his name due to a rib has made the name proud.

“I wish I could have worked with him,” Horner said. “I never heard any negative feedback from anybody who knew him or was on the card with him.”

Through the years, Horner said he’s received texts and calls from friends who live in the Midwest who say they saw his son wrestle. He usually gets a laugh out of it. He said he is even surprised more independent wrestlers do not take a name of an older wrestler to try and gain more notoriety.

With Tim Horner Jr. being born and the Studman character put to rest before it could even get a chance, it was the perfect beginning to Horner Jr.’s story as he was more than just another guy in the business because of the Horner name.

Horner Jr. said he kept the name knowing it was a joke but instead of fighting and being defiant, he decided to embrace the name and become the fictional wrestling son of a Mid-South wrestling legend.

When Horner laces up his boots Saturday for his Fight For Fremont 4 bout with D-Ray 3000, it will be for the last time as he is set to retire after 13 years of in-ring competition.

Wrestled all over North America

Horner Jr. said he’s wrestled on nearly every level, tried out for World Wrestling Entertainment and has wrestled across the country and around North America.

It was his bid to make WWE in 2012-2013 where he met Tom Pritchard, who had tag teamed with the real Tim Horner and who questioned the ribbed superstar’s connection with the name.

Horner Jr. said Pritchard would say “you don’t look anything like your dad,” and continuing to play the joke he responded, “I know.”

While the real Tim Horner from Tennessee is 5 foot, 10 inches tall and weighed around 240 pounds, his Ohio namesake is 6 foot, 3 inches.

Pritchard asked if the real Tim Horner knew that

Tim Horner Jr. existed, and the two Horners were then connected when Jr. called his namesake.

The real Tim Horner’s two daughters had been asking their dad about this son who wrestled throughout the Midwest, which is how he found out about his “son.”

“Finally, I got ahold of him and we’ve been in contact ever since,” Horner Jr. said.

When the two finally spoke, the real Tim Horner asked Horner Jr. why, of all the names to take on, did he take on Tim Horner.

Horner Jr. said the biggest thing was matching a name with his first name Tim, so Tim Horner Jr. also allowed him to remember his in-ring name no matter what happened.

“He’s always got an open ear for me to give me any kinds of bits of knowledge,” Horner Jr. said of the real Tim Horner. “In that sense, he is like a father in the wrestling business to me — but he’s not my dad.”

Now he is readying for his last match in the ring after a surreal run as the fake son of Tim Horner.

“To finally be able to be ready to say ‘I’m done’ is a great feeling in some ways and it’s terrifying in other ways,” Horner said.

While he may not get his name dropped as much moving forward on Hall of Fame wrestler Arn Anderson’s podcast, a friend of the real Tim Horner that had a big laugh about Tim Horner Jr., or being ridiculed by Jim Cornette on his podcast, Horner will have to settle for a full house of fans cheering his name in downtown Fremont’s Strand Arena.

Missing the connection

Walking away will not be easy, Horner Jr. said, as he will miss the fans the most.

“I love watching a kid see Tim Horner Jr. wrestle for the first time and when I make contact with those kids and I can tell that I’ve connected with those kids and I can tell they’re hooked,” Horner Jr. said.

In the wrestling business, this is called “getting over” where the fans have a reaction one way or another. Silence is deadly for stars in the wrestling industry.

On his way to a comeback victory in a match, the crowd’s cheers could be deafening inside the Strand Arena. Or when Horner came down to the ring, throwing up the double one’s — two fingers in the air — crowds would go wild for the wrestling babyface.

Fans provide a rush for wrestlers but for Horner Jr. and others in the business, there is a great deal of trust and camaraderie that comes with professional wrestling, something he said he will greatly miss.

In wrestling, superstars have to trust each other and essentially give their bodies up to one another and hope that other wrestlers will handle them with care, whether body slamming them or diving onto them from the top rope, one wrong move could injure, paralyze or cause fatal injuries if attention to detail is not a priority.

Though he is not from Fremont, the Toledo native makes his home here and is raising his family here with no plans to leave.

This year’s Fight For Fremont event will not take place outdoors as in previous years but Horner Jr. finds comfort in knowing the last time he enters the ring will be inside the Strand Arena, where his Live Pro Wrestling promotion took off five years ago.

Two things Horner will not miss much about the business are having to lace up his boots and the long drives after beating his body up for 35 to 40 minutes taking hard bumps on the mat and outside the ring.

His final dance partner

And as they say in the wrestling business, Horner could not have chosen a better “dance partner” for his last match.

Horner and D-Ray, a 21-year veteran wrestler that has been with LPW since its inception and has wrestled for national promotions like Total Nonstop Action and World Wrestling Entertainment, have never squared off in the ring before.

“I’m not looking forward to beating D-Ray up, he’s done a lot for our organization and I’m very confident he’s the right person to make sure we do this the right way and have a good exit for me.”

Horner Jr. said he will not be far away, as he will continue appearing on LPW shows in a more administrative role as the show’s general manager.

After 13 years of wrestling around North America, Horner was on borrowed time as neck and lower back injuries have piled up over the years.

As wrestling fate would have it, a Hogan would help Horner get back together for his final run. Though not famed wrestler Hulk Hogan but rather Dr. William Hogan of ProMedica Memorial Hospital.

“During COVID, I had a lot (nine) of operations on my neck to relieve myself of the pain in my neck,” Horner Jr. said. “It’s just time to hang it up.”

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Obituaries

TODAY’S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Schmidt, Walter H.	85	Fremont	17-Nov	Wonderly Horvath Hanes Funeral Home and Crematory, Fremont, OH
Schoch, Susan “Sue” E.	75	Fremont	16-Jun	Herman-Veh Funeral Home & Crematory, Gibsonburg

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.TheNews-Messenger.com/Obituaries



Walter H. Schmidt

FREMONT - A Celebration of Life for Walter H. Schmidt, who passed away at the age of 85 on November 17, 2020, will be held at East Side Presbyterian Church, 1020 Kentucky Ave., Fremont OH, on Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 11:00 am. Family will be present for visitation from 9:30 - 10:30 prior to the service.

