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Star-Telegram

Body found might be of missing Euless woman

Posted Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012

Euless police are investigating whether a body found Friday is that of a missing Euless woman.

A news release by Lt. Eric Starnes said the body was found in southern Tarrant County. "The Tarrant County medical examiner's office has possession of the remains and is working to positively identify the person," he said.

Starnes said police have "two persons of interest" in the case, but formal charges have not been filed.

Additional information about the missing woman or the crime was unavailable Saturday.

-- Susan McFarland

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Eules cafe snuffs out smoking after 37 years

EULESS -- Something new on a wall at Verna's Cafe has angered a few customers but delighted most.

It popped up New Year's Day amid the prints of rustic gas stations and dogs wearing cowboy hats, photos of city officials, a certificate of occupancy for up to 75 diners, framed newspaper clippings and posters celebrating the Trinity Trojans.

The new sign reads "No Smoking." And it was put up in response to complaints, the cafe's owner said.

It has upset some longtime patrons of the eatery, known for such down-home dishes as the Junkyard Omelet (ham, bacon, sausage, cheese and whatever other edibles happen to be in the kitchen on a given morning). But most of those who have dined with Verna Kight for 37 years are happy with the change.

"We had a lot of people telling us -- old customers and young -- that they weren't coming in anymore," said Debra Mayhugh, Kight's daughter and the restaurant's owner.

"They said they just couldn't take the smoke."

But a handful of other customers couldn't take the rejection.

"It's like telling us, 'We don't want your business,'" said John Bridges, an Arlington resident whose morning coffee klatch moved this week to Denny's, where smoking is allowed. "I started going [to Verna's] four or five years ago when Arlington went nonsmoking."

Another member of Bridges' group, Larry James of Eules, said he goes wherever he can be happy.

"I don't want to be told what I can and can't do when I'm spending my money somewhere," he said.

Before making the change, Verna's Cafe, in an old Dairy Queen on Texas 10 just west of Main Street, was one of a few restaurants in Eules where smoking was allowed.

Kight, who has never been a smoker, said that she wrestled for a decade or more with whether to snuff out the smoking lamp.

"Over the years, I went back and forth," Kight said. "I hoped the city would take it out of my hands, but they didn't."

Eules is surrounded by cities -- Bedford, Hurst, Arlington and Fort Worth -- that have prohibitive smoking ordinances.

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Eules does have a smoking ordinance, but it doesn't prohibit smoking in privately owned spaces. Taking such decisions out of people's hands isn't the way Eules likes to conduct business, City Manager Gary McKamie said.

"With most of the ordinances we've reviewed from other cities, there are so many exceptions that it's hard to follow," he said. "Our position with our businesses has been that each of them has the clear right to prohibit smoking."

Eules' ordinance states that the person who controls a building "may designate all or any part" of the building and its surrounding property as a no-smoking area simply by posting "Smoking Prohibited By City Ordinance No. 87-919." A violation is a misdemeanor that's typically punished with up to a \$2,000 fine, because it's a health issue, McKamie said.

Tommy Gallant, owner of NYPD Deli on Industrial Boulevard, said none of his workers or patrons smoke, so he doesn't see the need for a "No Smoking" sign.

But he sympathizes with owners who fear that going nonsmoking will hurt business.

"I've been in the restaurant business for 30 years, and I think there should be a statewide ban on smoking," he said. "If you do it city by city, your customers just go where they can do what they want and you lose business."

A Eules-based Waffle House has a designated smoking section and will close it only if Eules toughens its smoking ordinance, spokesman Pat Warner said.

"We leave it up to the city with jurisdiction," Warner said. "We comply with the rules the citizens come up with."

That approach has worked well enough for AMF Eules Lanes, manager Rusty Dickinson said.

"From a business standpoint, it doesn't make sense for us to go nonsmoking unless the city of Eules goes nonsmoking," he said. "If the city makes an ordinance, we'd be happy to comply. We have a 50-50 split between the ones who want it nonsmoking and the ones who are happy they can still smoke here."

Kight was hurt when she lost customers who prize tobacco more than her food.

"I hope we get them back," she said. "It's not the business I worry about losing as much as the friendship."

James, the longtime friend and customer, said he'll go back "from time to time because I like Verna. I love her to death and I'd do anything for her."

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620

Eules cafe snuffs out smoking after 37 years

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Mickan was a communicator

◻ Besides serving on the city council, Mrs. Mickan was an active volunteer in the Hurst-Eules-Bedford area.

By Terry Evans
 tevans@star-telegram.com

Eules Councilwoman Donna Mickan was a gracious lady, said Mayor Mary Lfb Saleh.

"I can't say that about many people, but she was," Saleh said. "She also was a good friend and neighbor."

Mrs. Mickan, a devout Christian, wise counselor, the ultimate politician, an exceptional companion and an uncommon mother, died Sunday.

She was 69.

"The relationship she had with our daughter from early on was more like they were sisters," said Randell Mickan, her husband. "She could just do that. She knew how to deal with people, how to talk with them no matter who they were."

That trait is part of what made Mrs. Mickan valuable to former Trinity High School Principal Andy Cargile.

"I hired her as my administrative assistant because she was extremely smart about dealing with people and she had a sense of humor," Cargile said. "Many times when parents came in cussing and screaming she was very polite and handled them well, and we laughed about it afterward. I can't remember a day that we didn't laugh at something together."

She was the consummate volunteer who served on the Economic Development Advisory Board and the Historical Preservation Committee and was a frequent docent at Heritage Park, Saleh said. Mrs. Mickan co-owned and operated Bloomtown Florist in Eules Town Center in 1981 and was a past-president of the Morrisdale Homeowners Association.

For the Eules City Council, Mrs. Mickan was liaison to Grapevine-Colleyville school district and the city's representative on the Hurst-Eules-Bedford Teen Court Advisory Board.

She was elected to the council in 2008, drawing almost 58 percent of the vote. From the day she took Place 4, Mrs. Mickan proved she belonged there, said Councilman Leon Hogg.

"Most people take a year to really be comfortable with what's going on, but Donna did it in six months," he said. "I can't say enough about the



Mickan

woman and how good she was to work with."

Mrs. Mickan was also on the

administrative board of First United Methodist Church of Hurst and sang in the chancel choir.

Losing her ability to sing was one of the hardest knocks for Mrs. Mickan to deal with, her husband said. Trouble with her voice led to the discovery in October that the breast cancer she survived nine years ago not only had returned, but had metastasized into her brain, Randell Mickan said.

"She loved to sing and really loved the choir," he said. "When this happened she couldn't do that and it was a real blow to her. She didn't blame God or any-

Online



Sign the guest book for Mrs. Mickan at star-telegram.com/obituaries.

body for the ailment, but dealt with it and continued on."

Her absolute trust in God gave Mrs. Mickan a perspective on her illness, her husband said.

"She always had a special relationship with God that I'm not sure I can even tune into," he said. "Anytime I would complain and fuss about something she would remind me how blessed we were. I guess she always saw the big picture, and little things didn't concern her."

The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Lucas Funeral

Home, 1321 Precinct Line Road in Hurst. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church of Hurst, 521 W. Pipeline Road. A private interment will be held.

She was born July 31, 1943, in Georgetown, near Austin. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie E. and Cleo Bishop.

She is also survived by her daughter, Marianne Priddy and husband, Michael; her son, Randell Mickan Jr. and wife, Kelly; grandchildren, Mitchell and Michelle Priddy and Erin and Samantha Mickan; brothers, Clinton Bishop and wife, Adale; and Troy Bishop; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620
 Twitter: @fwstevans

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Donna B. Mickan (1943 - 2013)

Donna B. Mickan, 69, passed away Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013. Memorial service: 11 a.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church, Hurst, 521 W. Pipeline Road. Interment: (private) will be held prior to the memorial service. Visitation: The family will receive friends 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Lucas Funeral Home, Hurst. Eules City Councilwoman Donna Mickan was a retired educator from Trinity High School. She served as mayor pro tem in 2011. She formerly served on the city's Economic Development Advisory Board as well as the Eules Historical Preservation Committee and was a frequent docent at historic Heritage Park. Donna served as the City Council's liaison to Grapevine-Colleyville ISD activities and represented the city on the H.E.B. Teen Court Advisory Board. She was a graduate of the Eules Citizens Fire-Police Academy and was a member of the Citizen's Fire Academy Alumni Association and the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. She was a Stephen minister, on the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church of Hurst and sang in the chancel choir. She had served as her neighborhood association's president, on its board and was a standing committee chair for beautification. Donna and her husband, Randell, moved to Eules in 1964. She was co-owner and operator of Bloomtown Florist when it opened in Eules Town Center in 1981. Donna loved to travel, play the piano and sing in the church choir. She was delighted to have had the opportunity to serve the city she loved. Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Willie E. and Cleo Bishop. Survivors: Her husband of 51 years, Randell Mickan Sr.; daughter, Marianne Priddy and husband, Michael; son, Randell Mickan Jr. and wife, Kelly; grandchildren, Mitchell and Michelle Priddy and Erin and Samantha Mickan; brothers, Clinton Bishop and wife, Adale, and Troy Bishop; and numerous nieces and nephews.