

CASPER INSIDE

Calendar B2
Town Crier B2-3
Weddings B4-5
Inklink B7

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2004

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SECTION

THE WEEK AHEAD

FROM STAFF REPORTS

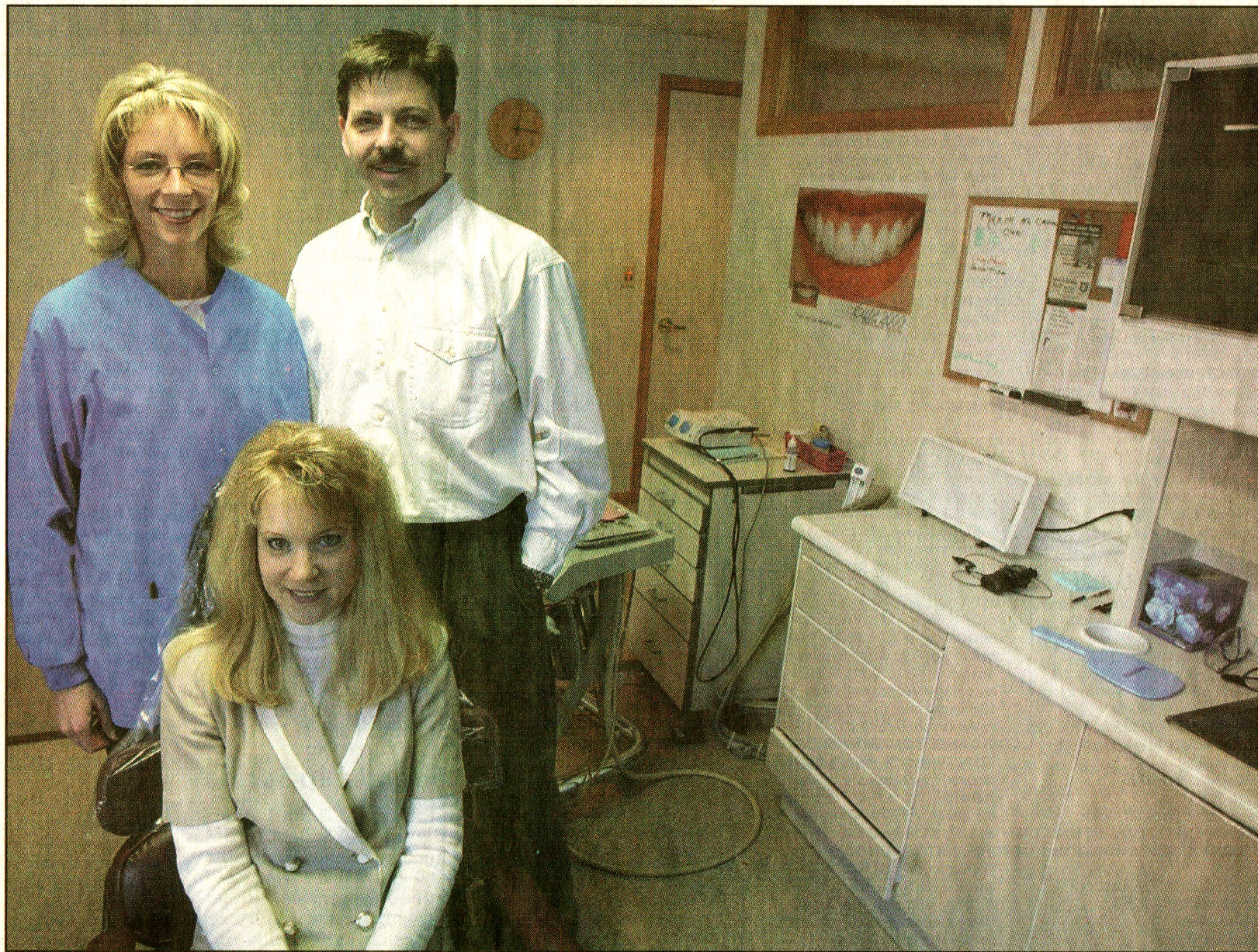
TODAY

VFW Post 9439 and Auxiliaries, 100 Bryan Stock Trail, will host a benefit breakfast from 8-11 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Sheridan and Cheyenne veterans hospitals. They are in need of recreational and comfort items. The menu includes ham, bacon, biscuits with sausage gravy, eggs, hash browns, pancakes, fruit and beverages. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 10. For more information, call 235-4867.

TODAY

The Casper Antique & Collectors Club is sponsoring the Spring Super Flea at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds Industrial Building from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission will be \$1.25; there will be no charge for children under 10. Twenty-five percent of the mission will be donated to the Country Spiders 4-H Club, who are selected to work the door. Dealers will be from Casper and outlying areas of Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. They will have any outstanding articles including coins, glassware, jewelry, furniture and more. Come join the fun and "shop 'til you drop." Proceeds from the two super flea markets and two antique shows go to assist the museums statewide, local nonprofit organizations and the local libraries each year.

Guests are always welcome at general meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the



From left, Melissa Youmans, DDS; Pam Kerr, office manager at Jason's Friends Foundation and Stuart Youmans, DDS, are all smiles about the Smiles for Life teeth whitening fund-raiser for local children's organizations.

DAN CEPEDA/Star-Tribune

Dentists brighten lives

Teeth whitening profits go to Jason's Friends

By **SALLY ANN SHURMUR**
Star-Tribune staff writer

Teeth whitening is taking the nation by storm and in Casper, two dentists are transferring the profits from that mania to Wyoming children with cancer and their families.

For the second year in a row, Stuart and Melissa Youmans, husband and wife dentists practicing as the Aspen Ridge Dental Clinic, are donating all of the proceeds from teeth whitening kits sold now through June to the national Smiles for Life campaign, sponsored by the professional dental organization, Crown Council.

Last year, the Youmans donated \$10,000 to Jason's Friends Foundation.

Jason's Friends Foundation is the grassroots group headquartered in Casper that provides cash grants to families of children suffering from cancer, especially brain and spinal cord tumors.

The funds given can be for any normal household expense — rent, utilities, food, car repairs, out-of-state travel for medical

reasons — made more difficult by ongoing medical expenses.

"A donation that size has a huge impact," said Jason's Friends Foundation co-founder Lisa Eades. "It immediately affects a lot of people. We are always helping a number of families, so that gift potentially impacted upwards of 30 families."

This year, Jason's Friends remains the choice of the Youmans, but 50 percent will go to Jason's Friends and 50 percent goes to country singer Garth Brooks' "Teammates for Kids" Foundation.

"They've changed the setup since last year," Stuart Youmans said in an interview last week. "But we hope to increase the number of appointments we can squeeze in, which will make the Jason's Friends portion of the donation bigger."

He said the 50 percent that goes to the national Smiles for Life pool still has the chance to impact local organizations through grants paid out.

Youmans stressed that you do not have to be a regular patient to get the teeth whitening offer and subsequently help Jason's Friends.

From now through June, teeth whitening will be done by his staff for \$197. His normal rate for the same service is \$250.

A 20-minute appointment allows the Youmans' staff to take impressions for the custom trays that patients get a week later

with everything necessary to do the whitening process at home.

"Typically, you see good results in about two to four weeks, and it usually lasts several months," Stuart said.

He also encourages people who already have custom trays to get replacement product from his office, which he sells from now through June for \$50, all of which goes to the same Smiles for Life campaign.

"It's a good local charity that we support and it fits with the Teammates for Kids objective," Youmans said of Jason's Friends.

Stuart Youmans is a native of Casper and graduated from Natrona County High School in 1987 and the University of Wyoming in 1991 before receiving his doctorate of dentistry degree from Creighton University in 1996.

While he calls his wife "a Nebraska girl," she did agree to marry him and come back to Casper and set up a practice with him in 1998.

Youmans credited Bill Dorfman, DDS, founder of Discus Dental and the dentist who appears on the reality show, "Extreme Makeover," with donating all of the products used for the "Smiles for Life" whitening campaign.

To make a teeth whitening appointment, call Aspen Ridge Dental at 234-6054 or visit the national Smiles for Life Web site (www.smilesforlife.org).