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Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Eunice and Tracy Thompson celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary last month. The couple lives independently at Park Gardens Senior Living in Fergus Falls.

Couple together 75 years

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

Eunice Thompson recalls looking at calendars with the lists of wedding anniversary gifts. "I used to see 75 and it says diamond, and I thought, 'who would ever live to be 75?'" Eunice said. Well as it turns out, she did. Eunice, 92, and her husband, Tracy, 96, celebrated 75 years of marriage Sept. 9. They met as neighbors and were married in 1938 at a courthouse in South

Dakota. The couple made their home in Elbow Lake until 1999, when they moved to Fergus Falls. They've certainly seen a lot during their time together. "Oh, boy, a lot of changes," Tracy said. "Just in our lifetime, Eunice." Tracy worked as a custodian and bus coordinator for Elbow Lake Schools from 1950 until retiring in 1982. Eunice was a self-proclaimed housewife until their only son, Everett Thompson, graduated from high

school. Then she worked 17 years at Schroeder's Department Store and then six years doing book-keeping at an insurance agency. One of the fondest memories for them was a trip they took in 1979. "The most fun thing we did, we went to Norway," Eunice said. "And I had to take lessons in Norwegian." Tracy and Eunice remembered a variety of details from their Norway visit, including the lefse and waffles they dined on for lunches.

They visited what had been the home of Tracy's mother. Tracy's parents died by the time he was 4 years old. His mother burned to death after her clothes caught on fire while using a wood stove, and a year later his father was struck and killed by lightning. Tracy's grandparents adopted him. Now decades later, the Thompsons live independently at Park Gardens Senior Living facility, where they've been for the past six years after selling their house on

See **Couple** — Page 3

MINNESOTA

Boy boards plane at Minnesota airport without a ticket

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A 9-year-old runaway went through security, boarded a plane at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport without a ticket and flew to Las Vegas, an airport spokesman said Sunday.

Inside
For more news from across Minnesota, see **Page 2.**

Security officials screened the Minneapolis boy at the airport shortly after 10:30 a.m. Thursday after he arrived via light rail, Metropolitan Airports Commission spokesman Patrick Hogan said. The boy then boarded a Delta flight that left for Las Vegas

at 11:15 a.m. The flight was not full, Hogan said, and the flight crew became suspicious midflight because the boy was not on their list of unattended minors. The crew contacted Las Vegas police, who met them upon landing and transferred the boy to child protection services, Hogan said. "It's hard to piece anything together from his stories why he got on the flight and went to Las Vegas," Hogan said. Minneapolis police Sgt. Bill Palmer said officers talked to the family after Las Vegas police contacted them. A family member told police the boy ran away and was last seen earlier Thursday.

BUSINESS



Chris Reinos/Daily Journal

Layne Thernell has worked in the upholstery business for decades. She often works with antique furniture, like this chair that dates back to the 1950s.

New upholstery shop part of a long family tradition

By Chris Reinos
Daily Journal

Upholstery has been a part of Layne Thernell's life since she was born. Now, after living in Fergus Falls for the last 10 years, she will open her own store this week. The grand opening of Memory Layne, 112 S. Mill, is set for Saturday. There will be an open house from 1 to 7 p.m. where guests will be provided refreshments. Much work still needs to be done to get the shop ready for the opening, including painting the walls and having three chandeliers delivered and installed. But Layne Thernell said the opening will happen Saturday, no matter how much redecorating is left to do. When she was growing up, Thernell's mother Karen owned an upholstery business. Layne Thernell worked for her mother until she moved to Colorado for 18 years. Since returning to the area and living in Fer-

gus Falls, Layne Thernell has stayed in the business and worked from home. She has been thinking about moving into a shop for a while, but only when one of her favorite spots in the city opened up did she make her move. "Everything about it was perfect," Layne Thernell said. "The location is great, there's a lot going on." Memory Layne will include window displays of some of her work. Customers will also be able to buy different fabrics in the store, which Layne Thernell said gives her an advantage over bigger furniture stores. Layne Thernell also does window covers and interior design as part of her business. Because of her experience working from home, Layne Thernell said the transition to owning a shop should be easier. "I've got a lot of clientele already and fortunately I've had some really nice people

See **Shop** — Page 3

White-nose fungus imperils Minnesota bats

By Stephanie Hemphill
MPR News — 91.5

Thousands of bats return to this dark refuge each fall to hibernate and wait out the winter. Mystery Cave has sheltered them for centuries. This fall, though, something in the cave threatens to kill them all. A fungus that eats at the bats' wings has been found here and in Soudan Underground Mine, two of Minnesota's largest bat caves. In East Coast states, the white nose fungus has wiped out nearly 6 million bats. State biologists still hope the bats here might survive. They're looking for ways to contain or beat back the fungus. If not, the furry, peaceful creatures resting on the cave walls will likely die in the next few years. If that happens, there will be losers beyond the bats, Mystery Cave Park Manager Mark White said as he led a



MPR Photo/Jennifer Simonson

A fungus linked to white-nose syndrome, which can wipe out bat populations, has been found at the cave and DNR officials are working to prevent its spread. visitor recently through the caverns. "You're just going to see an explosion of corn-borer moths, mosquitoes, midges, other night-flying insects, some aquatic insects," White said. "So it'd be a shame to lose them." Mystery Cave is tucked like a Hobbit home into a steep hillside. Oaks and maples glow in fall colors stand on the ridge. Above the doors to the cave, an




MPR Photo/Jennifer Simonson

Naturalist Mark White uses a flashlight to show off a cave formation during a tour of Mystery Cave Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013 at Forestville State Park. opening like a big mail slot invites bats to fly in and out. This cave is 48 degrees year-round, a few degrees warmer than a refrigerator, with a constant supply of fresh air and occasional drips of water on the head. Shoulder-width passages open into spacious rooms with ceilings 20 feet high. Some walls are pock-marked with holes left by fossilized creatures when this limestone formed the

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MAILING LABEL

TOMORROW:



HIGH: 73 LOW: 51

SUNRISE TOMORROW: 7:33 a.m.
SUNSET TOMORROW: 6:50 p.m.

YESTERDAY:

HIGH: 57 LOW: 45
PRECIPITATION: .01

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