New Hawkeye tradition becoming a national hug for kids at Stead

I was trolling Facebook this morning and ran across a post from a friend who said she’s crying at the end of the first quarter of every Hawkeye home game.

It’s become a national cuddle every Saturday at Iowa home games when roughly 70,000 people turn and give a wave, and for sure some smiles, to the children and families peaking over the east side of Kinnick Stadium from the University of Iowa Stead Family

Mr. Pie and the Science guy
At top, Asst. Principal Pat Lamb gets a pie from Harrison Snaadt as a fundraiser, and below, Chris Brown receives an award for excellence from the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists at an assembly on Friday at the Fort Madison High School.

Children’s hospital.
Saturday night the fans added a twist (see video on www.pencitycurrent.com if you missed it! — one of the worst games I’ve ever seen the Hawkeyes play) and turned the flashlights on. Fans waved like a star-studded black-and-gold blanket and cheered wildly for the children and families in the oval shaped steel wonder of architecture.

I don’t recall reading anything (and I read quite a bit) about that hospital being built so those kids could watch the football games perched above all else. But what a genius and compassionate decision.

She’s right. We were there when the tradition started against Wyoming, and we were sitting in a spot where we could actually see the kids waving back

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See TRADITION, page 8

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Pen City Current

Monday, Sept. 25 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 229

SPOTS:
HTC wins 10th grade cross country meet in Fairfield.
See page 4

Don’t forget Social Media! Check us out on the following sites
@pencitycurrent:

Mr. Pie and the Science guy
At top, Asst. Principal Pat Lamb gets a pie from Harrison Snaadt as a fundraiser, and below, Chris Brown receives an award for excellence from the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists at an assembly on Friday at the Fort Madison High School.

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Elizabeth Katherine Wagner, 94 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died early Sunday morning, September 24, 2017 at her home. She was born April 5, 1923 in St. Paul, Iowa, a daughter of John and Katherine (Foecke) Merschbrock. Her mother died when she was an infant. Her father remarried Louise Soppe, who raised Elizabeth as her daughter. On August 3, 1946, she married LeRoy E. Wagner.

Mrs. Wagner worked at the Rainbow Garden which later became known as the El Zarape restaurant for 37 years before retiring. She was of the Catholic Faith. She enjoyed bingo. She loved her family and had Sunday dinner for everyone every week.

Liz is survived by four sons: Robert (Phyllis) Wagner and Richard Wagner both of Donnellson, Iowa; Steven “Toby” (Tracy) Wagner, of Fort Madison; LeRoy Jr. (Angie) Wagner of Des Moines, Iowa; five daughters: Beverly (Bill) McGregor; Betty Sokolik; Karen (Bud) Huffman; Nancy Cangas; and Cindy (Clint) Hocker all of Fort Madison; one brother Louis (Carolyn) Merschbrock of Fort Madison; two sisters, Martha Taylor of LaHarpe, Illinois and Marylee Merschbrock of Fort Madison; 19 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, seven great great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, including Louise, husband, one daughter Janet Pizana, and two sons, Dale and Ronald Wagner.

Visitation will be held 6:00 - 7:00 pm Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, followed by a Christian Wake Service beginning at 7:00 pm Wednesday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 am Thursday, September 28, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison, with Rev. Mark Spring as Celebrant. Burial will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Wagner family may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.
Dollhouse Dreams holds Take Bake Childhood day Saturday

FORT MADISON - Dollhouse Dreams featured a Take Back Childhood Program from Melissa and Doug on Saturday. Owner Brenda Derr said the events were well attended with more than 16 local children coming in for treats, a free toy, and activities for children and parents alike. Then children were treated to free ice cream at the ice cream parlor. The program was from 11 to 3. Each child was given a notebook with instructions on how to play with the toy as well as different activities and a scavenger hunt throughout the store. Sabrina Fullhart was the official toy tester coordinator for the event.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
09/20/17 - 4:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 1300 block of Avenue E. 09/20/17 - 6:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue G. 09/20/17 - 7:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of Avenue F. 09/21/17 - 1:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue L. 09/21/17 - 2:56 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 37th Street. 09/21/17 - 3:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue M. 09/21/17 - 11:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 33rd Street. 09/21/17 - 11:58 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Deborah Jo Johnson, 56, of Fort Madison on a warrant for failure to pay fine. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report
09/21/17 - 12:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Angela Jean Bryant, 25, of Mediapolis at the Henry County Jail in Cambridge, Ill., on a warrant for prohibited act by a registrant. She remained in custody. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Sports

Our Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm. Call 800.216.2370 for an appointment.

Become familiar with HHW Materials:

- Corrosive, meaning they can corrode or burn your skin on contact.
- Toxic, meaning they can be lethal to humans and animals if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- Flammable, meaning they may ignite even under normal working conditions.
- Explosive/Reactive, meaning it reacts violently when exposed to heat, sudden shock, pressure, or other chemicals.

Please never dispose of any of these items down your drain, they eventually pollute our rivers.

Acceptable HHW Items:

- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Household Cleaning Products
- Auto Cleaning Products
- Antifreeze
- Motor Oil
- Car Batteries
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Oil Based Paints
- Paint Thinners
- Propane Tanks
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Florescent Light Bulbs
- And More

If you don’t see your item(s) on this list or if you have any questions please call 800.216.2370

FMHS boys 3rd, girls 6th at Anamosa Invite

Steffensmeier 2nd overall in boys race

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

ANAMOSA - The Fort Madison boys and girls varsity cross-country teams got a look at some different runners over the weekend and still put three runners in the top five.

Aaron Steffensmeier had one of his best finishes of the year taking second place in the 5K run with a 17:36 time just .21 off the leader Will Dehaan from Central DeWitt.

Dayne Cordray who has been finishing right on Steffensmeier’s heels for most of the season, finished in 10th place with a 18:05 time, which had the Hounds in 2nd place through the top 10, but the next Hound to finish was Nathan Steffensmeier at 23rd with 19:06 mark to give the Hounds a third place finish overall.

Scoring takes the top five finishers for each team so the last two to figure in the scoring were Elton Kruse at 26 with a 19:12 time and Noah Sissel at 33rd finishing the run at 19:25. Owen Kruse finished in 35th place and Miguel Trejo finished in 48th place.

“Our boys continue to run very well. Aaron and Dayne have been very solid all season and the rest of the boys are following their lead. I have been impressed. Our girls are running well too and continue to to improve,” said boys and girls head coach Brian Mendez.

Sierra Howardson took third in the 5K run with a 19:58, 40 secs off the pace. Brett Schneider came in fifth place with a 20:47 time, which when factoring in how cross-county meets are scored, put them in first place for about two minutes and 20 seconds.

The next FMHS runner to finish the event was Elizabeth Miller who took 31st place with a 23:10 time. Claire Mendez finished in 38th place with a 23:34 time. Ashlyn Haas rounded out the top five finishers for the Bloodhounds with a 49th place finish at 24:48 giving the Hounds a total of 126 points behind Monticello, Anamosa, Solon, Cascade and Central DeWitt.

Miho Shiria finished in 56th place and Lauren King took 58th to round out the places for the Hounds.

FMHS boys 3rd, girls 6th at Anamosa Invite

HTC 10th graders win at Pekin meet

FAIRFIELD - The Holy Trinity cross-country team competed in the first grade-specific event of the season Saturday at Fairfield Waterworks hosted by Pekin High School.

The boys had entrants in the 10th and 11th grade events winning the 10th grade event with 13 points anchored by Matt Hellige’s 2nd place finish at 17:47 just five seconds off the leader’s pace. Blake Crabtree to 2nd place at 19:06 and Jacob Mohrfeld finished the top scorers for HTC with a 7th place finish at 20:40 to seal with the win with 13 points. Wyatt Hellman took 15th place with a 23:39 time.

Josh Barr finished in 13th place in the 11th grade run with a 23:58 time.

“Scoring the boys’ 5K race was a valuable learning experience mentioned Brian Mendez, HTC boys coach.

Mr. Dormer coached the girls’ 5K race.

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Executive Director

United Way of the Great River Region which serves Lee County in Iowa, Hancock County in Illinois and Clark County in Missouri is seeking an Executive Director to manage all aspects of a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives in the area of health, education and financial stability.

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for all administrative, fundraising, fund distribution, operations, donor and community relations of the organization. The Executive Director is also responsible for developing key external and internal collaborations, partnerships, relationships and grant writing which include the Board of Directors, community partners, leaders and staff. The Executive Director will manage full-time and part-time staff as well as multiple volunteers with various responsibilities as aligned with the UWGRR strategic plan. College degree with major in business, management or marketing is encouraged. Non-profit experience, particularly with United Way a plus.

This is a full-time salaried position. Salary is negotiable. Benefits include vacation and sick pay. United Way of the Great River Region is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To donate or volunteer, go to www.UWGRR.org.

Please send a letter of application and resume to:
Pam Bierwirth, UWGRR President
or PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632
Deadline for application is September 30, 2017

Job Fair

Tuesday, Sept 26th
10:00am - 2:00pm
At Bagcraft Papercon
2008 303rd Avenue - Ft. Madison

Team Staffing is inviting a Job Fair at Bagcraft for January Multiples. Positions are available now.

On-Site Interviews
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Pen City Current - Monday, September 25, 2017 - 7
Cross Country Team

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Contact him after ordering at brian.mendez@fmcisd.org

From the Front/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 25 Sep
Light Rain
High – 88.9º F | Low – 70.0º F

TUE 26 Sep
Partly Cloudy
High – 88.3º F | Low – 69.5º F

WED 27 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 69.1º F | Low – 51.4º F

THU 28 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 73.6º F | Low – 60.0º F

FRI 29 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 71.9º F | Low – 53.2º F

The “Empty Nest” seems to be growing

Love planted a rose, and the world turned sweet.

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Analyze Agree Disagree 
Discuss Thought Opinion Public Respect 

KIDS AT STEAD DESERVE THE ATTENTION

TRADITION - Continued from Page 1

through the slightly tinted windows last night. It was emotional. Even more so for me, and I would assume, my wife. Our daughter, who’s attending the University now was seated in the student section. When the crowd waved it took me back to when she was in the Pediatric intensive care unit at U of I Hospitals and Clinics for four days after being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. In the grand scheme of things she has a condition as far as I’m concerned. One that, because of the relentless pursuit of a cure of this disease that costs Americans $12 billion annually, takes a toll on her body every day, but she courageously goes about building her future with this beast lingering in the back of her mind. Almost one year ago, she had a seizure at home and if it wasn’t for a quick thinking friend who spent the night, who alerted mom and dad, things could have turned out worse than they did. But I witnessed what that disease is. Right then and there. The U of I medical team that trained her mom and I on what to do in those situations, in my mind, saved her life that day. But with what they do and groups like JDRF, Dexcom, OneTouch, and others, her life is literally saved every day. We were at a restaurant on a day after an appointment where our daughter had been poked and prodded for about 3 hours checking all her blood levels not even a year after her diagnosis. She had to take an injection of insulin before eating. She doesn’t have to do that now thanks to advances in technology, a pump does it for her. But at that time, she discreetly did it under the table. A woman sitting across the way noticed the injection and came over and told us she was offended that our daughter would do that at the table. I told the lady to go back to her table. My wife lost... her... mind. The ready-for-jail - like lost her mind. Those of you that know Lee know her to be extremely mild-mannered. She exploded. We removed ourselves from that situation, but it’s something that at the time, I thought, this is who we are? We’re this self-consumed and cold that this could happen in Iowa? I thought about that moment, this is something that at the time, I thought, this is who we are? We’re this self-consumed and cold that this could happen in Iowa? The restaurant went above and beyond their role in the ordeal and several people came over and apologized. Two weeks ago when we attended the game and the crowd waved and those children and families waved back, I thought about that moment. In a flash of cheers and smiles and tears, I thought of my daughter who was sitting over in the student section of the college that she’s wanted to attend since she was a kid. These children are battling for their lives up there with diseases and conditions more critical than Type 1 Diabetes, and one can’t help but think that kind of human emotional energy is having some kind of impact. It’s palpable. You can fill it on your skin. ESPN hangs out over the first quarter deciding not to make money with commercials, but to show America what’s happening in Iowa. National news networks have been carrying and commenting on the new tradition. On the way up to Iowa City Saturday afternoon, I suggested to my wife that Kinnick is never, ever stop doing it. She said they should never, ever stop doing it. It should happen forever. Short of moving that stadium or that hospital that these kids get a wave of love and support about six times a year, to 70,000 people.