

# The Hawk Eye

## Review: A party for Erin

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Burlington Mayor Shane McCampbell talks with Doug and Joan Minney, the grandparents of Erin Pospisil, of Cedar Rapids who went missing in 2001, during a Fireball Run premier party, Friday at the Art center of Burlington. McCampbell and Energyefficient CEO Chad Palmer teamed up for the online reality show's 11<sup>th</sup> season in 2017 raised awareness of Pospisil during their participation in the adventure rally [John Lovetta/thehawkeye.com]

**By Bob Saar for The Hawk Eye**

Posted Jan 5, 2019 at 1:01 AM

**Missing Cedar Rapids girl at heart of Fireball Run preview event Friday.**

Burlington welcomed Mayor Shane McCampbell and his Fireball Run co-driver, Energyefficient CEO Chad Palmer, at a soiree Friday evening.

It began at the Art Center as a meet-and-greet and ended at the Capitol Theater with a slideshow featuring McCampbell and Palmer's 8-day, 2,000 mile trip in 2017.

The pair competed on the online reality show "Fireball Run Season 11: Big Country" to raise awareness about Erin Kay Pospisil of Cedar Rapids, who went missing in 2001 at the age of 15.

In each season of Fireball Run, teams are assigned a missing child to advocate during the adventurality, partnering with the Child Rescue Network. In 10 seasons, contestants have aided in the recovery of 52 missing children.

The guests of honor were Erin's grandparents, Doug and Joan Minney of Cedar Rapids. Their daughter, Erin's mother Carolyn, was not able to come to Burlington for the event.

"The thing I want to emphasize is the help and support we've received from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children," Joan Minney said.

She said they weren't totally devastated.

"We have hope," she said. "You have to have hope to go on."

"There have been so many missing kids for so many years. They give you hope," Doug Minney said.

The couple said one of their biggest fears is that Erin will return and they won't recognize her.

"She will have grown and changed," Joan Minney said. "She may have tattoos and piercings."

"We know from others that people who have returned are different because of their experiences while they were away from you," Doug Minney said.

Joan Minney said she's not 100 percent certain that Erin is still alive, "But I'm not going to let go."

The couple said there is a girl in Marion, a Cedar Rapids suburb, who looked a lot like Erin, and they got many false alarms from people who spotted the lookalike.

"We count on the Center to follow up leads," Joan Minney said. "We couldn't do that."

Indeed: All those false alarms and false hopes would be heartbreaking.

Erin's home telephone at the time of her disappearance is still in service.

"Just in case she calls," Doug Minney said.

"If you pray, please pray for Erin," Joan Minney said. "We'll take all the prayers we can get."

Later, at the Capitol, Greater Burlington Partnership CEO Jason Hutchinson introduced McCampbell and Palmer, who entertained a crowd of about 150 with a slide show, jokes, anecdotes and an episode from "Fireball Run Season 11: Big Country" featuring footage shot in Burlington.

Erin's story can be found at [ErinPospisilisMissing.org](http://ErinPospisilisMissing.org). Visit [missingkids.com](http://missingkids.com) or go to [HelpFindAChild.org](http://HelpFindAChild.org) or [Iowacoldcases.org](http://Iowacoldcases.org) for information and to donate to the ongoing search for children missing in America.

McCampbell and Palmer's road trip can be viewed on Amazon.com beginning later this year.