

Musician spreads music, cheer

By **Yurika Masuda**
For The Observer

Layne Maxwelle Scott, a 9-year-old fiddle player, brightens the everyday life of Essie Wagoner, 91, with the sound of delight and cordiality.

Scott is a volunteer from Heart 'n Home Hospice & Palliative Care. Founded in 2004, Heart 'n Home affirms life by providing emotional, physical and spiritual support to their patients and to those who love and care for them. Hospice is a patient and family support service that keeps the patient comfortable, teaches the family to provide care

and offers emotional and spiritual support.

Volunteers' duties range from caring for patients to doing office tasks.

Direct patient care includes listening to the patients' stories, reading books, playing instruments or games, as well as helping patients' family members with duties such as delivering medications, cooking meals and transportation.

A year after Scott started a fiddle lesson at 8 years old, he chose to be a part of Heart 'n Home in October.

"After I joined Heart 'n Home, I started to practice the fiddle

more," Scott said. At each visit with Wagoner he has played "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," which Wagoner sings along with and enjoys the most.

"I like parties and having people over at my house," Wagoner said. She's certainly used to having kids around — Wagoner has six children and more than a dozen grandchildren.

Scott's bright smile, as well as the sound of his fiddle, fills Wagoner's living room with heartfelt warmth.

"This boy's visit has been making me happier every week," Wagoner said.



Tim Mustoe/The Observer

Nine-year-old Layne Scott plays fiddle tunes for 91-year-old Essie Wagoner in her living room.