

Opinion

6A - Monday, March 28, 2022

A GRACE FILLED JOURNEY • by Mary Herschelmann

Taking The First Step To Adventure



"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
Lao Tzu

Grace was just three years old when she was diagnosed with INAD, and we were told most kids with INAD didn't live to see their tenth birthdays.

After the initial shock wore off, Kyle and I made every effort to ensure Grace had as many adventures as we could pack into her short life. In some ways, we felt like we had a gift, knowing that her time with us would be short, and it gave us a chance to make the most of our opportunities.

When the pandemic started, life gave us another adventure. It slowed down. Suddenly, there weren't things to cover for the paper or places to go. And in the last year of Grace's life, it gave us the greatest adventure of quality time together. We went on family walks, ate dinner on the patio, had family movie nights and read lots of books. Even though that was such an uncertain time in everyone's lives, we are grateful for all the time we had with Grace.

Our last adventure together came the weekend before she died. As a special Mother's Day treat, Kyle and the girls took me on an overnight trip to the Friends Experience in Chicago. We took our photo in every one of my favorite Friends scenes, ate Chicago-style pizza and treated the girls to toys from the Disney store on Michigan Avenue.

It wasn't a perfect weekend, but what I remember most were the happy moments. And I'll always be glad we had one last adventure together, even if we didn't know at the time it would be the last.

It's been nearly a year since Grace passed away, and while we haven't lost our adventure-some spirits altogether, it just feels like part of us is missing.

In the fall, Charley and I rode with Kyle to

a weekend football game, when he was covering Nokomis, to see some friends from when I worked in Indiana. We carefully packed Bruce (Grace's stuffed pink puppy) to join us on our night away. I got to catch up with some really amazing people, Charley got to swim in the hotel pool, and we enjoyed being together.

We also loved every minute of Charley's first Disney World adventure in November.

But, other than that, we haven't taken many adventures since she passed away. Until this month.

I really wanted to take Charley to an indoor water park one weekend just to get away for a couple of days. I felt like we needed that.

My first thought was a Great Wolf Lodge resort, but Kyle did some searching and found a pirate-themed water park about three hours north of us. It seemed like the perfect fit for our family.

Again, it wasn't a perfect weekend. Charley thinks the drive to Litchfield is long, so she sort of felt like we were never going to get there. Some days, we struggled finding a place to eat. And sometimes, it's just hard to reason with a five-year-old.

But instead of letting all the "problems" get in the way, we enjoyed two days of water slides, splashes and lots of laughter.

It's easy to get caught up in the frustrations that inevitably come on adventures. And it would be easy to say that it would just be easier to stay home.

But I'll never regret any of our adventures with Grace. We knew we had to make the very most of the time we had to spend with her, and it was still gone way too soon.

I hope and pray every day that we have Charley in our lives much longer. But I also hope that we don't let the every day challenges get in the way of taking adventures together.

Part of our family will always be missing, no matter where adventure takes us, but we know she's always with us.

IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN • by Lucas Altenberger

Imagine Hillsboro Leaps Into Spring



Welcome back to Imagine Hillsboro Checks In. If this is your first time joining us, welcome! This column features a bi-monthly update regarding all things Imagine Hillsboro. Did you know Imagine Hillsboro recently had its annual board and members meeting?

We'll take a look at what was accomplished during this meeting and recap the recent #ShopHillsboro Mardi Gras event. Spring is in the air, as are many springtime events. We will take a look at upcoming events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Citywide Spring Cleanup. Let's get started!

Last month, Imagine Hillsboro board and committee members reunited over Zoom to discuss plans for the remainder of the year. The board at-large discussed current funds and potential fundraisers for the future. Afterwards, committees broke into individual "breakout rooms." All committees were able to accomplish the following: elect new officers and board representatives, re-establish or make plans to continue regular meeting times, and realign their goals and objectives. All committee meeting times and locations, as well as contact information, have been posted to www.imaginehillsboro.com. Join any or all committees that interest you!

The board at-large also elected officer positions. Congratulations to Dustin Jones (president), Johnathan Weyer (vice-president), Belinda Hollo (treasurer), Tori O'Dell (secretary), and Lucas Altenberger (Marketing and Communications, with guidance from Kaitlyn Fath).

February saw the return of #ShopHillsboro's Mardi Gras event. Hillsboro shoppers had the opportunity to win \$50 in Chamber Bucks by shopping at one of six local businesses. While shopping, residents could enjoy special Mardi Gras foods, such as gumbo and Cajun fries/burgers from Street Eats, or chicory coffee and muffuletta sandwiches at Black Rabbit. The Tobias Public House featured Cajun shrimp and grits and jambalaya. No celebration is complete without some sweets, though. Three Fern Hill prepared King's Cake and chocolate bakka alongside some usual classics, such as cinnamon rolls.

Imagine Hillsboro, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, and *The Journal-News* will host a #ShopHillsboro Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16. Shoppers that find the hidden (stationary) Easter egg in participating stores and places of business will be in for a treat. The #ShopHillsboro prize patrol will also be

out and about to award one lucky shopper with \$50 in Chamber Bucks on the spot.

There is still time for Hillsboro-based business to participate in the promotional event. For \$35, participants will receive a full-color ad in *The Journal-News*, as well as promotion in the Thursday, April 7, Monday, April 11, and Thursday, April 14 editions of *The Journal-News*. Businesses will also be featured on the Imagine Hillsboro, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and Head to Hillsboro social media accounts. Participants will be given a decorated egg to hide in their business the day of the event. Each business can exercise their creativity on what they will offer to shoppers who find their egg. For more information contact Cheryl at 217-532-3933 by Friday, April 1.

Spring is always a busy time of the year, and that is no exception for Imagine Hillsboro. We have a few more upcoming events to share with you. Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a Community Easter Egg Hunt at Beckemeyer Elementary. Age groups will include Birth to Pre-K, K/1st, 2nd/3rd, and 4th/5th. A sensory-friendly/special needs hunt will begin at 11:00, with prizes sponsored by The Autism Support Coalition (TASC). Be on the lookout for a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny!

Looking ahead to May, Hillsboro will see the return of Farmers Markets, as well as the Father-Daughter Princess Ball on May 14th. Keep watch for more information on both of these events on Facebook, Instagram, and our website www.imaginehillsboro.com.

As always, Imagine Hillsboro is looking for individuals that would like to get involved with their community. Individual committee webpages now have contact information. However, if you would like more information about Imagine Hillsboro in general, you can visit the "Contact" section to fill out an interest form.

On Saturday, April 23, Imagine Hillsboro is teaming up with the HAH Junior Board to host the Citywide Cleanup in celebration of Earth Day. All who are interested in volunteering (picking up trash, pulling weeds, painting curbs) need only to show up at Central Park at 8:45 a.m. that day. If you would like to request assistance on a clean-up project, please contact Bob Fuehne at 217-710-4313 (priority given to senior and handicap citizens).

Now, let's end with a little game. The first person to email the answer this very easy trivia question will win some Chamber Bucks! When was the Harkey House built? Email your answers to marketing@imaginehillsboro.com. Thank you for reading!

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



GUEST COLUMN • by Hillsboro Community Planner Jonathan Weyer

Not Just A Place, It's An Ideal

I will be resigning my position as Community and Economic Planner, with my last day being March 31, to take a position as the Community and Public Relations Director for Atlas 46.

Three years ago, my former professor at Saint Louis University invited me to take a factory tour of Atlas 46 located in Hillsboro. I'd never heard of Hillsboro, but my professor said it would be right up my alley, as I entered into the planning program at SLU because I had a passion for the small towns. Intrigued, I agreed to go on the tour.

The moment I saw the courthouse rise out of the trees, I fell in love with the city. We passed Hubbart Wood, drove into downtown and the first building to capture my attention was the Orpheum Theatre. Former Mayor Brian Sullivan gave us a tour of the town, introduced us around and I could feel that special "vibe" we all talk about around here. I emailed Brian after our tour when he reached out to my professor looking for a possible interim economic planner and we agreed to do an informal interview at the first American Made Day.

After interviewing with the rest of the council, they agreed to give me a six-month trial period to see how it could all work. They didn't require me to be in Hillsboro, but I knew I needed to be here. I wanted to make Hillsboro my home, to put my whole skin in the game. Everyone gives their lives to this town and I didn't feel I could do any less.

The almost three years I served Hillsboro as the Community and Economic Planner transformed by life. To be more accurate, the people and the community changed my life in beautiful and profound ways. They've given me so much and I hope in my time working for the city, I've repaid some of the debt I owe this town. I hope to continue repaying that debt as an ordinary citizen.

During that time, I've served three fantastic and dedicated mayors, each with their own strengths, each teaching me valuable lessons about government work and the city of Hillsboro. I want to thank Former Mayor Brian Sullivan for taking a chance on an "unknown kid," former Mayor and current Commissioner Katie Duncan, the first female mayor in Hillsboro's history, who guided us through the height of the COVID crisis, and current Mayor Don Downs for giving me his trust and his patience.

Further, I've had the honor to work with dedicated elected commissioners and public servants such as former commissioner Daniel Robbins, current commissioners Kendra Wright, Fred Butler, and Michael Murphy. I've

seen firsthand their dedication to Hillsboro, the working of long hours on something that is not their "day job." Every city should have this kind of council. Everyone needs to go out of their way and thank them for their work in what is, many times, a thankless job that requires them to give up family and personal time to solve one crisis or another.

I cannot leave out my city hall co-workers, Bonnie Hefley, Cory Davidson, Angela Holcomb, Jen Weiss, and Jan Jett, and city employees such as Jim May and Justin Chappelle, our city attorney, Kit Hantla, city engineer Jeremy Connor, Mike Lee, and others I've worked with over the past three years. And, of course, Kaitlyn Fath, the Executive Director of Hillsboro's Chamber of Commerce, who has been my partner in crime for so many adventures. I wish space allowed for me to thank every person in Hillsboro who has worked with me through various groups such as city committee members, Imagine Hillsboro, and city business owners.

Hillsboro is not just a place, it's an ideal—an ideal with citizens striving toward the things that we think make us special, just like our country. When the founding fathers gave us the Constitution, they knew that America wasn't a finished work. They counted on us to keep striving towards the goal of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As Ben Franklin said to a Philadelphia woman when she asked what sort of government they'd given America, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it." By this, he meant all of us that will call ourselves American will have the responsibility of that meeting the goals of the great experiment.

Hillsboro can keep it by striving towards the goals outlined in our vision statement, adopted by the council, which states that we are committed to making "Hillsboro a beautiful and sustainable community that encourages and develops an atmosphere of human flourishing for all our citizens. This will be accomplished through developing a locally based economy, building an equitable quality of life, and protecting the natural environment that surrounds our city."

Sometimes, striving towards those goals isn't pretty. It can be ugly—a mess—and sometimes, it means failing. When we fail, it's what we do with our failure that matters. However, we can't let that stop us from being humble, being honest, working together, ironing out our disagreements, and putting others before ourselves in everything we do. I look forward to doing that myself as I become an ordinary citizen of this beautiful city.

United States Flag Etiquette

The federal flag code says the universal custom is to display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaves in the open, but when a patriotic effect is desired the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Also, the U.S. flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

- On a staff, display the U.S. flag at peak, above any other flag.
- When grouped with other flags in display, the U.S. flag goes to its own right. Flags of other nations are flown at same height.
- Over a Street Union (stars) face north or east depending on the direction of the street.
- When displayed on a speaker's platform, it must be above and behind the speaker. If mounted on a staff it is on the speaker's right.
- Never use the flag for decoration. Use hunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.
- In a parade, the flag should be in front of the marchers. All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the

heart, or if applicable, remove their head-dress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. During a parade it is appropriate to salute only the first U.S. flag.

- In a parade, passing review, color guard or any other setting, it is never appropriate to dip the American flag. Dipping the flag is a sign of subservience.
- On special days, the flag may be flown at half-staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.
- Do not let the flag touch the ground.
- Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.
- Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.
- Do not use the flag as clothing.
- Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.
- Do not use it as a cover.
- Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.
- Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.
- A U.S. flag that is worn beyond repair may be burned in a fire. The ceremony should be conducted with dignity and respect and the flag burned completely to ashes. To make sure flags are retired properly, they may be dropped off at the Witt Lions Club, and in Hillsboro at Ace Hardware or the VAC.

Fifth Amendment

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.