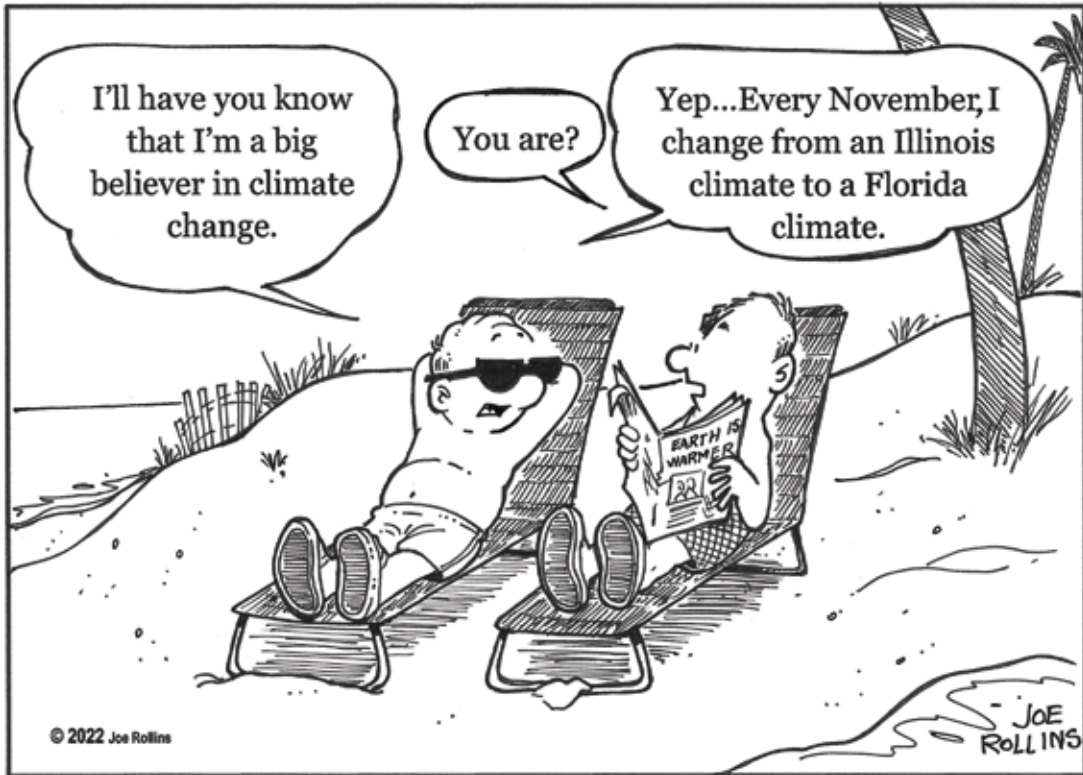


Opinion

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



SMALL SNIPPETS • by Tori O'Dell

Using My Reusable Bags



I have a tiny house. Not like a "cool, I'm really into minimalism, check out this insanely expensive tiny home," but a legit, old, every time you fix something you want to cry because five more things need to be fixed first, kind of tiny home. As such, I spent a fair amount of 2020 watching home improvement shows on tiny homes in hopes of both storage inspiration and that they would spark a love for living in closely cramped quarters.

With being back home comes the need to unpack and reorganize, and I have been spending my limited amount of free time accordingly. Subsequently, there are piles all over our home, which makes the perfectionist in me absolutely crazy and wondering why we have so much stuff. The area that is making me craziest at the moment is the mound of reusable shopping bags. I have a literal stockpile of reusable bags, in an assortment of sizes and colors that I have never once reused. Why? Why do I have so many bags?

It's because I have sloppy habits. I do all of the things a first-world millennial is culturally programmed to do. I read the scholarly articles on being environmentally conscientious. I discuss the importance of stewardship with my peers while drinking slightly overpriced lattes—well, in my case, Chais. I buy the reusable bags, the stainless steel straws, and the plethora of other items sold to me under the guise of helping me lower my carbon footprint, but I don't consistently use them. I fail to actually execute because I don't need more things; I need to tweak my habits. I imagine that there are many people going into the new year with their own stacks of "reusable bags," in whatever form those piles take.

That is where I am at as we venture into 2022. No grandiose resolutions or giant goals to change myself or my life, just self-deprecating awareness and the seemingly small intention to fully and actually use my reusable bags.

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I'll readily admit that it did not work. I would inevitably find myself shouting at the show participants, emphatically urging them not to minimize. I mean seriously, you cannot put a five and a two-year-old in an open loft bedroom directly over your own bed space; that is cute for the cameras but not practical for real life.

It turns out that the thing that re-sparked my appreciation for my own tiny home was living in an even smaller space—which we did for most of 2021. With time finally on his hands, Corey decided that we were going to move into his mother's house while we tackled the expansive list of home renovations we had been compiling since moving into it seven years ago. After a little more than nine months of living in the upstairs quarters of my mother-in-law Felicia O'Dell's home, we happily woke up on New Year's morning in our own beds, under our own roof.

IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN • by Lucas Altenberger

Imagine Wraps Up 2021, Changes Ahead



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. Were you able to make it to the 2021 Storybook Christmas festival? This month, we'll be recapping a few highlights of the event. We will also discuss some of the exciting changes happening to the website. Finally, we'll close out with some upcoming events and ways to get involved with Imagine Hillsboro.

otherwise had the opportunity.

On February 25, Lincoln Land Community College is hosting a career day for junior high school students in Montgomery County. The Education committee is helping look for local businesses and organizations that would like to help sponsor this event through small monetary, gift card, or gift basket donations. These donations will be used as prizes that students can win throughout the day. Sponsors will be recognized during the event. Donators' names will be made visible in the auditorium or hallways, and will be included on a handout that will be provided to every participating student, teacher, administrator and presenter. Interested sponsors should contact LLCC-Litchfield Director Jessie Blackburn at jessie.blackburn@llcc.edu or 217-786-3441 by Friday, Jan. 28.

Have you visited our website lately? You may have noticed that all of our Committees now have individual pages. This is a quick and easy way to connect with the IH projects and initiatives that matter to you most. As a reminder, our current committees include the Volunteer committee, the Events and Festivals committee, the Education committee, the Parks and Recreation committee, the Technology committee, and the Bicentennial committee. If you visit the website, you may also notice that we have updated some of our pictures, fonts, colors, and menus for a fresh look. You can also find several photos from the Storybook Christmas event. If you donate to Imagine Hillsboro, you may notice that we have updated our donation categories to reflect our newest committees, including the Bike Trails subcommittee. What ideas do you have for the website? Send your thoughts to marketing@imaginehillsboro.com.

As always, Imagine Hillsboro is looking for individuals that would like to get involved with their community. If interested in joining a particular committee, or even volunteering in general, please fill out the contact form on imaginehillsboro.com.

The 2021 Storybook Christmas festival yet again brought a full day of Christmas magic straight to Hillsboro. There was no shortage of sights to see or activities to do for Christmas-lovers of all ages. Several vendors lined the streets with hot drinks, warm food and opportunities to check some Christmas shopping off your list. However, the shopping didn't stop outside! A wide array of vendors also filled the basement of the St. Paul's Lutheran church. Do you follow us on Instagram? If so, you may have seen Imagine Hillsboro live showcasing the vendors and other activities. Look out for more "Lives" in the future! Throughout the day, hundreds enjoyed carriage rides, two free Christmas movies at the Orpheum, Christmas card making at Taylor Kay Art Gallery, crafts, a cornhole tournament hosted by Hardcore Hammers, and much more. Two of the festival's focal events were held at the end of the day. As always, adults and children alike gathered for the annual tree lighting ceremony, accompanied by a special reading of "A Light for Luna" by author Patty Whitworth. To conclude the night, a reverse lighted parade was held, featuring several luminous floats that enchanted all who walked by. The Christmas fun didn't stop that day, however! Friday nights saw the return of Friday Night Lights, which brought extended shopping hours at many of our local businesses. This allowed some to buy Christmas presents locally that may not have

Weather Forecast

Table with 4 columns: Day, Temperature, Weather, Chance of Rain. Rows for Mon 24, Tue 25, Wed 26, Thu 27, Fri 28, Sat 29.

MONDAY EVENING

JANUARY 24, 2022

Table of TV listings for Monday Evening, January 24, 2022. Columns: Channel, Time, Program Name, Details.

TUESDAY EVENING

JANUARY 25, 2022

Table of TV listings for Tuesday Evening, January 25, 2022. Columns: Channel, Time, Program Name, Details.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

JANUARY 26, 2022

Table of TV listings for Wednesday Evening, January 26, 2022. Columns: Channel, Time, Program Name, Details.

Litchfield City Council

Continued from front page

In addition to Hancock's appointment, the council also heard from Rick Gratza of Kerber, Eck and Braeckel regarding the city's annual audit. Gratza said that the outcome of the audit was an unmodified opinion, which had remained consistent over the last three years.

In other business, the council approved the rules and regulations for the lease agreements for the lake front and the Bi-Centennial Camp-ground seasonal camping for 2022 and approved expenditures not to exceed \$35,000 for the Litchfield Pickers Market, which includes the hiring of

temporary employees. Alderman Mark Brown asked how many workers would be hired. City Administrator Tonya Flannery said that five student workers were hired last year, but not all five worked at the same time. She added that more plans would be made over the next month or so, including entertainment and food vendors. In other tourism business, the council approved an advertising services contract with Great Rivers and Roads Tourism Bureau for marketing Litchfield Tourism in the amount of \$40,000. Flannery said that the contract replaces a significant portion of the city's tourism advertising budget, which will now feature more digital advertising rather than publications and billboards. She added that the contract

is not replacing the tourism coordinator position, which was previously held by Sarah Waggoner, who took a job with the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau in August. Before adjourning at 6:54 p.m., the council approved an ordinance amending the video gaming terminal fees for the city. Alderman Woodrow Street asked that the change be part of the motion, which sees the fee for a gaming unit (or terminal) increase from \$25 to \$250. Alderman Mark Brown asked if any business is exempt from the fee. Mayor Steve Dougherty said no and added that most of the time, the fees are split between the terminal owners and the businesses where they are located. The motion passed 6-0-1, with Alderman Ray Kellenberger abstaining.