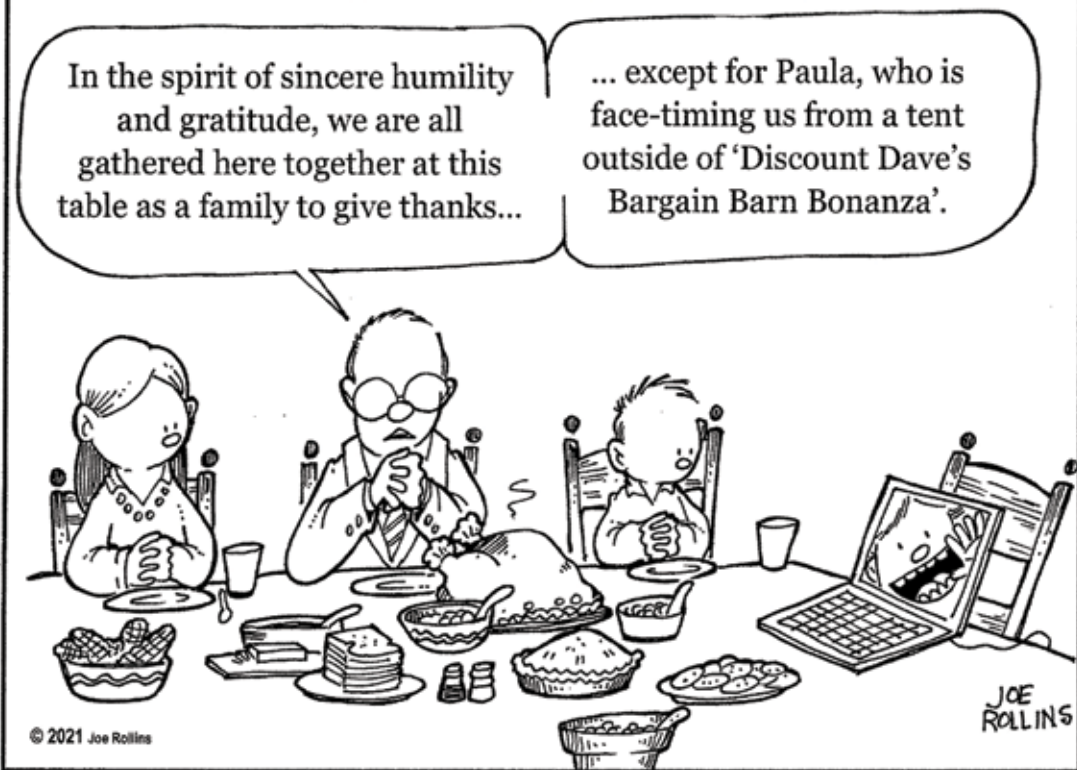


Opinion

6A - Monday, November 22, 2021

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



GUEST EDITORIAL • by Rev. Stefan Munker

Would Jesus Get The Covid Vaccine?



Would Jesus get the COVID vaccine? You bet.

I wonder, why can't we all get a vaccine out of love for each other, when Jesus loved us to take nails for the whole world. Why are some people refusing to help stop the pandemic? Why are we divided over masks that protect ourselves as much as others around us? There are different reasons for suffering in this world: natural disasters, human cruelty, and selfishness.

members of my church, and everyone in our local and global community. I know there are all kinds of concerns but consider this. According to reliable sources 5,110,000 people have died from COVID, but only 0.0022 percent of those had received a COVID vaccine. Untold numbers of people have side effects from the virus, but from vaccines I only know of dubious hearsay. The vaccine has kept many people I know from getting seriously sick, and it will allow my wife and I to have a family visit this Christmas.

So why am I writing this appeal? I do so as a fellow neighbor, Christian, and pastor, because I would like us to get through this COVID pandemic just like other issues we face together. Because I want unnecessary deaths to stop around the world, and infections to go way down in our county. Because I believe we should not have to argue about masks in stores, churches, or schools, if we follow the example of Jesus. And because I have faith in the goodness in every person, and hope that you will get a COVID shot with your flu vaccine, if you haven't done so already.

You can go on without a COVID vaccination, and take your chances for yourself and the rest of us. Jesus would not risk our life. Jesus gave his life to save us. You and me getting vaccinated is a small selfless act of love. But it is also a huge gift to save lives. Please do it for yourself, for everyone else, and for Jesus' sake.

While Jesus has set us free from sin and death, he did so in order for us to freely live for God and love others like ourselves. To love others as much as ourselves requires sacrifices like Jesus freely demonstrated on the cross. Jesus wouldn't hesitate to get a COVID shot, and would ask you and me to get vaccinated, too. Our human selfishness is one of the sinful reasons why Jesus suffered and died for you and me. Jesus didn't have to do it and we didn't deserve it. But we needed it and it's Jesus' gift. Medical treatments are God's gift too, just like Jesus offering forgiveness or healing people in his days on earth. It's a shame when we don't accept his gifts of love and science, but instead think we know better and prefer to do things our way. I'm not perfect by any means, but I did my part by getting vaccinated. When I recently got my COVID booster shot I did it out of love and faith. I did it for my wife,

IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN • by Lucas Altenberger

What's Happening With Imagine



Hello, Hillsboro! Lucas Altenberger here, Imagine Hillsboro's new marketing coordinator. I have been given the opportunity to give bi-monthly updates regarding all things Imagine Hillsboro. So, welcome to our corner of The Journal-News. Here, I'll be covering upcoming events, projects, ways to become involved with Imagine Hillsboro and other exciting news related to our organization.

Parks and Rec is also home to two subcommittees. Bike Hillsboro, the group of community members who are actively working on the Oo-De-Lally (mountain bike) Trail, trails near the Challacombe house, and the Reinvigorating Central Park. This group of familiar Hillsboro faces is focused on revitalizing Central Park - a vision that is well underway.

Imagine Hillsboro's Technology Committee is focused on bringing the latest advances in technology and networking to Hillsboro. One of the biggest projects has been spearheading the implementation of fiber-optic internet in our area. They are also the driving force behind the free, high-speed WiFi that is available in downtown Hillsboro, as well as the dog park.

The Festivals and Events Committee and Downtown Committee have merged since the organization's beginnings five years ago. This group of volunteers is responsible for several of the fun events happening in the city. You can even thank this committee for keeping the flowerpots down Main Street watered! Some of their main projects include the Hillsboro Farmers Markets, Hillsboro Harvest Market and Storybook Christmas Festival. They also host smaller events throughout the year like the Father-Daughter Princess Ball, Mother-Son Crazy Bowl and Community Easter Egg Hunt. Make sure to check out our website for information on this year's Storybook Christmas event, coming up on Saturday, Dec. 4. The Festivals and Events committee was previously home to the Imagine Hillsboro Theatre group, which has branched off to become their own organization, Blended Artists Imaginarium.

The Education committee is filled with current and retired educators and focuses on maintaining the fidelity of our educational services in Hillsboro. Projects include Reading to the Rescue (students read to animals at the shelter) and collaborating with Hillsboro Area Hospital to bring in the Studer Group, which offers training and networking events for our district's teachers and administrators. The Education Committee hosts the Spooktacular Golf Scramble, which has quickly become a popular event for golfers and non-golfers alike.

Last, but not least, the Bicentennial Committee is planning a celebration for Hillsboro in 2023 and is in need of community volunteers that want to help. Stay tuned for more information!

Make sure to visit our website, Imagine-Hillsboro.com, to learn more about our committees, see more upcoming projects, and sign up for our email lists. There are so many ways to get involved. We are ALL Imagine Hillsboro.

Although many people have heard of Imagine Hillsboro, there are still lots of residents that don't know about all the things we do and how encompassing the organization is. I'm going to use this first column to highlight Imagine Hillsboro's origin and introduce our committees.

Imagine Hillsboro is one of Western Illinois University Institute for Rural Affairs' MAPPING (Management and Planning Programs Involving Nonmetropolitan Groups) communities. The MAPPING meetings began in 2015, bringing residents together to discuss the changes and improvements they would like to see in the community. From there, six overarching goals were created and committees were developed to coincide with these goals. Imagine Hillsboro's first organizational meeting was held in 2016 with the following committees: Downtown, Education, Events and Festivals, Housing, Parks and Recreation, Technology, and Volunteerism. These committees have shifted and molded to better fit Hillsboro's needs over the years, as you will read below.

The Volunteer Committee helps organize projects throughout the community. Volunteerism is at the core of Imagine Hillsboro and this committee is the backbone of many other committees. Some opportunities have included staffing Imagine Hillsboro booths at events, organizing events such as the Rake and Run, beautification projects throughout the city and helping with the recreation of the Hillsboro Area Public Library. We are always looking for more volunteers, no matter your skill set.

Parks and Recreation works alongside the city's Parks and Recreation Department to help expand and improve Hillsboro's beautiful parks and public spaces. The Parks and Rec committee is the force behind the Pawsboro 620-K9 dog park that so many of our four-legged friends have enjoyed over the past couple of years - 620-K9 recently celebrated its second birthday! The Hillsboro Concert series brings many popular bands to Hillsboro. This summer we celebrated the concert series' tenth anniversary with its first music festival.

LETTERS to the editor

These Dogs Deserve A Better Life

I am writing about an ongoing situation in regards to Montgomery County Animal Control (MCAC) and our local court system.

Approximately 17 months ago I took my dog to be boarded at Hillsboro Advanced Veterinary Care. I noticed several white pups in pens and inquired about them. I was told they were being boarded by court order due to a neglect case. The pups looked healthy and beautiful!

Fast forward to August 2021. I saw a post that the grounds of MCAC were in desperate need of mowing. A friend and I went to mow. I was shocked to see nine or ten

huge 100-plus pound white dogs individually penned on the left side of the facility. I found out that these were the same pups I had seen over a year ago. It broke my heart to think these poor animals that are meant to roam pastures and herd sheep have been incarcerated almost their entire lives, and at a cost to taxpayers.

I began to make calls to animal control, a local veterinarian, and county board members. I was told it was in the hands of the state's attorney, first with Bryant Hitchings and now Andrew Affrunti. Others have sent letters or messages with no

response. How long will these innocent dogs have to spend their lives in prison while a seemingly never-ending dispute continues? Why keep holding these dogs? I am sure a Great Pyrenees rescue would re-home these dogs and give much needed care and socialization.

I have no concern about the outcome of the court case. I only care about the innocent life unfortunately stuck in the middle.

I want this situation resolved as soon as possible, as these dogs deserve a better life.

Kim Noyes Hillsboro

MONDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Table of TV programming for Monday Evening, November 22, 2021. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

TUESDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Table of TV programming for Tuesday Evening, November 23, 2021. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

WEDNESDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Table of TV programming for Wednesday Evening, November 24, 2021. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).