

## Bob's Corner

Mark and Judy Russo and their Wild Blackberry Festival Committee deserve super thanks for staging the silver anniversary program last weekend. OK, so it wasn't huge: But how many out there offered to help plan and organize it?

Considering what the couple inherited in terms of a festival organization -- not to mention a certain amount of ill will from previous vendors for various reasons -- the Russos and friends did a marvelous job on their maiden voyage. What was there was good; we enjoyed it. And the cooler-than-usual, historic weather for this time of year didn't hurt.

There were "plenty enough" food vendors -- including more blackberry items than we can recall from earlier years -- and a good enough range of items available for purchase. With live music thrown in, the 25th anniversary festival was well-received.

Frankly, the logistics, details and planning for such an event are boggling. That the Russos & Co. took it on in the spirit of community service is admirable. We say, "Hooray!" for them.

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Speaking of kudos, two sheriff's deputies and I are to be recognized this week by Illinois Valley Merchants Association for our community service. I am humbled by being selected for such an honor, especially realizing the vast number of others out there who do far more than I. They are the unsung heroes. I appreciate my citation, and I'm sure that the merchants association will put a spotlight on many others even more deserving during subsequent months.

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Because of a thwarted terrorist plot in London, involving liquids in carry-on baggage, airport/air flight security has been ratcheted up here. Our Transportation Security Administration has banned liquids and gels of any kind in carry-on baggage. You want to take deodorant, toothpaste or hair stuff with you? It's got to be in checked baggage.

TSA now prohibits (in carry-on baggage or in your paws): all beverages (including water!), suntan lotion, creams, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, hair gel, and other items with similar consistency. It's OK to carry on baby formula and medicine, but they must be presented for inspection at the airport security checkpoint.

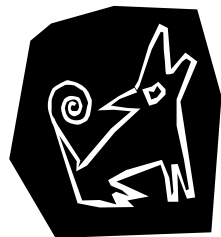
One person I know opines that it's a government plan, by ferociously frustrating passengers, to put commercial airlines out of business, then take them over. That'd be great: the government has such a great record running similar public transportation operations. Look at Amtrak.

That reminds me of a cheap flight I took awhile back. The seat was inexpensive, but it was a folding chair in the baggage compartment. However, I was provided a warm jacket and portable oxygen. Fortunately, one of the cabin passengers didn't show up, so I was able to take his seat.

For a meal, the flight attendant passed around several boxes of crackers, then asked for donations. We didn't get an in-flight movie, but were treated to a slide show of the pilot's family vacation. I didn't drink much from the canteen of water that was shared by the passengers, which was a good thing because the restroom had a slot requiring a dollar to open the door.

Actually, I'm kidding about all that last stuff. Except for the pay toilet.

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### DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

**5 P.M. THURSDAYS**

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Fridays with an additional charge.)

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## Letters

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact, are strictly those of the letter-writers.)  
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Typed, double-spaced letters written solely to this newspaper are considered for publication. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered.

'Thank you' submissions are not accepted as letters.

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### Layed-off librarian feels she was lied to From Jennifer Berubee Cave Junction

I just wanted to make sure the citizens of Josephine County know that I did not quit my job as Senior Library Specialist of the Illinois Valley Branch. It has broken my heart to say good-bye.

My position was reduced from full time in 2003, to 30 hours. With this last go-round of cuts imposed upon us when the board of county commissioners hacked the library system budget in half, my position was reduced.

Most people would say, "OK, go and look for a second job." Well, you try to find a job when you tell your prospective employer that you have a young daughter; you can't work Saturdays because you are a Seventh-day Adventist; and can't work two other days during the week because of another job.

Believe me, I tried.

One employer wouldn't bother to call me back. Another posted the job opening in the paper the day after the interview. Two more have promised to call "if something opens up," and I have

heard nothing.

The reason I am writing is because I have been denied unemployment benefits after serving the county for eight years. I do not hold my former library manager at fault in any way.

However, I was led to believe from what AF-SCME told me, as well as from what the General Services manager had reported to Cessa Vichi, that I was considered a layoff if I said "No" to the 15 hours offered me at the library. "Layoff" should mean I can receive unemployment, right?

No, I guess I was supposed to gratefully take what I was being offered since I was just a greedy county employee, anyway.

I feel used and lied to, and my morale is low. I can't even get too excited about job hunting right now, after this experience I have been through.

I think it is a shame that I worked in the same place for eight years and have nothing to show for it. This probably means not a thing to anyone reading, but I needed to express this.

### Gay Californians not problem-solver From Alan Laurie Cave Junction

This is a response to the letter headed, "Happy neighbors can solve problems" from T.A. Allan in the Aug. 2 issue of "Illinois Valley News."

Every week I read with interest the vast array of letters you publish. It is always mind-expanding to learn about opposing views

on the wide range of topics your readers write about. Often I have considered contributing my own point of view on some of the subjects addressed. Now I am compelled to.

Allan has suggested an idea for helping our local economy by offering the concept of importing gay men from California to fill the new housing developments that he suggests would otherwise remain empty.

Allen's proposal seems careless, indeed reckless, to me. Is he aware of the controversy surrounding Larry Goynes' desire to open a strip club called Sugars? I have lived in big cities. Apparently Allen has not.

He doesn't realize that the "happy" newcomers he wants to welcome with widely open arms will surely be the cause of a new, but similar, controversy like Sugars. I refer to the inexplicable craving that gay men have to live within walking distance of a disco bar.

Do we need the hellish sounds of disco music assaulting us as we stroll or skip along our peaceful sidewalks?

He points out that gay men wouldn't come with the baggage of children or grandchildren. That may be true, but when they move in, there goes the neighborhood; for they do seem to have a way of multiplying.

(Continued on page 3)

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