

The Gazette

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Rock County sheriff will up security at Thursday's county board meeting

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JANESVILLE — Rock County Sheriff Curt Fell said he will have additional deputies at the Rock County Board meeting Thursday after recent harassment toward Supervisor Brian Knudson.

Fell did not say specifically how many deputies will be on duty at the courthouse at 6 p.m. when the board is in session. There is always one deputy at the metal detectors at the front entrance on the first floor. The county board meets on the fourth floor of the courthouse. "We'll have an increased

security presence tomorrow night just trying to make sure the laws are followed and nobody else is going to do something to interfere with people's rights to talk with the board," Fell said. "I was worried when I heard there would be an influx of people coming in after the past few resolutions being

controversial." Fell added, "We are going to do whatever we can to make sure everything goes smooth." He said that the sheriff's office tries to "stay out of the way" of the county board except for when communication is

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LOCAL

Driver who crashed into house facing multiple charges
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STATE

Republican bills would bar transgender girls and women from female sports
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SWAT TEAM TESTS TRAINING



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The Janesville Police Department's SWAT team trains at a house on Rockport Road on Janesville's south side on Wednesday, July 12.



SPORTS

Panama knocks United States out of Gold Cup after penalty kicks.
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65th annual Tallman Arts Festival is Aug. 5-6

GAZETTE STAFF

JANESVILLE — The 65th annual Tallman Arts Festival is set for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-6.

It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, at the Rock County Historical Society

campus, 450 N. Jackson Street in Janesville.

The festival will feature artists of all kinds, live musical entertainers, food and drink, museum tours, children's activities and more. The event this year is presented by sponsors Tom and Arra Lasse.

"From fine art to jewelry, photography, ceramics and more, the Tallman Arts Festival brings all types of artists to the Rock County Historical Society campus," said Tim Maahs, the historical society's executive director. "We are proud to uphold this tradition in our

community." Examples of the art at this year's festival include pottery, jewelry, paintings, mixed media photography, and fiber art. Live music will play throughout the weekend on the outdoor

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BOARD/from A1

needed. But he said he felt that it was in the best interest of everyone that there was an extra presence Thursday.

Knudson has been contrite over what he has called a “slip of the tongue” when he denounced child sex trafficking at a May 26 Public Safety and Justice Committee meeting for the county board. He accidentally omitted the word “not” while speaking against child sex trafficking, illegal immigration and an entire resolution proposed by County Board member Mike Zoril.

Zoril’s proposed resolution designating a “Stand Against Illegal Immigration and Child Sex Trafficking Week” in the county, which he proposed after a similar resolution “Stand Against Illegal Immigration Week” failed.

In the May 26 meeting, Knudson was trying to make

the point that he felt child sex trafficking and illegal immigration were issues, but the proposed resolution had language that was largely “fluff.” He told others at the May 26 meeting that local business needed to be done at the county level.

“It’s easy to talk about it. Get involved with the people instead of pitting us against each other making political statements,” Knudson said.

Knudson reported being tracked down while being in a parked car in Footville earlier this week. He said he has been called names in businesses, and sent emails with harassing language. His family has been subject to harassment, he said. He is also concerned about a local children’s charity that he started being at risk of dissolving because of the situation.

“It’s so unconscionable,” Knudson said.

“I have not had anything

affect me like this. It has affected me to my core,” Knudson said.

Knudson was also directly quoted in flyers that were distributed in people’s mailboxes and local businesses, and those flyers purported him to be in favor of child sex trafficking. One flyer had “Urgent Parent & Grandparent Alert” in all capital letters with his photo on it demanding him, and others resign from the county board. It also promotes showings of “The Sound of Freedom,” a religious film about child sex trafficking at a local movie theater.

The Gazette has since obtained two more similar flyers, but one with a picture of Genia Stevens and another of Jim Farrell, others on the county board who voted to postpone the vote on the illegal immigration and child sex trafficking resolution. Those flyers also imply that Stevens

and Farrell support child sex trafficking without evidence and promote “The Sound of Freedom” screenings at two local movie theaters.

Stevens and Farrell opted not to comment for this story.

One flyer that was distributed with the Stand Against Illegal Immigration and Child Sex Trafficking Week resolution with a list of “15 bad guys” who voted to postpone the vote on the resolution and “11 good guys” who voted to not postpone it.

Fell said he hadn’t seen any petitions, but The Gazette obtained a photo of one that appears to ask for a person’s name, street address, email address and phone number, as well as if the person would like to “volunteer” and if so to send the form back to an anonymous P.O. box in Janesville.

“I would definitely be careful of signing things if you don’t know where it’s coming from

or where it’s going. I would caution against signing your name to it,” Fell said.

Janesville Postmaster Dean Pahl said he has heard reports of unsolicited flyers in mailboxes outside of Footville, including in the Partridge Hollow subdivision. He said the distribution, which seemed to occur Sunday, appeared to be “widespread.” However, if someone puts unauthorized material in mailboxes, that person is subject to legal action.

“If a customer does it, we call the police because it becomes a legal matter,” Pahl said.

A spokesperson at the Beloit Post Office said there were no reports of flyers to them, but if there were, they would report them to law enforcement also.

Earlier this week, Zoril told The Gazette that he wasn’t aware of any flyers attacking county board members being distributed.

TALLMAN/from A1

stage, with a variety of music genres.

The musical line-up for the festival is:

- Saturday, August 5**
- 10:30 a.m. — 12 Noon Red Hot Horn Dawgs
- 12:30 — 2 p.m. Neeno Fredricks Project
- 2:30 — 4 p.m. Koltrane
- Sunday, August 6**
- 10:30 a.m. — 12 Noon Fox Crossing Stringband
- 12:30 — 2 p.m. Power Take Off
- 2:30 — 4 p.m. Frank Martin Busch & the Names

Attendees may also take a tour of the Lincoln-Tallman Museum. The tours invite guests to discover the beauty, ambiance, and history of the mansion during its heyday as the home of the William Morrison Tallman family.

Tours will begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday during the art fair. Tour price is \$10 and free for

historical society members. Tickets will be available in the Museum & Visitor Center.

The day would not be complete without children’s activities. Activities include a variety of crafts and games under a large tent.

The Tallman Arts Festival is one of the historical society’s largest fundraisers of the year. Proceeds from the art fair are used for care and maintenance of the Lincoln-Tallman Museum, located on the RCHS grounds. The home is owned by the city of Janesville.

Marketing funding was provided in part by the Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. Musical bands were booked through ArtSpark Productions.

Tickets for the event are \$5 per day; free for children age 5 and under. Tickets will be available at the entrances of the historical society campus. Parking is free across the street in the Mercy Hospital parking ramp.



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Artist booths filled the front lawn during the 64th Annual Tallman Arts Festival in 2022. This was the first year the festival was held for two days.

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