



Two fair applicants fail checks Union County finds sex offender, suspect

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Background checks of carnival workers uncovered one sex offender and a felony warrant for another potential employee before the Union County Fair opened yesterday.

Earlier this month, Marysville City Council approved an ordinance that requires companies that work at carnivals or fairs to provide police with names, Social Security numbers and birth dates of employees.

Marysville Police Chief Floyd Golden said the sex offender had applied for a job at Kissel Bros. Shows, a Cincinnati-based company that operates rides at the fair. But company officials did not hire him once Golden notified them.

Golden did not know whether the man with a warrant for felony theft from Butler County will show up to work at the fair.

Golden said his office checked 46 employees from Kissel and 10 from John Stevens, a Springfield-based company that will run midway games. As fair workers come and go this week, police will continue to run them through a sex-offender registry and check for outstanding felony warrants.

Kissel's business manager Dwayne Macek said the company runs background checks on employees before hiring them. He declined to detail what the company's checks involve. He said the Union County Fair is only the third of 22 events employing the company that require background checks.

Although the police will not keep a registered sex offender off the fairgrounds, Golden said it makes it less likely that the company will send the employee.

He said that throughout the fair, plainclothes police officers will approach ride and game workers to verify identification and make sure they have gone through background checks. Food and drink vendors will not be checked.

"Background checks are required of teachers, day-care providers, anyone who deals with children," Golden said. "This isn't directed at any individuals, but we want parents to be satisfied that if someone helps little Sally onto the ride, it should be perfectly OK."

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