

Lollapalooza may pick Pecatonica

▷ Continued from Page 1A

small.

Walsh said he supports bringing Lollapalooza to the fairgrounds because it would give Rockford nationwide recognition.

"It's certainly an event of the magnitude that this community doesn't get too often," he said.

He said MetroCentre staff would provide any assistance possible.

The Pecatonica Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department also have been involved in early planning.

As envisioned, the concert would come six weeks before the Winnebago County Fair. The scheduled headliner at the fair this year is country music star Joe Diffie.

Some community leaders oppose bringing Lollapalooza to Pecatonica because of problems they remember from a similar rock concert in 1979. Headlined by Rockford's own Cheap Trick, the concert included other bands and drew about 48,000 fans.

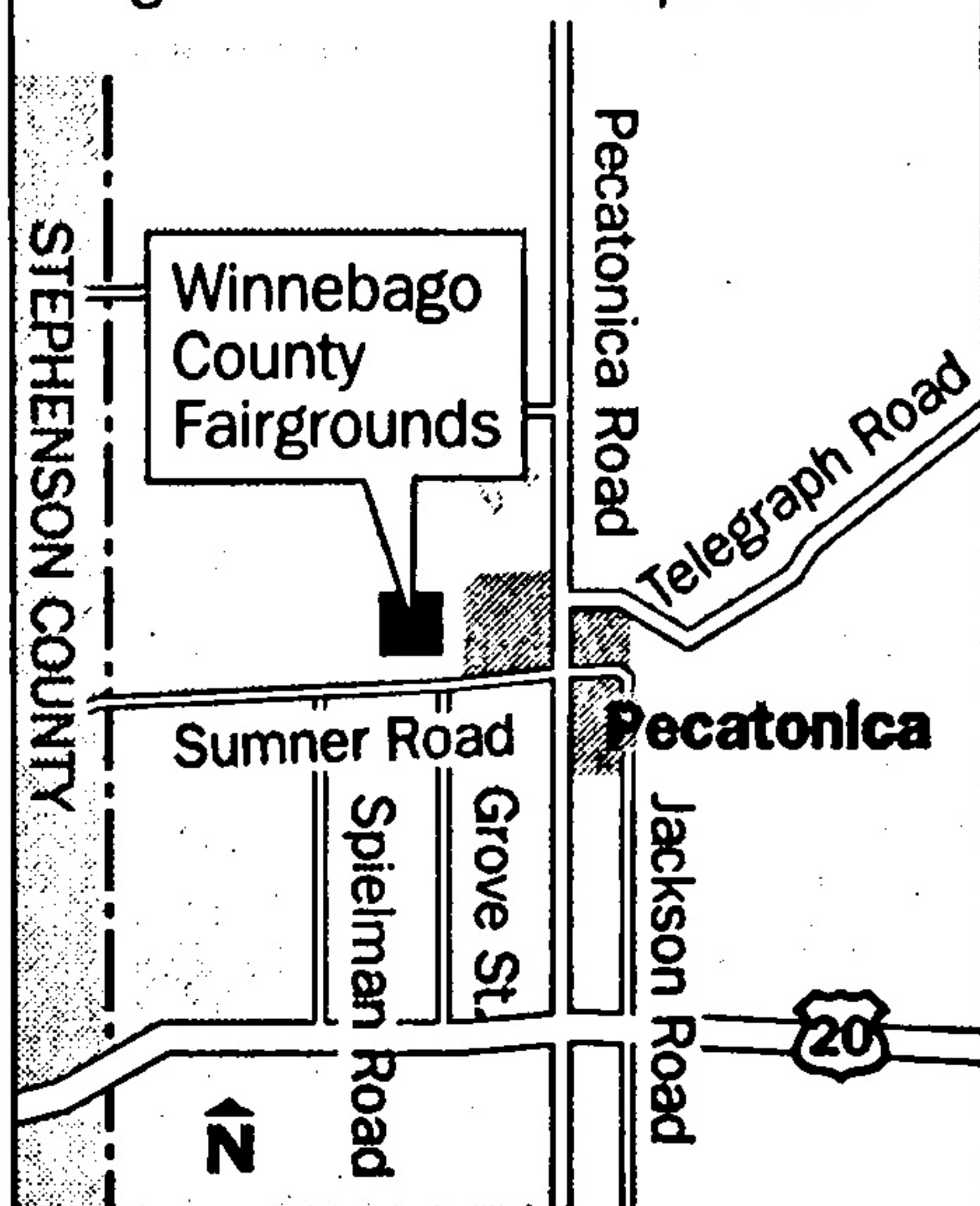
Park Board President Linda Buss said homeowners recount incidents of vagrancy and vandalism involving concert-goers then. She said people are worried about keeping the peace during Lollapalooza, especially if it unfolds while they are out-of-town for the Fourth of July holiday.

"Everybody I've heard from does not want it," she said. "I don't need half the town down my back."

The park board owns about half

Winnebago County Fairgrounds

Being considered as site for mega-rock concert Lollapalooza.



The Register Star

the county fairgrounds, while the other half is owned by the Winnebago County Fair Association.

Winnebago Fair Association board member Jim Sauer said discussions with JAM Productions started in December. He said the fairgrounds could accommodate more than 50,000 people.

Leaders of the fair association will meet with park board members next week to try to convince them to support Lollapalooza.

"This is such a large event," Sauer said. "The financial impact on Winnebago County would be astronomical."

In previous years, the Lollapalooza tour stopped at Alpine Valley Music Theater in Troy, Wis., in 1992 and at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines in 1993.

Iowa State Fair spokeswoman Kathie Swift said officials are trying to bring Lollapalooza back to Iowa this year.

"It was something, obviously, that we'd have again," Swift said.