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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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An Elvis show would be nothing without teddy bears, and here Junior Talley prepares to throw one into the crowd at Michel's Hall. He also handed out a number of perfumed scarves late in his performance.



Junior Talley shows the crowd a drawing of him done by MCHS senior Brian Marshall, son of Mark and Kandi Marshall of Maquoketa. Having seen a picture of Elvis drawn by Marshall, Talley sent him several pictures of himself (as Elvis, of course) and asked Marshall to pick one and do a drawing from it.

MSP photos by Mike Earle

'Elvis & Patsy' perform at Michel's Reception Hall

Elvis-impersonator Junior Talley and his wife Alisa performed to a full house at Michel's Reception Hall in Maquoketa on Saturday night.

Junior has been performing as Elvis for almost 20 years. While he

Junior has been performing as Elvis for almost 20 years. While he changed costumes, his wife sang songs by Patsy Cline and other old-time entertainers.

Junior also briefly sang Buddy Holly, Conway Twitty and Fats Domino, among others.

The couple is from Monmouth, Ill.

The event was catered by Mary Ann Michel of Michel's Hall.

Stimulus to be used on county roads

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A request from Bellevue city officials for federal stimulus money to improve a city street was denied last week when it was learned that the project does not qualify under the program.

Bellevue Mayor Virgil Murray, city Administrator Loras Herrig and Councilman Roger Michels asked the Jackson County Board of Supervisors on March 3 for \$94,000 of federal stimulus road funds to improve a 625-foot section of Park Street.

During the meeting, county Engineer Clark Schloz was notified by an e-mail from Iowa Department of Transportation officials that streets designated as minor collector streets are not eligible for federal stimulus money. Park Street is a minor collector.

The notice nullified discussions that Bellevue officials held with the supervisors on Feb. 24 and the following week over the possibility of being allocated some of the federal stimulus money intended to create jobs and improve the economy.

Bellevue officials approached the supervisors for the funds because cities of less than 5,000 population must seek road stimulus funds from their respective boards of supervisors. Cities above 5,000, such as Maquoketa, receive stimulus money directly.

Herrig on Feb. 24 asked the supervisors for \$47,950, based on information he was given as to how stimulus funds were being allocated.

He increased the request to \$94,000 when Bellevue officials met with the supervisors on March 3. Herrig said he was told that stimulus money was being allocated at the rate of about \$40 per capita, and the request was based on Bellevue's population.

If approved, any funds allocated by the supervisors for Bellevue, or any community in the county other than Maquoketa, would have been taken from the county's allocation.

Jackson County already has submitted plans to use the county's entire allocation of stimulus funds, estimated at \$561,000.

The county plans to use the funds to resurface Hurstville Road between the Maquoketa city limits and its junction with U.S. 61, Esgate Road between 85th Street and 91st Street, and Centerville Road in northern Jackson County between St. Donatus and 253rd Avenue.

Schloz argued that the county projects are more deserving of funding because they will improve nearly 4.4 miles of roads as opposed to the 625-foot two-block section of Park Street in Bellevue.

He also said the county roads have higher traffic counts than does Park Street.

"We're looking at this as a fairness issue," Herrig told the supervisors. He noted that a portion of the stimulus money awarded to the county is based on Bellevue's population.

"Without Bellevue's population, you wouldn't be getting that amount of stimulus," Herrig told the supervisors. He said that project is that city's only street construction project scheduled for this year.

He also said the Clinton County supervisors allocated a portion of their road stimulus funds to the City of Camanche.

Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos said Jackson County is trying to catch up on its road improvement projects after a state-imposed freeze on allocating farm-to-market road funds two years ago forced the county to put off improvement projects for a year.

"We pushed everything off for a year. We're trying to get things back on schedule from a time there was no (farm-to-market) allocation for us," Koos said. "So we definitely have a tremendous need here."

Herrig also noted that Bellevue paved a portion of a county road at city expense.

Murray told the supervisors they have to do

Murray told the supervisors they have to do what they think is fair.

"It would be very appropriate for you to fund this because it's a one-time allocation," Murray said.

"We're looking at where we can get the most bang for our buck," Supervisor Jack Willey said. "It's hard for me to justify splitting the money out when we're looking at almost 4 miles of roadway versus basically two city blocks."

When supervisors expressed reluctance to part with any of their allocation, Murray asked if the supervisors would consider allocating to Bellevue its original, lower request of \$47,950 rather than the \$94,000.

The supervisors then tabled the issue, asking Schloz to calculate the effect that proposal would have on the county's projects.

Schloz returned to the meeting later with the message from the DOT, which nullified Bellevue's request.

The DOT ruling also disqualified the only other request the supervisors received from other communities, which was a request from Miles for funds to sealcoat a street.

Schloz said earlier the county's projects have been submitted to the DOT. A contract for the work is expected to be awarded in April.

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