

RULES OF THE ROAD

It is **ILLEGAL** to ride e-scooters on **SIDEWALKS** in Belton.



A valid Driver's License is required to operate.



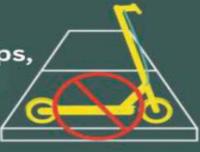
One scooter, ONE PERSON.



Always leave e-scooters in designated **DROP-OFF AREAS.**



DO NOT BLOCK Sidewalks, curb ramps, doorways or driveways.



The Belton Police Department has received an increase in complaints regarding E-Scooters and E-Bikes being operated on sidewalks and in violation of traffic laws. Due to these concerns, officers will be increasing enforcement related to these vehicles.

LOCAL FUEL PRICES

WEDNESDAY	\$3.29
LAST WEEK	\$3.29
LAST MONTH	\$2.43
LAST YEAR	\$2.79

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BELTON • RAYMORE • PECULIAR

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WEEKEND WEATHER: FRIDAY: 84 53 SATURDAY: 85 60 SUNDAY: 73 37 Vol. 14, No. 37

DATEBOOK

MONDAY MARCH 23
Raymore City Council, 6 pm, City Hall, 100 Municipal Circle

TUESDAY MARCH 24
Raymore Park Board, 6 pm, City Hall, 100 Municipal Circle

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25
Raymore Candidate Forum, including both city and school district candidates, sponsored by the Raymore Chamber of Commerce; 6 pm, City Hall, 100 Municipal Circle

THURSDAY MARCH 26
Raymore Peculiar School Board, 7 pm, Ray-Pec Academy, 20521 S School Rd, Peculiar

FRIDAY MARCH 27
Belton School District Senior Citizen Luncheon, noon-1 p.m., Belton High School Fieldhouse, 801 W North Ave

SATURDAY MARCH 28
Belton Easter Festival, 11 am, Memorial Park, 602 Maurer Pkwy
...
Peculiar Egg Hunt, 11 am-2 p.m., Raisbeck Park, 23205 SE Outer Road

SUNDAY MARCH 29
PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY APRIL 4
Raymore Easter Festival, 10 am, Recreation Park, 1011 S Madison

MONDAY APRIL 6
Raymore City Council work session, 6 pm, City Hall, 100 Municipal Circle
...
Peculiar Board of Aldermen, 6:30 pm, City Hall, 250 S Main St



A whole lot o' Ireland!

NCH photos/ Allen Edmonds
Perfect weather conditions attracted a huge crowd of community members to Belton's Main Street on Saturday for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. At right, grand marshal and long-time parade organizer Darin Jones greets the crowd from a convertible driven by Elmer Larkey. Above, kids anticipate treats from the many floats and walkers. See more photos, page 8.



Closure fees raise issues on Council

By Allen Edmonds
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Street closure fees put in place last year to help recoup some of the city's expenses in putting on parades and street closures on Main Street seem to have opened some fissures on the Belton City Council, and Ward 3 Councilmember Allyson Lawson cited "interpersonal conflicts" as the cause of recent tensions between at least one organization and the city.



The debate began in February, when Downtown Belton Main Street, Inc., this year's sponsor of the monthly cruise nights, applied for a street closure for its fourth annual Cinco de Mayo event on Main Street.

Lawson at that time asked on behalf of DBMSI for city fees for police services and barricades, as were agreed to last fall for Main Street closures, to be waived.

City Manager Joe Warren responded by saying he would favor the council approving such a request, but only with a promise that DBMSI would cooperate with the Main Street Coalition, the new organization operating as an affiliate of the Missouri Main Street Connection. Warren said there had been instances in the recent past when that cooperation had not been evident.

"That sounds like blackmail to me," DBMSI board member Stephanie Davidson interjected during the February meeting.

The council did not act on Warren's request, but the reaction stirred continued discussion during the March 10 meeting when the amended Memorandum of Understanding came up for a vote.

Lawson told the council she did not believe it was the intent of the council last fall to impose fees on non-profit organizations that aren't charging admission or making a profit on Main Street events, and that this was a prime

Warren sees potential ballpark as economic driver

By Allen Edmonds
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Belton City Manager Joe Warren publicly in-

troduced the idea of a potential minor league ballpark with a Frontier League expansion team

as its primary tenant during a March 10 City Council worksession.

The discussion served as a prelude to next Tuesday's second reading on the city's 2027 budget, which includes \$70,000 for a 12-week feasibility and economic impact study to be conducted by Johnson Consulting, a Chicago-based firm that specializes in sports venue planning and mixed-use real estate district development.

Warren said he was approached last summer by a group of city council and community members with the general idea of a baseball park in the

downtown area to spur foot traffic and development.

"My thought was, that seems like a lot, but we should at least look into it to see what it would entail. My first question was, could we even get a baseball team?"

Councilmember Wanda Thompson reached out to the commissioner of the Frontier League, an independent minor league with a loose affiliation with Major League Baseball, "and they said, yes, we're are interested in expanding, and we've actually been looking at

You are invited to the spring

Senior Citizen Luncheon

Noon-1 p.m. • Belton High School Fieldhouse • 810 W. North Ave.

See BALLPARK, page 2

See COUNCIL, page 3



The North Cass Herald
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