

B**WEDNESDAY**
February 13, 2013

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TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM

REGIONAL DIGEST

Local Ash Wednesday services schedules

First Christian Church. 300 N. Fifth St., Temple, will hold a meditation with imposition of ashes service 7-8 a.m. Dr. Don Lynn will lead the service and David Perez-Guerra will provide the music.

St. Paul United Methodist Church. 2407 W. Ave. P, Temple, will hold a service at noon. For information, call 254-778-3851.

Foundation United Methodist Church. 10751 W. Adams Ave., Temple, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in

BELTON

Council approves street renaming

BY GEOFF WEST
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Belton City Council on Tuesday cast seven votes in favor of renaming Alexander Street and a section of Davis Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, acting as the owners of seven city-owned properties along the route.

Under the city's policy regarding street renamings, an applicant must secure written approval from 70 percent of

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Craig Pearson,
Belton City Councilman

the affected property owners before final approval from the City Council. For the MLK proposal, the owners of 26 of the 37 properties need to support it.

Belton's African American Churches United organization, representing four Belton min-

istries, first approached the city a year ago requesting Second Avenue be renamed for King. In October, Second Avenue property owners voted 19-1 against the renaming, which led to the Alexander-Davis streets proposal.

Prior to the vote, Council-

man Craig Pearson said he strongly supported the request. "I can't find a better place in our city to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Pearson said. "If my home was there, they'd already have my affirmative vote."

Also in support of the renaming, Councilman David K. Leigh said his only problem with the Alexander-Davis streets proposal is that the route is less visible than the honorary renaming probably deserves.

"I have not seen many cities

that don't have some major thoroughfare named for Martin Luther King," Leigh said. "My only reluctance with going forward with this is I'd like a prominent street, personally."

Petitions were mailed to the 37 property owners in January with the deadline to return the vote by Feb. 18. To go before the City Council for final approval, the renaming needs the additional support of 19 property owners.

gwest@tdtnews.com