

# DANCE TRAFFIC HEAVY IN DOWNTOWN BELOIT

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Clint Wolf/Beloit Daily News The band Top Flight performs on State Street in downtown Beloit Friday to kick off the Downtown Beloit Association Street Dance. The crowd enjoyed dancing and visiting with friends and neighbors during the street dance.

BELOIT - Music, food and good friends were the feature of the night Friday during the Downtown Beloit Association Street Dance. ☐

Top Flight and Rebel Reign provided music that kept feet dancing on State Street while several vendors provided food ranging from barbecued ribs to tacos to seafood.

Also, Bubbles the Clown offered face painting for the kids and EBates and Visit Beloit were handing out prizes.

Shawna El-Amin, Downtown Beloit Executive Director, said the crowd already was filling up on State Street shortly after 6 p.m., with most of the night of entertainment still ahead. She said 3,000 people made it downtown last year for the street dance, which is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Downtown Beloit Association.

The weather looked like it could have been a damper for the downtown party earlier in the day, with clouds, sprinkles of rain and cool temperatures filling most of the day, but by 5:30 p.m. when the music started, the sun was shining over the street dance.

"It cleared up and we have blue skies...perfect timing," El-Amin said.

She said Top Flight and Rebel Reign were new bands for the Street Dance, but everyone seemed to be enjoying the music.

Don Nelson brought his son, Jordan, and his fiancée, Heather Heath, down to the Street Dance.

"I've lived here in Beloit, but this is my first time at the Street Dance. I thought I'd check it out," he said as his son had a stenciled design painted on his face.

After the face painting, the trio was planning to try out some food and enjoy the music.

The Street Dance was part of a whole weekend full of fun offered during the Celebrate Downtown weekend. Downtown businesses offered their wares during the sidewalk sales Friday and Saturday, people enjoyed the weekly Fridays in the Park, which included food and music during the noon hour, and the Farmers Market was held Saturday, offering fresh produce and other goodies.