

Friday, July 30, 2004

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Page 3



Elizabeth Hagman gave her sister's ewe "Betty", (above) a nibble of weeds before the Senior Division Showmanship competition early Wednesday afternoon. Patricia Hagman and "Betty" earned first purple in the event. Keeping their eye on the judge while trying to control their lambs, the young showmen (left) had their hands full during Wednesday's Sheep Show. Almost 20 4-Hers took part in the Showmanship and Market Lamb categories. - Telegram photo sby Carolyn Plotts

Park equipment could raise taxes

By VERONICA MONIER

City residents will see a slight ncrease in the 2005 mill levy so new park equipment can be bought.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said people have been coming to the council for a long time asking for new equipment at Elmwood Park.

To pay for a sizable piece of equipment would mean an .825 mill raise in the mill levy, or approximately \$9,000. This would mean an increase in property taxes by \$3.80 for a home valued at \$40,000 and by \$4.74 for a home valued at \$50,000. The average value of a Norton home is \$46,158.

"We would like to leave the mill levy where it is," said Mr. Hawks, "but to do that, and get the equipment, we would have to take it out of another department's budget, which doesn't seem likely.'

Mr. Hawks said the Finance Committee thinks it is going to raise in the mill levy with a 4-2 things could have gone smoother. have additional revenue, but it vote. Mrs. Mann and Councilman money before the city has the raise. money. He said the suggestion of the committee was to raise the mill levy and then lower it again as soon as possible.

would be raised to 51.281 from 50.456.

"This is a worthwhile project," he said. "People look at things like this when they think about moving somewhere."

The new equipment would cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 and be paid for over 10 years.

Mr. Hawks said he hoped the equipment purchase from its special parks fund.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said getting park equipment was her special project, but she didn't feel that raising the mill levy was the right way to do it.

Mr. Briery said people have been wanting this for a long time, but it always gets put off.

"If we're going to do this, we should do this," he said.

If allowed, he said the mill levy lice officer job. He said the department will be doing background checks and will have a recommendation for the council soon.

• Scheduled a budget hearing at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11. The hearing is being held so the public can comment on or ask questions about the proposed 2005 budget.

• Waived the formal first readcounty would contribute to the ing of Ordinance No. 1533, relating to the joint ownership and operation of the Norton City/County Airport and repealing Ordinance No. 1398 and 1500.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said the new board has the power to make contracts and take other binding action because of the new contract, but all action taken by the previous board before July 1 is also binding.

Mr. Briery said there was a lot of The council passed the .825 confusion on changeover and that

 Heard from Councilman Jerry wouldn't be prudent to spend the George Jones voted against the Jones that the Public Safety Committee is working on an ordinance which would ban the shooting of • Heard from Police Chief Lynn fireworks between 11 p.m. and 8 Menagh that testing and inter- a.m. from July 1-5, but would exviews have been done for the po- tend the time for the actual July 4

holiday until 1 a.m.

• Approved Warren Heaton's request for 24 feet of sidewalk replacement at 128 S. State St. The city will provide the labor and Mr. Heaton will pay for materials.

• Went into an eight-minute closed session to discuss nonelected personnel.

 Waived the formal third reading of Ordinance No. 1532, authorizing execution of a loan agreement between the city and the state for financing a wastewater treatment project.

• Paid bills in the amount of \$270,174.03

Speedy minnows set to race

added to the fun of this year's Crazy Days. Look for the racing tubes in front of Don's Auto in downtown Norton. Races the event will be Hall's Clothwill be held from 9-11 a.m.

Minnows will be available to purchase for 50 cents each and Box, O'Briens, Jamboree IGA, owners will race their minnows against others. If an owner Gifts and Greenhouse, Hot wants to race their minnow more than once it will cost 50 cents each race.

Race winners will be awarded tokens, courtesy of Dairy Oueen.

The Norton Area Chamber of Pizza Hut/Taco Bell and Sno-Commerce coordinates Crazy Shack.

Minnow Races have been Day. There will be booths by Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Rebekahs, TOPS and Head Start.

Merchants participating in ing, Amy's Fashions, Twice Sold Treasures, The Sewing Moffet Drug, Norton Flowers, Shots! Photography, Norton Shop & Save, Thunder Chord Guitars, J & R Liquors, Computer Pro, Norton Homestore, Sander Furniture and Gifts, White Fields Coffee House,



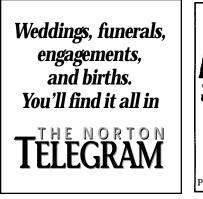
In other business, the council:

Siren Blows Two Times — **Rural Fire** Siren Blows Three Times — City Fire Continuous Up and Down Blast — Tornado Warning — Take Cover Siren Blows Four Times — All Clear Siren Blows Continuously for One Minute — Water Shut Off

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

All Emergencies	911
Norton County Sheriff's Office	. 877-5780
Almena City Office	. 669-2425
Almena Fire Department	. 664-4030
Almena Library	. 669-2339
Midwest Energy800	0-222-3121
Aquila—{Call Before You Dig}800	0-344-7233
National Poison Control800	0-222-1222

THE STATION	BODY ESSENTIALS	Almena State Bank
AT HOME OIL CO.	JOY SIDES, OWNER	"Free Checking"
Almena, Kansas	Almena, Kansas	_{Almena, Kansas}
785-669-2421	785-669-2127	785-669-2486
CITY OF	HUSKY	RITA'S
ALMENA	HOGS	BEAUTY SALON
Almena, Kansas	Long Island, Kansas	RITA RAY, OWNER
785-669-2425	785-854-7666	785-669-2328
CARVER TRUCK LINES, INC. Almena, Kansas 785-669-2548	MIDWEST ENERGY PHONE: 800-222-3121	Nex-Tech 785-877-4135 888-565-3200







NORTON

and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce welcome Roland and Laura Washburn, the new owners of

Hillcrest Motel

to the business community

The motel is located on W. Highway 36, Norton