



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 by Carolyn Plotts

Park equipment could raise taxes

By VERONICA MONIER

City residents will see a slight increase 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 have additional revenue, but it wouldn't be prudent to spend the money before the city has the money. He said the suggestion of the committee was to raise the mill levy and then lower it again as soon as possible.

If allowed, he said the mill levy 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 county would contribute to 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.

The council passed the .825 raise in the mill levy with a 4-2 vote. Mrs. Mann and Councilman George Jones voted against the raise.

In other business, the council:
• Heard from Police Chief Lynn Menagh that testing and interviews have been done for the po-

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 reading 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 confusion on changeover and that things could have gone smoother.

• Heard from Councilman Jerry Jones that the Public Safety Committee is working on an ordinance which would ban the shooting of fireworks between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. from July 1-5, but would extend 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 non-elected 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

Minnow Races have been 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 will be held from 9-11 a.m. Minnows will be available to purchase for 50 cents each and owners will race their minnows against others. If an owner wants to race their minnow more than once it will cost 50 cents each race.

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

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce coordinates Crazy

Day. There will be booths by Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Re-

bekahs, TOPS and Head Start.

Merchants participating in the event will be Hall's Clothing, Amy's Fashions, Twice Sold Treasures, The Sewing Box, O'Briens, Jamboree IGA, Moffet Drug, Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse, Hot Shots! Photography, Norton Shop & Save, Thunder Chord Guitars, J & R Liquors, Computer Pro, Norton Homestore, Sander Furniture and Gifts, White Fields Coffee House, Pizza Hut/Taco Bell and Sno-

Shack.



ALMENA CITY



SIREN INFORMATION

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

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- Norton County Sheriff's Office 877-5780
- Almena City Office 669-2425
- Almena Fire Department 664-4030
- Almena Library 669-2339
- Midwest Energy 800-222-3121
- Aquila—(Call Before You Dig) 800-344-7233
- National Poison Control 800-222-1222

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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

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