

By TOM DREILING
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A tax abatement, for real estate property known as The Haven, 813 N. Grant, Norton, was presented recently to the Norton County Commissioners.

The abatement was for the Northwest Kansas Inmate Resource Council Inc., operators of The Haven. The exemption had earlier been heard by the Board of Tax Appeals and approved in the amount of \$329,022.

The commissioners discussed the request with County Counselor R. Doug Sebelius about notification of the hearing, and said they would like to see the request for exemptions in the future.

The commissioners — Chairman John Miller, Leroy Lang and Richard Thompson — asked County Clerk Robert Wyatt to follow up with a letter to the Resource Council.

Chairman Miller signed the abatement.

Mr. Sebelius also presented the commissioners with documents relating to the purchase of two new motor graders, financed with the First State Bank of Norton for a period of five years at 4.55 percent interest. The sum borrowed was \$115,859,000.

The Certificate of Acceptance, Certificate of Appropriation, Lease Purchase Agreement and the Essential Use and Public Purpose Letter was signed by the commissioners.

The motor graders accepted are a 2007 John Deere 770D and a 2007 Caterpillar 140H Series II.

A public hearing was held on the 2008 budget. John Mapes CPA, of Mapes and Miller Accounting, was on hand to field questions.

Commissioner Thompson moved to adopt the budget as presented and to also approve Resolution 2007-11, a resolution expressing the property taxation policy of the Board of Norton County Commissioners with respect to financing of the 2008 budget. Mr. Lang seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Tom Brannan, Road & Bridge supervisor, introduced Drew Martin to the governing board. Mr. Martin expressed interest in a position with road and bridge. He completed a job application and talked with the commissioners and Mr. Brannan about the opportunity.

Mr. Brannan and the commissioners engaged in conversation as it related to areas of work throughout the county. Mr. Brannan told

the commissioners the mowers continue to work the districts. Further discussion dealt with mowing and the quality of work being done, along with the width of the mowing and how the county can get a better result. The commissioners showed a brochure on a new mower that would possibly work for Norton County, and they asked Mr. Brannan to look further into the new style mower that would allow the tractor to stay on the road bed.

Mid-month checks were presented to the commissioners and counselor for approval. Checks in the amount of \$128,372.40 were viewed for signature. The commissioners also discussed the number of requests being made for the mid-month vouchers and checks.

The commissioners instructed the county clerk to do some corresponding with departments and entities that are requesting the mid-month payments.

The checks in question were signed and approved as submitted. Reggie Beckman, the county noxious weed director, talked with the commissioners about department operations. Chairman Miller told Mr. Beckman he had a request from a rural resident regarding services for control of puncture vine. Mr. Beckman said he would check out the site and spray accordingly.

The commissioners also talked with Mr. Beckman about chemical control of weeds on county roadways. Mr. Beckman said he would select an area and give the control method a test.

Mr. Beckman told the county board the department was audited last week by the State Department, and upon completion of the inspection and audit, the Noxious Weed Department had no violations and was given a clean report.



John Kingham's "rattlesnake" watermelon was the talk of the day when he brought it to The Telegram office Tuesday. One of the giant melons weighed 82 pounds.

- Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

'Rattlesnakes' come in all shapes

This is one "rattlesnake" you'll want to take a bite out of.

John Kingham, rural Norton, brought several huge watermelons into The Telegram office Tuesday morning. He said the new variety, "Rattlesnake" is not his favorite,

but it sure does grow big melons.

He said one of the giant melons weighed 82 pounds and measured 28 inches in length. He had to use a two-wheeled cart to move it.

Mr. Kingham said he planted the seeds in late May.

He likes to plant "Black Diamond" variety, but said seed germination was not good this year.

Telegram: 877-3361

Senior Center menu

Sept. 6, Chef Salad, Fruit Cup w/Pineapple, Crackers, Cherry Dump Cake. Sept. 7, Salmon Patty, Peas and Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Rolls, Cook's Choice Complement.

Sept. 10, Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Beets, Bread, Apricots. Sept. 11, Chili Dog w/Cheese, Corn, Cantaloupe, Bun, Cook's Choice Complement. Sept. 12, Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Winter Mix Veggies, Bread, Jello w/Fruit. Sept. 13, Goulash, Cook's Choice Veg, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Five Cup Salad. Sept. 14, Chicken & Rice Casserole, Peas, Fluffy Fruit Salad, Biscuits, Cookie.

Sept. 17, Cook's Choice Entree, Spinach, Pears, Rolls, Pudding. Sept. 18, Swedish Meat Balls, Italian Blend Veggies, Cinnamon Apples, Noodles, Brownie. Sept. 19, Chicken Fajita Sandwich, Hash Brown Casserole, Pea Cheese Salad, Bun, Mandarin Oranges. Sept. 20, Roast Pork, Steam Cabbage, Carrots, & Onions, Strawberries & Bananas, Bread, Cake w/Frosting. Sept. 21, Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Frozen Fruit Dessert.

Sept. 24, Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Carrots, Bun, Peaches. Sept.

25, Turkey and Noodles, Cucumbers & Onions, Pineapple Tidbits, Bread, Cherry Cobbler. Sept. 26, Cheeseburger Upside Down Pizza, Spinach Salad, Mixed Veggies, Cranberry Gelatin Salad. Sept. 27, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Cauliflower, Macaroni Salad, Bread, Four Season Fruit Cup. Sept. 28, Chili w/Beans, Confetti Cole Slaw, Cook's Choice Fruit, Crackers, Cinnamon Roll.

Aug. 31- Sept. 5

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