

# BOARD

Continued from Page 1

installed new traps in the boilers in both buildings and, even during the very cold weather, it wasn't necessary to run the second boiler.

### In other business:

• The audit report with Adams, Brown, Berans and Ball was approved.

• Neither Bonnie Zweygardt nor John Knodel are running again. The superintendent reported that Cory Busse, Norman Morrow and Jerry White are running for the board seat now held by Mrs. Zweygardt; and Mila Bandel is running for Mr. Knodel's seat. Incumbents, Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Sherry Weeks

are running unopposed.

• The board reviewed eight policies: 1) Superintendent of Schools; 2) Election of Superintendent; 3) Appointment of Principals; 4) Principal; 5) Budget Planning; 6) Sale and Disposal of Equipment; 7) Investment of Idle Funds; and 7) Activity Fund. The only change made was to the Election of Superintendent which was changed from "the month of August" to "the month of July," concerning the first day of the beginning term for the election.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, in the board room in the high school.

# PROFIT

Continued from Page 1

She reported that all estate payout requests were approved by the board to be paid. She recapped what the Equity had accomplished in total volume of sales and, itemized what property, plant and equipment additions and improvements had been made this past year.

She encouraged everyone to check out the new web site [www.stfrancisequity.com](http://www.stfrancisequity.com) which has information available.

Following that, she reviewed the community involvement and donations that the Equity made in both Haigler and St. Francis. In closing, she thanked the patrons for their support and for doing business with the Equity.

There were two positions up for

election on the board. Noel Rath, spokesman for the Nominating Committee, said the positions of Alex Petersen and Eddy Schultz were up. Mr. Petersen had agreed to serve another four-year term but Mr. Schultz was resigning from the board. Todd Neitzel agreed to serve. Nominations ceased and, in separate elections, they were voted in unanimously.

Mr. Schultz received a parting gift. Mr. Yost welcomed Mr. Neitzel onto the board. He also applauded Ms. Lohman and all the employees for another successful year.

The evening ended with the drawing of tickets for gift certificates at the Equity. As people filed out, they were also able to pick up the patronage checks.



**SINGING VALENTINES**— Music students were seen Monday delivering balloons and candy with a song. Pictured are (l to r) Krissy Harris, Aly Northrup, Laura Brunk and Sarah Whitmore.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Drivers can be ticketed for texting

Drivers urged to "put it down" when behind the wheel and focus on the road!

Motorists can expect to receive

traffic tickets if they text and drive in Kansas.

State and local law enforcement officers have been issuing warnings for this violation since July, said Kansas Department of Transportation officials. However, the law provides that tickets can be issued beginning Jan. 1. Drivers receiving citations will be subject to a minimum fine of \$60, plus court costs.

"Kansas law bans texting for all drivers," said Pete Bodyk, department of transportation traffic safety manager. "For all drivers with a learner's permit or intermediate license, the law also bans all cell phone use — both handheld and hands-free."

Law enforcement may issue a ticket simply by observing a violation; they need not have stopped a driver for another reason. The Kansas law applies even if a vehicle is stopped at a red light or stop sign.

"Learner's permit and intermediate-licensed drivers typically are under age 20, the age group with the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes nationally," the manager said. "Drivers with those permits who are convicted of the violation may be subject to delays in full licensure as well as fines and court costs."

Kansas is one of 30 states to ban text messaging for all drivers. Eight states prohibit all handheld cell phone use while driving, and the federal government has banned texting while driving by federal employees on duty and all commercial truck and bus drivers.

Distracted driving is any activity that takes a driver's eyes off the road, hands off the wheel or mind off the task of operating a 2,000-pound machine. There are many driving distractions, but texting is the most alarming because it involves all

three types of distraction.

Studies show that texting drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash. The proportion of drivers distracted at the time of fatal crashes increased from 8 percent in 2004 to 11 percent in 2008, when nearly 6,000 people died and more than a half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver. While these numbers are alarming, they may not show the true size of the problem, since driver distractions may be vastly under-reported to law enforcement.

"Drivers take their eyes off the road five seconds per message on average," Manager Bodyk added, citing federal research. "That is long enough for a vehicle traveling 55 mph to go 134 yards — farther than a football field and its end zones. We urge all drivers to 'put it down' when behind the wheel to avoid a ticket and to save lives."

## Taxpayers can split refund to jumpstart saving money

Once again, this year the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is making it easier for taxpayers using 1040 forms to save by dividing their refund for direct deposit into more than one account.

If, for example, a taxpayer is entitled to a \$1,500 federal income tax refund, he or she can designate \$500 for direct deposit into a checking account and \$1,000 for direct deposit into a savings or emergency fund or retirement account, said Carol Young, Kansas State University Research and Extension financial management specialist.

Filing electronically and opting for direct deposit typically gives taxpayers faster access to refund dollars, and dividing a refund between accounts need not be complicated.

Taxpayers are encouraged to complete 2010 Form 8888, "Allocation of Refund (Including

Savings Bond Purchases)" by providing account and routing numbers with instructions on the amounts to be deposited in each account, and submit it with their tax return.

Accuracy is important, said Ms. Young, who advised double checking your account numbers before submitting the form.

Designating at least some, if not all, refund dollars for savings or an emergency fund is recommended, the financial management specialist said.

"Saving regularly is the key to financial security," she said. She also recommends building an emergency fund with an initial goal of \$500, with a long-term goal equivalent to several months of living expenses -- or more.

While a large refund may seem like a windfall, it also is an indication that a taxpayer has overpaid his or her tax liability and, in

essence, provided a tax-free loan to the government, said Young, who encouraged taxpayers to check with employer's human resources department to adjust withholding to match the expected tax liability.

"Doing so can increase take home pay through the year and seem like you received a raise. That's not the case, however, and shouldn't be considered an invitation to over spend," said Young, who advises regular direct deposits into savings, retirement and other accounts, which she said is part of the 'pay yourself first' philosophy for building a more secure future.

More financial management, saving and spending tips are available at K-State Research and Extension Cheyenne County 785-332-3171 and online: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/financialmanagement/](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/financialmanagement/).

**Due to the cold weather does your vehicle act like it caught a cold? When you try to start it, it just moans and then when it does fire up it starts to cough. Well you're in luck here at Vince's GM Center we have a Great Selection Of Pre-owned vehicles at a fair price.**



**2010 Cadillac SRX, Silver, Leather, Sunroof**



**2009 Chevy Impala, White, Leather**



**2009 GMC Crew Cab, Diesel, Leather, NAV, DVD Player, Long Box**



**2008 Pontiac G8, Gray, Leather, Sunroof**

*thought to ponder....How come thaw and unthaw mean the same thing?*

**VINCE'S GM CENTER**

**We Look Forward To Serving You**  
1697 Rose Ave., Burlington, Colorado

[www.vincesgmc.com](http://www.vincesgmc.com)

**719-346-5541 • 800-231-8991**

## Why Not Travel to Denver for Your Dentistry?

*Especially when we'll pay for your hotel! \**



As a mature adult, your dental needs are more complex. If you have a healthy smile but want to enhance it, Dr. Barotz is known for his exquisite cosmetic dentistry including **perfection in porcelain veneers** and **Invisalign** clear orthodontics. If you have serious concerns about the health of your mouth, or have loose or missing teeth, Dr. Barotz, with his 30 years experience, can provide **Total Dental Solutions** which will eliminate the need to be referred from doctor to doctor to doctor if you want to save your teeth, beautify them, or replace missing teeth with bionic dental implants. Call us today for a complimentary consultation.

### Barotz Dental provides:

- **Laser Gum Therapy**, which eliminates the need for cut and stitch gum surgery for patients with gum disease who want to save their teeth.
- Custom **Drop Dead Gorgeous Dentures** which provide denture wearers the same exquisite cosmetics provided for people with natural teeth.
- **Dental Implants** to lock down or eliminate dentures or replace one or more missing teeth.
- **No Fear Sleep Dentistry** if fear has been keeping you away from the dentist.

**Your care can be completed much faster since it is all done by one doctor in one location.**

**Immediate appointments available.**

**Call today for your complimentary consultation!**

**BAROTZ DENTAL**  
*Total Dental Solutions*

Charles Barotz, DDS  
303 16th Street Mall, Suite 250  
Denver, Colorado 80202

**Visit [DenverDentist.com](http://DenverDentist.com) or call us at (303) 532-1151**

*\*Hotel stay included for patients with extensive treatment.*