 Colorado FFA's state convention marked the end of a busy year for Elisa Sagehorn who served as an executive committee member on the state officer team for 2008-09. The convention, held June 2-4 in Greeley, was the last big event for the 10 Colorado officers.
 "Empower Passion" was the theme for the convention, and Sagehorn discussed how you can empower the passions of others in her retiring address titled "Shine Your Light."
 "Everyone has this little light inside, but all too often we let fear smother out the light," said Sagehorn. Singing the familiar Sunday school song, "This Little Light of Mine," she explained if light is hidden "under a bushel," it can't help empower others.
 Sagehorn went on to say too often people try to direct their own light. "I left no room for the One who gave me the light to give me direction." Even though she didn't reach all the goals set for herself, Sagehorn noted what seemed like failure opened new doors for her, including her opportunity to become a state officer.
 In addition to speaking at the state convention, Sagehorn also co-chaired one of the sessions.
 Sagehorn, a candidate for the 2009 American FFA Degree, was recognized at the state convention. After applying for the award, Sagehorn was approved by Colorado and is awaiting word from the national office about the degree.
 The American FFA Degree is the highest level that can be achieved as an FFA member. Sagehorn is eligible, having earned the Greenhand, Chapter and State FFA Degrees. She has also committed much time and money to FFA projects and community service among other agriculture related activities.
 As a state officer, Sagehorn's duties for the past year included visiting chapters throughout the state, running conferences and hosting workshops and leadership training for FFA members. In addition to traveling around Colorado, the state officer team also attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. as well as planned an educational trip to China.
 After a year as a state officer, Sagehorn said, "There are better things to come, but I couldn't ask for a better conclusion." God paints every sunset, she said, and there is a new sunrise every day.

Sagehorn awarded scholarship

 FFA's national organization recently awarded Sagehorn a $1,000 Dodge Trucks scholarship. Dodge Trucks, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, sponsors the scholarship. Sagehorn plans to use the funds to pursue a degree at Dordt College in Iowa.
 Scholarship recipients were selected from 7,810 applicants from across the country. Selections were based on the applicant's academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural experience program in agricultural education and future goals.
 Sagehorn is a 2008 graduate of HHS and is the daughter of Keith and Diane Sagehorn.

Holyoke FFA attends state convention

 Five HHS students represented Holyoke FFA at the state convention last week. Janna Smith, Patricia Adams, Emma Adams, Mariah Struckmeyer, Amanda Ferguson, FFA advisor Mike Miller and adult sponsor Denise Smith traveled to Greeley to attend FFA workshops and general sessions.
 They heard from current and former state officers and a national officer, among others. A humorist and hypnotist also entertained at the convention. New to this year's events was a concert by the country group Emerson Drive.

 Smith and Patricia Adams served as Holyoke's two delegates at the convention. Their duties included attending business meetings.
 Additionally, Sagehorn presented plaques of appreciation to Kristie Ham, Cody Weber and Mike Miller during the convention.