### Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Scattered flurries. Cloudy, with a low around 24. North wind between 5 and 10

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. North wind around 5 mph becoming west.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Sunday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near

Sunday Night: A 30 percent

chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 21. Monday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a

high near 38. Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy,

with a low around 23. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

Wednesday: High, 41; Low 19 0.00 inches Precip: Wed. Month: 0.38 inches 0.87 inches Year: Normal: 0.52 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset 7:21 a.m. 6:33 p.m. (Ú.S. Naval Observatory)

#### **Heart Month**

Nearly 8 million Americans age 20 and older have survived a heart attack (myocardial infarction). About 8.9 million have angina pectoris (chest pain or discomfort due to reduced blood supply to the heart).

# School district gets budget advice from citizens

From "BUDGET," Page 1

money coming in.

The district is OK for the rest of the year, Harrison said, but next year is a different story. The state faced a \$40 million budget deficit for the rest of this fiscal year, but the deficit next year projects at \$400 million. All eyes are on the Legislature and what it \$4,012, we will still have to cut." will do to balance the budget, she said.

"I feel for them," Harrison added, "because it is going to be very difficult."

The superintendent said the House Ways and Means Committee has approved a budget that has no further cuts to education. The Taxation Committee, however, has rejected Gov. Mark Parkinson's plan to raise

the statewide sales tax by 1 percent. Things staff as a primer for the discussion. These won't be settled for several months.

"It's very difficult to build a budget when you don't know what's going to happen," she said. "We could lose anything from \$293,000 to way over a million. We may not know until May.

"Even if the state keeps the base aid at

After Harrison finished, she asked the audience to go into the high school commons and break up into groups of six to eight to brainstorm ideas. So many people had turned out that administrators had to bring tables and chairs down from a classroom.

Harrison put together some of the suggestions she'd received from students and

included closing the kitchen at the grade school, increasing student fees for driver education, limited watering and mowing in the summer and eliminating vocational

education. She also provided a summary of

Someone from the staff – all three principals, district staff and teachers – sat with the groups. Harrison walked around answering questions.

the current budget.

Ideas the groups discussed included small increases to lunch prices, cutting elective classes with low enrollment, bringing all student activity fund raisers together and allowing parents to drive students to events, rather than using a district bus or van.

School board President Janice Frahm said she was pleased with how many people attended the meeting and the amount of ideas they came up with.

Harrison collected all the ideas at the end and said she will be putting them together and posting them on the district's web site, www.colbyeagles.com.

If they have to make cuts, Harrison said, she and the district staff will put together a list of recommendations for the board.

"We basically have two choices," she said. "We can (work for) a revenue increase or we can accept the reductions.

"For us, that means less opportunities for

### Corn crop difficult to assess this year

a good idea by now of how the previous year's corn production turned out, but the past year has been anything but typical, and that could affect prices this spring.

"Given winter conditions since high soil moisture levels in the Corn Belt, it is unlikely that much corn harvest progress will have occurred in time for the March 31 USDA stocks report," said Dan O'Brien, Kansas State University agricultural economist in Colby. "Because of the unusually fierce winter weather that kept some farmers from harvesting, the final tally on the 2009 corn crop may not be certain until the June 30 grain stocks report. If that's the volatility than usual in the U.S. corn market this spring and sum-

U.S. Department of Agriculture growers and traders would have data released Jan. 12 estimated that U.S. corn production in 2009 totaled a record 13.2 billion bushels, 1 percent above the previous record of 13 billion bushels set in 2007, and 9 percent higher than the 2008 harvest. Corn yields late December, combined with reached an all-time high in 2009 at 165.2 bushels per acre. Planted central, northern and northwestern area was 86.5 million acres, the second highest since 1949 behind only 2007's 93.5 million acres.

Yet, there is uncertainty about the final size of the 2009 crop because the government estimated the U.S. corn harvest was 95 percent complete as of Dec. 20, said O'Brien. If 5 percent of the U.S. crop is still unharvested, that would amount to approximately 3.98 million acres. With the year's average U.S. yield of 165.2 bushcase, it could contribute to greater els per acre, this could amount to 657.5 million bushels of the 2009 crop still unharvested as the year

Some of the questions that persist, he said, include:

- The possible impact of low
- test weights on feed grain use. • Quality deterioration of some
- corn supplies currently in storage. • The potential for production losses with as much as 500 million to 650 million bushels of corn still unharvested.
- Possible corn crop abandonment this spring, due to wet soils and the need for farmers to begin fieldwork in preparation for planting the 2010 crop.

More marketing information is available on the K-State Extension agricultural economics Web site: www.agmanager.info/.

## Colby students learn state's safe driving tips

From "DRIVING," Page 1

and drowsy driving, the dangers of power windows for children, weather, animals, emergency vehicles, rules of the road, usand driving. It's a lot of good information."

Tricia Korthanke of the Regional Prevention Center said her office learned about the free information and teaching materials being offered through the found at www.ktsro.org, she Kansas Traffic Safety Resource said.

Office, and they called area schools to see if they might be interested in presenting the information to students.

Korthanke said that besides Mrs. Wagoner's class, Kevin ing a cell phone, plus alcohol Cox will teach a class later in the spring at Colby High, and both the high school and junior high in Goodland will take advantage of the information.

Information about the safety office and its materials can be

## Colby High students earn top piano honors

From "PIANO," Page 1

"Ecossaises" by Ludwig Van Beethoven.

Bickner has also been taking lessons for 12 years. She has gone to the state every year she has been at Colby High. She played "Cat and Mouse" by Aaron Copland.

Rachel Juenemann has been

we re

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working in the back room. While ority at the Colby Free Press. We're

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front door, come on in, turn left

and you'll find the "front desk."

taking lessons for nine years. It was her second time at state. She played "Le Petit Anne Blanc" by

Alex Juenemann has been taking lessons for seven years, but this was his first time at state. He played "Toccata Opus 40" by Kabalevsky.

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#### February 27, 2010 Saturday Evening 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 KAKE/ABC Harry Potter-Phoenix KBSL/CBS NUMB3RS KSNK/NBC XXI Winter Olympics Saturday Night Live KSAS/FOX Cops Amer. Most Wanted Local The Wanda Sykes ShowSit Down Local Cops able Channels Seagal Seagal A & E Gone in Sixty Forrest Gump Forrest Gump Pit Boss Pit Boss Pit Boss Pit Boss Pit Boss BRAVO House House House House House O Brother, Where Art Nat'l-Christmas Newsroom Campbell Brown Larry King Live Campbell Brown Larry King Live COMEDY Chappelle Chappelle Chappelle Chappelle Office Space Hot Rod Raging Plane Raging Planet Raging Planet Raging Planet Montana Wizards Phineas Montana Wizards Deck So Raven Kardashian The Soup | Chelsea Kourtney Evan Almighty College Basketball College GameDay SportsCenter Final ESPN2 College Basketball Poker - Europe Fastbreak Poker Poker - Europe ∕lγ Fake Fiancé Γhe Wedding Date /hen Harr FOOD Iron Chef America Iron Chef America Iron Chef America Armageddon Fast & Furious D. Design Sarah Outdoor Block

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Hometown Content, listings by Zap2 **February 28, 2010** Sunday Evening 10:30 11:00 11:30

KSNK/NBC XXI Winter Olympics XXI Winter Olympics Olympics KSAS/FOX Simpsons Cleveland Fam. Guy Amer Dad Local \_eague-Gentle Planet Earth BRAVO Law Order: C Law Order: CI aw Order: CI CMT Nat'l-Christmas Grumpier Old Mer he Singing Bee CNN State of the Union Larry King Live arry King Live COMEDY Hot Rod Martin ccepted DISC Prehistoric Prehistorio Sonny Beethoven's 3rd Wizards **Kardashian** Doomed by Lust Kardashian NBA Basketball NBA Basketbal SportsCente ESPN2 Poker - Europe Track and Field Poker - Europe Funniest Home Videos The Parent Trap J. Osteen Feed FOOD Challenge Iron Chef America Chopped Armageddo Day-Tomorrow Damages HGTV Holmes on Homes Outdoor Income HIST Ax Men Madhouse Ax Men Ax Men LIFE Mr. Brooks 16 and Pregnant Turn the Beat Around The Nanny The Nanny The Nanny The Nanny NICK S. King's The Stand . King's The Stand S. King's The Stand SPIKE Entourage Entourage Entourage Batman TBS Madea's Fan TCM TLC ottery Changed Your Kid Ate What' Tallest Children Lottery Changed Your Kid Ate What? TOON

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