



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# New president to be named at city council

By **Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*

A new president will be named at Tuesday's Colby City Council meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

In addition, Pat Mallory, will be sworn in to complete Ken Bieber's unexpired term since Bieber replaced Warren Hixson as mayor.

The council could also consider the issuance of \$1.6 million in industrial revenue bonds for the Commercial Travel Plaza facility.

Another agenda item could include discussion of industrial revenue bonds for Drs. Jeff Morrison, Mark Wahlmeier and Gary Slavens.

The council will also consider bids for a canine unit with the Colby Police Department. Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said six bids were received from H & H Auto, MC Auto, Taylor Motors and Tubbs and Sons. Armstrong said Police Chief Randy Jones and the vehicle committee will offer a recommendation.

A fault locator equipment demonstration is planned Tuesday for line department personnel with council members in attendance. The demonstration will be discussed further at the meeting, along with costs for buying this type of equipment.

Other agenda items include:

- Approving a policy to dispose of obsolete computer equipment that could change the current procedure of making donations to schools or charitable organizations to selling the equipment to city employees (not department heads or supervisors).
  - Using four sources regarding cost of living adjustments in the 2007 budget (Social Security, Value Line Inflation Rate, the Wall Street Journal and the American Postal Workers), Armstrong said the ranges were from 3.4 percent to 4.1 percent with the average at 3.75 percent.
  - Jim Engel, Thomas County Emergency Preparedness manager, will talk with the council about recent grant money he has received with some of that earmarked for updating mobile radios in the police cars and dispatch. In return, he has requested the old radios (Motorola Maratrac) be donated for use by the amateur radio club members. The council is expected to take action.
  - The council will be considering a date for its retreat.
  - The public works department needs a repeater either fixed or replaced, according to Mike Albers, technology director, and he and Marc Gilman will be available to answer questions.
- All meetings are open to the public. For questions, call 460-4410.

# Dial 'M' for murder, Maestro



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Duchess Ellington, played by Jada Tubbs, has been murdered and Patrick Toth starring as Ace Gumshoe looked over the situation during rehearsal Sunday at Pioneer Memorial Library. Other actors and actresses include Jim Oliver, Damon Glover, Relda Galli, Corey Sorenson, Linda Ladenburger, Pat Tubbs and Michael Hawkins. The mystery, "Murder, Maestro, Please," begins at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, at the library, 375 W. Fourth, Colby. For tickets, call 460-4470 or stop by facility.

# Taxes may reveal more than what you owe Uncle Sam

By **John Van Nostrand**  
*Colby Free Press*

While some taxpayers are up to their ears in receipts, W2s and bank statements for tax preparation, there are ways to make all that work pay off.

Two financial experts say preparing income taxes is an excellent time to review spending habits and to find ways to grow income.

"I'm a big advocate for people to stay out of debt," said Jim Oliver. "And that is tough for American people."

Oliver provides a variety of financial services through Raymond James Financial Services.

Although he does not prepare taxes, Oliver said people should regularly review their spending habits.

With the average American credit card balance in the thousands of dollars, Oliver said that shows many Americans are spending more than they earn. With discipline, that can be fixed.

Oliver suggests people use a cash-only spending plan.

After determining how a month's income is spent, Oliver said the needs should be budgeted which will then determine how

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service **U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 2005** (99) IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

OMB No. 1545-0074

For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2005, or other tax year beginning , 2005, ending , 20

Your first name and initial Last name

If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial Last name

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see page 16. Apt. no.

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, see page 16.

Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund (see page 16) ☐ You ☐ Spouse

1 ☐ Single

2 ☐ Married filing jointly (even if only one had income)

3 ☐ Married filing separately. Enter spouse's SSN above and full name here. ☐ Head of household (with qualifying person). (See page 17.) If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here. ☐ Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child (see page 17)

Check only one box.

Boxes checked

much disposable income remains.

"Pay cash for everything," he said. "and I mean everything."

"I know it's difficult to do. It's a balancing act and for each person it is going to be different."

After money is appropriately budgeted, Oliver said people will eventually learn not to overextend their income and can have some money saved.

"You need a place to go get the money or your put it on the credit card," he said. "Just don't charge it."

Oliver also encourages people to use some disposable income on investments, rather than purchase the latest gadget or

impulse buy.

"People need to consider investment," he said.

"Even if you have some debts, you need some investments."

Oliver said he has seen his clients successfully build and maintain a budget, plus find additional dollars to invest.

"The people who are on cash basis are the ones who can invest," he said. "Some people have figured it out."

The first start in reaching some of those financial goals may be on the way. According to the Internal Revenue Service, the average tax refund in 2005 was \$2,436.

Should Uncle Sam send you back a re-

fund, there are ways to make that money grow. But according to an investor, research and patience is needed before the visions of counting more dollars.

"You need to find out what your goals are," said Darryl Henry from Edward Jones Investment in Colby.

"Over a long term, say five to 10 years, you can invest in stocks or mutual funds. But, again, it depends on how much time."

Henry said the first-time investor must also learn the tendencies of investing money, especially in the stock market. Henry said people should realize how much they are investing too as well as some of the risks investing.



"Be aware that the stocks can go down," Henry said.

Starting investments doesn't require spending the entire tax refund either. Some investments cost as little as \$25 a month.

"If you would buy into Microsoft, you are not going to make as much as Bill Gates because of the number of shares he has, but your money will grow the same. It's proportionate that way."

Henry has been in the financial business for 18 years and has seen success.

"I would say this area is conservative financially but there are various programs. And those who invest are just as sophisticated as those anywhere else."

Oliver agreed.

"You can save money over and over, but you only spend it once."



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

# Cut above the rest

Four Tumbleweed Barber-shop Chorus members (l to r) Bob Hanzlick, Shad Sanders, Rod Eisenbise and Steve Ottem warmed up on stage before the group's performance Saturday to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The chorus, with current and former members and directors put on two performances Saturday at the Frahm Theater inside the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

# Medicaid cuts threaten treatment

PAOLA (AP) — Eight children have already been moved out of Lakemary Center, said Bill Craig, president and CEO of Lakemary, a school and residential center for children with severe mental disabilities. By the end of the month, 22 children will be gone.

Efforts to stem Medicaid spending are forcing Lakemary and other private group homes in Kansas into a "chaotic rush" to discharge mentally and physically challenged children before the funding runs out and before some may be ready to leave, Craig said.

The funding cuts affect about 500 children statewide, said Rep. Bob Bethell, an Alden Republican who is leading hearings beginning Monday to address the problem.

"It's not a large number of kids unless you're one of those kids," Bethell said Friday. "But these kids are some of most needy kids that must have stability in their lives."

The difficulty arose from a recent federal ruling that Kansas does not comply with its own Medicaid plan, which restricts stays in group homes to between 140 and 180 days.

For the last decade, Kansas ignored the plan and caregivers forgot about it.

But in December, the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services told officials at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services that in order to retain Medicaid funds, they must stop submitting bills for children who have been in the system too long.

If Kansas decides to leave those children in group homes, federal regulators said, the state will have to pick up the entire tab for their care.