

College observes special vet tech week

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, Inc., has proclaimed Oct. 13-19 as National Veterinary Technician Week. The event is celebrated annually to recognize veterinary technicians nationwide for their contributions as members of the veterinary health care team.

National Veterinary Technician Week provides veterinary technicians the opportunity to promote their profession to the public and to colleagues. This year's theme, Veterinary Technicians — the heart of animal health care, focuses on the caring aspect of the veterinary technician's role.

Primary responsibilities in a veterinary practice involve animal nursing, administering medications, assisting in surgery, taking radiographs, inducing and monitoring of anesthesia, hospital management and laboratory duties. Veterinary technicians are also employed in biomedical research, military, sales, industry and education.

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America is a non-profit organization that represents and promotes the profession of Veterinary Technology. The organization provides direction, education, support and coordination for its members, and works with other allied professional organizations for the competent care and humane treatment of animals.

The Colby Community College program is the only American Veterinary Medical Association accredited program in Kansas. Dr. Boyd Walker has been director of the program since 1977. He was joined by Dr. Cathy McMullin in 1978. They are assisted by Registered Veterinary Technician Lori Baney.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press

Vet tech students Brianna Carmichael (holding dog) and Heather Spitznagel (drawing blood) are sophomores in the Colby Community College veterinary technology program. Carmichael is a sophomore from El Dorado. Spitznagel is a sophomore from Brandon, S.D. The college program is the only one in Kansas.

The field of veterinary technology began in earnest in the late 1960s. As veterinary medicine and animal health became more complex, the need arose for trained assistants who could take over the routine tasks of animal care and give veterinarians more time for clients and patients. Technicians perform their tasks under the supervision of a veterinarian. They do not make diagnoses, perform surgery or prescribe medication.

As part of the week's activities, the college students will be hosting a Pet Wash on Saturday, Oct. 19, in the Ag/Vet Tech building. Appointments for your pet can be made by calling 462-3984, ext. 260, through Friday.

Enrollment is limited in the Colby Community College vet tech program. Priority date for applications is April 1, 2003. For more information, contact Dr. Walker or Dr. McMullin at the college.

To benefit others



JAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Shelby Ohrman, Kayla Hockersmith, Sarah Oesterreich and Amanda Barnum receive canned goods from Jim and Jon Mardock for Genesis. The annual food drive, Trick-or-Treat so Others-may-Eat, will be this Sunday, Oct. 20, from 2-4. Colby Girl Scouts, Catholic Youth Organization, and United Methodist Youth will be joined by other community volunteers to go door to door collecting non-perishable items for Genesis. If you prefer, food may be left on your front step marked "Genesis".

American Red Cross Blood Service 'Celebrate Life'

A "Celebration of Life," hosted by American Red Cross Blood Services, was held recently at the Ramada Inn in Colby.

Blood donors who have donated at least 30 times and blood drive volunteers from throughout northwest Kansas were invited to a luncheon to celebrate their participation in the Central Plains Region Blood Program.

In addition to honoring the commitment of those blood donors who were present, the agenda included two very special guests from Colby and their families.

Tawnia Bange was on hand with her daughter Brielle to thank those present for their support and for donating blood. Brielle had open heart surgery when she weighed just 11 pounds, and needed blood during her recovery. Thanks to the availability of blood from American Red Cross donors, Brielle is now a healthy seven month old.

Troy and Pam Westadt were also

present to thank everyone on behalf of their daughter Haleigh. Haleigh was born prematurely and used plasma products.

Both speakers told of how grateful they are that people chose to share their health and thanked blood donors for giving to the Red Cross.

Pam Head, Chief Executive Officer of the Central Plains Region spoke about the on going need for blood and the importance of volunteers.

Volunteers, including coordinators, Jackie Stephens and Jo Frahm, Colby and retiring coordinators from Goodland, Harriett Demaree and Mary Brady were honored.

Area coordinators and volunteers who are essential to community blood drives throughout the area were also recognized.

Chapter representative from Goodland Roberta Bretz, as well as the newly hired chapter manager in Colby, Mary Smith, attended the celebration events as well.



COURTESY PHOTO/Colby Free Press

Tawnia Bange, holding daughter Brielle, and Pam Westadt, accompanied by her daughter Haleigh, at the Red Cross Donor and Volunteer Appreciation luncheon in Colby.

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Big Brothers/Big Sisters and their Board of Directors, all the Bigs and Littles, Friends of the Colby Airport and everyone else who helped.

The weather was perfect with over fifty aircraft participating. Some flying in from as far away as Kansas City, Missouri, Enid, Oklahoma, and the front range of Colorado. Included were production single engine, multi-engine, turbo-prop, homebuilt ultra-light, antique and warbirds such as the T-6, T-28, BT-13 Stearman bi-plane, N3N Navy bi-plane, and a Pinto Navy jet trainer.

Jon Lofgreen of Norton and Mike Dowell of Hutchinson won the raffle for the T-6 rides and Matt Smith of Colby won the Family Night Out at Colby Bowl. Plane rides were very popular and were donated by Ken Bixenman, Mark Kendrick, CBK Flyers, Tim Moss, Don Kready and Luther Hockersmith.

Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to next year!!

Again - thanks for your participation •• Friends of the Colby Airport

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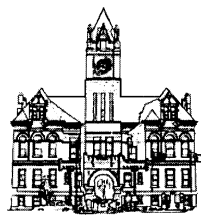
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