Calendar of Events

10 Workshop, “FACTS: Faculty and Counselors Together for Students,” 2 p.m., E-120
11 Basketball Intramurals, Noon, Gym, Pacers vs. Lakers
Cobra Basketball Away, CCC&TI vs. Sampson CC, 7:30
13 Basketball Intramurals, Noon, Gym, Wizards vs. Bio-Med
14 America’s Singing Sweethearts, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
17 Regional Community College Meeting, 2:30 p.m., B-104
18 B’ball Intramurals, Noon, Gym, Faculty/Staf vs. Ebony Kinship
19 Board of Trustees Meeting, 11:30
20 B’ball Intramurals, Noon, Gym, Kings vs. the Lakers
“The Best Small Business to Start Now,” SBC Seminar, Civic Ctr., 6 - 9 p.m.
20-21 SGA Officers Elections
21-22 Region X Basketball Tournament at Surry CC, Dobson

Happy Birthday
Linda Wilcox, Myra Moore and Julia Davis

What’s Happening?

$$$ - You could qualify for Financial Aid! CCC&TI will host FAFSA Day on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the first floor of F-building. College financial aid officers and other financial aid specialists will assist students in the completion and the electronic submission of their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. The program is open to individuals who plan to attend college in the 2003-04 academic year. Those interested must register online at www.cfen.org under CFNC Events. Students should also bring either their parents or their own federal 1040 tax forms for 2002. Volunteers will assist students in the process and answer any questions. If you need financial assistance, plan to participate in FAFSA Day.

Now is also the time to apply for scholarships for next year. Stop by CCC&TI’s Financial Aid Office for more information.

Robert Stewart (former CCC&TI student and current counselor at Haywood Community College) will be presenting a workshop, FACTS: Faculty and Counselors Together for Students, on February 10 at 2 p.m. in E120. This is a workshop for higher education professionals working with students who have learning disabilities. Stewart will also present the workshop on the Watauga Campus at a later date. Those interested in attending should contact Teena McRary at 726-2724.

Remember to call CCC&TI Snow Lines for closings or delays when inclement weather strikes.726-2900 - Caldwell Campus; 297-7077 - Watauga Campus.

The Watauga Arts Council officially opened the doors to CCC&TI’s annual Student Art Exhibit Friday, Feb. 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with a free reception at the Jones House in Boone. The exhibit features 25 pieces submitted by CCC&TI students who are either majoring in art or are enrolled in one of the college’s art classes. The works include paintings, drawings, photography, mixed media and ceramics. The exhibit runs through Feb. 28 and is free to the public. For more information, contact the Watauga Arts Council at 828-262-4576.

This week The College Connection features CCC&TI’s new Educational Talent Search program, Huskins courses and Cobra basketball. The show airs on Caldwell Co. cable channel 3 at 7:00 a.m. and p.m. Your ideas for features or guest spots are welcome.

The Caldwell Chronicle is a biweekly, electronic publication for CCC&TI friends and family. Items for inclusion should be submitted to the Marketing and Communications Department by noon Thursday. Call 726-2202 or e-mail your news to Marla Christie, public information officer, at mchristie@cccti.edu. We welcome your suggestions or contributions. CCC&TI is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Valentine’s Day Performance to Feature America’s Singing Sweethearts

Broadway stars, Suzanne Ishee and Byron Nease, will relive the drama and romance of “America’s Singing Sweethearts,” Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, on Valentine’s Day at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center. Ishee and Nease will portray the two icons that captured the heart of America through their hit film musicals in Broadway Center Stage’s production of “America’s Singing Sweethearts.” Part of the Performing Artist Series of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, the performance is set for Friday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

MacDonald and Eddy first appeared together in “Naughty Marietta” in 1935. The musical received an Oscar nomination for Best Picture and launched a series of blockbuster musicals that would forever link their names into a single entity: Jeanette-MacDonald-and-Nelson-Eddy.

The duo became known as “America’s Singing Sweethearts” and went on to star in seven other musicals for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), becoming the most popular singing team in movie history. The musicals include such favorites as “Rose Marie,” “Maytime,” “Sweethearts” and “I Married an Angel.”

The story of “America’s Sweethearts” is a classic Hollywood tale of two people whose careers and personal lives were dictated by the movie studio. Eddy was a tall, fair-haired, classically trained baritone from the opera world and MacDonald was a petite red head who became a Broadway star. While working together, they supposedly fell in love and wanted to marry but didn’t due to opposition from their managers. They continued to make films together to huge success and eventually married others.

Broadway Center Stage (BCS) celebrates and promotes the great American tradition of the Broadway musical. Ishee and Nease have performed in diverse venues with symphony orchestras, music festivals, performing arts series and corporate events. BCS captures the dynamic energy of great musicals from the early classics to Broadway’s most recent hits.

Ishee has starred on Broadway in Showboat with Donald O’Connor, Mame with Angela Lansbury, La Cage aux Folles with Peter Marshall, The Phantom of the Opera with Michael Crawford and the National Tour and recording of Jerry’s Girls with Carol Channing. She has played leading roles off-Broadway, in tours and regional theatres across the country and at the New York City Opera. Ishee is a popular soloist in oratorio, operetta and pops concerts with orchestras worldwide.

Nease made his Broadway debut playing Patrick in Mame with Angela Lansbury. Since his debut, he has gone on to play roles in Showboat, South Pacific, Annie Get Your Gun and is best known for his role as Raoul in The Phantom of the Opera. On the concert stage, he’s been a guest soloist with the Hawaii, Minnesota, New England and London Symphony Orchestras. Nease has appeared with such luminaries as Carol Burnett, Dick Van Dyke, Mary Tyler Moore, George Burns and Bernadette Peters.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Civic Center box office Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (828) 726-2407. Tickets range in price from $10.00 in gold seating to $12.00 in platinum seating. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. For additional information visit: http://www.broyhillcenter.com.

CCC&TI To Host Regional Meeting on Community College System

RALEIGH: The public is invited to participate in a series of regional public hearings on the organization of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). One of six colleges in the state selected to host the meeting, CCC&TI will hold the event on Monday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m. in B-104 via the Information Highway Room.

A consultant hired by the Education Oversight Committee of the General Assembly and the State Board of Community Colleges will host a series of focus groups/public hearings that will give individuals the opportunity to share their opinions of their community college system.

The hearings are a part of a study mandated in Senate Bill 1115, which calls for a review of the structure, administrative formula, and multi-campus and center funding in the NCCCS. The lawmakers want to determine if any type of consolidation of community colleges would save funds. The meetings will provide an opportunity for input from key stakeholders to determine issues of concern.

In addition to public comment, valuable information will be shared at the hearing. A representative from Legislative Fiscal Research will provide a thorough explanation of the legislative mandate that calls for the study. The consultant from MGT of America, Inc. will provide a review of comparative analyses of administrative costs. Representatives from the System Office will give an overview of the organization of the NCCCS.

Seminars Demystify Steps To Starting Small Businesses

Starting a small business is an American dream that most people never put into action. Fear of failure or not knowing where to start often dissuades most would-be entrepreneurs.

To help break down barriers, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute’s Small Business Center is sponsoring “The Best Small Business to Start Right Now” at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center, Feb. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. Pre-registration is required.
The program focuses on three areas—helping individuals develop business ideas that fit their personalities; exploring 30 “hot” types of businesses that offer growth potential; and learning five easy steps to starting a business.

Mike Collins, president of the Raleigh, NC-based Perfect Workday Company, will present the program. Collins is frequently published in national business and news publications, including Newsweek, American Banker, BUSINESS: North Carolina, and Triangle Business Journal. He also has published several books and frequently delivers seminars in the Southeast.

In addition to this seminar, the CCC&TI Small Business Center is offering a five-course series beginning April 10 and running through May 8. The courses are held Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Caldwell Campus. The courses and dates are as follows:

- How to Start a Small Business, April 10
- Write Effective Business Plans, April 17
- How to Finance a Business, April 24
- Small Business Recordkeeping, May 1
- Marketing Your Small Business, May 8

For more information or to register for any of the seminars, call 828-726-2242 or e-mail dbean@cccti.edu.

**CCC&TI Launches Educational Talent Search**

Yet another way to encourage a brighter future for promising youth in Caldwell County is now on tap thanks to the new Educational Talent Search program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Unveiling a host of new services along with four new staff members, CCC&TI officials introduced the program to over 50 public school administrators and counselors at a special kickoff luncheon held at the college Jan. 30.

Funded by a one million dollar grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, ETS will provide in-depth academic, career and financial counseling for students who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The federal TRIO program will support 600 middle and high school students per year in progressing to post-secondary education at the school of their choice. The project helps to carry out and ensure the success of President Bush’s education initiative, “No Child Left Behind.”

“Working collaboratively with the public schools, ETS will ensure that the children of Caldwell County will have every opportunity to reach their fullest potential and succeed in a competitive environment,” said Garrett Hinshaw, CCC&TI dean of student services. “The program is designed to enhance, not duplicate, a lot of great programs already in place.”

Beginning Feb. 1, CCC&TI counselors will be in the public schools on a daily basis to offer one-on-one assistance onsite, rotating among eleven identified schools. College officials anticipate a full range of ETS services available by April, including the following:

- Academic, financial and career counseling
- Career and personal interest exploration
- Skills aptitude assessments
- Tutorial services
- College visits
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams and applications
- Cultural enrichment activities
- Parental workshops
- Mentoring, coaching

CCC&TI’s new ETS Director, Alice Lentz, said efforts will begin to immediately start identifying potential students. “It will be a challenging process,” she said. “We hope to be able to identify 600 participants by mid-March with limited services beginning in April.”

Eligible participants from sixth through twelfth grade must show academic potential, meet certain income requirements and be first-generation college students, meaning neither parent holds a four-year degree. Anyone may apply or recommend students for the program, including parents, teachers, counselors, principals, family members or other students.

“It will take brains, not brawn, to compete in today’s workforce,” said CCC&TI President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham. “Recent studies show that most jobs within the state now require a minimum of two years education beyond high school. This makes it even more critical to make sure our youth have every opportunity to succeed.”

One of only three institutions in the state to receive the grant, CCC&TI was the only one in North Carolina to rank in the top ten percent nationwide, qualifying it for the full five-year funding. The award-winning proposal was based on community need as well as the success of existing programs, such as Communities in Schools, GEAR UP, LOFT, Young Scholars, Closing the Achievement Gap and CCC&TI’s Dream Scholarship program and Student Support Services where ETS can help fill the gap.

“This program only adds to the continued efforts between Caldwell County Schools and Caldwell Community College to provide the best and brightest academic future for all students in this county,” said Dr. Tom McNeel, Caldwell County School Superintendent.

“ETS is not just another program,” added Hinshaw. “This special funding was secured as a result of the huge commitment pledged by more than two dozen college and public school officials as well as community leaders. We are totally committed to the success of this program and ultimately, our children.”

For more information on ETS, call (828)726-2333.
ETS Staff on the Move

Welcoming four new staff members to the ETS program, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute is off and running to meet the needs of area schoolchildren in their quest for continued education. Alice Lentz, Dena Holman, Belinda Ballew and Pat Pritchard will soon be familiar faces within the public schools as they make themselves available for new assistance for students funded by the ETS grant.

“I am thrilled to be on board,” said CCC&TI’s new ETS director, Alice Lentz, excited about the opportunity to provide leadership for the program. Bringing her project management skills from an international to a local setting and drawing on her experience with kids as a parent and school volunteer, she will bring a unique vision to the program.

Lentz recently earned her master’s in business administration from Wake Forest University, having completed undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University, a master of arts at the University of South Carolina with additional studies at the University of Oxford. Prior to joining CCC&TI, she worked as a free-lance consultant in project design/management, public relations, fundraising, bilingual training and translation. She was also employed with Americas Fund for Independent Universities in Blowing Rock, Americas Society and Council of the Americas in New York City, the Bank of Montreal in Toronto and the Fund for Multinational Management Education in New York City. Also a children’s author, Lentz is fluent in three languages. She and her husband Tom currently reside in Hickory with their two children. Tom heads marketing services at Broyhill Furniture Industries in Lenoir.

Previously employed with Communities in Schools, Dena Holman brings her knowledge of Caldwell County Public Schools to the team. Having served as site director at Hibriten High School for four years, Holman is also noted for her work as the school’s head women’s soccer coach. Prior to her work with the school system, she was employed with CCC&TI’s learning resource center and as a purchasing assistant at Lees-McRae College.

“I would like to build on my experience with area youth,” said Holman, who will serve as a program specialist and counselor for ETS. “Through Communities in Schools, I’ve worked hard already in helping students graduate from high school. There are a lot of opportunities out there, and I want to see these students continue learning.”

Holman received her bachelor of science degree from Lees-McCrae College in Banner Elk. A native of Florida, Holman lives in Lenoir with her husband and their three children.

Belinda Ballew adds two years of adolescent counseling experience to the mix. Originally from Virginia, Ballew earned her master’s and educational specialist degrees from James Madison University. Prior to joining the college, she served as an adolescent substance abuse therapist as well as an individual and family counselor.

“I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to be involved in the ETS program which has the potential for such positive contributions to the community,” said Ballew, who relocated to Lenoir in December.

Pat Pritchard, ETS administrative assistant, brings her knowledge of CCC&TI to the program, having been employed as an administrative assistant for the college’s basic skills department for two years. She and her family currently reside in Hudson.

“I’ve been through a lot myself,” commented Pritchard, “and to be able to help other kids get through high school is very exciting.”

All four staff members were chosen for their individual skills and talents and how they will mesh together, noted Hinshaw. Three of the four are first-generation college students themselves, so they realize first-hand some of the limitations encountered by this special population.

“The ETS program will open whole new worlds for academically talented students in Caldwell County while facilitating their enrollment in college,” said Lentz. “It is our goal to help students who might not otherwise have these opportunities to break through the barriers and continue their education.”

Faculty and Staff Gear Up For Foundation’s Annual Fund Drive

“Today is a really big day. This is where it all starts. It starts with you,” announced Peg Broyhill, chair of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s foundation board, at the college’s faculty/staff kickoff luncheon for the Annual Fund Drive held Feb. 4. Foundation directors set a $235,000 goal for this year’s campaign, its highest ever, after surpassing a record $225,000 goal during the 2002 drive. Broyhill said the board feels the goal is attainable, yet it still needs three times that much to truly do justice to college needs. Last year’s campaign drew total employee contributions of more than $25,600.

Priorities for this year’s drive include $101,450 toward student scholarships, $47,650 for student aid and $85,900 for academic support. “No amount pledged is too small,” CCC&TI Foundation Director Anita Broach told faculty/staff captains, also stressing the need for unrestricted donations to support foundation priorities.

Guests at the luncheon included two students and two faculty members who shared how contributions to the foundation have been invaluable to them. Kelly Anderson, who dropped out of South Caldwell High School to start a family, found she could barely afford daycare, working at fast food restaurants and factories. “I didn’t want to struggle for the rest of my life,” she said.

Anderson went on to earn her GED at CCC&TI. A wife and mother of three children, she then felt it was impossible to pursue further studies. With help from the foundation and through the Student Support Services work scholarship, Anderson has now been enrolled at CCC&TI for over a year working toward a degree in radiography and “fulfilling her dreams.”

Erica Day said her CCC&TI Dream Scholarship certificate has hung on her wall since she received it in 1996. “Every day it has reminded me that I have a chance. I can do it,” she said. Into her second semester at CCC&TI, Day works 30-40 hours per week
as a pharmacy technician at CVS in Hickory with hopes of pursuing a degree in nursing. “I am extremely thankful for the award,” she beamed.

Accounting instructor Anna Alexander shared the importance of tuition assistance that has allowed her to complete the courses she needs to teach college transfer classes. “The average $1,000 needed for a graduate course was just cost prohibitive,” she remarked. “I truly appreciate the foundation’s support of the faculty’s career goals.”

Business instructor Tony Lingle spoke of the importance of CCC&TI’s mentoring program. “Being a new employee is really a socialization process,” he said. “There is so much more to learning the big picture and the way little things work in any organization aside from the general orientation process. People need to feel like they’re a part of the college and part of the family. That’s how you keep good employees.”

Dr. Sandra Anderson, executive director of CCC&TI’s Watauga Campus, talked about the growing community interest and support for the college in Watauga County as people begin to understand the impact of the CCC&TI’s programs. “We are especially excited about the growing interest in the Dream Scholarship program,” she noted. Scholarships have grown from a total of two in Watauga since the program began to at least two per school today.

CCC&TI President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, reviewed this year’s foundation goals, expressing his appreciation for the organization that puts so much energy and heart toward the cause yet is not on the payroll. “Support from the foundation, faculty, staff and students makes it a much easier job to sell the college,” he remarked. “It is so important to make people aware of opportunities here and to provide for our students.”

“We want to thank you in advance for all your hard work,” Broyhill said to faculty and staff captains, again urging their support for the drive. “You all set the tone for the whole campaign.”

Celebrating a Century of Nursing

As North Carolina celebrates 100 years of nursing, a graduate of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute continues the tradition of caring for others.

Pam Chapman graduated in 1993 with an associate’s degree in nursing (ADN) from CCC&TI. Since then she has come full circle and is now employed as a clinical nursing instructor at CCC&TI.

“I love my job,” said Chapman, “I feel like I am where I am supposed to be. I enjoy working with the students and teach them the importance of treating their patients like they would want their own family to be treated.”

After graduating from CCC&TI, Chapman continued her education at Winston-Salem State University receiving a bachelor’s degree in nursing and is currently a candidate for the master’s program in nursing at Gardner-Webb University.

Chapman chose to become a nurse because she liked working with people and wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. In 1903, North Carolina became the first state to establish the Nursing Practice Act, requiring mandatory licensure of nurses to ensure minimum standards of competency and to provide the public safe nursing care. Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses are required to pass a national exam before they are issued a license to practice. North Carolina has been a leader in nursing and continues to set the standard.

With celebrating a century of nursing, North Carolina will also celebrate 50 years of associate degree nursing. An associate’s degree is usually obtained through a community college and allows students to complete a nursing curriculum in two years. Health occupations classes were among CCC&TI’s first offerings when the institution opened its doors in 1965. The practical nurse education program, the oldest in the area, began in 1966.

In 1974, CCC&TI opened the first nursing education option program in the state, which allowed graduates to apply for their RN licensure. Presently, CCC&TI offers an associate degree in nursing, with 92 students enrolled between the Caldwell and Watauga campuses.

“Graduates from community colleges with associate degrees in nursing constitute the largest number of nurses in the workforce,” said Jan Overman, associate dean health sciences and director of nursing at CCC&TI. “Students enjoy smaller classes and have more one-on-one time with instructors in an ADN program.”

According to Overman, CCC&TI’s nursing curriculum consists of five semesters, beginning in the fall and ending in the spring of the second year. All of the full-time nursing instructors hold master of science degrees in nursing and many hold additional certifications. Students learn hands-on experience in clinical and through labs taught by instructors who are specialists in different areas of nursing and have extensive clinical backgrounds.

“The future looks extremely bright,” said Overman. “Graduates can generally be very selective in their choice of employment due to the growing demand for RN’s. Last year, every graduate had accepted a job before graduating in May. CCC&TI graduates are recruited from all over the state including Asheville, Charlotte and Winston Salem.”

In appreciation to those who devote their lives to nursing, the state legislature has reserved a day in April to celebrate nurses and the century of care they have provided. A parade will be held in Raleigh with 10,000 nurses expected to participate.

Governor Mike Easley has declared this decade, “The Decade of the Nurse.” The North Carolina Center for Nursing, projects nursing as the “power to make a difference.”

For more information about CCC&TI’s nursing program, contact Carolyn Woodard at 726-2710. For more information on the nursing field in North Carolina visit http://www.ncnurses.org.
**Broyhill Civic Center To Welcome Phil Vassar**

Phil Vassar, country music’s piano man and 2002 Top Male Vocalist, is on his way to the Broyhill Civic Center Friday, Feb. 28.

For those who aren’t already fans, Vassar’s songwriting and performance style has been likened to that of Billy Joel, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, and James Taylor—all of whom Vassar cites as his main influences.

“I think his is really an original talent; he is such a terrific songwriter,” says David Briggs, Civic Center Director, “and he performs his songs masterfully.”

Vassar is a 10-year veteran of the country music scene and has written songs for other country music stars, such as “Bye, Bye” and “I’m Alright” performed by Jo Dee Messina, “Little Red Rodeo,” performed by Collin Raye, “Right on the Money,” performed by Alan Jackson, and Tim McGraw’s “For a Little While” and “My Next Thirty Years.” His songwriting endeavors earned him industry recognition in the late 90s: ASCAP named him Country Songwriter of the Year in 1999, and in 1998 Billboard magazine tapped him with its Country Songwriter of the Year award while Music Row magazine named Vassar Breakthrough Writer of the Year.

Lately though, Vassar has been enjoying the spotlight in his own right. His self-titled debut album, released in 2000, produced the No. 1 single “Just Another Day in Paradise” and the Top Ten hits “Carlene,” “Rose Bouquet,” “Six-Pack Summer,” and “That’s When I Love You.”

His follow-up album, “American Child,” released last year, includes his latest single “This is God,” which currently holds the No. 34 slot on the American Country Countdown’s Top 40, and the title track “American Child” released last summer.

Vassar co-wrote the album’s 12 tracks with various artists, including Matchbox 20’s lead singer Rob Thomas, Miles Zuniga of the pop-punk band Fastball, and Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman, who are both Nashville veterans. Vassar’s wife, Julie, also helped pen tracks on the album.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Civic Center box office Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (828)726-2407. Tickets are $22.50 for platinum seating and $18.50 for gold seating. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. For additional information visit: http://www.broyhillcenter.com.

**Cobras Suffer Loss to Surry, Prepare For Region Tournament**

The Cobras took another hard loss to the Surry Knights, 89-77, in CCC&TI’s final home game of the season Saturday, Feb. 8. Despite a 5-point lead at the half and a full house of fans, the Cobras just couldn’t finish the job.

“Our players worked as hard as they could, but it just wasn’t enough,” said Head Coach Bill Payne.

“Surry shot the threes much better than we did, and that was important.”

Leaders for Caldwell were Jeff Spain with 17 points and a game high 15 rebounds. James Barnett added 14 while Steve Heggins and Eric Reinhardt threw in 11. Four players had 3 assists to lead the Cobras. On Tuesday, Caldwell travels to Clinton to play Sampson Community College. Game time is 7 p.m.

The following sophomore players not returning to next year’s team were recognized along with their parents on Saturday: Stephen Heggins, Menyel Flowers, Jason Marley, Doug Sherrard, Curtis Jones, Jeff Spain and James Barnett. Each received a plaque for their contributions to the CCC&TI team. A halftime performance included routines by the Caldwell County Twisters’ Tiny Team and Youth Superior cheerleaders.

Though the Knights took home this year’s Western Tarheel Conference title, the Cobras have one more shot at advancing in tournament action. CCC&TI will travel to Surry Community College in Dobson Feb. 21-22 as the Cobras, the Knights, the Forsyth Tigers and the Central Carolina Cougars will compete in the Region X Tournament. Game times are pending. The region champions will go on to compete for the district title the following week. More details will follow.