What’s Happening on Campus

J.E. Broyhill Civic Center Presents The Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s J.E. Broyhill Civic Center will welcome bluegrass band The Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile on Friday, November 7 at 7:30 pm.

The line-up of Punch Brothers—whose name is taken from the Mark Twain short story, Punch, Brothers, Punch!—is formidable. Thile released the first of five solo albums when he was just thirteen and, by the time he was 20, he was attracting a following among pop, country, and alternative-rock audiences as a member of the Grammy Award–winning Nickel Creek. A Washington Post critic recently said Thile “may well be the most virtuosic American ever to play the mandolin.”

His equally youthful, prodigiously gifted band-mates are among the most in-demand performers in the worlds of bluegrass, folk, and traditional music. Guitarist Chris Eldridge was a founding member of the Infamous Stringdusters and occasionally sits in with his dad Ben’s band, The Seldom Scene; bassist Greg Garrison has played with trumpeter Ron Miles and Leftover Salmon—along with banjo player Noam Pikelny. Pikelny he has performed and recorded as a solo artist and has collaborated with acoustic music heavyweights John Cowan and Tony Trischka. Violinist Gabe Witcher, a life-long friend of Thile’s, is a sought-after session man whose fiddle-playing has been featured on the soundtrack of films ranging from Toy Story to Brokeback Mountain. Witcher also has recorded with a range of artists from Willie Nelson to Beck to Randy Newman and played in dobro master Jerry Douglas’ band for six years.

Witcher recalls, “For several years, Chris Thile and I had been toying with the idea of starting a band, but because of our wide spectrum of influences and interests we were unsure as to what form this new ensemble would take.”

The itinerant Thile then befriended Pikelny at the 2005 Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Colorado, and hooked up with him again shortly thereafter in Nashville. Garrison and Eldridge were also in town; the four of them got together to jam, and the rapport was instantaneous. As Pikelny recalls, “The night we got together, we were playing and talking about what everyone’s next project would be. Chris was telling us about what he was writing and that he was getting to the point compositionally where he wanted to start working on a large scale piece for the bluegrass instruments. I don’t think we had any idea that evening that he was hinting that we could be the guys to do it with him. I think while the rest of us were just getting warmed up, Chris began plotting and for him, the evening practically became an audition for the quintet.”
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The next day the California–based Witcher got an excited call from Thile: “Gabe, I think we’ve got it!” Witcher quickly made plans to join the quartet in New York City, where they would reconvene to brainstorm and rehearse. This ad hoc group wound up collaborating with Thile on his 2006 solo album, How To Grow a Woman from the Ground, which featured covers of songs by the White Stripes and the Strokes as well as by Gillian Welch and Jimmy Rodgers. With its recurring images of heartbreak and romantic longing and its live-in-the-studio acoustic setting, the album laid the thematic and musical groundwork for The Blind Leaving the Blind. The quintet then hit the road and solidified their union.

Thile has often incorporated pieces by Bach and other classical masters into his live performances, but he’s taken a fearless leap into long-form composition of his own with The Blind Leaving the Blind. Instead of working with a traditional chamber ensemble, though, he employs the instrumentation that has fascinated him since childhood: mandolin, banjo, guitar, violin, and bass. Says Thile, “Ever since I was really little, they are what I identified with. These are very agreeable instruments, so it seems like there are limitless possibilities for them.”

On March 17, 2007, the quintet, debuted Thile’s completed The Blind Leaving the Blind at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, as part of the John Adams-curated In Your Ear Redux Festival, an event celebrating young composers and players. (The quintet was still trying on band names and billed itself as The Tensions Mountain Boys.)

When the band went into the studio to record their first effort as a group, they were determined to retain the live feel of that initial The Blind Leaving the Blind performance. They chose Studio A509 at Legacy Recording in midtown Manhattan, a 4,600 square-foot room with a 35-foot high ceiling often used for large-scale film scoring. Explains Thile, “For this recording, the core of the sound came from three mics placed high in the room, kind of the way you’d record a string quartet. We didn’t want to do any overdubbing; nothing was added. That room interacts with sound beautifully, and we feel that the recording captures that.”

The four tracks that bookend The Blind Leaving the Blind were co-written by Thile and his band mates, with each musician contributing ideas and riffs to these shorter pieces. Though each track stands on its own, the adventurous, shape-shifting arrangements and Thile’s forthright lyrics often reference the sound and subject matter of The Blind Leaving the Blind.

Don’t miss a great night of music with The Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile on Friday, November 7 at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the show are $18 to $21 for adults and $12 for children. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call the Civic Center Box Office at 726-2242 or visit www.broyhillcenter.com.

### CCC&TI to Host 2008 Fall Job Fair for Students, Alumni and Community.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and Caldwell County JobLink Career Center will host its FALL 2008 JOB FAIR for current students, alumni and the general public on Thursday, November 13 from 11 am to 1 pm in the gym.

The Fall 2008 Job Fair is sponsored by Aegis Therapies, Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Spoken Precision and Kleen Tech Industrial Laundry.

“We’re very excited about introducing area employers to our students, graduates and community members,” said Wendy Barker, Coordinator of Student Employment Services at CCC&TI. “This promises to be an opportunity for students, alumni and community residents to conduct informational interviews with employers asking about industries, career opportunities, how to apply to jobs, and an opportunity to practice communicating in a professional manner. It promises to be a wonderful event for all those who choose to participate.”

Professional dress is required. All who plan to participate may call Dana Glenn, Director of the Caldwell County JobLink Career Center at 759-4675 or Wendy Barker, Coordinator Student Employment Services at 759-4635 to gain additional information about professional dress styles, resume preparation and informational interviews.

**Area employers and agencies that will be available at the job fair include:**

- Aegis Therapies
- Appalachian Regional Health Care: Watauga Medical
- Ashe Memorial Hospital
- Bayada Nurses
CCC&TI's Physical Therapist Assistant Students Participate in NC Physical Therapy Association Conference.

Students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently participated in the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association Conference in High Point, NC.

Students in the PTA program competed in the Quiz Bowl competition that is held each year at the conference. Briana Boone, Kacy Caudell and Staci Hudgins represented CCC&TI in the annual competition which pits students from Physical Therapist and PTA programs across the state against each other in a competition modeled after the popular TV gameshow “Jeopardy.” Despite some technical difficulties, the CCC&TI team managed to avoid elimination and finished the competition among some top schools. “I was very proud of them, they did well,” said PTA Instructor Leigh-Anne Boggs.

In addition to the Quiz Bowl competition, CCC&TI was also represented and took top prize in the NCPTA Conference Debate. Susan Brittain, PTA, graduated from CCC&TI's PTA program in May of 2008 and argued against the topic of the evening – “Should BS and MS Physical Therapists be Grandfathered to Doctorate Physical Therapists.” Brittain won the debate. “Susan did a nice job summarizing the opposition’s position in the debate,” said Martha Zimmerman, PTA Program Director.

Also at the conference, three CCC&TI students were awarded scholarships. Briana Boone from Boone, NC, Dana McCann from Hickory and Greg Tant from Lenoir received awards from the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association Scholarship and Loan Committee. These students submitted six-page applications, written essays, reference letters, transcripts and participated
in an interview with the committee during the conference. “All three of the interviews with the CCC&TI PTA students were very impressive,” said Zimmerman. “I have never seen the committee members cry, but two of our students' stories were so moving that tissues had to be handed out.”

In addition to the recognition that the program received at the conference, CCC&TI’s Physical Therapist Assistant program also recently celebrated a 100% passage rate for its graduates on their recent state licensure exam. “We’re very proud of our graduates for this accomplishment,” said Zimmerman.

For more information on CCC&TI's PTA program, call Martha Zimmerman, PTA Program Director at 828-726-2605.

## CCC&TI Truck Driver Training Program Celebrates Latest Group of Graduates.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Truck Driver Training Program recently graduated 18 students from its day class under the direction of Lead Instructor Joan Main. Pictured from left to right are: (Standing back row) Dennis Starnes, Kenneth Whisnant, Darrell Hammond, Tony Smith, Sabrina Smith, Douglas Brown, Aldo Castillo, Teresa Brickhouse, Arlie Clay, Luke Lambert III, Lee Poarch, James Byrd, Terry Gragg Jr. (Front row, kneeling) Frankie Millsaps, Michael Gilbert, Fernando Apolonio, Clistia Pack, Warren Pack. Congratulations to these graduates.

For more information on CCC&TI's Truck Driver Training Program, call 726-2380.

## Branches: Call for Submissions.

You are invited to submit your prose, poetry and/or art work for possible publication in the fourteenth volume of Branches, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institutes's literary arts magazine. All students of CCC&TI are eligible for entry, as well as residents of Caldwell or Watauga counties. Entry forms can be picked up at the offices of Jane Harrison, Jessica Saxon or Tom Thielemann, as well as in the Library and Writing Centers on both CCC&TI campuses. For more information, contact Jessica Saxon at 297-3811 or Tom Thielemann at 726-2361. Entry deadline is Friday, January 30, 2009.
Fall Festival 2008!

Caldwell Early College High School was recently selected as one of fifty finalist for the NC Real D.E.A.L. (Dedicated Educators Administrators and Learners) Schools. Schools were selected based on outstanding student achievement over the past two years and positive teacher working conditions from the 2008 Teacher Working Conditions survey. As one of the fifty finalist, CECHS has been designated as a “Great Place to Teach and Learn” by the state of North Carolina and will be highlighted on the state’s website and will be listed in the 2008 Real D.E.A.L. School booklet provided at the upcoming statewide 2008 Teacher Working Conditions Conference.

Congratulations to Caldwell Early College High School on this achievement!

CCC&TI Instructor, Students, Alumni Featured at Pottery Festivval

Several of CCC&TI's student and alumni potters, as well as one instructor, had their works exhibited at the recent Burlon Craig Pottery Festival in Vale, NC. Pottery from Barbara Miller Pottery, John Saunders Pottery, Arnold's Handmade Pottery (Arnold Correll), Varian Lee Swieter, and Tammy Lee Pottery all had booths at the 6th annual festival held on local potter Burlon Craig's homeplace in Vale, NC. Congratulations to these CCC&TI standouts!

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**Job Opportunities at CCC&TI**

**Position:** Director, Facility Services

**Length of Contract:** 12 months

**Job Summary:** Direct and manage maintenance operation. Skills in facility maintenance management in such areas as plumbing, heating, A/C boiler maintenance, carpentry and electrical installations. Provide students with a physical learning environment that is safe, clean, attractive and functional.

**Experience:** Supervisory experience preferred.

**Training:** Formal or informal education or training which ensures the ability to read and write at a level necessary for successful job performance.

**Salary:** Salary will be based upon institutional salary plan. Excellent benefits.

**Application Deadline:** All applicant information MUST be postmarked by October 31, 2008.

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**Safeguards**

**A message from your CCC&TI Safety Committee.**

**If You Want to Keep It - Keep It Close!**

These days, it's easy to fill a relatively small backpack or bag with hundreds or even thousands of dollars worth of stuff. As electronic gadgets get smaller and textbooks get more expensive, it's more important than ever for all of us to be responsible for our belongings. We have a very safe campus but it's always best to keep your bags, books or any other personal items with you at all times or under lock and key. Don't leave your stuff unattended anywhere on campus! If you suspect that something has been stolen or if you see suspicious activity, please report it immediately to Campus Security or to the main reception desk on either campus.

Accept personal responsibility for your belongings. Report any incidents or suspicious activity. Remind others to do the same!