Calendar of Events

30 Intramurals, Noon, Gym/Student Lounge
1 Women’s Volleyball, CCC&TI vs. Surry, 4 p.m., Away
2 SGA Fall Festival, 5-7 p.m., Breezeway
   Business Club, Noon, FRA FRA Sound, 7:30 p.m., Civic Center
3 SGA Fall Festival, 10 a.m., Breezeway
   Ambassador’s Club, Noon, Women’s Volleyball, CCC&TI vs. Central Carolina, 6 p.m., Gym

Happy Birthday
Celebrating birthdays from Sept. 22 to Oct. 5:
Nancy Risch (23), Donna Leonard (25), Christina Toy (25), Marla Christie (27),
Camille Annas (28), Shirley Unsworth (1), Debbie Mitchell (4), Bill Payne (5),
Alice Lentz (5)

What’s Happening?

Cobras nail a win!! The CCC&TI Women’s Volleyball team neatly handed Wilkes Community College a defeat Thursday, Sept. 18. Playing on home turf, CCC&TI won in three sets (30-15, 31-29, 30-22). Coach Angela Kannup said this was a great comeback from their Spartanburg defeat. “The whole team showed me that they had it in them and now we are ready for CVCC next Tuesday.” The Lady Cobras are on the road this week See page 4 for more stats.

Mark the date! SGA’s Fall Festival will blow onto campus Thursday, Oct. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. for evening students and Friday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for day students. Chicken, Green Beans, potatoes, roll, pudding, tea and lemonade will be provided by Myra’s Catering. Terry Carroll, a CCC&TI Nuclear Med. student will be the DJ. All kinds of music, dancing, door prizes, games and competition will be on tap including Jello eating, hot pepper eating, mummy wrapping, all hosted by SGA. Airball activities will also be on site, including the bungee run, giant boxing gloves, jousting and the ultimate challenge. Clubs will also host fundraisers, etc.

The Paralegal Club will hold a raffle for fall flower arrangements during the Fall Festival. Flower arrangements include two tall flower arrangements, a wreath and a Halloween “Party in a Basket.” Tickets are $1.00 and are now available from any paralegal student or in the Faculty Office (E-Building). Participants do not need to be present to win. The flower arrangements are on display in the faculty office.

The Circle K club wants your favorite recipes for a CCC&TI cook book. Contact Tony Moore at moore3723@yahoo.com or 758-1882. Recipes must be received by Oct. 7. Books will be sold in time for the holidays. Circle K also is looking for artists to help with illustrations and cover design.

Foothills Performing Arts will present its rendition of Ordinary People Oct. 17-19 and 23-26 at the FPA Theatre on CCC&TI’s Caldwell campus. The play, directed by Donegan Smith, deals with death, suicide and denial. A special session will be held after the Sunday, Oct. 19, during which a representative from Caldwell County Hospice will answer questions and hand out information regarding death and suicide. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call 726-2318.

This week on The College Connection: BLET student Chris Branch talks about the program aiding fundraising efforts for Hudson police officer Todd Gryder, who is battling cancer; Barbara Harris and students discuss OMA’s volunteer efforts; Matt Connor talks with teachers and students in the Adult High School program. The College Connection airs daily on Caldwell County cable channel 3 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Your ideas for features or guest spots are welcome.
Amsterdam-based jazz band plays Broyhill

FRA FRA Sound will be playing at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. What’s a FRA FRA Sound?

The simple answer is it’s a jazz band, but FRA FRA’s sound is anything but simple. Jazz connoisseurs and percussion aficionados will appreciate the “rhythmic complexity” noted by Kevin Whitehead of the Chicago Sun-Times. “… the patterns percolating underneath could make a jazz drummer’s jaw drop,” writes Whitehead. “No two pieces featured the same underlying rhythm…it was pretty amazing stuff.”

The group incorporates West African, Caribbean, Latin American, jazz, blues and gospel styles without sounding like an experimental fusion ensemble. This is jazz for the rest of us, but the even the more sophisticated jazz fans will enjoy the subtle blend of primal under tones and cosmopolitan polish.

“It’s hard to explain, but it’s really an incredible sound,” says David Briggs, Civic Center Director. “You have to hear it to understand how incredible these guys are.”

As a performing member of Strictly Clean and Decent and CCC&TI’s music director, Kay Crouch has heard her fair share what the U.S. music industry calls roots music, which includes blues styles originating from the Mississippi Delta and the Eastern Piedmont areas of the United States. But she says, “FRA FRA Sound is the roots of roots.”

Since its inception in the early 80s, the Amsterdam-based band has been exploring various music styles with African roots. Originally, FRA FRA focused on Surinamese music styles of kaseko, kawina and winti that hail from West Africa. Then in the early 90s, they began incorporating Caribbean and Latin American styles, as well as American jazz, blues, soul and gospel. Each of these styles was born out of traditional African music as slaves who were brought to the Americas and the West Indies began to adapt their original tribal styles to reflect their new environment. The group’s name describes the sound the band believes it has created. “FRA FRA” is a Dutch West Indies word that means hybrid, strange, different or mysterious—an invisible connection; it’s also the name of a tribe in Northwest Ghana—the Fra Fra people. In other words, it’s all connected.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Civic Center box office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (828) 726-2407 or visit www.Broyhillcenter.com. Tickets for FRA FRA Sound are $10 general admission. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted.

The First 150 get in free

The Civic Center provides 150 free tickets to CCC&TI students for each event. Here’s the scoop:

• Students are allowed one ticket per event when they present a valid student I.D.

• Student ticket availability is based on first come-first served.

• Students can pick up tickets at the civic center box office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (These are special hours for students.)

• Note that tickets may not be available if students wait to pick up tickets until the day of the event.
CCC&TI OMA Students Share Lions’ Vision

Several students from Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute’s Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program volunteered to conduct free glaucoma checks as part of the Lions Club Vision Van mobile outreach program, which was recently in Caldwell County for two days.

The Caldwell County Lions Club Association brings the van to the area once a year, says David Freeman, a representative from the Granite Falls chapter. The local civic organization would like to perform more mobile outreach efforts in Caldwell, but the vans, which are available through Lions Club International, are in high demand and local chapters must schedule one a year in advance. Only four vans, which are about the size of a medium-sized RV, are available for this part of the state, Freeman says.

Other healthcare professionals were also on hand to take blood pressure and perform cholesterol checks. Several medical professionals were available should any patients receive readings that would require them to follow up with an ophthalmologist.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can cause blindness by damaging cells in the optic nerve, which is located behind the eye and is responsible for sending information to the brain about what the eye sees. Glaucoma usually is associated with increased pressure in the eye, often referred to as intraocular pressure (IOP). The condition often affects peripheral vision first, but left untreated, can cause total blindness. According to the Cleveland Clinic, one of the leading U.S. health centers, about three million adults suffer from glaucoma, making it the second leading cause of blindness in this country. Harris says the disease is often referred to as the “silent thief” because those with glaucoma rarely know they have the disease until significant, permanent vision loss has occurred.

CCC&TI’s OMA students used a relatively new technique called Frequency Doubling Technology, or FDT. FDT checks for visual field loss by flickering black and white bars at a high rate. Because of certain nerve cells in the eyes, the patient should perceive twice the number of bars. This effect, called frequency doubling, is an illusion caused by approximately 2% of the ganglion cells in the retina, which are believed to be the same cells first victimized by glaucoma.

Students also measured intraocular pressure with a device called tonopen, which is a handheld instrument that students gently placed on an anesthetized cornea to obtain a readout of the pressure inside the eye. If a patient’s pressure was high, physicians were on hand to perform applanation tonometry, which is considered the most accurate of the available glaucoma screenings. This type of screening uses a special probe to flatten a part of the patient’s cornea. The amount of pressure required to flatten the cornea indicates the pressure inside the eye.

CCC&TI’s OMA students have been volunteering with the Vision Van for the past four years, says director Barbara Harris. Students typically perform between 50 to 80 glaucoma screenings on a Friday and more than 100 on Saturday events. The volunteer work helps reinforce students’ classroom training, while providing a necessary service to local residents.

OMA student Mona Dula enjoys the volunteer events. This was her second since she started the program. “I’m loving them. I’m meeting a lot of new people, and I’m getting a lot of people interested in taking better care of their eyes,” Dula explains.

What Dula enjoys about the OMA program is the constant opportunity to learn. “I’m learning about a lot of different procedures that I didn’t even know existed,” she says. “It’s not a hard job; it’s interesting and you’re helping people.”

Harris says the market of ophthalmic medical assistants is good right now—the most recent graduating class had a 100% hire rate. However, Harris urges students to be flexible about relocation. In Dula’s case, she’s may move to Charlotte or Chapel Hill after she finishes the program since both areas are home to large eye clinics.

The OMA program teaches students various testing procedures and techniques required to provide support services to licensed physicians specializing in ophthalmology. Course work includes didactic, laboratory and clinical training with an emphasis on ophthalmic history, measurement taking, ocular testing, lensometry, instrument care and medication administration.

Graduates of the OMA program are eligible to take a state certification exam administered by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, which certifies them as an ophthalmic assistant (COA). Eye clinics, physicians groups and medical institutions often hire COAs. Graduates also can continue training to become certified ophthalmic technicians (COTS) or certified ophthalmic medical technologists (COMTs).

For more information about the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program at CCC&TI, contact director Barbara Harris at (828) 726-2363 or e-mail bhari-

ris@ccti.edu.
The Cobra's Volleyball Team is currently 1 and 4. Their last home game against CVCC ended in a frustrating four-set defeat (24-30, 30-26, 14-30, 16-30). CCC&TI lost to Forsyth Tech Thursday, Sept. 25 in three sets (17-30, 28-30, 24-30). Pictured above (left to right): Captain Tracey Thompson goes up for a spike against CVCC. Sophomore Elisha Reeves answers CVCC's return. Sophomore Sabrina Dietz digs it out as freshman teammate Stephanie Spears backs her up. This week, the team goes on the road to face Surry, Wednesday, Oct. 1, and returns home to play Central Carolina, Friday, Oct. 3.

BLET students practice subject control and arrest techniques at the Quest4Life gymnasium in Lenoir. The five-day block trains students how to safely subdue an individual who is being placed under arrest. Instructor Floyd Yoder was on hand to demonstrate various methods of subject control.