## **WEEKEND EDITION**



**BASKETBALL** 

Bears sweep **Panthers** 

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We appreciate Lucy McCarl and all of our readers.



SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 23-24, 2021

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Nursing student Quiosha Davis, left, was one of many Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute students and faculty members who began helping the Caldwell County Health Department administer COVID-19

# **CCC&TI** partners to help with vaccination effort

BY GARRETT STELL
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Nursing and medical assisting students from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute began helping the Caldwell Counartment administer and track COVID-19 vaccines, and nursing student Julia O'Keefe said that the experience has been gratifying and eye-opening.

SEE VACCINATION/PAGE A4

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute nursing instructor Carla Patton watches student Aaron Stevens give Lee Patton the COVID-19 vaccine.



### Add scientist to county welcome sign, man says

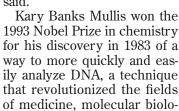
**BY KARA FOHNER** 

Many times as he has entered his native Caldwell County, Dr. Colby Ford has read the welcome signs lauding Caldwell as the birthplace of baseball pitcher Madison Bumgarner and country

music star Eric Church.

Ford thinks another name should be added to the signs. "I happened to be looking

at Nobel Prize winners, ... and I happened to click on Kary Mullis. ... But when I clicked on his Wikipedia page, it said that he was born in Lenoir, North Carolina, which I thought was really shocking, that I didn't know that," Ford



gy, and forensic science.

Dr. Colby

**Kary Mullis** 

The technique is called polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, and it allows scientists to take a small sample of DNA and amplify it in a lab, Ford said. After amplifying the DNA in a lab, the now-larger sample of DNA can be tested for its genetic source or for the presence of a disease.

Before PCR, amplifying DNA took weeks, but Mullis' process, once perfected, took only hours.

PCR is widely used, for instance helping scientists detect genetic mutations, analyze old sources of DNA, like bones, and helping obtain DNA from crime scene evidence.

Ford said that PCR has allowed scientists to use much smaller samples of DNA than they could previously, and it is even used to detect the coronavirus.

"So without Dr. Mullis, who knows if we would even have the tests that we need during this pandemic, right?" he said.

SEE SIGN/PAGE A4

#### Lost gift from Santa looking for owner to claim it

**BY KARA FOHNER** 

found a wrapped Christmas gift in the parking lot at ComServ, where she works, on Dec. 23.

The tag on the festive red box is addressed simply, "To: Damien," and it says it is from have been found.

were having one of my LeAnne Famiglietti co-workers dress up as Santa, ... and I even brought it to him and pretended he lost it outside on his way in," she

> But since then, neither Damien nor the gift-giver

month, but nobody came looking for it. She took to social media this week as a last-ditch effort to find the gift-giver, sharing posts with groups where people buy and sell things in hopes that someone will recognize it.

Famiglietti won't say Famiglietti said the gift what's in the box — that, "I remember exact- was at the front desk at she says, is something

ly when because they ComServ for around a only the giver will know, which is how she'll know when the right person contacts her.

"It's not a cheap gift, either. So I don't know, if I lost something like that and it was for my kid or someone, I think I'd be pretty upset about it," she said.

SEE GIFT/PAGE A4



LeAnne Famiglietti found a **lost Christmas** gift in the parking lot at ComServ in Lenoir on Dec. 23. Nobody ever showed up to claim it.

PHOTO PROVIED BY LEANNE **FAMIGLIETTI** 



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