



BASKETBALL
Bears sweep Panthers
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We appreciate Lucy McCarl and all of our readers.

News-Topic

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PHOTOS BY EDWARD TERRY | CCC&TI
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 vaccines this week.

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 County Health Department administer and track COVID-19 vaccines, and nursing student Julia O’Keefe said that the experience has been gratifying and eye-opening.

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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
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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 said.

Kary Banks Mullis won the 1993 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his discovery in 1983 of a way to more quickly and easily analyze DNA, a technique that revolutionized the fields of medicine, molecular biology, and forensic science.

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.

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Dr. Colby Ford



Kary Mullis

Lost gift from Santa looking for owner to claim it

BY KARA FOHNER
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LeAnne Famiglietti 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 Santa.

“I remember exact-

ly when because they were having one of my co-workers dress up as Santa, ... and I even brought it to him and pretended he lost it outside on his way in,” she said.

But since then, neither Damien nor the gift-giver have been found.

Famiglietti said the gift was at the front desk at

ComServ for around a 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 what’s in the box — that, she says, is something

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.

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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 PROVIDED BY LEANNE FAMILIETTI





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