

CONNECTIONS

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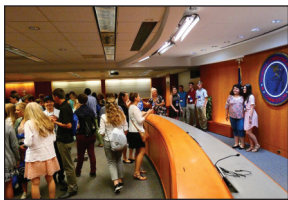


www.SkyBest.com



Local Students Tour Washington, D.C.

SkyLine sponsored two area high school juniors—Salem Brown and Wendy Escobedo of Ashe County—for the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. The Youth Tour introduced the telecommunications industry to students from rural America within a legislative context. Aside from the educational aspects of this trip, students also had the opportunity to tour many of the historical sites in the nation's capital. The students were among approximately 140 students selected from rural America to participate in this five-day program.



FRS promotes, educates and advocates to the public, rural telecommunications issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. The foundation was established by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which SkyLine is a member.

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Protect Your Personal Information



There have been recent reports of customers receiving a call from a person identifying himself/herself as a SkyLine representative.

Please be aware and do not give any sensitive information over the phone. Call 1-800-759-2226 if you have any questions or concerns about phone calls you may receive that seem to come from SkyLine/SkyBest.

There are many ways scammers will try to convince you to share valuable personal information. While we've shared information about these schemes before, we want to encourage our customers to be diligent in not falling into one of these traps. In this issue, we are highlighting Phishing Scams with tips provided by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Phishing Scams

Phishing is when a scammer uses fraudulent emails or texts, or copycat websites to get you to share valuable personal information—such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, or your login IDs and passwords. Scammers use your information to steal your money or your identity or both.

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Happy Campers – There and Back

This June, SkyLine sponsored three area high school students to attend the annual Cooperative Leadership Camp at White Lake. Photos of the students were taken on the first and last days of the trip at the Greensboro stop (first photo, left to right: Kaycee Allen, Katie Mathe-son and Malorie Eller).

The girls were as happy after a long bus trip from White Lake on Friday as they were when we dropped them off to catch the bus in Greensboro. They had lots to share about their experiences there on the ride home and are eager to encourage their peers back at school to apply for next year's camp. When Malorie, Katie and Kaycee are high school seniors, they also are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Cooperative Leadership Scholarship. More details about this year's program participants will be featured in the September newsletter.



We Relay for Life

If it's summer, it's also time to support Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event of the American Cancer Society. SkyLine has been a longtime supporter of Relay and our employees play an active role in supporting this effort each year. During June and July, area Relay for Life events have taken place in some communities across the region. We'll share more about our fund-raising efforts to support the fight against cancer in next month's issue. This photo from the 2017 Ashe event features some of our team members with friend, co-worker and cancer survivor Craig Poe.



Commemorative Cookbook

The recipes we feature in our monthly newsletter come from SkyLine's commemorative cookbook. At just \$15 each, they make great gifts, and all proceeds will support area food banks. Call SkyLine at 118 to order yours.

SkyBest
communications

NEED TO CONTACT US?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL

118

TOLL-FREE

1-800-759-2226

REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL

611

TOLL-FREE

1-877-475-9546

Additional Local
Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY

336-372-4444

(10-DIGIT DIALING)

ASHE

336-982-3111

(10-DIGIT DIALING)

AVERY

898-9250

WATAUGA

297-4811

JOHNSON

739-4500

LENOIR

929-2872

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

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Scammers also use phishing emails to get access to your computer or network then they install programs like ransomware that can lock you out of important files on your computer.

Phishing scammers lure their targets into a false sense of security by spoofing the familiar, trusted logos of established, legitimate companies. Or they pretend to be a friend or family member.

Phishing scammers make it seem like they need your information or someone else's, quickly— or something bad will happen. They might say your account will be frozen, you'll fail to get a tax refund, your boss will get mad, even that a family member will be hurt or you could be arrested. They tell lies to get to you to give them information.

Be cautious about opening attachments or clicking on links in emails. Even your friend or family members' accounts could be hacked. Files and links can contain malware that can weaken your computer's security.

Do your own typing. If a company or organization you know sends you a link or phone number, don't click. Use your favorite search engine to look up the website or phone number yourself. Even though a link or phone number in an email may look like the real deal, scammers can hide the true destination.

Make the call if you're not sure. Do not respond to any emails that request personal or financial information. Phishers use pressure tactics and prey on fear. If you think a company, friend or family member really does need personal information from you, pick up the phone and call them yourself using the number on their website or in your address book, not the one in the email.

Turn on two-factor authentication. For accounts that support it, two-factor authentication requires both your password and an additional piece of information to log in to your account. The second piece could be a code sent to your phone, or a random number generated by an app or a token. This protects your account even if your password is compromised.

As an extra precaution, you may want to choose more than one type of second authentication (e.g. a PIN) in case your primary method (such as a phone) is unavailable.

Back up your files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. Back up your files regularly to protect yourself against viruses or a ransomware attack.

Keep your security up to date. Use security software you trust, and make sure you set it to update automatically.

Report phishing emails and texts.

- Forward phishing emails to spam@uce.gov and to the organization impersonated in the email. Your report is most effective when you include the full email header, but most email programs hide this information. To ensure the header is included, search the name of your email service with "full email header" into your favorite search engine.
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).
- Visit [Identitytheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov). Victims of phishing could become victims of identity theft; there are steps you can take to minimize your risk.
- You can also report phishing email to reportphishing@apwg.org. The Anti-Phishing Working Group—which includes ISPs, security vendors, financial institutions and law enforcement agencies—uses these reports to fight phishing.

Call North Carolina One Call System Before You Dig



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

If you have an outside project in your plans before summer ends and it requires digging, do yourself a favor and call the N.C. One Call System first. Now, you can reach One-Call System by dialing '8-1-1' from any landline phone or any cell phone that is connected to a tower in North Carolina. And, our Johnson County customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses. When you contact the One-Call System, you will need to provide the following information:

- County and town
- Location of work – street address
- Nearest cross street
- Area to be marked
- Date and time of excavation or digging
- Type of work
- Your name and number or the contractor's contact information

If you don't call first, you may end up with environmental damage, interruption of service, job or project delays or the potential for accidents and injuries. When you contact One Call first, our personnel will come and mark the utility lines in your work area. You can then dig safely without the fear of damaging telephone lines.

Enjoy the remainder of your gardening and landscaping projects this summer, but remember to be safe and call the One Call System before you dig.

Recipe of the Month

Apple Slaw

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp., plus 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard
- 4 cups shredded cabbage
- 1 medium red apple, chopped
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion

Instructions:

Combine first seven ingredients in a small bowl. Combine cabbage, apple, green pepper and onion in large bowl. Pour sour cream mixture over vegetables. Toss to mix. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Toss again just before serving.

Submitted by Marsha Walters of Ashe Co.



SkyBest Security

Surveillance | Automation Security Systems

Save money by switching your security system to SkyBest Security.

Contact us for a FREE consultation today!

skybest.com 1-800-759-2226

*Restrictions apply. Available in N.C. only.