

## An Appalachian Summer Festival Features FREE Online Access to Summer Programming

Due to COVID-19, organizers of An Appalachian Summer Festival had no choice but to cancel the 36th season of the festival, at least in its traditional live format. But in an industry known for living by the adage, 'the show must go on,' they didn't waste time finding a way to bring the arts to their audiences by going online. After all, arts can be healing in times of crisis and organizers wanted to continue to keep alive the values embodied by the festival – artistic excellence, access to the arts for all, audience engagement, and community building through the arts – and to stay connected and creative during these unprecedented times. So in a matter of weeks, the Office of Arts and Cultural Programs and the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts focused on transitioning to a virtual platform for summer 2020, beginning on Sunday, June 28 and concluding on Saturday, August 1, with a special 2021 Season Announcement at noon.

The online series features a diverse mix of music, dance, theatre, film, and visual arts programming. And all of it is free. The App Summer team enlisted the help of a large group of artists, including several who were scheduled to perform this summer, as well as others from the local community and around the state, to create a virtual series that embraces the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, film, and visual arts. Content will be delivered in a variety of ways: pre-recorded selections with special messages to App Summer audiences, live streams of concerts and plays, artist Q&As, virtual tours, artist exhibitions, film screenings, and more via its website ([www.appsummer.org](http://www.appsummer.org)) and this year's satellite site, [www.appsummeronline.org](http://www.appsummeronline.org)), YouTube Live, Facebook and other social media platforms.

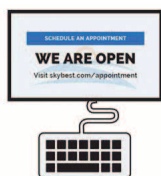
For each of the five weeks in the series, there will be daily themes that showcase a diverse range of music, art, film, dance presented:

**Sundays** – Broyhill Chamber Series Sneak Peek, a preview of performances on tap for the 2021 season.

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## We Are Open!

We are open! Visit [www.skybest.com/appointment](http://www.skybest.com/appointment) to make an appointment at one of our Customer Service Centers. Safety measures will be in place for customers and employees. #weareopen #skylineskybest



## SkyLine/SkyBest Begins Construction of Wide Area Network (WAN) for Avery County Schools



SkyLine/SkyBest has been selected by Avery County Schools as a single-source provider of the school system's Wide Area Network (WAN). With fiber construction activity now underway, this project will provide remote connections and data network access to public schools across the Avery County district.

"We have partnered with SkyLine/SkyBest for many years to provide network services to portions of Avery County Schools, and we are very happy to be able to expand that partnership to cover our entire district wide-area network," said Dennis Brown, Executive Director of Human Resources with Avery County Schools. "The expansion of network services to our schools provides opportunity for both our schools and communities to enjoy quality high-speed Internet service."

Dr. Dan Brigman, Superintendent of Avery County Schools, commented, "We are very excited about the future opportunities through this SkyLine/SkyBest wide area network," he said. "This partnership will have a positive outcome on our schools and communities of Avery County for many years to come."

SkyLine/SkyBest is constructing fiber facilities to establish network connections across the school district, and the project will be in service by July 1, 2020. It compliments efforts over the last few years by the company in cooperation with Avery County Administration to extend its fiber footprint into new underserved areas.

"We've been working actively with Avery County Government to research and identify possible grant opportunities at the federal and state levels that will help move this goal forward," said SkyLine/SkyBest Chief Marketing and Sales Officer Edward Hinson.

"We have had a good working relationship with SkyLine in our discussions to bring reliable and affordable broadband access to more areas of the county," said Avery County Manager Phillip Barrier. "They have come to the table and have been willing to talk about this issue, and we look forward to continuing that relationship with SkyLine."

SkyLine completed a system-wide fiber overbuild across its five-county cooperative service footprint in 2016, and has since worked incrementally to bring needed fiber connectivity to new communities where its subsidiary SkyBest can now serve.

"We value the role public education plays in our community and particularly rural areas where schools with uninterrupted network access is essential to 21st century learning," Hinson added. "We see how this project brings us one step closer toward possible future expansion of fiber services to remote communities in Avery County where there exists a profound lack of basic broadband

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### WORTH NOTING:

SkyLine Customer  
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Holiday – Friday, July 3

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Karen P. Powell  
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[www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest](http://www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest)

## Area Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship Winners

Ten area high school seniors have been named recipients of the 2020 Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship. The scholarships honor the memory of former SkyLine Board President Frank James and are awarded to children of SkyLine/SkyBest customers who reside in our five-county service area. The awards were announced at area high schools' Awards Day programs. Annually, SkyLine awards \$1,000 scholarships, renewable for up to four years, to students pursuing a four-year college degree and \$500 scholarships, renewable for up to two years, to students pursuing a community/technical college degree or vocational program.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY



**HOPE GAMBILL**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Parent: Jill Gambill

ALLEGHANY COUNTY



**JACKIE LI**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Parents: Zhen Lang Li and Jing Hua Zhao

ALLEGHANY COUNTY



**GRISELDA CARRANZA**  
Wilkes Community College  
Parents: Javier Carranza and Noemi Garcia

ALLEGHANY COUNTY



**BRANDON NICHOLS**  
Wilkes Community College  
Parents: Trever and Elaine Nichols

ASHE COUNTY



**ZOE SCHELL**  
N.C. State University  
Parents: Mike and Dena Schell

ASHE COUNTY



**MALORIE ELLER**  
Caldwell Community College  
Parents: Douglas and Frances Eller

WATAUGA COUNTY



**LUKE SMITH**  
Appalachian State University  
Parents: Michael and Denise Smith

JOHNSON COUNTY



**ANDREW DUGGER**  
University of Tennessee  
Parents: Tracy and Julie Dugger

JOHNSON COUNTY



**COLTON LONG**  
Northeast State Community College  
Parents: Travis and Cheri Long

JOHNSON COUNTY



**JADEN TOLLIVER**  
Northeast State Community College  
Parents: Stephen and Kim Tolliver

## Recipe of the Month

### Potato Salad

#### Ingredients:

4 cups diced cooked potatoes  
4 eggs boiled and diced  
1/2 cup diced onion  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1 Tablespoon vinegar  
2 teaspoons mustard  
1/2 teaspoon celery seed  
6 Tablespoons sweet pickles  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Black pepper to taste



#### Instructions:

Mix all together and chill.

Submitted by Frances Woods of Ashe County

WAN FOR AVERY COUNTY SCHOOLS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

connectivity for businesses and residents. With our co-op's experience and proven record of success in bringing fiber assets to our SkyLine area, we are eager to make this reality for more of our neighboring communities, but funding and consumer demand will be the keys to success," he said.

One way local residents from unserved or underserved communities can assist in this effort is to reach out to SkyLine/SkyBest if they would be interested in subscribing to fiber-based services in their communities. They are encouraged to visit [www.SkyBest.com/NewFiberCommunity](http://www.SkyBest.com/NewFiberCommunity) to register their interest.

AN APPALACHIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Mondays** – Behind the Scenes, a glimpse into how all things performing and visual arts come together.

**Tuesdays** – Weicholz Global Film Series, showcasing award-winning foreign and independent films, with accompanying lectures.

**Wednesdays** – Exhibition Showcase Series of visual art, featuring curator-narrated videos and artist interviews.

**Thursdays** – Live from Rosen Concert Hall, featuring faculty and staff of ASU's Hayes School of Music, Appalachian Studies and other areas.

**Fridays** – Center Stage, which features orchestral, jazz and bluegrass offerings as well as regional and national theatre.

**Saturdays** – In the Spotlight, an inspired artistic journey featuring internationally-renowned dance, a Tony-winning playwright and award-winning sculptures.

SkyBest has been a longtime sponsor of this stellar multi-disciplinary festival and is appreciative for the App Summer team's tremendous efforts to transition this year's festival series to an online format.

## Directory Omissions

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