# CONNECTIONS

## **JUNE 2022**

Published monthly for customers of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications

www.SkyBest.com



## It's Scholarship Season

Awards Day events at area high schools are now underway with varied presentation formats, including in-person and video programs. Alleghany High School was the first to hold an event for students, families and organizations presenting scholarship awards. Pictured here are board members R.C. Mitchell and Jim Shepherd recognizing recipients in that county: Sarah Davis, Alex Woodel, Abigail Smith and Abbie Joines. We will recognize all of our 2022 Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship winners in next month's newsletter.

# Ashe Students Selected for National Youth Tour

Two area high school juniors – Noah Noblett and Chloe Pennington – have been selected to represent SkyLine Membership Corporation at the 2022 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The tour, scheduled from June 1 through 5, provides students from rural areas with a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom as well as the critical role that telecommunications plays in rural America.



Noblett resides with his guardians, James and Rose Price, in Creston. At Ashe County High School, he is on the AB honor roll and is active with JROTC, where he has been a cadet for two and a half years. As a member of the Raider Team, he also serves as a mentor. He

actively volunteers through JROTC and for organizations that support cancer-related treatments and research. Other special interests include playing guitar, working out and helping others grow to be the best version of themselves.



Pennington resides with her parents, Marty and Celia Pennington, in Creston. At Ashe County High School, she is a member of the Beta Club and the Husky Vanguard Marching Band, where she plays trumpet. She volunteers with the JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians)

program in Mountain City, Tennessee, the Arts Center and Blue Ridge Elementary's PTSO. Her special interests include reading, creative writing, playing the fiddle and trumpet, and participating in her church's youth group.

"We are happy to see the return of this outstanding national youth program in 2022," said Karen Powell,

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## **Caller ID Spoofing**

Caller ID Spoofing occurs when a caller intentionally disguises their identity by altering their name and/or phone number that is displayed on your telephone. Spoofing is used most frequently for scams and conning personal information and/or money from its victims.

One tactic commonly used by scammers, called Robocallers, is neighbor spoofing. Robocallers will alter their number to appear as a local number that could be similar to your own, to increase the likelihood that you will answer the call. Unfortunately, these scam artists have the ability to frequently change the number transmitted to your caller ID to any number of their choosing at any time. Any telephone number is at risk.

To minimize your risk of falling victim to spoofing scams, pay attention to the incoming calls you accept. Do not answer any calls from unfamiliar numbers. Do not provide any information or follow any instructions if prompted by an unknown caller. SkyLine/SkyBest provides multiple features that may help reduce the threat of Robocallers connecting to your home telephone line including Anonymous Call Rejection, Selective Call Rejection and Smart Call Manager.

To learn more about these calling features call 1-800-759-2226.

# Spring is Here – Remember to Notify One-Call at 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Each year in North Carolina, lives are endangered, money and time are wasted and property is destroyed because individuals fail to follow safe digging practices. The "One-Call" system, which is free to the excavator as well as the homeowner, helps those who dig comply with the safety rules and regulations of the construction industry.

In a typical neighborhood, a complex web of utility lines are buried under lawns, sidewalks and driveways. When digging, one wrong move might cause the community of residents to be cut off from heat, electricity, telephones, water, 911 calls and other vital services. When you make the free call to the One-Call Center, the One-

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## Ashe County Heart Association Bake Sale Scheduled

The Ashe County Heart Association is planning a bake sale Saturday, June 18 to support the work of the American Heart Association. Scheduled from 10 a.m. until..., the bake sale will be held at the Jefferstone in downtown West Jefferson.

Donated baked items are welcome, and the local chapter has "In Honor" and "In Memory" cards that can accompany the donated baked goods to remember or honor someone as well. Baked goods should be dropped off at the Jefferstone by 10 a.m. on the day of the bake sale. For more information, contact Lynn Graham at 336-877-4220.

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#### YOUTH TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SkyLine Public Relations Administrator. "These two students – Noah and Chloe – received strong recommendations and have exhibited leadership and service through their active involvement in school organizations and the community. This national conference will further expand their horizons and provide an experience of a lifetime."

Included in the four-day program are visits to the U.S. Capitol and U.S. Supreme Court, along with informational sessions with representatives from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A key focus of the trip is the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America and the impact policy development in the nation's capital has on this industry.

The Youth Tour is filled with tours of some of the nation's most historic sites, including the Lincoln, Washington and Roosevelt memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian Museums. The Foundation is the advocacy arm of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, of which SkyLine is a member.

**About the FRS:** The FRS, in cooperation with NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association and its members, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Similarly, FRS is committed to educational achievement in rural communities, recognizing that tomorrow's economic and civic development depends on the involvement and success of today's students.

About NTCA: NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing more than 800 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs. In an era of exploding technology, deregulation and marketplace competition, NTCA's members are leading the IP evolution for rural consumers, delivering technologies that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development and commerce, education, health care, government services, security and smart energy use.

#### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Call staff notifies their member utilities to mark the ground with color-coded paint. After the utilities are marked in your work area, you have taken the first step to avoid damage or injury.

In fact, North Carolina state law requires homeowners, contractors and excavators to contact the One-Call Center at least two business days before digging. The North Carolina One Call Center provides a toll-free telephone number, 8-1-1, to help reduce damages to underground facilities, thereby reducing the loss of service to the public and the loss of time and money to excavators, utilities and taxpayers.

And, our Shady Valley customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses located in the 739 telephone exchange.

So, be safe, not sorry: Know what's below... Call before you dig... Dial 811.

#### HEART ASSOCIATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

#### About the American Heart Association (AHA)

From humble beginnings, the AHA has grown into the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. A shared focus on cardiovascular health unites our more than 40 million volunteers and supporters as well as our more than 2,800 employees.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer worldwide, and stroke ranks second globally. Even when those conditions don't result in death, they cause disability and diminish quality of life. The AHA's wants to see a world free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, and the organization has invested more than \$4.5 billion in research, more than any U.S. nonprofit organization.

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# Recipe of the Month

## Fruit Pizza

#### Crust:

- 1 box of yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 1 stick of butter

Mix together and spread on greased pizza pan. Bake at 350° until very light brown. Let cool completely.

## **Topping:**

4 ounce cream cheese

1/2 container of Cool Whip

1 cup of confectionary sugar Mixed together and spread over cooled crust.

#### **Topping-Topping:**

1 Can of Comstock Strawberry Pie Filling

Your favorite fruit Carefully spread a can of Comstock strawberry pie filling and fresh strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. (You may use any kind of fruit you like.)

Recipe submitted by Ruby Bartlett of Ashe County

## **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.

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