

JUNE 2025

Published monthly for customers of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications

www.SkyBest.com

FRS Scholarship Winner



Congratulations to our FRS Scholarship Winner, Jayden Triplett. Jayden currently attends Oak Ridge Military Academy, and he will receive the \$2500 FRS scholarship, with \$500 of that amount as a match from SkyLine Membership Corporation as the program's local sponsor.

"Being awarded this scholarship is no easy feat," says Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb. "The FRS received over 2,000 applications, and Jayden was one of only 50 students to be awarded. We are excited to recognize him for this honor!"

Since 2006, 23 national scholarships have been awarded to children of customers served by SkyLine and its subsidiary companies. We are so proud of Jayden and wish him the best as he furthers his education!

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 the success of today's students.

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Call Before You Dig!



Each year, 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 to 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, broadband, 911 calls and other vital services. When you make the free call to the One-Call Center, the One-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 "Dig Safely" campaign is the centerpiece of the North Carolina Utility Notification Center's efforts to increase public awareness of North Carolina excavation laws and safe digging practices.

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SkyLine Celebrates Scholarship Winners!

Held in April and May, awards events at area high schools are now underway. Alleghany High School was the first to hold their scholarship event for students. Pictured above from left to right is Alleghany County Recipient, Sidney Proffit; SkyLine Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb; and Alleghany County Recipient, Ellie Crouse, celebrating at the school's Scholarship Meet and Greet. We are eager to announce our full list of Scholarship Winners in next month's newsletter. Congratulations, winners!

Alleghany and Ashe Students Selected for FRS Youth Tour



Chloe Henson



Talmage Pasley

Area high school students, Talmage Pasley and Chloe Henson, have been selected to represent SkyLine Membership Corporation at the 2025 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour

in Washington, D.C. The tour, scheduled from June 2 through June 6, provides students 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.

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SkyChange Round-up

We are so grateful to members and customers who have signed up for SkyChange, our roundup program that seeks to assist area nonprofits that help those in need throughout our community. If you've been thinking of signing up to support this charitable program, we welcome your participation! SkyChange allows customers of SkyLine/SkyBest to round up their monthly bill to the next whole-dollar amount. The money generated from the round-up is, in turn, distributed to programs assisting those in need throughout our community. Customer bills will reflect a line item showing the monthly round-up donation. To sign up for SkyChange today, call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226 or visit www.skybest.com/skychange.

SkyLine
SkyBest

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

WORTH NOTING:

Office Closing:
Monday, May 26 for
Memorial Day

STAFF:

Kim Shepherd
Chief Executive Officer

Brian Tester
Chief Operations Officer

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Edward Hinson
Chief Marketing & Sales Officer

Hallie Grubb
Public Relations Administrator



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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.

SAFE DIGGING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 Johnson County customers can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their home or business. Provide the following information when you call:

- Location of work – street address, county and town
- 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 information

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



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 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.

Talmage is the son of Lucas and Iboya Pasley. In addition to being a student at Alleghany County High School, Pasley is involved in sports and the chess club at his school. He is an honors student, and in his free time he enjoys drumming, snowboarding, skateboarding and videography.

Chloe is the daughter of Scott and Dana Henson. In addition to being a student at Ashe County High School, Henson is involved in sports, HOSA club, Student Council, MU Alpha Theta and Beta Club. She is an honors student, and in her free time she enjoys participating in Ashe CrossFit.

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 capitol has on the 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.

Recipe of the Month

Cherry Supreme Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 (3 oz.) boxes cherry Jell-O
- 1 (21-oz.) can cherry pie filling
- 1 large can crushed pineapple
- 1 large can fruit cocktail, drained
- 2 cups boiling water

Topping:

- 1 (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Instructions:

In a 9 x 13 baking dish, dissolve Jell-O in hot water. Stir and let cool. Add pie filling, pineapple and fruit cocktail.

Chill till firm.

Combine cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Spread over Jell-O mixture after it has jelled. Sprinkle with chopped pecans.

Recipe submitted by Karen Powell

Voted Best of the Best in Watauga!

The Watauga Democrat announced its 2024 "Best of the Best" winners, and SkyLine/SkyBest was among the numerous categories of local businesses that received recognition. Thank you for voting for us! We are proud to serve our communities.

A little *Change* has a *big* impact!

Call or go online to sign up today!




1-800-759-2226 | skybest.com