

CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2016

Published monthly for customers of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications

www.SkyLine.org
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SkyLine's Marketing Supervisor Crystal Spencer, Executive Director of Competitive Operations Edward Hinson and Public Relations Administrator Karen Powell accepted the awards for SkyLine/SkyBest at the Ashe Mountain Times' "Best of the Best" Awards event in January.

SkyLine/SkyBest Recognized at Ashe Mountain Times' "Best of the Best" Awards Event

At the annual "Best of the Best" Awards Program, presented by the *Ashe Mountain Times*, SkyLine/SkyBest was recognized as "Best of the Best" in three service categories. The luncheon event at West Jefferson United Methodist Church's Hensley Hall on January 25 attracted nearly 200 honorees and guests to celebrate the best businesses and individuals Ashe County has to offer.

In the categories of "Best Internet Service," "Best Telephone Service" and "Best Cable Service," SkyLine/SkyBest received top honors.

Through October and November of 2015, readers submitted completed ballots for businesses in more than 150 categories, including best restaurant food, accountant, car dealer, furniture store and insurance agency, just to name a few. SkyLine/SkyBest was among the three presenting sponsors of this year's event.

2016 Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship

Ten scholarships with a total value of \$25,000 are scheduled to be awarded this spring to children of SkyLine and SkyBest telephone service customers to assist them with the cost of a college education. Five \$1,000 scholarships, renewable up to four years, will be awarded to students who will attend a four-year college or university. Five \$500 scholarships, renewable up to two years, will be presented to students who will attend a two-year community/technical college.

The Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship was established by the Board of Directors in 1987 and is named in memory of Frank James, a former SkyLine board president and Superintendent of Ashe County Schools.

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need, demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Application packages with eligibility requirements information will be available at area high school guidance departments and all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers beginning Tuesday, March 8.

Remember to Use 10-Digit Dialing for Local Calls in 336/743 Area

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the new 743 area code has been added to the area served by 336. This is known as an area code overlay, and it comes with a change in the way you dial local calls. The Area Code change doesn't require you to change your existing area code or telephone number – but it does require you to dial 10 digits for local area calls.



The affected area includes Ashe and Alleghany counties in addition to the Piedmont area including High Point, North Wilkesboro, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Asheboro.

To complete local calls, dial area code + telephone number. This means that all calls in the 336 area code that are currently dialed with seven digits will need to be dialed using area code + telephone number. IMPORTANT: If you dial 1+, you will be charged for a long-distance call. Ten-digit dialing only includes the three-digit area code + seven-digit phone number.

To get accustomed to the new arrangement, we encourage our customers in Alleghany and Ashe to begin using 10-digit dialing when they place a call from the 336 area code. If you forget to use 10 digits for now, your call will still be completed. However, if you don't use the new dialing procedures beginning **April 23, 2016**, your calls won't be completed.

Directory Corrections/Omissions

White Pages Omissions/Corrections

North Carolina State Government Alleghany Courthouse

District Attorney 336-372-3910
Magistrate 336-372-4911

North Carolina State Government
Department of Transportation 336-246-5287
296 Buffalo Road, West Jefferson

Yellow Pages Omissions/Corrections

Dereka's Sugar Mountain
Accommodations 828-898-9876
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Dereka's Sugar Mountain
Accommodations & Realty 828-898-6887
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Longevity Electrical Services, Inc. 828-264-4971
108 Queen Street, Boone

Sugar Mountain Accommodations 828-898-9475
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Accommodations
& Realty 828-898-9483
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Realty 828-898-9430
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Realty-Dereka's 828-898-9411
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

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

ASHE

336-982-3111

AVERY

898-9250

WATAUGA

297-4811

JOHNSON

739-4500

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

WORTH NOTING:

March 8

Applications for
SkyLine-Sponsored Youth
Programs Available

March 28

SkyLine/SkyBest Offices
Close for Easter Holiday

March 31

Directory Drive Ends

STAFF:

Jimmy Blevins
Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd
Executive Director of Customer
Operations

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell
Public Relations Administrator
& Editor

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FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Again this year, SkyLine will sponsor two high school juniors to be among over 100 students to attend the Foundation for Rural Service's 2016 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Now in its 22nd year, the FRS Tour brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, D.C. for a four-day visit from June 4 through 8 to some of the most historical sites in the nation. While here, students also learn about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics are greatly enhanced by both site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in addition to meetings with industry leaders and members of Congress.

The students also are given ample time to explore the Nation's Capital and its many attractions. While here, the group visits such sites as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; the Korean, Vietnam and new World War II Memorials; Mount Vernon, home of George Washington; the Smithsonian Museums; and much more.

Youth Tour applications, along with eligibility requirements information, will be available at area high school guidance departments and at all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers beginning Tuesday, March 8. The application deadline is Friday, April 1.

Support Area Public Schools Directory Drive Ends March 31

It's not too late to support this year's Directory Collection Drive which benefits area public schools. Now in its 24th year, the program provides 25 cents to the participating schools for each outdated SkyLine directory collected. Throughout the calendar year, SkyLine also receives directories at its Customer Service Center locations in Banner Elk, Seven Devils, Sparta and West Jefferson, with credit given to the schools.

Please support recycling and our public schools through this special recycling initiative. For more information, please contact your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118.

Co-op Leadership Camp Applications Available March 8

Beginning this month, SkyLine is accepting applications for the 2016 Cooperative Leadership Camp, a five-day leadership development program scheduled from June 19 through 23, at White Lake, N.C. Sponsored by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina and member cooperatives from across the state, the conference features workshops, speakers, recreation and small group sessions that center around the cooperative way of doing business. This year's conference promises to be a fun week with lots of leadership development and fellowship opportunities for young people.

Participants will be eligible to apply for a \$1,000 college scholarship (during their senior year of high school), and four to five outstanding campers will be selected to represent North Carolina at the National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE) at Virginia Tech University from July 23-27.

Applications, along with eligibility requirements information, will be available at area high school guidance departments and at all SkyLine Customer Centers beginning Tuesday, March 8. The application deadline is Friday, April 8.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Karen Powell, Public Relations Administrator, at 1-800-759-2226.



Coming in April – Ashe County Heart Auction

SkyLine will again provide the phone bank for the Ashe County Heart Auction this year, and the event will take place on Wednesday, April 6 at Family Central. This is one of the local chapter's largest fund-raising events for the year, as businesses from across the county contribute numerous auction items for bid. WKSJ Radio (580 AM and 93.5 FM) will air the auction beginning around 9 a.m., with continuing updates through the afternoon, and SkyBest TV's SkyZone HD, Channels 1 and 1001, will plan to complement WKSJ's radio coverage with live video updates throughout the day again this year. The 2015 Heart Auction drew a big crowd and hundreds of calls, raising more than \$14,000 to support the American Heart Association.

Schools Participating in 2016 Directory Collection Drive

Alleghany High • Glade Creek Elementary
Piney Creek Elementary • Sparta Elementary
Ashe County High • Ashe County Middle • Blue Ridge Elementary • Mountain View Elementary
Westwood Elementary • Avery County High
Banner Elk Elementary • Freedom Trail Elementary • Bethel Elementary • Cove Creek Elementary • Mabel Elementary • Valle Crucis Elementary
Shady Valley Elementary

Recipe of the Month

Alan Jackson Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup Parkay (70%) Vegetable Oil spread, divided
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa, divided
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1 (16 oz) package powdered sugar

Instructions:

In large bowl sift together flour, sugar and salt.

In saucepan, over medium-high heat, heat water, Parkay spread, oil and cocoa to a boil, stirring constantly. Pour into flour mixture, stirring until smooth. Blend buttermilk, eggs, baking soda, vanilla and vinegar until smooth.

Pour into greased & floured 13x9x2-inch pan. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.

Icing:

In saucepan, over medium-high heat, heat milk, remaining vegetable spread and cocoa to a boil. Remove from heat; stir in powdered sugar and vanilla until smooth. Immediately pour over cooled cake. Cool completely.

Submitted by Rondal Sturgill of Ashe County

GET FASTER INTERNET AND MAKE THE WHOLE HOUSE HAPPY

New devices are more fun with fast Internet from SkyLine/SkyBest. Get your entire family online without annoying slowdowns. Just ask us what speed is right for your family – up to 1 Gig!

Call 1-800-759-2226 now to sign up for SkyBest High-Speed Internet and save \$150! * You better act fast. This offer ends March 31, 2016.

SkyLine  **SkyBest**

www.skybest.com

*Certain restrictions apply. Expires 3.31.16. A 24-month service agreement and early termination fee apply. New customers must choose 8 Mbps or higher Internet. Service not available in all areas. Higher speeds available in fiber-served communities only. \$150 credit will be applied as a \$25 credit for the first six months.

