



## Ashe Students Head to Co-op Camp

SkyLine sponsored two Ashe County students – Isaac Firebaugh and Phoebe Wagoner – to attend the 2022 Co-op Leadership Camp, a five-day resident program held this year at Camp Monroe in Laurel Hill, N.C., June 20-24.



Presented by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina and sponsored by co-ops throughout the state including SkyLine, Co-op Camp made its return this year after a one-year break due to the pandemic and a 2021 virtual camp format. Pictured just before heading out to meet the charter bus in Greensboro are Isaac Firebaugh with his mom Martie, and Phoebe Wagoner with her mom Christi. Christi is a former Co-op Camp participant and Thad Eure award winner, and she received the Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership Scholarship her senior year of high school.

## SkyChange Round-up

We are so grateful for the positive response from our members and customers to SkyChange, our round-up program that seeks to assist area non-profits 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.

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SkyChange representative Myla Farmer presents donation to Ashe Food Pantry's Michael Sexton.



Solid Rock Food Closet's Larry Myers and Janet Pakorney accept donation from SkyChange representative Kristi Hoke.



SkyChange representative Makisha Howell presents donation to Patty Keeney of Feeding Avery Families.



SkyChange representative Makisha Howell presents donation to Glenda Harris of Shady Rock School.

## First Residents in Watauga Expansion Connected

Approximately 30 Watauga County residents are now connected with SkyBest fiber-optic internet thanks to American Recovery Plan funds awarded by the county to Blue Ridge Energy and SkyBest Communications to build broadband infrastructure where none existed. The project to bring high-speed internet to more than 1,700 unserved locations in Triplett, Powder Horn, Wildcat, Stony Fork, Blackberry, Sampson, Meat Camp and Castle Ford is well underway with crews currently working in the Castle Ford, Wildcat and Ray Brown communities.

Residents in the project areas are encouraged to submit their address online at [www.fiber.skybest.com](http://www.fiber.skybest.com) to be contacted by SkyBest, the internet service provider, when service is available at their location. The project requires the construction of 150 miles of overhead and underground fiber in rural and mountainous terrain. It will take approximately two and a half years to complete. To be as efficient as possible in the face of supply chain delays, Blue Ridge Energy and SkyBest Communications began working immediately in the areas for which materials were readily available.

"Now more than ever, fiber broadband connectivity is essential across all sectors of our economy, and we are grateful to the Watauga County Board of Commissioners for recognizing this and committing significant funding toward this joint fiber deployment initiative that will have a lasting economic impact in Watauga County," said SkyLine CEO Kim Shepherd.

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## Will You Walk the Walk in Support of a Cure?

This is typically the season that we share information about Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society (ACS). While the Covid-19 pandemic has shuttered events in Ashe County and countless communities in recent years, the work of the ACS continues because we know that cancer never sleeps.

The tremendous financial support of our community and thousands like it has helped the Society through this singular event to continue its work of research and discovery to bring life-saving and innovative ways to treat cancers of varying kinds, and to grant more birthdays with our friends, co-workers and loved ones.

As you consider your benevolent giving for this year, please remember your local ACS chapters – our donations will continue to be received and sent to the ACS.

We remain grateful to our company, employees, directors and the wonderful communities we serve for their continued dedication in the fight against cancer and for supporting the ACS in its continuing work to discover new ways to treat cancer, lessen its impact through targeted and effective therapies and improve the quality of life for those touched by cancer.

We will continue to walk that walk because every step is one closer to a cure, and we hope you'll join us!

## 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:

Nominating Committee Meeting  
2 p.m. Tuesday,  
August 2  
The Annex

### STAFF:

Kim Shepherd  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brian Tester  
Chief Operations Officer  
Angie Poe  
Customer Service Manager  
Jamey Jenkins  
Retail Sales Manager  
Karen P. Powell  
Public Relations Administrator  
& Editor



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"We are thrilled to have this opportunity to offer FTTP (Fiber-to-the-Premise) service to the unserved and underserved residents of Watauga County," said SkyLine Chief Technology Officer Robbie Farmer. "Our goal is to provide our customers with the network they need backed by the customer service they expect and deserve. Through our partnership with Watauga County and Blue Ridge Energy we are seeing this goal become a reality for many well-deserving communities in Watauga County."

"As local companies, the timely completion of this project is our priority. We are continually adapting our plans to make progress wherever possible while we wait for needed materials, equipment and federal approval to cross the Parkway to reach Powder Horn and Triplett," according to Brad Shields, Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer for Blue Ridge Energy.

With the funds awarded earlier this year, Blue Ridge Energy will construct the fiber-optic backbone infrastructure on its existing pole lines. SkyBest Communications will connect to this infrastructure and extend fiber for high-speed internet to homes and businesses.

### Call One 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 One Call System first. 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 Shady Valley and Mountain City customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses.

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 the One Call System before you dig.

Some of the recent recipients of support include Shady Rock School and the following area food pantries: Solid Rock Food Closet, Ashe Food Pantry, the Health and Hunger and Health Coalition and Feeding Avery Families.

If you participate in the SkyChange program by simply rounding up your bill to the next dollar, your total donations per year will not exceed \$11.88. In most cases, donations will be tax deductible. Sky-Change is a 501(c)3 organization with established by-laws and a governing committee. Once funds are distributed, our website and newsletter will give periodic updates highlighting how customers' donations helped their community.

Won't you join us in this collective effort to take our 'change' to make a positive difference across our region? Like other benevolent activities, be it through Project Teamwork or other charitable outreach initiatives, we recognize that our collective efforts have a bigger and broader impact and truly make a difference.

To sign up for SkyChange today, visit [www.sky-best.com/skychange](http://www.sky-best.com/skychange) or call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

### SkyLine By-Laws Summarized for Director Elections at Annual Meeting

SkyLine's 66th Annual Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, October 4, at SkyLine's corporate office campus. The three-year terms of the following directors will expire as of this meeting: R.C. Mitchell (Alleghany); D.C. Smith (Avery); and Kenneth McQueen (Johnson). A summary of SkyLine Membership Corporation's By-Laws pertaining to director qualifications and nominations is provided below (Article IV, Section 4).

#### Section 4.3 – Qualifications to be Nominated, to Become, or Remain a Director

Any member shall be eligible to be nominated, elected and remain a director of the Cooperative who:

1. Is a natural person and a full-time legal resident, residing in the geographical area for which the person desires to serve as a Director.
2. Is NOT an employee, present or former, of the Cooperative and is not in any way employed by or have a direct pecuniary interest in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling communication services or communication supplies or constructing or maintaining communication facilities,
3. Is NOT a "close relative" to an incumbent director or a present or former employee of the Cooperative. As used here "close relative" shall include a spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, including biological, adopted, foster, step or other legal relation and the spouse of the foregoing, or a domestic partner. However, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected as a director if he becomes a close relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage to which he was not a party; neither shall an employee lose eligibility to continue in the employment of the Cooperative if he or she becomes a close relative of a director because of marriage to which he or she was not a party.
4. Is at least 21 years of age.
5. Has not been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony pursuant to state or federal laws.
6. Has been a member for not less than one year.

#### Section 4.4 – Nominations

- It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, in the month of June each year beginning June 2021, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from different geographic areas so as to ensure equitable representation. At least one (1) member of the committee shall be selected from each geographic area where a director is to be elected. No member of the Board, close relative of a board member or employee may serve on such committee.
- The committee, on nominations, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall meet on or before August 15 of each year, deliberate, prepare and post at the principal office of the corporation a list of nominations for board members which shall include as many nominees for each board position as the committee deems desirable.
- Any one hundred (100) or more active members, acting together may make a nomination for a director by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Petitions must, at minimum, list the name and address of the individual being nominated. The seat for which the nomination is made must be specified, and the person so nominated must be in all respects eligible for service on the Board as set out in these By-Laws. Members signing said petition must include telephone number associated with his or her membership, printed name of member, signature of member, and date of signature. The name of the individual signing the petition must be listed on the membership account, or in the case of an organization, the individual signing the petition must be an officer or official of that organization. Nominations made by petition, if any, must be received at the offices of the cooperative by twelve noon on the last business day of August prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to verify the validity of any petition.
- The secretary of the cooperative shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least twenty (20) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected, the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations, and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by petition.
- Ballots for the election of Directors shall arrange the names of the candidates by geographic areas, in alphabetical order by last name, and shall also designate the candidates nominated by the committee and those nominated by petition.

### Recipe of the Month

### Hallie Roten's Pickled Peaches

#### Ingredients:

- 1 gallon peaches
- 6 cups sugar
- 3 cups vinegar
- 2 cups water
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- 8 (2-inch pieces) sticks cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons whole allspice
- 1 piece ginger root

#### Instructions:

Wash and peel peaches. Put spices in a clean white cloth and tie top tightly. Cook together spices, water, vinegar and sugar for 10 minutes or until syrup is fairly thick. Add the peaches and cook slowly until tender. Let stand overnight.

Next morning, remove the spices drain the syrup from the peaches and boil rapidly until thick. Pack peaches in clean, hot jars with boiling hot syrup. Seal.

*Recipe submitted by Carrie Lee Farmer of Alleghany County*



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