

## 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

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## 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 fundraising 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!

“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.

SKYCHANGE ROUND-UP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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. SkyChange is a 501(c)3 organization with established bylaws 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.skybest.com/skychange](http://www.skybest.com/skychange) or call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

### 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.

## Four Steps to Help You Protect Your Sensitive Information

In a world where so many things can be accessed online, we must be very careful to protect our personal information just as we would protect our bank accounts. But where do we start? Check out these four tips on how to protect yourself online:

### 1. Create Strong Passwords

Using at least 12 characters, you should combine letters, numbers and symbols to create strong passwords. Avoid using any passwords that can be easily guessed like your birthday or your pet's name. You should also not be using the same password for all your devices.

### 2. Be Cautious When Opening Emails

Be very careful responding or clicking on any email that requires urgent action, especially when these relate to sensitive topics. Most scam emails will use scare tactics to try to compel you to give up your personal information. Be cautious of clicking on any links or attachments, and of any spelling errors in the email. If you have any doubts at all about an email being real, you should contact the company directly by phone.

### 3. Keep Your Devices Clean and Up-to-date

Make sure to keep all frequently used apps up to date. Delete apps that are no longer in use, as they can collect personal information like your location while sitting idle on your phone. You could also consider investing in SkyBest Internet Guardian. For just 99 cents a month, you can have protection on up to three computers from most viruses. Call us at 1-800-759-2226 or visit our website at [skybest.com](http://skybest.com) to find out more information.

### 4. Take Charge of Your Online Presence

Be sure to monitor who has access to your information and what you decide to share. Try not to share your login information with anyone if you can help it. Remember that it is okay to tell people what they can and cannot post of you. Always keep in mind that things posted online never go away. You can visit <https://staysafeonline.org> to learn more about managing your privacy setting from the National Security Alliance.

### 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. Fill jars with boiling hot syrup. Seal.

*Recipe submitted by Carrie Lee Farmer of Alleghany County*



**Home Security in your Hands**

Save money by switching your security system to SkyBest Security.

Contact us for a FREE consultation today!

[skybest.com](http://skybest.com) 1-800-759-2226

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