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WORTH NOTING:

FRS Scholarship Applications Available Now Online

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www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest



SkyLine and SkyBest board members present a \$5,000 contribution toward the renovation of the Ashe Library's Community Room to County Librarian Laura McPherson and Ashe Advisory Board/Appalachian Regional Library representatives.

SkyLine/SkyBest Supports Ashe Public Library Community Room Renovation & Mural Project

SkyLine/SkyBest has presented a \$5,000 donation toward the Ashe County Public Library's plans to renovate the Community Room, located on the lower level of the library. The Community Room space accommodates up to 100 people and is widely used for library and community events throughout the calendar year.

Improvements to this area of the library were not included during the expansion of the library in 2009. Cosmetic and functional improvements are planned including the revamping of the technology set-up in the room and the addition of a mural that will follow the history of the library from its humble beginnings in the Old Hotel to the present and future outreach to the community.

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Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star

Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project

Sharing the Spirit of Giving at Christmastime

During the Christmas holidays, SkyLine employees joined with many others in the community by reaching out to those in need. Through their generosity and participation as sponsors of the Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project, which collectively provided presents for hundreds of children, some of our employees provided presents for 12 local children ranging from toddlers to teenagers.

This same expression of giving helped brighten the holidays for 26 senior citizens through employees' support of Project Star through Appalachian Senior Programs. This program benefited 225 individuals in Ashe County this Christmas. Both programs together served 884 people.

While our staff regularly give generously of their time and resources to our employee-funded crisis relief program, Project Teamwork, and other area charities, it is always meaningful to show our support to local families during the Christmas season. We also thank you, our members, for your support of our efforts for local charities and for all you do for other charitable organizations throughout the year.

Hinson Recognized by High Country Council of Governments and Avery Chamber of Commerce



SkyLine Chief Marketing and Sales Officer Edward Hinson was recently recognized by the High Country Council of Governments with the 2021 Outstanding Regional Workforce Development Board Member for his service and effort given to the region and its citizens in workforce development. Hinson has been a board member for four years, currently serves as Vice Chair and has served the board's Executive Committee which reviews grant applications, request for proposals and takes part in many other important functions related to regional workforce issues, including NCWorks Career Center operations during the pandemic. He has also assisted in recruiting new board members and has represented the board on statewide discussion panels.

Hinson also shared recognition with Avery County Manager Phillip Barrier as the Avery County Business Person of the Year during the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on November 19. Hinson was noted for working on behalf of Avery County for better internet access, partnering with the YMCA, as well as serving alongside Avery leadership and with the High Country

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FRS Scholarship Program Continues Online Application in 2022



If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school this spring, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by SkyLine Membership Corporation.

In 2022, the FRS will award one-year scholarships in each geographic region of the NTCA membership (including the service area of SkyLine/SkyBest) to graduating high school seniors whose families are served by NTCA member organizations. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA member company provides \$500. The FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering rural students throughout the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships*

- Staurulakis Family Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Everett Kneese Scholarship
- Roger Alan Cox Memorial Scholarships
- Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship

*Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.

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The idea of a mural was inspired by longtime library board member Molly Gambill, who also served many years on the SkyLine board of directors. According to County Librarian Laura McPherson, one of Molly's last projects as a member of the library's arts committee was to put in motion a mural for the downstairs Community Room. "Molly Gambill's dedication to public service, her shrewd wit, and her ability to cut through unnecessary complications to get things done are all sorely missed, and we look forward to the day this room is renovated and the mural dedicated to her is revealed."

"We are especially pleased to support the library as it makes these improvements that will allow it to continue its outreach to the community through its own programs and for local organizations as well," said SkyLine President R.C. Mitchell. "We also are glad to learn about the mural that will recognize the library's history and honor Molly Gambill's devotion to this tremendous community asset. Her contributions to both SkyLine and the library have had far-reaching, positive impacts on this community."

FRS SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the FRS, more than two-thirds of rural Americans with postsecondary degrees never return to their rural communities, so this program gives particular emphasis to those students who plan to return to their community following college. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Applicants must be children of SkyLine members or SkyBest customers who subscribe to either company's facilities-based services.
- Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and reside full-time with their parent(s) in the companies' service area.
- Applicants must have at least a C grade-point-average (GPA). FRS scholarships will be awarded to deserving students whose academic credentials fall within an average to above-average range.
- Applicants must be accepted to an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- Applicants must express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Applications must be sponsored by SkyLine, an NTC member company.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTC – The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. If any SkyLine-sponsored students are named winners, they will be announced in May, in conjunction with area high school awards day programs.

Visit www.FRS.org/student for full instructions on how to create an account and for all necessary materials required. If you have additional questions about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Karen Powell at SkyLine's corporate offices at 1-800-759-2226.



2022 Calendars Are Available at SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers – while they last

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation Statement of Nondiscrimination

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

HINSON RECOGNIZED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Workforce Development Board. Barrier has proactively acquired large grants to expand broadband service in Avery County, worked expansively for Covid vaccinations in Avery County and has multiple accolades for spearheading aid and prosperity in the county.

Hinson is in his seventh year on the Avery Chamber Board of Directors, providing leadership and working collaboratively with his peers on the Chamber's leadership development program, an annual 10-month series of educational sessions to foster and engage future community leaders. He also serves on the Williams YMCA Board of Directors, and through his role at SkyLine, helped the organization get access to essential telecom and security services to the campus' newest ad-

Recipe of the Month

Apple Crunch

Ingredients:

- 6 large apples, peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon or nutmeg

Topping:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter

Instructions:

Pre-heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease an 8-inch square pan. Spread apples in pan. Top with granulated sugar and sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg. Mix together flour and brown sugar. Cut in butter using pastry cutter or your fingers until mixture resembles coarse meal. Spread over apples. Bake 1 hour. This is best served with ice cream or whipped cream.
NOTE: I put 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg in mine.

Recipe submitted by Gloria Mahaffey of Ashe County

dition: the Blackburn Indoor Athletic Facility.

Through his role at SkyLine, Hinson has worked to develop collaborative relationships that result in moving the needle forward to ensure more rural communities have access to broadband connectivity, a necessity in advancing the regional economy.



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