

CONNECTIONS



AUGUST 2026

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www.SkyBest.com



Laurel Davis exploring sites in Washington, D.C.



FRS Youth Tour

Laurel Davis attended the FRS Youth Tour to Washington D.C. During the week of June 1-5, the students were exposed to the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics were 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. Each year, 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.

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Help Us "Rise & Shine" to Fight Hunger!

Recognizing the need to support local initiatives to minimize food insecurity is greater than ever, SkyLine will continue its annual breakfast food drive for area food pantries. Now in its twelfth year, and beginning next month through October, our "Rise & Shine" food drive will accept donations of non-perishable breakfast items at each of our five Customer Center locations.

Beginning September 1 and while supplies last, all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Centers will have shopping totes available for pick-up. We welcome all sizes of packaged breakfast food, including individually-sealed cereals, oatmeal and fruit items that can be included in area backpack initiatives for children. See related list of suggested non-perishable items. As our thank-you, please keep the tote for future use, and SkyLine will make delivery of these items to area food pantries, including the Solid Rock Food Closet, Ashe County Food Pantry, the Hunger and Health Coalition, Reaching Avery Ministry and the Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry in early November.

SkyLine is grateful to join the community in support, including numerous individuals, churches and local organizations like those listed that are trying to help fill the hunger gaps that continue to exist across the region. We hope you will join us in this critical effort. As a local cooperative, we are reminded that the seventh cooperative principle is "concern for community." For more information about the food drive, please call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Center at 118. Thank you!

Deliver non-perishable items to SkyLine between September 1 - October 31

SUGGESTED NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS:

Oatmeal • Whole-grain Cereals • Hot Cereals • Jam
Cream of Wheat • Grits • Gravy Mixes • Pancake Mixes
Muffin Mixes • Granola Bars • Syrup • Fruit Juice Packs
Canned/Dried Fruits • Powdered Milk • Coffee
Hot Chocolate



Relay for Life



SkyLine is a proud supporter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) and their Relay for Life program. 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.

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SkyLine's CallTree Service Delivers

CallTree is an automated messaging service that can deliver phone calls, emails and even text messages. Ideal for schools, churches, small businesses, restaurants and other organizations, it allows you to turn your landline phone into a powerful messaging service. What makes CallTree so valuable is that it allows the user to deliver a timely, consistent message to groups large and small alike, plus it can be set to make multiple call attempts to reach individuals on your calling list. Contact everyone on your entire list with a single message from your mobile app or your computer and phone! Just a few of the possible applications for this convenient automated messaging service include:

- Meeting reminders
- Weather cancellations
- Service changes and outages
- Appointment reminders
- Non-pay reminders
- Marketing & promotions



To find out more or to sign up for this valuable and affordable voice messaging service, please call your local SkyLine Customer Service Center.

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
423-739-4500
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

LENOIR
929-2872

INTERNET TECH
SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

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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SkyLine By-Laws Summarized for Director Elections at Annual Meeting

Bylaws – director elections and nomination committee meeting

SkyLine's 70th Annual Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, October 6, at SkyLine's corporate office campus. The three-year terms of the following directors will expire as of this meeting: Sharon Kasal (Ashe), Bill Burleson (Avery), Tim Hodges (Watauga). 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

Certain qualifications are required by law and the Cooperative's Bylaws to become and remain a Director of the Cooperative. 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, having a permanent, principle and primary residence within 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. Individuals classified by the cooperative as a Seasonal Part-Time Employee shall not be considered an "employee" for the purposes of this paragraph.
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 three years.
7. Has demonstrated in their own personal or professional experience the ability to assume a fiduciary duty to act in good faith, above their own self-interest, by exercising sound knowledge and skill in the best interests of the Cooperative.
8. Is willing to devote such time and effort to the duties of a Director as may be necessary to govern the Cooperative's affairs including attending regular and special scheduled meetings of the Board as well as other meetings of organizations with associated interests that further the Cooperative's principles.
9. Possess the mental ability to understand and analyze business matters and to make sound business decisions on behalf of the Cooperative.
10. Has not attained the age of eighty (80) years on the date of election or reelection of said member unless said member was elected prior to and has served continuously since the January 1, 2026 effective-amendment date of this subsection. A Director may complete service of their unexpired term of office even after attaining said age.

To remain a director, the incumbent must attend two-thirds (2/3) or more of the regular meetings during each twelve-month period beginning with the month of his/her election. Upon establishment of the fact that a director or nominee is in violation of any of the provisions of this Section, that office or nomination may be deemed vacant; however, in the Board's discretion, the provision with reference to attendance may be waived in the case of illness only.

Nothing in this Section shall affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board.

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 in good standing, 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 or membership 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, and must be accompanied by a written application signed by the nominee attesting to his or her qualifications to serve. 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.

Remember to Notify One-Call at 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Each year in North Carolina, 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, 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 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 Tennessee customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses located in the 739 telephone exchange.

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

Recipe of the Month

The Famous... Seven Layer Bars

Ingredients:

- 1 sleeve crushed graham crackers
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 (14 ounce) can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter chips
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Instructions:

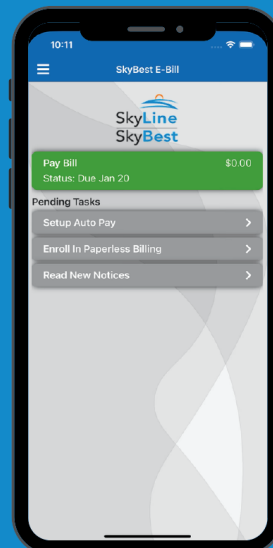
Preheat oven to 325° if using a glass 9x13 dish. Melt butter and add crushed graham crackers. Add a little of the milk to help mix it all together. Press into bottom of a lightly greased pan.

Sprinkle the chocolate chips and peanut butter chips over the top of the crackers. Sprinkle the coconut on top of this, and finish with a layer of the pecans.

Pour the remaining Condensed Milk evenly over the top and lightly press all the layers down. Bake 25 minutes or until the top is lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars. Store at room temperature.

Recipe submitted by Susan Bradshaw

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