

Making a Small Change to Small Change

As the U.S. phases out the penny, we're making a small adjustment to how we give change for cash payments in our office.

We'll continue to accept pennies, but we will no longer provide them as change. When paying with cash, payment totals will be rounded to the nearest nickel. Any small difference resulting from the rounding will be credited or applied as a balance to your next month's bill.

This change only affects how we handle physical cash transactions at our office. There are no changes to how we calculate or issue bills, and electronic or phone payments are not affected. Your account balances and monthly charges will continue to be calculated exactly as they are today.

TIP: Bringing exact change is always helpful, but if you don't have it, we'll make sure everything balances out on your next statement.



**WE WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JULY 3RD**

In observance of
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Community Impact in Action: *86 Hunger Now*

With support from FOCUS Broadband's Community Connections grant program, *86 Hunger Now* is expanding its outreach efforts across Brunswick County. The nonprofit delivers meals and nonperishable food bundles directly to local individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.



They were awarded a \$2,500 grant to purchase additional equipment and supplies for their mobile hunger relief operations, allowing them to serve even more residents in need.

"Many people can't afford to miss work to wait in long pantry lines, yet they still struggle to make ends meet," said Chef David Scott, founder of *86 Hunger Now*. "Our focus is on serving those who may not qualify for county assistance, food stamps, or other aid programs."

FOCUS Broadband's Community Connections grant program provides funding to nonprofit organizations across its service area that are making a positive impact through outreach, education, wellness, and essential community services.

To learn more, visit focusbroadband.com/givingback.

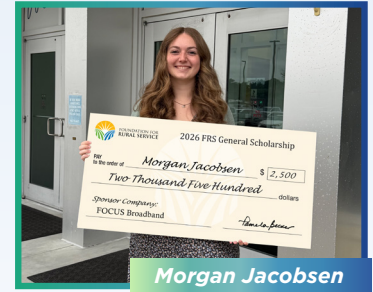
Two Local Seniors Awarded National Scholarships

Local seniors Morgan Jacobsen and Jennifer Zheng are among 60 students from rural communities across the nation receiving scholarships through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). This opportunity is made possible through FOCUS Broadband's membership with FRS, which received more than 2,000 applications for this year's scholarship program.

Morgan Jacobsen, a graduate of Columbus Career and College Academy, was awarded a \$2,500 FRS Scholarship along with a \$1,000 Roger Cox Scholarship. Jennifer Zheng, a senior at Brunswick County Early College High School, also received a \$1,000 Roger Cox Scholarship.

The Roger Cox Scholarship, funded by Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, honors former FOCUS Broadband CEO Roger Cox, whose leadership helped expand broadband access in rural communities and whose commitment to education continues through this scholarship program.

"We are proud to help create pathways for students like Morgan and Jennifer," said Keith Holden, CEO of FOCUS Broadband. "This honor is well deserved, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the future."



Morgan Jacobsen



Jennifer Zheng

Follow us for our
TICKET TO SUMMER
Giveaway
7/13 - 7/17

Find the hidden ticket in each post for a chance to win on Facebook!

The banner features a pink flamingo on the left, a blue ticket with the FOCUS BROADBAND logo, and a pair of yellow sunglasses and an orange and yellow beach ball on the right.

Major Reconnect Project Completed *Connecting Rural Pender County*



Thanks to funding provided by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ReConnect Grant, FOCUS Broadband has completed a project bringing high-speed internet service to nearly 6,000 previously unserved addresses in rural Pender County. Already, more than 3,600 residents and businesses are experiencing the benefits of being connected to the fiber optic network.

FOCUS Broadband has also used funding from state-supported programs, including the GREAT Grant and CAB programs, to make service available to another 1,500 homes in some of the county's most rural areas.

"For many families and businesses, reliable internet service means the ability to work from home, access telehealth services, complete schoolwork online, and stay connected to everyday resources," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO. "We appreciate the support from USDA, along with the partnerships with Four County EMC, local officials, and the residents of Pender County who helped make this project possible."

Residents in the area can visit FOCUS Broadband's Burgaw location at 1855 NC Hwy 53 West Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., for assistance with internet, phone, wireless, and streaming services, as well as for help with billing.