WT Services is accepting scholarship applications through April 8 from students in Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland. Scholarships, to be awarded in May, are open only to students whose parents or guardians are WT Services customers, or, to students who are WT Services customers themselves.

Applicants must be high school seniors graduating this spring.

An application form, two letters of recommendation, and a wallet-size photo must be submitted. One letter must be from a high school teacher, principal, or counselor.

In Hereford, applications may be picked up at the WT Services office at 119 East 4th, or at the Hereford High School counselor's office.

In Friona, applications and rules may be picked up at the WT Services office at 1010 Columbia, and are available at counselor's offices at Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools.

Applications must be fully completed, legibly typewritten, or written, have no attachments other than the photo and two required letters of recommendation, and must be received at the offices of WT Services, Inc. P.O. Box 1776, Hereford, Texas 79045, no later than April 8, 2014.

Mechanics of the scholarships include the following:

* WT SERVICES scholarships may be used at any state or church-sponsored college or university, or at any accredited vocational or technical school.

* Recipients must maintain a minimum of 12 credit hours throughout each semester, or have full-time student status at vocational or trade schools.

* Upon enrollment or pre-enrollment for the fall semester, recipients must send WT SERVICES a confirmation from the registrar's office. Should a recipient drop out of school for any reason, the unused portion of the scholarship will be rescinded.

TTAF Scholarship deadline is March 28

The Texas Telephone Association Foundation has announced it will award six Texas students four-year college scholarships in the amount of $1,500 per year to students entering college for the 2014-2015 school year.

Completed scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than March 28, 2014.

Any students applying for the scholarship must be a U.S. citizen, graduating from a Texas high school no later than June, 2014, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and planning to begin college by the fall of 2014.

To apply for this scholarship opportunity, contact your local school counselor or go to www.tta.org and click on the TTA Foundation Scholarship Link for an application and more information.

The TTAF Scholarship Committee will review the applications and give special consideration to students who will be pursuing a college degree in fields such as math, business, education, technology, engineering, and computer science.
Why does my cable TV bill seem to go up annually?

WT Services keeps cable TV prices as low as possible, within our control. Rising costs of retransmission and programming fees from the channel owners, impact our TV rates.

The rising costs of TV Programming, retransmission fees and other factors impact the cost for TV service.

Channel network owners require us to pay monthly charges, per subscriber for each channel that we carry. Rates vary according to the agreement between the channel owners and the cable company, including WTS.

As contracts expire, negotiations establish new contracts to continue carriage of the channels.

During these negotiations, channel owners always ask for annual price increases from 6 percent, to as much as 50 percent or more. This drives up the cost of TV service yearly for cable companies like WT Services.

Cable TV companies have to pay these higher costs. WT Services must pay the channel owners a set fee, per subscriber, to carry each of their stations.

These fees are charged and paid even if a customer never watches a portion of the channels.

We are required in the contracts with the channel owners to carry the most popular channels, but also the not-so-favorite channels too.

They can even dictate where the channel placement has to be within our channel lineup.

We cannot pick and choose the channels we want to subscribe to … they are a package deal from the channel owners.

We are required to carry the channels the owners command AND pay a fee for each subscriber we have for each of those channels.

There is a good chance if you switch cable providers, you still find yourself in the same situation down the road with the new provider.

As contracts expire with the channel owners and their programming rates increase with the new contracts, you would most likely see an increase on your bill at this point.

Cable companies just can’t afford to absorb all the programming cost hikes, along with their normal operating costs, and stay in business.

This goes for the satellite companies as well. These programming increases are in addition to normal equipment update costs, scheduled maintenance costs and other normal operating expenses.

We hope by making the facts known, you, our customers understand why WT Services takes the steps it does to keep our service top notch and our pricing as economical as possible.

On an on-going basis, WT Services negotiates the best programming rates it can to minimize annual cost increases to our customers and appreciate your understanding, and continued patronage.