



*Friona/Bovina: Smart Communities –
with Fiber to the Premise — by WT Services.*

Services
All around communications.

Friona/ Bovina

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A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

WTS Connection

Jacob Osborn, Bryan J. Garcia are initial class of WT Services Friona/Bovina scholarship recipients

Jacob Osborn, Friona High School May graduate who will attend West Texas A&M University to major in Mechanical Engineering, and Bryan J. Garcia, a May graduate of Bovina High School who plans to pursue a degree in Nursing at West Texas A&M University this fall, are the initial recipients of scholarships from WT Services Friona/Bovina.

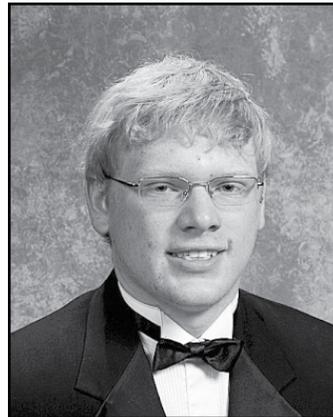
The educational grants are for \$500, payable over two semesters.

Jacob, 17, is the son of Robert and Jo Osborn of Friona and Bryan, 18, is the son of Fidel and Catalina Garcia, WT Services customers in Bovina.

Third in his class at Friona High School, Jacob Osborn plans to study mechanical engineering at West Texas A&M University. He was active in UIL academics and FFA all through high school and received the Lone Star Farmer degree, National Honor Society award, and the academic all state football award.

“I would like to utilize a mechanical engineering degree to benefit my surrounding community,” said Osborn.

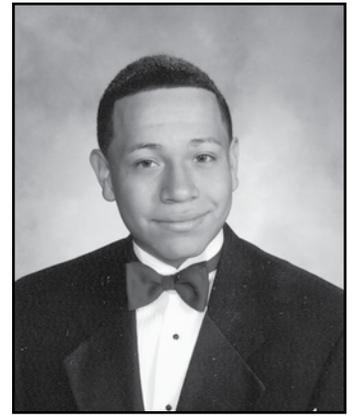
An honor graduate of Bovina High and ranking seventh in a class of 37, Garcia served as vice-president of the National Honor Society and was a member of the Student Council. He participated in



JACOB OSBORN

basketball, football, track, and power lifting during his high school years.

“After my motorcycle accident, I learned that in depressing circumstances I should look to the future. I viewed life more respectfully and built mental strength. I became the person I am to impact people’s lives. I want to earn a doctoral degree as a nurse practitioner, where I can interact with many people and patients in a kind and humble manner and have an impact on them. Little details can make another person’s life better,” says



BRYAN J. GARCIA

Bryan.

WT Services is launching a scholarship program this year, following the lead of its parent company, West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, that has been presenting scholarships since 1997. WT Services is offering scholarships to graduating seniors from Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools. WT Services scholarships are open only to students whose parents or guardians are WT Services customers, or to students who are WT Services customers themselves.

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Broadband technology proving platform for opportunity

By Amy Linzey
Chief Executive
Officer/General Manager

Having recently attended a meeting of the NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, where several awards were given to small rural communications providers that had developed “smart communities,” I’m even more convinced that WT Services is ahead of the curve in this regard. We have already developed a broadband network that supports the “smart communities” that we serve in Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland.

Across the nation, businesses and residences of many urban areas that are served by large commercial communications providers can’t get basic DSL (digital subscriber line) service. In contrast, WT Services has already taken fiber to hospitals, city and country government locations, banks, schools, local businesses—as well as residences. Our “smart communities” boasting a broadband network of state-of-the-art high-speed broadband, voice communications, local and long distance, international and E911 emergency services and cable or IPTV services are the envy of many urban consumers.

This has created “smart communities” where our broadband network sup-

ports economic development and commerce, distance education options, access to distant health care professionals and diagnostics, and local banks and other businesses are connected to the home office and other locations.

During my time spent in Washington at NTCA activities, I have also encountered one of the newest FCC Commissioners—the impressive Jessica Rosenworcel—who seems very supportive of rural communications providers and rural America.

An article in the March-April 2014 edition of Rural Telecom magazine by NTCA Director of Communications Laura Withers features Ms. Rosenworcel’s opinions on the vital importance of including rural America in communications technology.

“I try to keep rural America in mind in everything we do at the FCC,” Ms. Rosenworcel told Rural Telecom’s Withers.

“Our economy is becoming increasingly dependent on these broadband networks, and we need to make sure we extend their reach everywhere so that no matter who you are and where you live in this country, you have opportunity and access that new networks and broadband can provide.

“Broadband is not just a technology—it’s

a platform for opportunity,” Ms. Rosenworcel said. “It is going to be how we communicate with one another, seek out jobs, grow our businesses, educate ourselves, improve our health care and entertain ourselves. It is going to be part and parcel with every activity in our economy. Making sure that everybody has access is making sure everybody has opportunity to be a full participant in the digital age, and we can’t leave rural America behind,” the new FCC commissioner told Ms. Withers.

I am heartened, as are other rural communications executives, that the new FCC Commissioner seems well aware of the challenges facing rural carriers and that she is pro-active on our behalf.

In the Rural Telecom article, Ms. Rosenworcel also sounded off on the call completion issue that has plagued rural America.

“The fact that some rural Americans are unable to receive phone calls because of the efforts of some bad actors is unacceptable,” she said, adding that she’s happy with action taken by the FCC to identify those responsible for lost and garbled calls—though the FCC’s enforcement activities are somewhat hamstrung until the agency has the data that it needs to act.

This new FCC commissioner seems well aware that none of the “smart community” applications of the future would be possible without a robust broadband network, and that uncertainty over regulations and policy changes has caused rural carriers to pull back from investment in broadband infrastructure. That she is willing to look for ways to make things simpler so that rural carriers can have more certainty so that they can invest in rural America is encouraging.

Get a 1% discount by paying by draft

WT Services Friona/Bovina customers can get a one percent discount by paying their bill by bank draft. Customers who authorize draft payment agree to have their bank account drafted for the amount of their outstanding balance on their account with WT Services. Drafts will occur between the 20th and 23rd of each month.

To arrange for payment of your WT Services bill via bank draft and net the one percent savings, contact the WT Services office in Friona at 1010 Columbia to obtain the necessary authorization form that includes bank routing and account information.