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*Hereford: A Smart Community –
with Fiber to the Premise — by WT Services.*

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WTS Connection

A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

O’Rand, Perry receive WT Services scholarships

Two May graduates of Hereford High School are the initial recipients of educational grants awarded by WT Services of Hereford in its newly launched scholarship program.

Madison O’Rand, the 18 year old daughter of Jeff and Donnie O’Rand of Hereford, and Kyle Perry, the 18 year old son of Howard and Linda Perry of Hereford are the 2014 scholarship recipients.

Madison plans to major in Nutrition at Texas A&M University, and Kyle

will major in Aerospace Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington.

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

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.

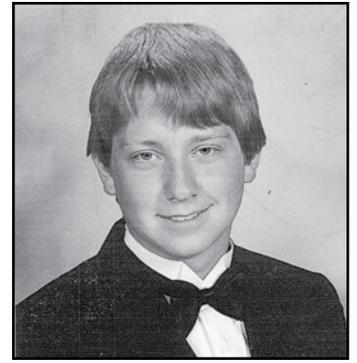
Ranked 15th in her class, Madison was a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council, and MVP in volleyball.



MADISON O’RAND

“In fourth grade I had health issues that kept me homebound for half the school year. After two trips to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota I got help from a rival coach who had experienced some of the same problems. She gave me the name of a nutritionist in Austin who helped me learn more about the food we eat and how nutrition fuels our bodies. It’s through this experience that I decided I wanted to be a nutritionist. Through my own personal experiences I know that I can help others,” says Madison.

Kyle, ranked 10th in his



KYLE PERRY

class, was a member of the Student Council, and Individual and Team state champion in UIL Social Studies, as well as drum major for the HHS Band.

“I have a love for airplanes, Science and Math. My personal goal is to be educated on the designing, testing, and building of aircraft, and to specialize in aeronautical propulsion engineering. My goal for the future is to do something that I love and want to do for the rest of my life. Toward this goal, the WT Services scholarship will be extremely valuable,” says Kyle.

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Broadband technology a 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 and cable or IPTV services are the envy of many urban consumers.

This has created “smart communities” where our broadband network supports 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.

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

Online contact for radio shops

Customers with two-way radio needs may contact WT Services radio shops in Hereford and Amarillo online. Go to wtstx.com to browse merchandise and services offered.

Bundle customers can upgrade speed

If you’re enrolled in one of the cost-cutting bundled packages from WT Services, you can also save money on upgrading to 15 meg Internet speed at home.

Companion upload speeds from WT Services are perfect if you need to upload data or are a gamer. Contact the WT Services business office in Hereford at 360-9000 to take advantage of this upgrade.

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, allowing rural carriers to have more certainty so that they can invest in rural America is encouraging.

Earn 1% discount paying by draft

WT Services customers in Hereford can take advantage of a one percent discount by paying their bill by bank draft.

Customers who authorize this form of 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 Hereford at 119 East 4th for the authorization form.