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OWNS UP

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HLD OFFERING 4 NEW
CALLING PLANS

DRAFT PAYMENT
NETS 1%
DISCOUNT

WT Services Hereford 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 Hereford at 119 East 4th to obtain the necessary authorization form that includes bank routing and account information.



FCC Chairman admits USF support system flaws hurt Broadband transition

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler acknowledges that the support system for the vital Universal Service Fund is increasingly outdated and that flaws in the Universal Service system have made transition to Broadband difficult for rural areas and their service providers.

Wheeler owned up to the problems in remarks before more than 1,500 members of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association on September 21 during the association's Fall Conference in Boston, Mass.

Wheeler's remarks centered on the need for universal access to broadband services.

"I know rural providers are doing everything they can to get comparable broadband service at comparable rates to their constituents. I also know that flaws in our universal programs have made transition to a broadband world challenging. The manner in which the USF support mechanisms operate were al-

ways complicated, and are increasingly outdated. We recognize the problem, and we want to do something about it," Wheeler said.

He outlined his preferred path forward with regard to the ongoing Universal Service Fund (USF) reform debate. His plan includes four parts:

- A voluntary path to using a cost-based model for support, similar to the model currently in use by price-cap carriers.
- A new mechanism that replaces high-cost loop support and interstate common line support mechanisms for carriers that choose not to go to the model.
- A timely transition period to the new mechanism.
- A budget for the program, including specific budgets on capital and operating expenditures that can be recovered through the program.

Wheeler is also circulating a public notice at the com-

mission regarding USF and the intended uses for its support mechanisms. He said it is important that the Commission takes steps to prevent fraud and abuse within the fund.

NTCA issued a statement from Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield regarding how to collectively tackle the challenges of providing and sustaining universal access in rural areas.

"The keys are now to make sure any reforms that are made build upon and sustain the successes realized thus far, while also positioning community-based providers to continue investing and delivering high-quality, affordable services in rural areas going forward.

"As an industry that has lived through prior changes that hindered rather than fostered investment, we know firsthand the importance to consumers and communities of both getting reform done and getting reform right."

(See FCC CHAIR, Page 2)

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

Broadband Opportunity Council recommends Feds modernize, expand programs boosting rural efforts

The Broadband Opportunity Council has recommended modernizing federal programs and expanding program support for investments in Broadband technology by rural cooperatives.

The Broadband Opportunity Council released its report and recommendations for expanding broadband deployment and adoption by addressing regulatory barriers and encouraging investment and training on September 21.

President Obama created the Council in March and charged it with gathering input and reporting on how the federal government can support Broadband deployment, competition and adoption.

The Council is co-chaired by the secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture, and includes representatives from 25 federal agencies.

In the report, the Council made four recommendations to the Obama administration regarding Broadband deployment and use:

- Modernize federal programs to expand program support for broadband investments.

- Empower communities with tools and resources to attract broadband investment and promote meaningful use.

- Promote increased broadband deployment and competition through expanded access to federal assets.

- Improve data collection, analysis and research on broadband.

Several proposals were made for carrying out each recommendation, including expanding eligibility for the Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program, streamlining federal processes, promoting interagency coordination and lowering barriers to investment.

The report further contemplates a series of stake-

holder forums for identifying indicators of community connectivity that would form an index that local governments would use to attract broadband investment.

The Broadband Opportunity Council report asks federal agencies to implement the various proposals in the next year-and-a-half to achieve the goals set forth by the council.

HLD offering four new calling plans

Hereford Long Distance, your full-service long-distance provider offering regional, nationwide, and

WT Services office open until 5:30

To better accommodate the needs of its busy customers the WT Services business office at 119 East 4th in Hereford operates under expanded weekday hours from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

These expanded hours allow extra weekday time to pay bills and conduct business, and provide patrons a chance to drive by to pay bills at the drive-up window after they get off work.

international calling, is now offering new Calling Plans if you are not on a bundle Residential and business

FCC Chairman

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FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly also attended the joint Industry & Regulatory Policy/Competitive and Advanced Services Committees meeting September 20 during the Fall Conference. He discussed his views on the ongoing USF reform debate and the need to deliver on the commission's commitment to updating existing mechanisms by the end of the year.

customers alike can take advantage of these four new plans for nationwide and domestic calling:

200 minutes for \$8 monthly.

400 minutes for \$15 monthly.

1,000 minutes for \$35 monthly.

2,000 minutes for \$65 monthly.

Additional minutes are available at 5 cents per minute.

Call WT Services at 360-9000, 250-5555, or West Texas Rural Telephone at 806-364-3331 to take advantage of these plans today!