



Programmers raise their charges again; rate hike for cable patrons the result

Rate increases have become virtually an every year event for cable TV providers like WT Services and the past year has been no exception. Rate increases come from TV programmers increasing their rates to WT Services annually. Although cable TV customers and providers alike would like to be able to choose only their favorite channels, these programmers often require cable TV providers to carry numerous "companion" channels in order to receive the one or two channels that cable TV customers most desire.

WT Services has been negotiating major programming channel contracts for the last several months.

Although local broadcast stations make their signal available free "off air," they have elected to charge cable TV providers, on a per customer basis, to make the very same signal available to their viewers. This is in addition to the programming fees that must be paid for all com-

mon "cable" channels such as ESPN, Disney, Lifetime, FOX Sports, The Outdoor Channel, Speed, etc.

To ensure that WT Services viewers have continued access to the programming offered by the local broadcast channels and all other programmers it will be necessary to implement a service rate increase early in 2017. The rate increase applies to all WT Services video packages.

WT Services takes its responsibility to provide quality programming at

the lowest possible rates very seriously. Every effort was made to negotiate the most favorable terms with the major programmers. We appreciate your video business and will continue to explore options, as they become available, to minimize the rate increase impact on our customers.

If you have any questions in regard to your video entertainment services, please call our office in Hereford at 360-9000, in Friona at 250-5555, or in Bushland at 349-1000.

Customized phone systems

Telephone systems customized to your needs are available from WT Services.

A representative from WT Services will visit your location to determine needs, including multi-line service, paging, call waiting or forwarding, determine what equipment would best serve those needs, write a proposal, and arrange for installation by

WT Services team members once a plan receives customer approval.

WT Services is experienced in providing telephone systems for business offices, school systems and government offices, among other applications.

Contact Doug Baker at WT Services, 364-7311, to discuss system needs.

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Draft payment nets discount

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 .



April 7 application deadline date is rapidly approaching for 2017 WT Services scholarships

Only about a month remains to submit applications as WT Services marks its fourth year of awarding scholarships to graduating seniors from Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools in 2017.

This year's application deadline is April 7.

Scholarship recipients will be announced in May. Application forms are available from counselors at Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools.

Applications and rules may be picked up at the WT Services office in Friona at 1010 Columbia, and in Hereford at the WT Services office at 119 East 4th. Application forms may also be downloaded from the WTS website at wtservices.net.

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. Applicants must be high school seniors who are candidates for graduation this spring.

Scholarship monies will be disbursed in increments per semester.

An official application form, accompanied by two letters of recommendation,



and a wallet-size photo must be submitted. One of the letters of recommendation must be from a teacher, principal, or counselor from the high school that the applicant is currently attending.

To be considered, applications must be fully completed, legibly typed 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 7, 2017.**

Applicants may be asked to attend an interview at the discretion of the board of parent company West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative.

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 twelve credited 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.

You can enter Do Not Call Registry

Telemarketing calls are as ever-present as taxes.

The Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission have a National Do Not Call Registry in place that can help to reduce the number of telemarketing calls that you receive at your residence or on your cell phone.

It's easy to add your number to the Do Not Call Registry.

You can register online at www.donotcall.gov or call 888-382-1222 from the telephone number that you wish to register.

For the hearing impaired

the TTY number is 866-290-4236.

Once you have registered, telemarketers have 31 days to stop calling your number.

You can register up to three non-business telephone numbers for the Do Not Call Registry. You can also register cell phones. There is not a separate registry for cell phones.

Once you register a number, it will remain on the list permanently unless you disconnect the number or choose to remove it.

Businesses that you already have a relationship with, political organizations, charities, and telephone surveyors—for

better or worse—are exempt from the Do Not Call Registry and may still be able to call your number. However, they are not supposed to be able to call again once you've asked them not to.

Whether or not you are listed on the National Do Not Call Registry, strict Federal Trade Commission rules make it illegal for telemarketers to:

- Call before 8 a.m.
- Threaten, intimidate or harass you.
- Call again after you have asked them not to.

Local businesses are also included under the Do Not Call regulations.