

WTS CONNECTION/Hereford/Bushland

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SPECIAL
POINTS
OF INTEREST

- WT Services will be marking its fifth consecutive year of awarding scholarships to seniors from Hereford, Friona, Bovina and Bushland high schools.

- Since 2014, WT Services has awarded 18 scholarships to seniors in the local region totaling \$11,000.

- Scholarships are only open to students whose parents or guardians are WT Services customers, or who are WT Services customers themselves.

- Applications may be picked up at the WT Services office in Hereford and at Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools.

Happy New Year!

WTS scholarships will be awarded for fifth consecutive year in 2018

WT Services will award scholarships to graduating seniors from Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools for the fifth consecutive year in 2018. Application forms will be available by January 16 and recipients will be announced in May.



Scholarships are open only to students whose parents or guardians are WT Services customers, or, to students who are WT Services customers. Applicants must be either high school seniors who are candidates for graduation this spring, have completed high school, or have received their GED.

Scholarship money will be disbursed in increments per semester.

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

school that the applicant is currently attending.

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.

Applications may be picked up at the WT Services office in Friona at 1010 Columbia, and will be provided to counselor's offices at Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools.

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 10, 2018.

Applicants may be asked to attend an interview at the discretion of the WTRT board.

Pay by bank draft and save 1 percent

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.

Hereford/Bushland: Smart Communities—with Fiber to the Premise—by WT Services

Cybersecurity threats remain outstanding concern for both metropolitan and rural areas of the country

WT Services is a subsidiary of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, and the things that impact the services delivered by the parent company are often issues at WT Services as well.

Unfortunately in today's world, online criminals seem more at work than ever, and there's little chance they will be going away, despite measures to counter their dirty work.

Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA--the Rural Broadband Association, wrote recently about how cybersecurity threats are a real concern for both urban and rural areas of our country.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security declared last October and November as National Cybersecurity Awareness and Critical Infrastructure Security and Reliance month observances respectively.

Such designations draw attention to the danger that cyber criminals pose to institutions, businesses an individuals, and underscores the

responsibilities we have to actively protect our internet-connected systems.

When there's a blip in the system due to a power or weather issue and we can't send or receive messages, check our bank balance, or get held up in traffic, we can readily realize how everything around us from traffic lights to banks to pharmacies relies on the internet to function.

Accordingly, it's crucial that individuals and businesses work to keep systems secure. On the business side, a single computer left vulnerable can leave an organization open to cyberattack.

At home, carelessness with the computer and online access can result in hacking attacks that compromise personal and even financial information.

Ms. Bloomfield emphasizes that cybersecurity continues as a top issue for both the NTCA, and local telephone cooperatives like WTRT and its WT Services subsidiary.

"Telcos are working hard every day to ensure that networks stay safe and secure," she said.

Whether at the office or at home, here are some steps that you can take to help stop cyberthreats:

- Download and install new updates to your computers and mobile devices regularly.
- Create complex passwords and keep them secure.
- Do not download "free content or pro-

grams from non-reputable sites. They can often contain dangerous malware that can wipe out a single PC at home or an entire business system.

Folks in both urban and rural settings who are looking to establish or re-direct a career might want to consider exploring the field of cybersecurity. Ms. Bloomfield reports that both federal agencies and private firms are constantly hiring in this expanding field

Advertise via cable television

It's easy to place information "on TV" in Hereford/Bushland and Friona/Bovina.

Contact WT Services in Hereford at 360-9000 or Friona at 250-5555 to get your message on the local Cable TV channel.

In Hereford, ads for personal messages such as birthdays, graduations, and retirements, congratulatory notes and garage sales, and properties for rent are priced at \$10 a day or \$15 for two days. Business ads and announcements are \$25 a week or \$80 a month.

Rates for non-profits are \$40 a month or \$12.50 a week.

In Friona, ads are text only and limited as to the number of pages available.

Friona ads placed need to be 40 words or less and are available on a "space permitting" basis.

Business ads in Friona are priced at \$25 a week or \$80 a month.

Garage sale ads are \$10 a day or \$15 for two days.

Composed ads may be faxed to the Friona WT Services office at 250-5550.