

## Welcome to XIT

**R**esidents of Vega, Texas, who subscribe to the local cable service, are now XIT Communications customers.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to XIT. On April 28, 2006, XIT acquired Vega Cablevision, Inc. We hope this is the beginning of a long and beneficial relationship between XIT and the people of Vega. If you have any questions about your service, or if you would like to sign up for cable TV service in Vega, you can call 1-800-232-3312, and we will be glad to answer your questions or assist you in setting up an appointment so you can start enjoying cable service as soon as possible.



## FRS Youth Tour

**T**his is the third year XIT has offered the opportunity for students to attend the FRS Youth Tour. As we reported in the last newsletter, Evan Haile, from Stratford, was selected to represent XIT for this year's Washington, D.C. tour. We are proud of Evan and the other students for their interest in rural telecommunications. In a letter written to XIT, Annette Peterson, Foundation for Rural Service Program Manager, expressed her feelings about this year's FRS tour. She wrote, "On behalf of the Foundation for Rural Service, I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks for participating in our 2006 Youth Tour. We had our largest group to date this year, with 108 students and 22 chaperones coming in from all across the United States. They represented 75 NTCA member companies and hailed from 24 states. You sent us an amazing group of students this year ... definitely one of the best!"

Evan sent XIT the following report on her trip.

*Not long ago, I was given the opportunity to represent XIT at the Foundation for Rural Services Seminar in Washington, D.C. As I stepped off my plane and into our nation's Capitol, I could sense the history and power of a great country. Surrounded by symbolic monuments and my fellow FRS representatives, I took a journey into the heart and soul of rural telecommunications.*

*During the seminar, we were led by our lively tour guides through the memorials that portray our nation's rugged history and diplomatic efficiency and to museums that display our brilliant culture and our profound knowledge.*

*FRS not only provided ample time to explore the National Mall, but also helped us become better acquainted with our rural telecommunications providers. The seminar introduced us to career choices in the field of rural telecom and made us more aware of the great strides made in just the past few decades.*



**Evan enjoyed the tours and seeing all the sights of our nation's Capitol.**

*Continued on page 2 Connections*

### XIT's Mission Statement

**To provide high quality telecommunication services at the lowest possible cost to its customers.**

*The one point that our speakers impressed upon us was how important it is to support our rural telecommunication companies by using their services, such as landlines, Internet and cellular phones. If we ignore our rural providers and choose to be patrons to the "big" companies, our rural providers will be unable to survive in the face of unfair competition. What is important for us to remember is that it is our rural companies that put up all the towers that provide service for this area, not the other companies that are mostly interested in the metropolitan areas. Our rural telephone companies have been so loyal to us. Should we not also return the favor?*

*I would like to thank XIT for offering high school students, such as myself, the wonderful opportunity to explore the world of telecommunications and for providing all our area with all the services that they have to offer. Without them we would not be able to communicate as fast and efficiently as we*



**New friends, Holly and Emily, pose with Evan in front of reflecting pool at the Washington Monument.**

*do. Once more, a big thank you to XIT and a bright look to the future.*

**Evan Haile**

In the letter written to XIT, FRS Program Manager, Annette Peterson, also said, "This year's trip was fantastic, and I truly believe that the students and chaperones had a great time in Washington, D.C.

Please know that none of it would have been possible without the unconditional dedication to this program, from companies like XIT Communications and their support of the local community."

XIT is happy to offer experiences like the FRS tour to worthy students like Evan and encourage next year's juniors to apply for the 2007 tour.



**This group photo of the FRS tour students and chaperones in front of the Capitol building shows the scope of this project and what the impact of the information these young people have learned and taken back home will be.**

## **DIRECTORY TIPS**

***The NUMERICAL SECTION, sometimes called the reverse listing, is located in front of the yellow pages. If you have a phone number, but no name, you can use the numerical section to quickly find out who owns the number. It's fast and easy!***



# Spotlight on!

## David McCollum



In 1979, eleven year old David McCollum was just passing through. His father and mother, Carl and Virginia McCollum, had decided Phoenix was too big and too hot. Moving back to Kansas City where they had family seemed like the thing to do. On that trip home, they stopped in Dalhart, Texas and liked

what they saw. It was a small town with friendly people who made them feel welcome. Virginia said, "It looked like a good place to raise a soon-to-be teenage boy." They decided to stay in Dalhart and David found his home.

David has always liked the outdoors. Fishing, hiking and camping were his favorite things to do when growing up. At school, he participated in track and found out how much he liked working out. His mother said he started getting interested in his life-long passion of physical fitness before he turned sixteen. Like many teenage boys he spent a lot of time in a love-hate relationship working on cars.

David was a junior at Dalhart High School when he met Connie Gallegos. David graduated in 1986 and married Connie in March of 1987. These high school sweethearts have now been together for nineteen years. They have two sons, Kordell is nine, and his younger brother, Korbin, is six.



**Korbin shows his talent on the backyard trampoline.**

The boys and Connie were quick to embrace David's love of fishing, hiking and camping. They head to Red River, New Mexico or Colorado every chance they get. Jet skiing is also very high on their list of favorite things to do. They love doing all these things as a family. David's interest in physical fitness has also carried over to Kordell and Korbin. In 2000, he built a home gym for the family. They call it the Power Shack and the boys are in there with him working out all the time. David uses the gym at least five days a week. Each day he focuses on a different part of the body.



**David, Connie, Kordell and Korbin in the Power Shack.**

worries about all the bad things, like drugs, they might come in contact with during these formative years. David hopes the many changes taking place in his home town will be for the good and allow his boys to grow up like he did, with good memories and few scars.

Besides being David's supporter, and a full-time mother, Connie has worked for Dalhart Federal Savings and Loan Association since 1993. She is the Loan Secretary for the Association.

With their many school and business connections, it comes as no surprise this interesting couple is well known and well thought of throughout the Dalhart community.

After graduating, David had turned his love-hate



**David spots Kordell on the bench press.**

*Continued on page 4 Connections*

relationship with cars into his livelihood. While working as Service Manager at Phil Like Motor Company in Dalhart, he had the opportunity to become part of the XIT family. He jumped at the chance and went to work in April of 1997 as an Apprentice Technician. XIT and David McCollum were made for each other. A lot of the work he does is physically demanding and keeps him outside. David likes that, but he also likes the fact that he gets to work on different things every day. Burying drops to customers homes, trouble shooting calls, locating lines, doing installations, putting in fiber keeps the job interesting.

While talking about his job, David mentioned his attitude concerning XIT customers and their problems. David said "I try to put myself in their shoes so I can give them the kind of service they expect. I think the service you get from XIT is what separates us from the competition." David's desire to live right and



**David doing what he likes best, working outside, helps fellow employees Rick Heiskell and Brian McCoy repair XIT's backhoe so they can complete a job near Stratford.**

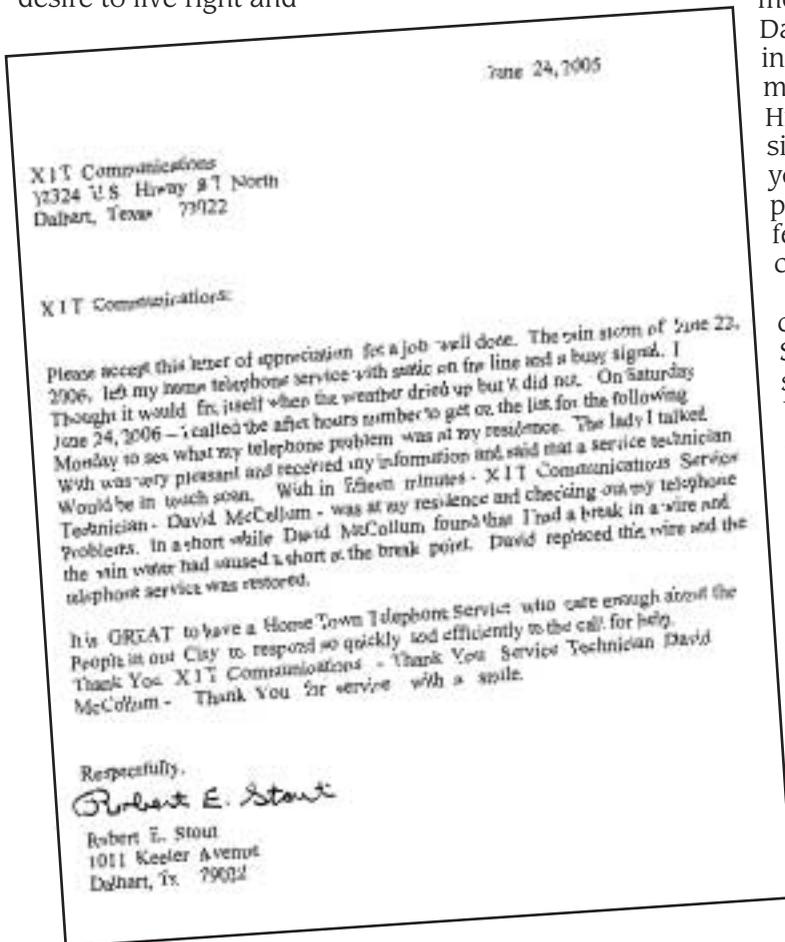
from XIT Communications customer Robert Stout.

David is a hard worker, he wants to get the job done as fast as possible and move on to the next project. David was recently involved in helping XIT hook up communication services at the Hilmar Cheese Company site. While talking about it, you could see and hear the pride and satisfaction he felt for getting the job done correctly and on time.

David gives his mother credit for his work ethic. She is a strong woman and strict in her up-bringing. Virginia agrees with this statement. She said, "I expected a lot out of him growing up. I wanted him to be a good kid, and he was." She instilled in him the need to be a hard worker if he wanted to do well in life. He took her training to heart and is doing his best to pass it on to his boys.

XIT is excited to have employees, like David McCollum, representing them day in and day out. We know with this kind of dedication and concern, the communication needs of our customers are being met to the best of our abilities.

David's mother should be proud. Her training and instruction have paid off for David and XIT.



treat people the way he wants to be treated runs parallel with XIT's customer-care philosophy. He does a good job of this as you can see if you read the letter



# XIT TECH TIPS

from guest columnist  
**Eric Spellmann**

## **The Best Directory on the Net**

Search Engines, like Google, offer quick results if you know EXACTLY what you are looking for. But what if you're looking for good results on a vague topic? Enter, the dmoz open directory project (<http://www.dmoz.com>). Because you're not searching through EVERY web page on the planet, dmoz can often return more concise, relevant sites than search engines.

The most important part of dmoz is the three columns under the "search" blank. You'll notice that they are made up of broad topics. Underneath them, you'll see some subtopics. Click on "Arts." A large list of subtopics will appear. Notice that many of them have numbers next to them. These numbers represent the actual "number of web sites" underneath that subtopic.

Finally, some subtopics have an "@" at the end. These subtopics are cross-indexed elsewhere in the dmoz directory. For instance, you'll notice an @ after the "Antiques" subtopic. That's because the "Antiques" subtopic could have also been reached by clicking on "Recreation" from dmoz's home page. You'll find the "Antiques" subtopic under BOTH categories.

Click on "Antiques" (one of my favorite topics) and you'll be presented with more subtopics. If you scroll past them, a list of sites appears. The list is in alphabetical order. Basically, with dmoz, you "drill" down through the categories and subcategories until you get to the site you want. But a FASTER search method exists for those in a hurry.

Remember that "search" blank on dmoz's homepage? Typing "antiques" in that blank will return a page full of categories and site descriptions containing that word. If dmoz can't find those keywords in its directory, it gives you the ability to submit that phrase to other search engines, like Google, with one click. Give it a try. I promise your search skills will improve!

*Eric Spellmann is the Owner and President of Spellmann & Associates, a technology company offering employee training, website design, PC repair, and network maintenance. He is a featured speaker at a number of state and national technology conferences and writes a syndicated column in fourteen newspapers. In addition, he produces a weekly television segment for his local ABC affiliate. To contact him, visit his website, <http://www.EricSpellmann.com>.*

## **Regional and Nationwide Rate Plans**

***The GSM wireless  
Nationwide and Regional rate plans  
are designed to provide you with the right  
amount of minutes at the right price.***

***Contact your local Customer Care Center  
for more information.***

**XIT Customers experiencing trouble or technical problems should call the new trouble numbers 244-0811 or 888-858-0886. Customer service or billing inquiries should be directed to your local Customer Care Center or call 1-800-232-3312.**



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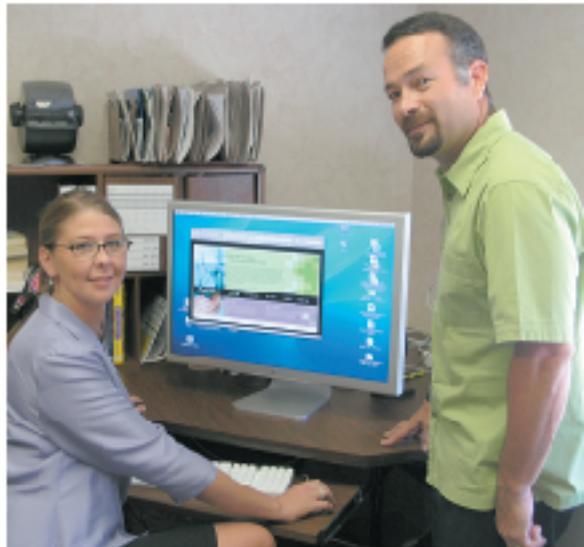


**DIRECTORY TIPS**

*Having all of Amarillo and Canyon's listings in our directory eliminates the need of multiple directories laying around the office, home or car. All the regional numbers you need are under your fingertips in one book. It's easy. Just behind the Yellow Pages, you'll see the alphabetical listings for all of Amarillo and Canyon.*

# Home Town Advantage

**D**uane and Lisa Mungia operated a very successful print and web design studio in Portland, Oregon. As their oldest daughter approached school age, they took a hard look at big city life and decided it was time for a change. How do you balance quality-of-life and a safe environment for your children to grow up in against the possible loss of a business you've built over the last nine years in a profession you love? A dilemma, to say the least.



**Lisa and Duane show off their web site.**

Through the years, Duane and Lisa had spent a lot of time visiting Duane's relatives in his hometown of Stratford, Texas. There was a house in Stratford that Lisa had always been interested in. When it suddenly became available, things started falling into place. After some research into Internet and telecommunications availability and some fast bidding on the house of Lisa's dreams, their dilemma was solved. They moved to Stratford.

High speed DSL Internet service from XIT Communications allows Duane and Lisa to serve their clients as professionally and timely from Stratford as they did while living in Portland. They maintain a lot of web sites, which takes a lot of broadband. They set up a server, wireless network, and ftp site to handle the large files they work with on a daily basis. With XIT's Xtra Value Pak phone and DSL service, they are always available to communicate with, and take care of their clients' needs. The big payoff is working at home. It allows them to spend more time with their children. A better environment to live in and more time with their children was the main reason for making the life change in the first place.

For more information on Duane and Lisa's work, you can check out their web site at [www.scribbles-designs.com](http://www.scribbles-designs.com).