

XIT Connections

Volume XVI, Number 3 Summer 2014



Photo courtesy of Jacklynn Potter of Dalhart. The beautiful picture is the former XIT Rodeo Queen, Shelby Spielman, who is seen riding and carrying the American Flag during a past XIT Rodeo & Reunion event.

The 2014 XIT Regional Telephone Directory is on its way!

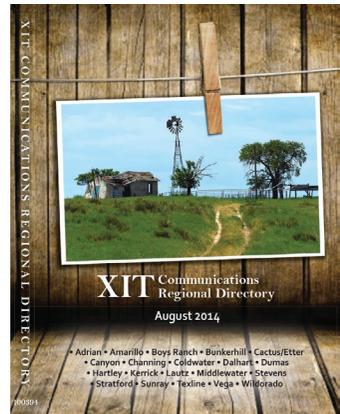
The new 2014 XIT Communications Regional Telephone Directory with its unique, rustic cover and pages of useful information will be arriving any day! We are excited for everyone to receive and to start using the new directory! The directory is filled with important information. It features emergency numbers, state government offices, information on special help programs, city and county government pages, Yellow Pages for one-stop shopping, calling information including area codes and international calling codes, and has Amarillo and Canyon listings in back. It is the only directory you will ever need!

A very special thanks goes out to James Laurie of Mansfield, Texas, for his winning photograph of an old farm house located in our area, that was used as the cover photo for the directory. The photo is a good reminder of the history of our area, but also is a vision of rustic beauty. It's a perfect fit!

XIT subscribers will receive a directory in the mail. Additional directories for your home, office or vehicles will be available in all our XIT offices and at the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce Office.

XIT strives to make the directory the most accurate and information-filled in the area. We carefully proof each XIT local subscriber's listing to ensure it is correct. Wireless phone numbers are not listed in the directory unless a customer requests a foreign listing for it. If you would like to have your wireless number published in next year's directory, please stop by one of our offices to authorize the publication of your wireless number for a small monthly fee.

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Discounts Available for Low Income Customers

If you or someone you know needs some assistance and can't afford a local telephone line, XIT may be able to help! XIT is one of over 2,000 telecommunications companies which offer reduced rates to eligible residential customers through the Lifeline Program. The Lifeline Program can help customers save money each month by providing a monthly discount on their basic local telephone service. Customers who are eligible for Lifeline can also receive toll blocking at no additional charge on their account.

To qualify for Lifeline, a customer's annual household income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, or a customer must receive benefits from or have a child in the household who receives benefits from at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly Food Stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), or health benefits under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPs).

Lifeline is a government assistance program and is limited to one discounted telephone per household, and cannot be transferred to another customer. A customer must qualify for Lifeline and be on the active Lifeline list in order to receive the discount. You can visit the Lifeline Support website at www.lifelinesupport.org for information and application, or call the Low-Income Discount Administration Office (LIDA) at 1-866-454-8387 for information.

Bio Channel Rebranding to FYI

The Bio Channel will be rebranding to the FYI, Channel effective July 8th. This new contemporary network will embrace an adventurous, personalized and non-prescriptive approach to lifestyle content. For the viewer's taste, space, look, journey and more, FYI will cover a range of experiences that reflect how people actually live their lives today, not defined by just one passion or interest. According to Jana Bennett, President of FYI, "FYI is scouring the globe for new talent to embrace the network's approach to a personalized experience for each viewer." Check out this new network experience on XIT's IPTV, Channel 103, Channel 603 in HD.



Did You Know?

Ever wondered how the Internet got started? Surprisingly enough, the Internet was actually started by the U.S. Department of Defense.

- During the Cold War era, the Department of Defense needed to create a research network which would link together computers in research labs, universities, organizations and government centers across the country. The Department of Defense donated a lot of money to these groups to help get them all connected together to form one large network, known as ARPANET.
- The Department of Defense also created the coding used on the Internet, which is known as the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP). These protocols are used to transfer the data back and forth across the Internet. And, with the government's hands-off approach, the network was allowed to grow and expand very rapidly without any restraints from bureaucrats.
- The Internet was built and designed in a totally free environment and is so very complex and vast, that it is virtually indestructible. To destroy the Internet would basically destroy the nerve centers of every developed nation across the globe.
- So, while the US Government was the parent, no group has actually ever controlled the Internet. Today, the Internet's takeover of the global communications has gone from basically 1% in 1993 to 51% by 2000, to over more than 97% today.

As the Internet continues to grow at a rapid rate, we all get to enjoy the benefits of online information, commerce, entertainment and social networking. Where do we go from here? Only time will tell ...



XIT'S Reverse Telephone Number Lookup

Have you ever come across a local telephone number and wondered who it belongs to? Well, XIT has a solution just for you! Try our reverse telephone number lookup now available on our www.xit.net website. Click on the Reverse Lookup Link on the left side of our homepage and you can look up the number quickly and easily from the list of phone numbers that are in numerical order.

Or, do you have a name and need the phone number? That can be done too! Click on the link and press the Control Key + F to bring up a search box. Type in the last name, then first name and the listing will highlight in blue. It's quick and easy and just another way XIT tries to make our customers' lives more convenient.

XIT'S REVERSE TELEPHONE NUMBER LOOKUP IS HERE!

Do you have a telephone number, but need a name?
Want to know who a phone number belongs to?
Then click on the link below and give XIT's Reverse Lookup a try!
It's Fast & Easy!

REVERSE LOOKUP LINK

Copyright Infringement Rights

Just because movies, books and music are readily available on the Internet these days does not mean they are "free for the taking". Copyright infringement laws come into play so the owner has legal control over how their works are used and distributed. This way they will be able to reap the financial benefits from their works. We have put together some valuable information on what is right and wrong, so you don't find yourself cut off by your Internet service provider, or worse, in the middle of a legal battle. If someone downloads music, books, movies or videos and does not have permission from the owner to do this, in the eyes of the law ... they are stealing! Or, if someone purchases the content from a legitimate source, this only gives them the right to use that content for themselves. It does not give them the right to distribute that content to others. This is known as Piracy, which is basically the "slang word" for copyright infringement.

Many times, these infringements are being done by using file sharing networks and peer-to-peer (P2P) software which is installed on an individual's computer. This software allows them to exchange files back and forth with other people who are running the same P2P software on their computers. The software is usually configured so that any files you download are then made available to anyone else on the network who wants them. By downloading the files to ones computer, the computer automatically becomes a distributor of those files and this opens the user up to potential legal risks. This is a big no-no, and XIT recommends if you participate in these types of networks, to stop immediately and delete the software.

Even if you have paid for the P2P software, it does not include a license or authorization to download and share content. In fact, these companies (who just took your money) usually go out of their way to tell everyone in fine print that the software just purchased does not authorize the sharing of copyrighted content and by using it to share this material could result in the buyer being sued or subjected to legal fines.

So how does an Internet Service Provider know when copyright laws have been violated? Companies, like XIT, receive notice from the content owners on the infringements that have occurred, the IP address that was used, and the time and date the content was violated. At this point, the Internet techs can then pull up an IP search for that time and date and associate the IP address with a MAC ID number that was used. The MAC ID number is specific to a customer's modem and every customer has a different MAC ID address. By doing this, technicians can pinpoint exactly which customer is at fault. The Internet service provider will then notify the customer by way of phone call or written notice of the infringement and check into why it occurred. Most ISP's will let the infringer know if it occurs again, their service will be suspended and that they could face legal repercussions with the content owner.

If a lawsuit is brought about, say for software copying, the infringer may be liable for the owner's actual damages plus any profits made from the infringement. The copyright owner may avoid proving actual damages by electing a statutory damage settlement of up to \$30,000, or where the court determines that the infringement occurred willfully, up to \$150,000. Violation of copyright law is also considered a federal crime and can carry criminal penalties that can put the infringer in prison. This is serious stuff folks!

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Music Choice Channel Change Up

Music Choice

Effective July 1st, Music Choice changed the name and content of one of their music channels on XIT's IPTV system. Music Choice University (MCU), Channel 903, has now changed to MC Indie. This was done to create a new music destination for the best alternative music to a dedicated fan base.

The Indie Channel will be tailored to college-aged and young adults looking for emerging and groundbreaking artists in the indie music world. It is a channel that will appeal to the tastes of underground music lovers who regularly discover new artists on blogs or magazine websites.

Some of the core artists on the new channel include Arctic Monkeys, Arcade Fire, Cloud Nothings, HAIM, St. Vincent, and Vampire Weekend.

So check out the new channel and hear tomorrow's next big names in alternative music while they are still ruling the underground!

XIT Webspaces are Available

XIT Internet customers who would like to create their own webpage have up to 10MB of free webhosting space to use for this purpose. Customers can upload and personally create their own web page to be published on the Internet.

XIT users can access their web space by using the XIT FTP client program. Log into the XIT FTP client program by going to <ftp://ftp.xit.net>. The customer will enter their email user name and password to log into the system. Once logged in, customers can upload their new files or modify existing ones they already have on the site.

Customers will need to consult their website software manual for instructions on how to create their webpage. XIT hosts the storage space only—we do not create the web pages. Once the files are uploaded, they are ready to be viewed on the Internet. The format for the customer's website address will be: <http://username.xit.net>. Check this out if you are interested in having a personal web page!



Meet Tiffani Ballew

XIT would like to introduce Tiffani Ballew, XIT Customer Service Clerk, to our XIT family! Tiffani is a 2013 graduate of Texline High School and is the daughter of Bobby & Vickey Ballew of Dalhart. Tiffani started working for XIT several weeks ago, and is currently training in our Stratford office. She will be working in one of our Dalhart offices after training is complete. Welcome Tiffani!

What's Cookin' at XIT

Caramel Puffs By Carol Koehn

2 pkgs. white puffed corn (Chester's Brand)
1 c. or 2 sticks of butter or margarine
1 c. brown sugar

½ c. white Karo syrup
1 tsp. vanilla
½ tsp. baking soda

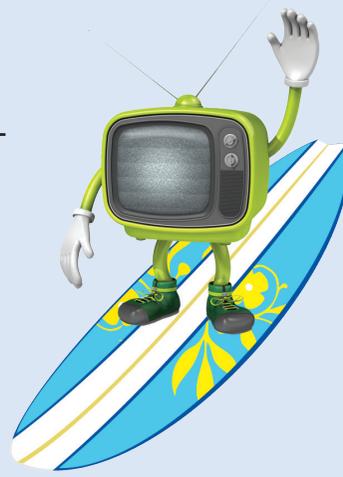


In a skillet, combine Karo syrup, butter and brown sugar and bring to a boil. Take off heat and add vanilla and baking soda. Stir well. Put one bag of puffs in a large mixing bowl. Pour ½ of the cooked mixture over the puffs and stir well. Then add the second bag of puffs and the rest of the cooked mixture and stir well again. Now pour into two baking pans and bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Let cool before serving.

This recipe is featured in our 2012 Country Cookin' Cookbook now available for sale at any of our XIT offices for only \$14.95 each. The new cookbook is made up of 709 of the tastiest recipes from the finest cooks in our area! Come by and get yours today!

SMART SURFING...

State of Affairs is a show featuring Katherine Heigl as Charleston “Charlie” Tucker, one of the top CIA analysts, who helps the President prioritize the biggest international crises in our country. Aside from the political minefields she has to walk, Charlie has a close personal relationship with the President (played by Alfre Woodard) because she was once engaged to her son before a tragic terrorist attack claimed his life. Charlie survived the attack and is now determined to bring the perpetrators to justice. This edge-of-your-seat thriller could change the way you view politics, the White House and the world at large. Check it out on Monday nights at 9:00 P.M. on NBC, Channel 4, 504 in HD, starting in November.



Black-ish is a new comedy premiering on ABC this fall on Wednesday nights at 8:30 P.M. Andre “Dre” Johnson (played by Anthony Anderson), has a great job, beautiful wife, Rainbow, four kids and a home in the burbs. With a comfortable lifestyle in an affluent, mostly-white neighborhood, the hilarious storyline depicts the struggle between the kids’ urge to assimilate into the culture of their classmates, and their father’s desperate attempt to keep them rooted in his idea of black culture. If the previews of this show are any indication of how funny the show will be, we are in for a treat! Watch for this comedy in the fall on XIT’s IPTV Channel 7/507 HD.

Utopia will feature 15 pioneering Americans who agree to leave their everyday lives for a one-year period, and move to an isolated, under-developed location, where they are challenged to create their own civilization from scratch with no existing power structures and limited amenities. Cameras will be following them 24/7 and streaming their activities online for a total of 52 weeks. The location is top secret and the 15 participants will be given some rudimentary tools, shelter, livestock and seeds and will be expected to craft together a functioning society. The Utopians will select fellow participants for elimination in a process in which the viewers also vote. After the votes, 3 will land in the danger zone and 2 aspiring new contestants will arrive. The show is the first of its kind and looks to be a very exciting change to reality TV. Check it out this October on Fox, Channel 14/514 HD, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M.

The Flash will premier on The CW this fall on Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M., on Channel 15. The series stars Grant Gustin as Barry Allen/The Flash, who at 11 years old is taken in and raised by Detective Joe West, after his mother is killed and his father is falsely convicted of the murder. Now, years later, Barry has become a brilliant, driven and geeky CSI investigator, whose determination to uncover the truth about his mother’s strange death leads him to follow up on every unexplained urban legend and scientific advancement that comes along. When a devastating explosion causes a freak storm, Barry is struck by lightning. After nine months in a coma, Barry awakens to find the accident has given him the power of super speed as a meta-human, granting him the ability to become an unseen guardian angel to the people of Central City. He also finds out he is not the only meta-human, but some are not using their powers for good. It won’t be long because the world learns what Barry Allen has become ... The Flash!

XIT Email While Traveling

Summer is the time of year for big family vacations and lots of traveling while the kids are out of school. Even though you may be far away from home, you can still stay in touch as long as you have a computer, tablet or phone with Internet access. With XIT email, you can log in and check your messages and send new messages anytime, 24/7.

Just log into our website at www.xit.net. In the upper right corner, look for the link that says Webmail and click on this link. You will then log into the XIT email using your email address and password. Once logged in, you will be able to see any new messages that have come into your mailbox, as well as send any new outgoing messages that you need to get out. Just that fast and easy!

XIT will keep you connected ... even away from home!



Service Issues ... Please Report To Us

XIT cares about all of our customers! We are here to help if and when you need us! If you are having trouble with ANY of your XIT Communications' services, please contact us immediately at 384-3311 or 244-0811. Please don't assume we know there is a problem. XIT strives to resolve all customer problems quickly, and usually with minimal outages.

It is important when calling us to provide as much information and details as possible about the issues being experienced with your service. Many times when customers call into our office, a member of our customer service team can help to resolve the issue immediately. If the issue is more complicated, a trouble ticket will be generated, and an XIT technician may be dispatched to the location for troubleshooting.

If it is an Internet-related issue, you may contact the Internet Help Desk toll free at 1-800-687-0780 for technical assistance. If they are not able to resolve the issue, please contact XIT for further assistance.

If you have questions about your XIT bill or services, please contact the XIT retail location nearest you:

- Dalhart – 244-3355 or 384-3311
- Stratford – 366-3355
- Vega – 967-3355
- Boys Ranch – 533-3355

Your satisfaction is important to us, so please give us a call if you experience any problems! We are here to serve you, our valued customers!



Lupe Duarte, XIT Customer Service Clerk, works in our Stratford office. Lupe has been with XIT for over 6 years and is a great asset to the XIT family! She serves all of our Stratford customers and also assists customers with trouble calls if they call in over the phone.



Texline Community Day

XIT was a proud supporter of the Texline Community Day which was held in June in Texline. The money donated was used to purchase prizes and food for the event.

Shown accepting the donation check was Michelle Reeser, (right), Texline Community Day committee member. Jessica Sanchez, XIT employee, is shown holding the sponsorship sign.

XIT'S Channel One Advertising

Need to promote a community gathering, church activity or school function? Then XIT's Channel One is your venue! Channel One on XIT's IPTV system is seen by thousands of local residents in our area who may be interested in what you have to say and is a great economical advertising tool!

There is no charge for birthday or anniversary announcements, school functions, church activities, items to give away, community ads or lost ads.

All other ads are billed on a weekly basis. Personal ads are \$10 per week, business ads are \$20 per week. Graphics or photos must be jpeg format. There may be a minimal set up fee, depending on ad creation time.

Information must be submitted to XIT Communications at least 24-48 hours prior to the event start date to allow time for the advertisement to be created and published. Information can be dropped off at any XIT office, or emailed to marketing@xitcomm.net. Remember XIT's Channel One for all your advertising needs!



So what can you do to protect yourself and prevent future problems? First, make sure not to download or upload any unauthorized copies of music, books, videos and movies. Permanently delete any unauthorized copyrighted content from all computers, if any exists. Delete any P2P software that may exist on any of the computers. And, always be careful not to share or copy any copyrighted material to give to friends or put on the Internet to share online. Also, since children are online a lot nowadays, take time and talk to your kids so they understand the legal ramifications and the correct ways to obtain copyrighted materials too.

There are many legal and affordable places online to find the content you want by taking a little time and searching around. One good site for music information is www.whymusicmatters.com. This website lists many of the music download sites that are legal and easy to use. By taking your time and doing what is right, you can be assured you won't have any issues with copyright infringements.

Hollywood Knows!

If you or someone you know is downloading movies, videos or music illegally on the Internet, XIT recommends that the action be stopped immediately! This is against the law! And, make no mistake ... Hollywood owners of this content are aware of the downloads that are occurring and notify the Internet Service Provider (ISP), like XIT, of the infringements. The owner provides the ISP with the IP address of the violator, along with the time and date of each infringement. The ISP can then search their IP database, match up the modem Mac ID number, and identify the violator. If the owners choose, they can legally file suit against the violator. Violators can face hefty legal fines and possibly even prison time for the offenses! Remember, honesty is the best policy!



XIT ... Past, Present & Future

- XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was established in 1951 to provide telephone services to the residents of Dallam, Hartley & Sherman Counties.
- XIT Wireless went on line in June 1990 and was in service until the sale to AT&T Wireless on November 15, 2011
 - XITNET went online with dial-up Internet service in May 1996
- XIT began offering pager service in December 1996, which has been replaced with wireless technology
- In 1997, XIT began providing long distance service, including 800 numbers and calling cards
- XIT started offering CLEC phone service in Dalhart and Stratford in 1998, with the first phone calls being made to state representatives in Washington, D.C., and now serves Dalhart, Stratford, Hartley, Channing, Boys Ranch and Vega markets
 - 1999 was the first year that the XIT Regional Telephone Directory was published
 - In May 2000, the first scholarships were awarded through the XIT Rural Telephone Educational Program
 - XITV and high speed Internet services came online in May 2001
- XIT launched IPTV service in 2010 with HD, DVR, Video on Demand and even faster Broadband Internet services

XIT is affordable, dependable and dedicated to offering state-of-the-art communications services to our customers, and have been doing it since 1951.

We look forward to what technology of the future may hold for us! To Be Continued ...



is a quarterly publication for
**XIT Rural Telephone
 Cooperative, Inc.** members
 and **XIT Communications**
 Customers.

Direct correspondence to:
XIT Connections
Attn: Marketing Department
P.O. Box 711
Dalhart, TX 79022

or e-mail to xitcom@xit.net

www.xit.net



Storm Alerts on TV

Storm alert notifications when watching your favorite TV show can be a pest, but they are an important and necessary part of our lives in the Texas Panhandle during the spring and summer months. The American Broadcast System notifications can pop up at any time when there is severe or threatening weather in or near our area. If you happen to encounter a weather alert while watching TV, simply press any button on the remote control (except power) to remove the alert notification. This allows you to continue watching the show without any viewing interruptions.

The same process goes for Amber Alert notifications also. These notifications can be life savers and should not be taken lightly if storms are in your area. Please pay attention and stay safe!

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 PRESORT
 SERVICES, LTD

12324 US Highway 87
 Dalhart, TX 79022



2014 XIT Regional Telephone Directory ...

Continued from page 1

XIT's directory also includes some directory listings that are not XIT subscribers. We obtain these listings from other telephone providers in the area so we can provide as detailed and complete a book as we possibly can. Due to our agreements with these carriers, XIT cannot make any corrections to any other company's listings. If there is an error in your directory listing, and you are not an XIT subscriber, you must contact your provider and have them correct the listing on their end.

We hope you enjoy the new directory and use it anytime you need a phone number or information for the area! If you would like to advertise in next year's XIT directory, please contact the XIT Marketing Department at 806-384-3311 for information and rates. We want to be your directory of choice!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.