

XIT Connections

XX, Number 4, Fall 2018



Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive Going On Now

XIT Communications has kicked off the Fourth Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive! The drive began on October 1st, and will continue through the end of the year. This year's drive will once again focus on breakfast foods, since they are still in really high demand, and because breakfast is an important meal that no one should have to miss.

We want to encourage everyone in the local communities to join us in participating in this year's breakfast food drive. XIT was able to donate over 88 tote bags of groceries last year to the local pantries. This is due to the generosity of folks, like you, who live in XIT's coverage areas. The pantries participating again in this year's drive include: The Pantry of Stratford, Vega Food Pantry/UMC, Texline Food Pantry, The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church and the Dalhart Church of the Nazarene Food Bank. They all really stressed the importance of this food drive to help keep the pantries stocked over the colder months. There are many people in our local areas who use the pantries to put food on their tables when money runs short. Many local families are struggling, and this food drive is a blessing to many!

To participate in the breakfast food drive is easy! Simply come by any XIT office location and either pick up a reusable tote to take and fill, or just bring in your donated items in a regular grocery bag. XIT will deliver the items to the local pantries. We will give you a new reusable grocery tote bag to keep as our THANK YOU when you bring in your donated items. Whether one item or a whole bag full, we are very appreciative for all donations we receive.

Vega residents can participate too! Just go by Taylor's Vega Market to pick up a XIT Rise & Shine grocery tote. You can fill the tote with items and leave it right at the store for delivery to the Vega Food Pantry/UMC. Or, you can drop off donated items to the Vega Chamber of Commerce and Keila will make sure they get delivered to the food pantry. Either place will give you a new reusable grocery tote to keep as our THANK YOU for your donation!



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Dalhart Fiber Optic Construction Continues ...

XIT's Dalhart fiber optic construction is progressing, with construction crews recently completing the Pueblo Addition. Drops to the homes are now being installed. Construction crews continue to work in several parts of town laying buried cable and putting up fiber aerial lines.

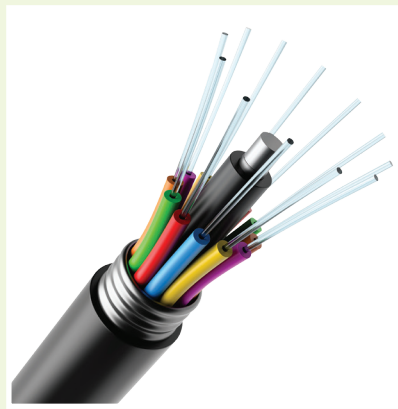
When the construction crews are done, every home and business in Dalhart will have fiber optic capabilities! XIT is making this multi-million dollar investment to serve the folks in Dalhart now ... as well as in the future! After we are done with the City of Dalhart, the plan is to then move to Stratford to run fiber optics to every home and business there! Everyone will have consistent, reliable communication services with the best high speed broadband Internet available in Dalhart and Stratford! The competition will be left behind with the speeds that will be offered!

If you are an existing XIT Communications' customer in Dalhart, you will automatically be converted over to fiber as soon as construction is completed in your neighborhood. Existing residential customers will be moved from their existing Internet service to a plan with much higher Internet speeds with NO PRICE INCREASE! Yes, you read that right ... No Price Increase for the much higher speed!

Fiber Optics is the most progressive and advanced technology available these days! Fiber optic cables are made of thin strands of pure glass, bundled together. The cables are used to transmit pulses of light through the strands of glass, which allows the cables to send large amounts of data without electromagnetic interference. It is much more efficient and much faster than traditional copper cables, which use electricity to transmit data instead of the "speed of light."

If you do not have XIT services already, but would like to be included in the fiber conversion when construction crews get to your neighborhood, please contact XIT Communications today to get signed up for service! By doing this, you will help ensure a more timely conversion of your home or business over to fiber optics.

XIT has exciting technology coming your way! Get the best in high-speed broadband Internet with tremendous speed packages and crystal-clear telephone service! We want to be YOUR communications company! Give XIT a call today and remember ... Fiber Gets You Movin'!



Mandy Rysavy is shown picking up a gift basket from XIT Communications for St. Anthony's Oktoberfest, which was held recently at the church fellowship hall in Dalhart, Texas. XIT is the local communications company providing local telephone, long distance, high speed Internet and IPTV services.



Annual Rise & Shine Food Drive

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There is a card in the pocket of the XIT grocery totes with a list of non-perishable breakfast food items to assist you when shopping. Some of the suggested items include oatmeal, hot and cold cereals, grits, biscuit and gravy mixes, muffin mixes, granola bars, peanut butter and jelly, powdered milk, coffee and fruit juices. Of course, any kind of food items donated will be appreciated and accepted! Monetary donations are also welcome for those who can't or don't have the time to shop. We will be happy to pick up breakfast items for you!

Please join XIT to Rise & Shine and help fight hunger where we live! Let's break last year's total and stomp out local hunger ... TOGETHER! Thank you in advance for your help!

Reconnection Guidelines For XIT Services

If any XIT customer is disconnected for non-payment of their monthly bill, they will be required to pay a reconnection fee, along with the amount that is due on their account. If the customer pays with cash, debit or credit card, the services will be restored either the same day or next day (if after 4 p.m.). Any customer who pays with a check, E-check or online payment will not be reconnected for 7 days after XIT receives the payment. This is so there is time for the payment to clear through the bank.

Also, XIT customers paying for a reconnect after 4pm, may not be reconnected until the next business day. XIT makes all efforts to reconnect services the same day if possible, but depending on the circumstances, we will not guarantee the services will be reconnected the same day. If you need your services reconnected the same day, please make a note of this and come in before 4 p.m.

XIT offers ACH bank drafts, automatic credit card payments and online billing to help alleviate late fees and being disconnected for non-pay. Give us a call to set up automatic payments to avoid additional charges and service disruptions.



Moving? Give XIT A Call First

If you are planning on moving and transferring service to the new location within XIT's service area, XIT asks that you provide us with at least two weeks prior notice of the move date. This is so XIT can get the location transfer on the installation schedule, and we can get your services hooked up at the new location in a timely manner!

XIT will not issue credit for loss of service due to no prior notification of the move by the customer. **Don't delay, give us a call today!**



Dalhart - 244-3355 or 384-3311
Boys Ranch - 533-3355

Stratford - 366-3355
Vega - 967-3355

XIT ... Still The Brand of Excellence

With communication services changing and progressing at a steady pace these days, staying on top of the technological changes can be more challenging than ever before. This is where the staff of XIT Communications and XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative can help our customers to stay ahead of the game!

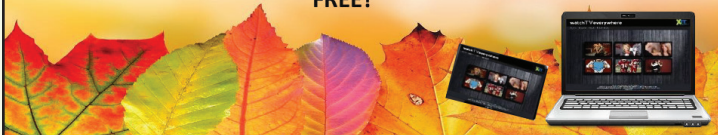
XIT has a large range of services we offer, including high-speed broadband Internet, high definition (HD) IPTV service and local and long distance telephone service. Keeping our local communities connected to the rest of the world is the main reason our company exists! That is why XIT continues to invest in our communications network, replacing older technology and equipment when needed, and making our services the best they can possibly be for our customers.

watchTVeverywhere

TURN YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE DEVICE INTO A TV!

At home, on mobile devices, everywhere you go! As long as you have an Internet connection, you can stream a growing number of your favorite programs and channels to your tablet, smart phone, laptop and other devices, from ANYWHERE! And, as an XIT IPTV customer, **WTV is FREE**, there are no extra fees to use it.
(Note: If you stream shows on your smartphone, there could be data charges for overages).

Visit www.XIT.net to register
and start watching TV everywhere for
FREE!



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ers. At XIT, we strive to provide top-notch services that make our customers' lives more efficient and convenient.

If you are already an XIT customer, we want to say THANK YOU for your business! Without you, XIT would not be the company we are today!

If you are not an XIT customer yet, we would love the opportunity to visit with you and show you the wonderful services we have to offer. Our expert staff will answer any of your questions, and help you choose the services you need ... not only for now ... but for long into the future! Come by or give us a call today! We want to be YOUR communications company!



Dalhart

1624 Tennessee Ave 244-3355

12324 US Hwy 87 384-3311

Stratford

401 N 3rd St 366-3355

Boys Ranch

533-3355

Vega

967-3355

Dalhart Girl Scouts To Host 4th Annual Heroes Dinner

The Dalhart Girl Scouts will host their 4th Annual Heroes Dinner on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the Dalhart Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. The dinner is for all local first responders. The dinner is the Girl Scouts way of thanking them for their service to the community. Shown here picking up the gift basket that was donated by XIT Communications is Makayla DeMots from Troop 5415.



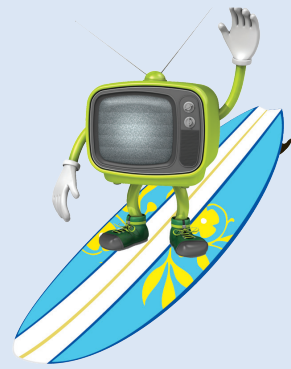
Stratford High School's Senior Fall Festival

Emily Barajas, Stratford High School Senior, (left) and Lupe Duarte (right), XIT Customer Service Representative, are shown with the gift basket which was donated by XIT Communications for Stratford High School's Senior Fall Festival. The festival was held on Saturday, October 27. XIT Communications is a proud supporter of the Stratford schools.



SMART SURFING...

Real Country is an eight-part series that will premiere on Tuesday, November 13, at 9:00 p.m. on the USA Channel, Channel 61/561 in HD. The series will feature five-time Grammy winner Shania Twain, long with Jake Owens and Travis Tritt. The stars will hand-pick singers, duos and groups to perform in showcases that highlight traditions, songs and themes of country music. The best artists from each showcase will perform in the grand finale for a chance to be named one of country music's next big stars. If you like country music, you might want to check out this series.



Martina's Table will premiere on Sunday, November 18, at 11:00 a.m., on the Food Network, Channel 81/851 in HD. The show features Martina McBride, who is a country music icon. She is giving Food Network viewers great cooking tips and delicious recipes that she uses when she entertains family and friends in her home. Good friends Sheryl Crow, Faith Hill, Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman stop by to visit and try some of the tasty dishes Martina creates. If you like cooking, you might want to tune in to Martina's Table.

Crikey! It's the Irwins is set to premiere on Sunday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. on Animal Planet, Channel 87/587 in HD. Terri, Bindi and Robert Irwin are returning to television to further the work of Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin, who passed away back in 2006. Steve's mission was to form a bond between people and animals and to bring them closer together. The family runs the largest family-owned zoo, Australia Zoo in Queensland, which has over 1200 animals. Bindi, now 20 years old, focuses her interest on the animals at Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital, which is a facility that rescues, treats and releases sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. The family also will entertain you will some exciting wildlife adventures! If you love animals, this is a must-see show!

Lifeline Assistance

If you need assistance paying your telephone or Internet bill, the Lifeline program is available to qualifying low-income residents as part of a federal support program.

Lifeline is available from XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications, and provides a monthly discount on basic telephone or Internet service.

- If you use the discount for Internet service, you must subscribe to a 12/2 Mbps or higher Internet package to be eligible for the discount.
- There is only one discount allowed per household for either telephone or Internet, but not for both.
- Subscribers will need to recertify once a year.



In order to receive Federal Lifeline assistance, you or someone in your household must participate in at least one of the following programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program, or your annual household income must be at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Additional assistance may be available for residents of Tribal lands.

A Texas Lifeline discount may be available if a Texas resident's total household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. A resident is also qualified if they are currently receiving: Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program support, SNAP, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Health Benefit Coverage under Children Health Plan (CHIP) under Chapter 62 support, National School Lunch Program-Free Lunch Program, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

For more information, or to sign up for the Lifeline program, either contact the Texas Low Income Administrator (LIDA) at 1-866-454-8387 or go online to www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx.

Keeping Track of Your Passwords



With so many hackers these days trying to get your information, you have to be extra careful with online account passwords. If you currently only have one password that you use for all your online accounts, now is the time to make a change! Using the same password for all your accounts can cause a major nightmare for you if a hacker happens to find access to your single password. The hacker can then access more of your online accounts and get your valuable information including credit card data, bank account numbers, and your personal information to open new accounts in your name. Your information is worth far more than most people realize!

With online accounts, you really should have a complex, unique password for each account. Hackers are constantly developing more advanced computer programs that can guess billions of passwords, searching until the correct one is found. The more complicated your passwords, the harder it is for a hacker to acquire it.

Of course, none of the following suggestions are totally perfect, but you need a method for remembering all of your passwords that won't make you crazy! Here are a couple of options you might consider to keep your passwords safe and easy to access:

First, the old fashioned way of writing them down in a book. Don't keep sticky notes with your passwords sitting by your computer. Keep the password book in a secure place when you are not using it, preferably under lock and key.

Next, would be to get a password manager. There are a bunch of services out there that help keep track of passwords. These digital safe houses gather your passwords, encrypt them and then store them. LastPass, 1Password, Dashlane and Roboform are programs that work well, but you may have to pay for some features and services. Some password manager programs will even generate stronger passwords for you, so you don't have to make them up.

Remember, anything is safer than using the same password over and over again, even if it's a good one! Protecting your online information is of the utmost importance. Please take it seriously!

Stingray Music Temporary Change

Stingray Music will be making a change to its channel lineup on the night of November 27th. Latino Urbana, Channel 936, will become Felices Fiestas, and continue this way throughout the holiday season. The transition back to Latino Urbana will occur on the night of January 3, 2019.

Holiday Hits, Channel 940, will play festive Christmas music from November 1 to December 26th. Please make note of these seasonal changes and enjoy the festive music!

Also, an additional 2,000 channels, including 100 especially curated for the holidays, are available all year long through the Stingray Music mobile app and web player at <https://webplayer.stingray.com>. **Check it out!**



STINGRAY
MUSIC

What's Cookin' at XIT

French Onion Soup By *Alene Davis*

1 ½ lbs. onions
2 ½ oz. margarine
¾ oz. all-purpose flour
¼ tsp. black pepper
10 c. beef stock

2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
¼ tsp. salt
croutons
parmesan or Swiss cheese



Cut onions into thin slices and sauté in margarine in a large skillet. Add flour and pepper and cook for 10 minutes or until onions are tender. Add beef stock and Worcestershire sauce. To serve: Ladle soup over croutons or toasted bread. Sprinkle with cheese, if desired.

Find more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. They make great gifts for any occasion!

XIT Regional Directory Photo Contest

XIT is looking for unique and colorful photographs for the XIT Regional Telephone Directory Photo Contest! If you, or someone you know, have some great photos to share, please take the time to send them to us. The deadline for the 2019 directory contest is Friday, December 7, 2018. Photos submitted after this date will automatically be entered in the contest for the following year.

Even if a photo is not selected for the directory cover, XIT may still use the photo for the cover of our quarterly newsletters. All photos submitted become the property of XIT Communications.

The winner of the contest will receive \$200 and have the bragging rights of their photo being on the cover of 10,000 directories distributed to XIT's local coverage areas. We also use the photo on the cover of the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting Booklet and the Annual Meeting Invitation.

Photos submitted may include people, landscapes, animals, events, flowers, or anything else interesting and eye catching! There is no limit to the number of photographs a person can submit. We just ask that the photos be in color, in the highest resolution available and in portrait (vertical) layout. Be sure to include your name, address, and contact information, along with a description of all of the photos submitted.

Digital photos can be emailed online to xitcom@xit.net. Printed photos can be mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022. You can also drop them off at any XIT office location.

So, get those cameras snapping and remember to submit your photos to us by Friday, December 7, 2018! We can't wait to see everyone's wonderful photos!



XIT Christmas Open House Dates Announced

The dates have been set for this year's XIT Christmas Open Houses, and we hope you can join us! Make sure to mark your calendar and come join us for a delicious BBQ meal with all the trimmings!

The Stratford Open House will be held on Friday, December 7. Open houses for both the downtown and headquarters locations in Dalhart will be on Friday, December 14.



XIT served over 224 plates of food at the 2017 XIT Dalhart Open House at the XIT Customer Care Center downtown. There were 155 people who registered for door prizes at the downtown office, along with another 66 people at the XIT Headquarters Office.

Door prizes will be given away again this year. Invitations will be sent out to all XIT customers closer to the open house dates. We look forward to seeing everyone and getting to visit with all of our customers! Please make plans to join us in December. We hope to see you then!



Just a few of the many people who came out to join us at the Stratford Open House last year. Over 135 people registered last year for door prizes in Stratford.



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

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Got A Story Idea?

XIT Communications is always looking for great story ideas for the XIT Connections Newsletters. We appreciate any fresh ideas from our customers! We want to make our newsletter one that you want to read from beginning to end. We always try to include lots of valuable information that is useful to our customers.

If you know of a unique story that you would like to see us do a feature story on, or just would like more information on a specific service XIT offers, please email your idea to our marketing department at xitcom@xit.net. Make sure to provide as much detailed information as possible, along with your contact information. Although we can't promise we will do a story on every idea we receive ... we can tell you we will look at each idea presented.

We appreciate all of our customers and hope that if you're not an XIT customer yet, that you will give us a try! Give us a call today at 244-3355 or 384-3311 in Dalhart; 366-3355 in Stratford; 533-3355 in Boys Ranch; or 967-3355 in Vega, to talk to one of our friendly customer care representatives about our services! **We would be honored to have your business!**



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 <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form>, 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 USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.