

XIT Connections

XVIII, Number 2, Spring 2016

Our cover photo of the beautiful Indian Blanket flowers was taken by Laura Rogers last summer at their home in Sherman County.

WatchTVEverywhere

How would you like to take your TV with you the next time you go somewhere? Would you like to be able to watch your favorite TV shows on the road whenever you want? Well, the wait is over! XIT is excited to announce WatchTVEverywhere is now available to all XIT Communications cable TV customers!

So, what is WatchTVEverywhere?

WatchTVEverywhere (WTVE) gives

customers the ability to watch TV programs on devices other than a TV set. This could be a PC, laptop, tablet, or even a wireless phone. Best of all, to XIT cable TV customers, this service will be available to you absolutely FREE! There are no extra charges to use it! You will be able to watch any WTVE program that is currently offered, as long as you subscribe to the network/channel on your current XIT cable TV package. For example, you must have the NFL Channel in your XIT TV package lineup in order to watch NFL Network's WatchTVEverywhere programs. Not all networks may have WTVE capabilities, but the list continues to grow!

Where can you use the WTVE service? The answer is just about EVERYWHERE! It works anywhere in the United States where you can receive an Internet signal, like inside your home, at the office, a shopping mall, airport, hotel, and the list goes on. Wired Internet connections and in-home Wi-Fi provide the best quality. However, if you choose to use your wireless phone to watch WTVE, be aware you may incur data charges if you go over your data package. It is best to check with your wireless provider for information on your data package and usage.

What can you watch on WTVE? Each TV network makes the decision about what they show. A TV network may not own the rights to all of the TV programs it transmits. The networks can only allow access to programs to which they own the rights. But, unlike Netflix, WTVE does include live TV, like live game coverage on the NFL Network and Watch ESPN. It also has full episodes of current TV shows within days of their premiere, so you don't miss out on your favorite shows, and you can also catch up on the entire season or previous seasons anytime!

XIT is still in the beginning roll-out stages, so channels are coming up daily onto the website. Not every channel that may be available to our customers is on the website at this time, so check back often to see what channels have been added! The

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Making Life Connect!

When you have XIT Communications' high-speed broadband Internet service, the world is at your fingertips. Nowadays, there are so many cool and unique Internet-controlled gadgets that can make your life easier and more convenient! Most of these gadgets don't cost anything to operate once they are purchased, but you do need a home Wi-Fi Internet connection to make them work! Then, you control and access them right from your wireless phone, tablet or computer. Here are just a couple of the new, cool gadgets, approximate retail price, and some basic information on how they work. Check them out!

The Nest Learning Thermostat: Amazon.com or www.nest.com are the websites that carry the thermostat, priced at around \$249.00.



- Answer just a few basic questions at the start, then after that, the thermostat will learn the temperatures you like at the times of day/night you like them by recording your temperature adjustments. It then programs itself to your preferences after about a week.
- Nest will automatically turn itself down when no one is home to save energy.
- When Nest spots you across the room, it will light up to show you the time and temperature that is currently set.
- Connect the thermostat to Wi-Fi to control the temperature from your phone, tablet or computer, even when you are away from home.

Independent studies show this thermostat can actually save an average of 10-12% on heating bills and 15% on cooling bills.

Nest Protect: Another great product by Nest is a smoke detector and CO alarm in one. www.bestbuy.com or www.nest.com has them priced at around \$99.00.



- This alarm integrates with the Nest Thermostat and automatically turns off gas furnaces if the carbon monoxide alarm goes off.
- Operates off Wi-Fi to a phone app for easy control and access.
- Lasts up to a decade. No more "chirps" in the middle of the night due to low battery.
- Nest Protect checks the batteries and sensors over 400 times a day, and alerts your phone if the battery is getting low.
- At night, Nest Protect will shine a soft nightlight for you if you walk underneath it.
- It has split-spectrum sensors that use 2 wavelengths of light to detect smoke from both fast-burning and slow smoldering fires.
- A friendly, human voice provides early warnings when something is wrong, instead of the loud, piercing bells like normal detectors.
- Nest Protect will send alerts to your phone, so even when you are at work, you will be notified of any situation that arises at your home.

LIFX Light Bulbs: On Amazon website or www.lifx.com these light bulbs are priced at around \$39.99 for white, or \$59.99 for multi colored bulbs. LIFX colored light bulb give you over 16 million colors at your fingertips for special lighting in the home. LED Bulb is rated to last up to 40,000 hours. (That averages out to about 27 years at 4 hours per day).



- Each bulb is controlled via Wi-Fi and the LIFX app.
- Each bulb has its own Internet connection so you can control each one individually. Remotely control the lights, select the perfect shade and brightness, all from your smart phone.

Never go home to a dark home again!

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Tiffany Akin (left), and Lori Atha (right), are shown here at the XIT Communications office with a gift basket donated to the Christian Academy's Steak Out Fundraiser that was held recently at the Rita Blanca Coliseum in Dalhart. Funds raised will be used for student scholarships and for updating training and technology at the academy. XIT is a proud supporter of the schools in our coverage area!

VEGA, TEXAS ...

Where Progress Isn't a Thing of the Past ...

Receives Fiber Optic Cable Upgrade from XIT Communications

Vega, Texas may be a small rural town just 30 minutes west of Amarillo, but it's a "progressive" town. It's the county seat and the largest community in Oldham County of around 936 people; 378 households; and 275 families ... all situated on 1.1 square miles of land ... well, that's according to the 2000 Census, anyways.

The Vega Independent School District offers an outstanding school system with an enrollment that runs between 250-300 students ... all housed in a single campus which is split into two schools: Vega Elementary School and Vega High School. Vega is often referred to as the "Crossroads of the Nation" and has also been dubbed, "The Solar Capital of Texas" due



to being in the 7th Sunniest Areas of the United States. The Country Music TV reality show, "Popularity Contest", and the made-for-TV movie, "What Matters Most" were both set in Vega, as well as the Vince Gill music video, "Never Knew Lonely." Vega is a happening place with its annual events such as the Vega Bluegrass Festival, Comancheros de Vega Community Garage Sales, Easter Eggstravaganza, and the Oldham County Round-Up. In case you are traveling through, Vega offers 3 motels; 3 RV parks, 7 restaurants, a grocery store and several convenience stores. If you

want to stay awhile and look around and enjoy the nostalgia of Historic Route 66, meet real live cowboys, and experience Vega's western heritage, be sure to visit the local Chamber of Commerce and City offices for information and a guide to the town's treasures like the Farm and Agriculture Museum and the specialty shops scattered about.

Like Vega, Texas, XIT Communications is also progressive ... always looking for ways to improve and bring new services to its many customers. In fact, XIT Communications has just completed stringing up approximately 11 miles of aerial fiber optics throughout the town of Vega. During the week of April 11th, XIT's contractor started the drop installations from the poles in the alley ways to the homes and businesses and should be completed with

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integration process for some networks takes more time than others, but new channels are coming up on a weekly basis. XIT should have 75+ channels available when all of them have been integrated into the XIT Platform. And, as more networks decide to launch their channels on WTVE, the channels we offer to our customers will continue to grow as well!

XIT is excited about this new service, and we feel our customers will be too! WatchTVEverywhere is just another added bonus of being an XIT cable TV customer! If you have not joined the XIT family, give us a call today! We offer high-speed broadband Internet, cable TV service and telephone and long distance services with the quality and dependability you want and deserve! We want to be your communications provider!



Curtis Brown, Dalhart Fire Chief, is shown accepting a monetary donation for the Dalhart Fire Department's Chili Supper, which was held recently. Kathy Duggan, XIT Rural Telephone Assistant Manager, is shown presenting the check to Mr. Brown.

CPNI Safeguards!

XIT Communications works hard to provide you with the best possible services and offerings that we possibly can! Our goal is to be the area's recognized telecommunications leader with a reputation for quality, service excellence and value! Under Federal Law, XIT has a duty to protect your service information with us. This includes:

- Disclosing call detail information in a customer-initiated phone call can only be provided by the customer providing the CPNI password on their account; by mailing the information directly to the customer's address on record, or by calling back the customer on the telephone number of record.
- We disclose CPNI information at our retail locations only when the customer presents a valid photo ID and the name matches the name on the account, or the customer provides the CPNI password on the account.
- XIT notifies a customer via mail of any change to the customer's CPNI password, online account, or address of record.

Please remember these steps will be taken when calling or coming into one of our offices for any information pertaining to amounts of usage, call details or services, or any billing related questions.

What's Cookin' at XIT

Strawberry Pretzel Salad by Grace Ringo

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 c. coarsely broken pretzels | 1 c. powdered sugar | ½ c. melted butter |
| 6 oz. Strawberry Jello | ½ c. sugar | 2 c. boiling water |
| 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, room temperature | | 12 oz. Cool Whip |
| 2-10 oz. pkgs. frozen strawberries, sweetened | | |



Spray a 9 x 13 pan with cooking spray and cover bottom with pretzels. Mix the butter and sugar together, and pour over the pretzels. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, then cool. Mix the cream cheese, powdered sugar and Cool Whip together with a mixer until smooth. Spread over pretzel layer. Dissolve Jello in hot water, then add frozen strawberries, stirring until they melt. Pour over cream cheese. Chill until Jello sets. Top with Cool Whip.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks available for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. There are 2 editions to choose from!

these installations to “existing XIT customers” in the very near future. Once testing, tweaking and fine tuning are completed, customers will be contacted when the conversion from the old system to the new system goes into full swing. New and upgraded services will be rolled out and presented to customers for their selection.

What does fiber optics bring to Vega, Texas? It brings extremely fast Broadband Internet speeds: 30 Mbps; 40 Mbps, and 50 Mbps, to replace old technology and the much slower speeds of 1.5 Mbps; 3 Mbps; 6 Mbps and 12 Mbps.

What’s new on the TV side? An additional 23 Standard Definition (SD) Channels and an additional 23 High Definition (HD) Channels will be added to the existing channel lineup. Fifty Stingray Digital Music Channels will be available at no additional cost. Video on Demand and its many offerings will be available, including Karaoke. An all new electronic guide will be available. New small set top boxes and BIG BUTTON remotes will replace the older models. AND, WATCH TV EVERYWHERE (WTVE) will be available, at no extra charge, to Vega residents who subscribe to XIT’s TV service. Bringing back a Vega Community Channel is also in the works. Local events and items specific to Vega will be included on this channel exclusively.

Residents of Vega, Texas have the luxury of a small town lifestyle, and they also have access to technology through XIT’s fiber optic upgrade that even some of the big cities don’t have. VEGA, TEXAS ... a small rural town where progress isn’t a thing of the past.



XIT recently made a donation to the Texline Community Days, which will be held June 3rd and 4th in Texline. Community Days is a weekend filled with contests, food, games, and other fun activities for families of all ages. Chelsea Sage of Texline is shown (left) accepting the donation check from XIT Customer Service Clerk, Sherry Steffen. The money will be used to purchase prizes, food and other items needed for the event. XIT is a proud supporter of the Texline Community!

Storm Season Strikes Again!

With spring officially here, storm season is now upon us! Since weather in our area can change quickly, it’s important to know when storms are in the immediate area, and what the severity of those storms may be! Storm alerts on your TV from the American Broadcasting System are an important source for this information. But, they can also be a bit of a nuisance if the storm notifications are not for your immediate area! If you happen to encounter a weather alert on your TV that is not for your area, and you do not want to watch it, simply press any button on the XIT remote control (except the volume keys) to remove the alert notification quickly and easily. This will allow you to continue watching the program without any viewing interruption.

Remember to watch any weather notifications for your immediate area. Important life-saving information is provided and storms can change quickly. XIT wants you to stay safe, informed and protected throughout the storm season!



XIT Bill Pay Options

It's spring time! Time to get outside and enjoy the nice weather! Who has time to worry about paying monthly bills? XIT offers several convenient ways to pay your XIT invoice each month automatically for you, so you can enjoy more of the fun things in life!

- Call or come by one of our offices and set up an automatic credit card payment. Just have your credit card or debit card handy when you set it up! Credit card payments are processed on the 10th of each month.
- Bank drafting is also available. You can choose a pay date of either the 10th or 18th of the month. Have a check from the account you want to use with you when you call or come in to set it up.
- XIT online bill pay is available by going to www.xit.net and click on the XIT Online Bill Pay Login Link. Click on the 'click here to register' link to get started! You will need to know your XIT account number and CPNI password to get registered. Once you have registered, you can set up automatic payments or complete one-time payments, fast and worry-free.

Contact one of our offices listed below to set up your choice of payment options!

Dalhart - 384-3311 - 12324 US Hwy 87 or 244-3355 - 1624 Tennessee Ave

Stratford - 366-3355 - 401 N 3rd St • **Boys Ranch** - 533-3355 • **Vega** - 967-3355

NEW!



Online Bill Pay and Inquiry

[BILL PAY LOGIN](#)

Making Life Connect...

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**THE MOST
LIVE TV
COVERAGE
IN OLYMPICS
HISTORY.**



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Only on the networks
of NBCUniversal.



Amazon Echo: Last, but not least, is the Amazon Echo. On Amazon's website it is priced around \$179.99. Echo is designed to work with voice activation. Just ask for information, news, weather, sports or more, and it will respond to you.

- Echo begins working as soon as it hears the wake word "Alexa".
- Echo has an expertly-tuned speaker that can fill any room with music or sound.
- Controlled completely by your voice for hands-free convenience, it can hear you from anywhere in the room.
- Uses your home Wi-Fi and connects to the Echo Cloud, so it's always updating and getting smarter. Free companion app works on wireless phones, tablets and computers.
- Stream music services from Spotify, iTunes and Pandora from your phone or tablet. Or, listen to your Amazon music library, Prime Music, Tune-In or iHeartRadio, just by asking Echo to find it.
- Hear up-to-the-minute weather and news, set alarms for appointment reminders, keep a shopping list and access it on your phone when at the store, and even make to-do lists ... all with Echo!



These are just a couple of the great new products that integrate with your home Wi-Fi, and can make life so much easier! Just remember that there are a lot of companies that offer similar products on the market, as those listed above, so always make sure to do your research to get the right products for your individual needs!

XIT Communications offers the most reliable, always-on, always-ready broadband Internet service in town! With speeds up to 20 Mbps or even higher by special arrangement, we can tackle all of your speed needs! In-town customers get a FREE XIT Wi-Fi router when service is installed, another great bonus of XIT Internet service! Give us a call today at 806-384-3311!

Calling All Photographers

XIT is on the lookout for colorful and unique photographs for our 2017 XIT Regional Directory Photo Contest! Photos submitted can include landscapes, people, livestock, flowers, or anything else you can photograph! We are looking for new ideas that are creative! The winning photographer will win \$100.00, and the bragging rights of the front cover photo of the 2017 directory!

Photos can be submitted all year long, but photos must be received by Friday, December 9, 2016 to be entered into the 2017 directory contest! Any photos received after this date will automatically be entered into the contest for the following year. The guidelines are simple and there is no limit on the number of entries a person can submit:

- Photos should be taken in the highest resolution available and in portrait (vertical) layout. No black and white photos please.
- Be sure to include your name, address and a contact number with your entries. Include a brief description of each photo, including who, what, when and where.
- We prefer photographs that do not show children's faces. Photos from back, side or looking downward are acceptable.
- All photos become the property of XIT Communications and may be used for advertising purposes, in addition to having it featured on the cover of the directory.
- Digital photos can be submitted and emailed online to xitcom@xit.net.
- Photos can also be submitted by mail. Please submit photos at least 5" x 7" or larger in size. Photos can be mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, Texas 79022.

Remember, photos must be received by Friday, December 9, 2016, to be entered into the 2017 contest. So, get those cameras out and start snapping! We can't wait to see the wonderful and unique photos everyone submits! Happy picture taking!

Lifeline Discounts Available

If you cannot afford local telephone service, Lifeline may be able to assist you! If you qualify for Lifeline, the program can save you money by providing a discount on your monthly telephone service. Qualifying customers can save up to \$13.47 per month for basic local telephone service from XIT, depending on their location of residence.

You are eligible for Lifeline if you receive any of the following:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Child Health Plan under Chapter 62 Support (CHIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Support
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program-Free Lunch Program
- Or total household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level



The program does not cover the cost of additional features like Caller ID or Voice Mail. For more information, or to sign up for the program, either call 1-866-454-8387 or go online at www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx.

WHY KEEP A LANDLINE TELEPHONE???



- When the power goes out, a hard-wired landline phone will work 99% of the time! This can be lifesaving during a disaster, emergency or family crisis.
- Location confirmation for 9-1-1 responders in the event of an emergency. Secure and reliable for babysitters, children and the elderly who may not know the address!
- Crystal-clear private conversations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!
- Your name & phone number are listed in the local directory & directory assistance.
- Don't have to worry about battery being charged or cell towers being overloaded.

BECAUSE IT IS JUST PLAIN SMART!

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



XIT Directory Advertising Deadline Nears

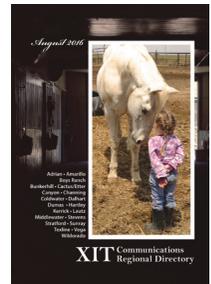
XIT offers a great one-stop, convenient solution to all of your business advertising needs! The XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory is the answer! Our directory makes it easy for prospective or existing customers to find your products and services quickly and easily every time!

Although directory sales have wrapped up for the yellow and white pages advertising for the 2016 directory, it's never too early to get a head start for next year! If you have a product or service you'd like to advertise, give XIT a call at 806-384-3311. We will be happy to get you on the list for next year!

The XIT directory features:

- Yellow & White Page listings that are easy to locate
- Area code and international calling information
- Large, easy-to-read print
- Perfect size for home, office or vehicles
- Local city, county and state government information
- XIT calling feature instructions
- Amarillo/Canyon residential/business listings in the back

Our 2016 directory comes out in July, and is delivered to all area local addresses by the United States Post Office. Extra copies of last year's book are still available at any XIT office location.



PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PANHANDLE
 PRESORT
 SERVICES, LTD

12324 US Highway 87
 Dalhart, TX 79022



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/complain_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.