

XIT Connections

XXI, Number 2, Summer 2019



This photo of the U.S. flag was taken by Joy Culbertson of Dalhart, Texas. Joy is a 5th grade student at the Dalhart Christian Academy. She took a photography class with the Dallam County 4-H last July and took this picture of the flag in front of the Dallam County Courthouse. Thank you Joy for the great photo!

XIT Rural Telephone Names New General Manager ...

Thomas A. Hyer, Jr. (Allen) joined XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. as General Manager on June 1st of this year. Allen grew up in Hereford, Texas, and graduated from high school there. His mother still resides in Hereford. Hyer also has a sister living in Amarillo, Texas.

Allen was employed by West Texas Rural Telephone in Hereford for 27 years. While at WTRT, he served as a Software Developer, Network Engineer and as a member of the management team.

He is married to Elaine, who is an educator. She is currently working toward a Doctorate in Education at the University of Denver and will join Allen in Dalhart in late August.

The Hyers have five grown children: 3 girls and 2 boys.

Allen's hobbies include software development, reading, travel and playing the guitar.

An interesting note is that Allen's dad, Thomas A. Hyer, Sr., served as the general manager of XIT Rural Telephone from 1972 to 1975 before moving to Hereford, Texas, to become the General Manager of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative. The senior Hyer served in this capacity from 1975 until his retirement in 2012.



New XIT Rural Telephone General Manager

**XIT Regional Directories
Coming Soon!
See Page 3 For Details**



XIT Supports Our Local Businesses

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications are proud supporters of the local businesses in our coverage area who are XIT customers. We are pleased to spotlight The Peoples Gym at 212 Denrock Avenue in Dalhart, Texas, in this edition of the XIT Connections Newsletter.

The Peoples Gym offers a great mix of fitness, fun and nutrition, all in one convenient, downtown location! The gym offers a variety of options for every fitness enthusiast at any fitness level, including personal training, spin classes and boxing classes. The gym features a large variety of workout equipment and free weights, and they have recently added Peoples Nutrition Club to the mix. The gym offers 24-hour access to the members, but they do have staff on duty from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and from 1:00-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. They also offer childcare at the facility from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, so parents can get their fitness workouts too!



Standing in front by The Peoples Gym sign are owners, Summer and John Peoples. The gym opened for business early last year.



Summer Peoples is shown here making some smoothies and teas for customers at the Peoples Nutrition Club, which is located in the back of The Peoples Gym.

done it without them,” Summer fondly added. However, the gym is currently not at its permanent location yet. The permanent location for the gym will be out on David Lane. John and Summer have had the land for the new location for about 4 years now. The new gym should be finished by the end of the year, if everything goes smoothly.

The couple were both born and raised in Dalhart, and have known each other since kindergarten. As a matter of fact, their birthdays are exactly one month apart. They started dating back in August 2012, and they were married on July 23, 2016. Summer had a daughter named Jaed when the couple married. Jaed is now 9-years-old. John was recently able to legally adopt Jaed.

Running a gym takes a lot of time, but the couple are definitely devoted to their business. John works full time at his family’s business, P&P Delco, as a dispatcher, where he manages their truck fleet. Having this job allows him the ability to come and go to the gym during the day to help out. Summer gave up her full time job at Bowers Prescription Shop to work full time at the gym, but she still helps out occasionally at the pharmacy when they need some extra help.

The couple is really excited about the new Peoples Nutrition Club at the gym. It is very popular already! Summer stays very busy mixing up delicious meal-replacement shakes and vitamin-packed energy teas. “The teas are sugar free and come in a variety of flavors. They give you energy to last all



Desiree Valdez (front) and LeRoy Jones (back) are shown working out using some of the workout equipment at The Peoples Gym.

Continued on Page 3

day. The meal-replacement shakes are only 200-250 calories each and we have a large selection of flavors to choose from," Summer states. The couple recently converted a storage room at the back of the gym to add the Nutrition Club when they saw there was a need for it. John's dad, Paul Peoples, built them a nice wooden bar that they use for mixing all the delicious shakes and teas.

So, if you are looking for a place to take a workout class, lift some weights or just get in shape, The Peoples Gym is definitely worth checking out! Summer and John are so friendly and are ready to help you reach your fitness and nutrition goals! Give them a call at 806-884-8411.

Call Before You Dig This Summer

Before you start any home improvement projects outside in your yard, please keep in mind that several utility lines are actually located under the ground beneath your feet. These utility lines can include water, sewer, gas, and even communications. Before you begin any construction project (even small jobs like planting trees or shrubs), call 811 to get utility lines located and marked. This is done at no cost to you! It can save you a lot of time and money on costly repair bills if you would happen to accidentally cut into one of these utility lines. Call before you dig!

Texas law requires that anyone digging 16" or deeper on private property or any public right-of-way to call the Texas One Call Center at least 2 days prior to digging. Digging without calling can disrupt services, harm you or those around you, or result in costly repairs. For more information, visit www.texas811.org. Keep safe and enjoy the summer!



XIT Regional Directories Coming Soon

The 2019 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directories will be delivered soon to all business and residential addresses in the XIT coverage area. The XIT directory features not only local residential and business telephone numbers, but also contains information on the local city and county governments, has state and international area codes for long distance calling, state government information, white and yellow pages, and has the Amarillo and Canyon listings in the back of the book. It will be the only directory you will ever need!

Featured on the cover of this year's directory are Cohen and Remi Finch from Dalhart, Texas. The photo is of Spring 2018 branding time at the Carl Finch Family Ranch, which has been in the Finch Family for more than one hundred years. Cohen Finch (Age 4), and his little sister, Remi Finch (2), are busy feeding the mama cows, who have been separated from their baby calves, through the fence. Remi offers comfort to one of the calves as she kisses it gently on the head, assuring it that everything will be just fine. Cohen and Remi are the children of Caleb and Staci Finch of Dalhart, Texas, and the grandchildren of Carl and Michele Finch, who reside in XIT Rural Telephone's Middlewater Exchange. A special thank you goes out to the Finch Family for providing such precious pictures for XIT's 2019 directory cover.

After delivery, additional directories will be available at all XIT offices in Dalhart and Stratford. Just come by and pick up directories for your vehicles, home or office! Copies will also be available at the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce Office.

Our XIT employees work hard to make sure our directory is the most accurate and up-to-date directory around! We proof each customer's listing to ensure it is correct. However, XIT also obtains listings from other telephone providers to make the book complete. Based on our agreements with these providers, XIT cannot make any changes to these listings. If there is an error in your directory listing, and you are not an XIT Communications or XIT Rural Telephone subscriber, you must contact your provider to have the listing corrected.

We hope you will enjoy the new directory and find it very useful!



XIT Rural Telephone Retirements

Two long-time XIT Rural Telephone Managers have taken the wonderful road to retirement recently! Darrell Dennis, XIT Telephone's General Manager, retired on May 31st after 38 plus years of service with XIT Telephone.

Darrell Dennis began his career at XIT Telephone on February 14, 1977. He has held many different jobs over the years before becoming XIT's fourth general manager in January of 2005, after the retirement of Jimmy R. White. Darrell and his wife, Betty, plan to do some camping, traveling and just 'enjoying the good life'.



XIT management and employees hosted a farewell breakfast for Darrell at the Cooperative's HQ office. Darrell and his wife, Betty, are shown relaxing in their new camping chairs at the retirement breakfast.



Enjoying breakfast at his retirement party are Jerry Dorsett, (right) and his son, Sam. Jerry retired from XIT Rural Telephone on June 3rd.

in the day-to-day workings of the telephone Cooperative for many, many years. They have performed many different duties and held many different positions. We want to wish them all the best in their retirement years! They have earned it and will be missed! **Congratulations Guys!**

Jerry Dorsett, XIT's Network & Switching Manager, retired on June 3rd after over 41 years of service with XIT Telephone. Jerry started working for XIT Telephone back on May 23, 1977. He has worked outside plant and repair, as well as in the central office doing fiber network maintenance. He started his most recent position as Network & Switching Manager back on March 4, 2014, after the retirement of Gary Hall.

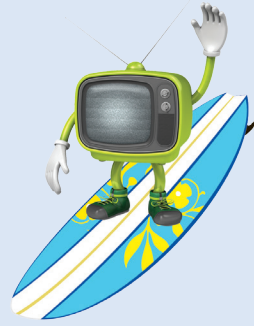
These two men have been involved



XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a proud sponsor of the 83rd Annual XIT Rodeo & Reunion this year. The XIT Rodeo & Reunion will be held on August 1-3 in Dalhart, Texas. Accepting the scoreboard sponsorship check this year from XIT General Manager, Allen Hyer, is the 2018 XIT Rodeo Queen, Jaci Brown. The XIT Rodeo & Reunion Directors, spouse and the 2019 Queen Candidates shown in the photo include: (back row left to right) Kyle Burk, Jeremy Lenz, Clayton Caraway, Bryce Hines and Stewart Rogers. (front row left to right) Kandace Burk, Kaylee Mitchell, Katie Simnacher and Snow Lopez.

SMART SURFING

BH90210 is a comedy-drama reboot series of the popular 1990's hit TV show 90210. The series will premiere on Wednesday, August 7, at 8:00 p.m. on Fox, Channel 14/514 in HD. Original stars Jason Priestley, Shannon Doherty, Jennie Garth, Ian Ziering, Gabrielle Carteris, Brian Austin Green and Tori Spelling will return in the new series. They will play themselves in a version of reality that is inspired by their real lives and relationships. If you watched 90210 back in its day, you may want to check this new series out.



BULLETPROOF is a new crime-drama series premiering on Sunday, July 28, at 7:00 p.m. on The CW Network, Channel 15. The series follows two undercover cops, Bishop (played by Noel Clarke), and Pike (Played by Ashley Walters), who catch criminals in London's East End. Bishop comes from a stable, middle-class home with a long line of officers in the family, while Pike, an ambitious family man, grew up in foster homes and on the streets. The two are childhood friends, and although they came from very different backgrounds, they are bonded not only by the same moral codes, but by a special friendship bond that can't be broken. The two fight organized crime with vigor and perseverance. This looks to be an action-packed series.

CMA FEST is a 3-hour special airing on Sunday, August 4, at 7:00 p.m. on ABC, Channel 7/507 in HD. This is the 16th consecutive year for the nationally televised event. The special will be hosted by Thomas Rhett and Kelsea Ballerini at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee. See all of your favorite country stars perform their music and enjoy some one-of-a-kind collaborations. If you like country music, this show is for you!

Dalhart Construction Progressing ...

As XIT's Dalhart fiber optic construction progresses, you will see our construction crews moving around town more and more as they work on installing the new buried cable and aerial fiber. Crews have completed the Pueblo Addition, and are now working in numerous locations around Dalhart.

When the construction is completed, every home and business in Dalhart will have fiber optic capabilities. This new technology will allow XIT to take our customers into the future with the best fiber optic communication services that money can buy. After we are done with the City of Dalhart, the plan is to move on to the City of Stratford, then on to Channing, Hartley and Boys Ranch markets to run fiber optics to every home and business there too!

If you are an existing XIT Communications' customer in Dalhart, you will be converted over to fiber as soon as construction is completed in your neighborhood. Many neighborhoods have already been converted. Existing residential customers will be moved from their existing Internet service to a plan with much higher Internet speeds with no price increase! Right now is an excellent time to be an XIT Communications' customer – because 'Fiber Gets You Moving'!

In addition to faster Internet speeds, there are new IPTV services that come with fiber optics too, including Restart Live TV, Whole-Home DVR with cloud storage, On-Demand Weather and even smaller set top boxes with big button remote controls. We also offer HD service and watchTVeverywhere to cover all of your TV needs!

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 signing up now, you will help to ensure a more timely conversion of your services.

XIT is excited to be bringing state-of-the-art fiber optic technology to our Dalhart customers! We want to be YOUR communications company now and long into the future! Give us a call today! Dalhart 244-3355 or 384-3311.





Shown receiving an engraved, gold keychain is Benjamin Bezner, 2019 XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Educational Program Scholarship Recipient (right). Kathy Duggan, XIT Assistant Manager, is shown presenting Benjamin the keychain. Benjamin was unable to attend the 68th XIT Rural Telephone Annual Meeting due to a scheduling conflict, so the keychain was presented to him at a later date. Congratulations Benjamin!

Lifeline Available for Those Needing Assistance

Low-income residents that qualify for the Lifeline Program can get federal assistance with paying their telephone or Internet bill. Lifeline is available for both XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications residents and provides a monthly discount on basic telephone or Internet service.

- If you use the Lifeline discount for Internet service, you must subscribe to a 20/2 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 apply for the Federal Lifeline Program, 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 current total household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. A resident is also qualified if they are current 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). At this time, the State of Texas does not provide a Lifeline credit for Internet service.

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.

What's Cookin' at XIT

Chili Relleno Casserole By Cindy Tharp

2 lbs. browned hamburger meat
1 chopped onion
2 c. grated Monterrey Jack cheese
3 cans whole green chilies
2 c. grated cheddar cheese

12 oz. Pet Milk (evaporated milk)
1 egg
2 Tbsp. flour
1 pkg. corn tortillas



Brown hamburger with onion. In another bowl, mix Pet Milk, egg and flour together and set aside. In a 9 x 13 pan, layer tortillas, meat, cheeses and chilies twice in the pan. Pour milk mixture over the top. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

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!

Got Trouble? Help Is Available!



XIT is here to help if you ever experience an issue with any your XIT services! Whether you are an XIT Communications or XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative customer, please give us a call immediately when you notice a problem so we can remedy the issue as soon as possible! Please do not assume we are aware of the problem without calling it in first to us!

When reporting an issue to XIT, please try to give us as much information on the problem as you can. If the trouble is phone call based, we need to know the date and times of the telephone calls, the telephone numbers that were involved in the calls and the issue that you are experiencing. Internet and IPTV issues may be less complicated. Remember, the more information you can provide to us when you call in, the quicker we can start to resolve the issue for you! Some trouble can be resolved right over the phone with a customer care specialist. Others may be more complicated, and a trouble ticket may have to be generated so an XIT technician can be dispatched to your location. XIT has technicians who are on-call for after-hour problems or emergencies that may arise.

If you have a billing question, want to change your current package or just need assistance, XIT's office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are happy to assist you in any way we can! Give us a call and let us know what we can do for you! *We appreciate your patronage!*

**Dalhart 384-3311 or 244-3355 • Kerrick 727-4111 • Vega 967-3355
Stratford 366-3355 • Texline 362-4311 • Boys Ranch 533-3355**

NOW YOU CAN watch TV everywhere!

ATTENTION XIT IPTV CUSTOMERS:

NOW YOU CAN WATCH TV ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICES, LAPTOP, TABLET OR PC ...

ANYWHERE YOU CAN RECEIVE AN INTERNET SIGNAL!



IT'S FREE TO ALL XIT IPTV CUSTOMERS!

Go to WWW.XIT.NET for more info!

Moving? Give XIT A Call

If you are planning to move to a new home or location within XIT's coverage area, please give XIT Communications at least a 2 week notice before moving! By providing prior notice, XIT can get your move on the installation schedule so we can get your services hooked up at the new location in a timely manner. Please note that no credit will be issued for loss of service due to not providing the proper move notification as indicated above. Thank you so much for your cooperation!

IPTV Channel Updates

XIT has recently made some changes to our IPTV lineup that we would like to inform you about.

Stingray Music made a name change on the XITv Music Tier. Please note that Pop Classics has now changed names to Popular Classical. This is on Channel 920. The content on this channel will remain the same as before the name change.

XIT recently added The Weather Channel to our HD Channel Lineup. You can find The Weather Channel HD on Channel 509, if you subscribe to XIT's HD service.

XIT also added the Heroes & Icons Channel (H&I) to the Limited Basic Pak, which can be found on Channel 84. This channel features classic TV series shows from the 1950s-2000s with a focus on westerns, crime dramas, sci-fi and action oriented programming. **We hope you enjoy the new channels!**



XIT Connections

is a quarterly publication for
**XIT Rural Telephone
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and **XIT Communications**
Customers.

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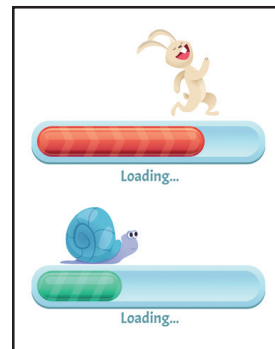
www.xit.net



Enjoy Faster Internet!

These days, a fast, reliable and always-ready Internet connection is a must for most households! For this very reason, XIT is investing in fiber optics in the Dalhart area to provide even faster speeds for our customers. We will then upgrade Stratford, Channing, Hartley and Boys Ranch to fiber optics too. By having faster speeds with more bandwidth available, XIT can insure our customers will have the freedom to do whatever they want on the Internet, with no buffering and lag time. This means MORE for you:

- Connect all of your family devices at one time and keep everything moving smoothly and quickly – whether gaming, streaming, surfing or whatever!
- Enjoy multi-player gaming with no lag time or slow-downs! It's a gamers dream!
- Streaming multi shows, music or videos at one time by different family members is no problem with our Internet!
- Work from home quickly and easily – just as easy as in the office, but with all the comforts of home!



By upgrading your broadband Internet connection from XIT Communications, you can enjoy all the freedoms above with no data limits or overages! We've got you covered! Give XIT a call today at 384-3311 for Internet speeds and pricing available in your area!

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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.