



This sweet photo named Beauty of Friendship was taken by Tiffanie Howell of Dumas, Texas. The photo was taken in summer of 2019 at Howell's home. The two goats named Calvin (left) and Satin (right) are the best of friends.

XIT Communications Continues to Take COVID-19 Virus Seriously ... Strives to Keep Everyone Safe and Connected

With the COVID-19 virus continuing to rear its ugly head, and as the rise in active cases continues to grow locally, XIT Communications continues to keep our store lobbies closed and to practice social distancing with our employees and customers. Although our lobbies are closed to the public, our drive-up windows are open and manned by XIT employees. Customers can use our night drops and on-line bill pay options to assist in the practice of social distancing. We are taking service calls and dispatching our technicians on an as-needed basis for "essential" services. New service installations are not being done broadscale to protect our customers and employees. While our technicians are taking every precaution available to them, they do face exposure risks as they continue to do the work of providing vital services to XIT's customers. Please help us keep them, and you and your family, safe and healthy. If you are in quarantine or have been exposed to the virus, please make that known to XIT before the technicians are dispatched to your location. As we are all learning through this process, carriers of the virus do not have to show symptoms of the virus and can infect someone unknowingly.

During this time of uncertainty, XIT continues with its fiber optic construction throughout the City of Dalhart with very limited contact with the public. The actual customer conversions and in-person customer contact is another matter. This process will resume when it is felt safe to do so. This delay is for our employees' protection as well as our customers' protection.

Once fiber construction is completed in Dalhart, the construction crew will move to Stratford ... then, Hartley, Channing and Boys Ranch. Eventually, all of XIT's service area will be fiber optic plant.

Hopefully, soon, we will be able to start to get back to some form of normalcy. Until then ... let's practice a little bit of kindness and patience and make sure we do everything possible to keep each other safe and healthy.

2020 XIT Regional Directory Coming Soon!

We are pleased to announce that the 2020 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory has been mailed to mailboxes across the area! We are excited for everyone to receive and to start enjoying the new directory!

The directory's cover picture is a beautiful landscape photo that is named "Eroded Canyon". It was taken by Richard Douglass of Open Skies Photography while he was in Palo Duro State Park near Canyon, Texas in 2018. Mr. Douglass is known for capturing the unique landscapes and colorful skies of the Texas Panhandle and beyond.

The new directory has everything you will need ... all in one convenient place! It features emergency phone numbers; state, city and county government pages; Yellow Pages, special help programs, area code and international calling codes, along with white page listings and even Amarillo and Canyon listings in the back. We pack this directory with useful information you will use on a daily basis! The size is perfect and is great for putting in vehicles or by the phone.

Directories were mailed recently to addresses in all of XIT's coverage areas. Additional directories will be available at all XIT locations and at the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce.

XIT strives for our directory to be the most accurate and information filled directory that you can find! We carefully proof each XIT subscriber's listing for accuracy. Some listings in the directory are purchased from other telephone providers and, unfortunately, XIT is not able to make any changes to those listings. Wireless phone numbers are not published unless a customer requests a foreign listing for a small monthly fee. If you would like to have your wireless phone number published, or would like to advertise in next year's directory, please contact our Marketing Department at 806-384-3311. Our representatives can show you advertising packages for every need and every budget! Give us a call!



XIT's Online Bill Pay

With the Coronavirus still in full swing, did you know you can sign up for XIT's Online Bill Pay and pay your bill right from home anytime? You will no longer have to call in or get in the car to drive to the office to pay!



Signing up for XIT's Online Bill Pay is quick and easy! Just go to XIT's website at www.xit.net and click on the Online Bill Pay Link on the left side of the screen. Then follow these simple instructions:

- Click on Register Here.
- Enter the invoice number (Not the XIT Account Number) and the amount due from your current XIT Communications/XIT Rural Telephone invoice.
- Click on the Recaptcha Box 'I'm Not A Robot' and click on the screens to verify. Once you get the green check mark, click Continue.
- Enter your email address. Enter a password (password must contain at least 6 characters and one number, uppercase letter or special character). Enter password again to confirm.
- Pick one of the security questions by clicking on the drop-down menu. Provide the answer.
- Click Register.
- The screen will show account created and it will say Success! Your Account has successfully been created. You will then receive an email to verify your email address.
- Click on the email link to verify your email address. It will say Success! Your email address has been successfully verified.
- Now you can log into the account by clicking Redirect to Login.

Extra Cyber Security



These days, hackers are getting bolder with their tactics of trying to take advantage of people online. Unsuspecting victims click on fake websites, put in their personal information, and BAM ... hackers get the information without the victim even realizing what they just did! Here are some tips when shopping online to protect yourself against fake websites:

- Watch the URL address. A favorite trick for hackers is to create addresses similar to popular companies. This is especially common if you are redirected to a website from another page. For example, www.targett.com instead of www.target.com. Did you catch the extra “t” in the address? A lot of people don’t! Make sure to pay attention to the spelling and make sure the web address is correct. Bookmarking sites you use a lot is a great thing to do so you don’t accidentally go to a fake website by mistake. If you are unsure if a website address is fake, contact the business and ask them for their website address. They will be happy to give it to you!
- Legitimate websites where you can purchase an item or service should have their information secured. If the website address starts with https:// the “s” in the address stands for secure. If the website does not have the “s”, we would not recommend giving out personal information, unless you can see some other security information. Another indicator is a padlock before the address. If you see a padlock, the website has one of the highest levels of encryption and security. You can click on the padlock and you should see the site’s security information.
- Look for trusted seals from DigiCert, Verisign or Symantec. A fake site may have one of these logos posted on their site, but if you click on the logo and it doesn’t open a new window with the website’s security information, it is not a legitimate, secure site.
- Watch for very poor grammar and spelling errors on the site. Excessive mistakes can mean the website was put up quickly and not carefully setup, so beware of fraud.
- Look for reliable contact information. How can you contact the company if you have an issue with a purchase? Try out the phone number or the live chat. Make sure someone answers and that it is not a pre-recorded voicemail or disconnected number or a generic response on the live chat.
- Lastly, shopping sites should offer standard payment options such as credit cards or PayPal. If a site wants you to use a wire transfer, money order or other form of unsecured payment, we recommend using another site.

To make a local call from your exchange, dial only the seven-digit telephone number. Your local (toll free) calling area includes your local exchange along with the others listed. All other calls you must dial a 1 + area code and phone number.

IF YOUR EXCHANGE IS:	YOUR LOCAL CALLING SCOPE IS:
Adrian - 538	Adrian, Amarillo, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado
Boys Ranch - 533, 534	Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Channing & Vega
Bunkerhill - 377	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart & Middlewater
Cactus/Etter - 966	Cactus/Etter, Dumas & Sunray
Channing - 235, 635	Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Channing, Dalhart, Dumas & Hartley
Coldwater - 384	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart, Hartley & Middlewater
Dalhart - 244, 249	Bunkerhill, Channing, Coldwater, Dalhart, Hartley, Middlewater, Stratford & Texline
Dumas - 934, 935	Amarillo, Cactus/Etter, Channing, Dumas, Hartley, Stratford & Sunray
Hartley - 361, 365	Channing, Coldwater, Dalhart, Dumas & Hartley
Kerrick - 727	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Lautz - 769	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Middlewater - 343	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart & Middlewater
Stevens - 753	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Stratford - 366, 396	Dalhart, Dumas, Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Sunray - 948	Cactus/Etter, Dumas & Sunray
Texline - 362	Dalhart & Texline
Vega - 267, 967	Adrian, Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado
Wildorado - 426	Adrian, Amarillo, Canyon, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado

When Thunder Roars ... Go Indoors!

During this time of year, it's a common occurrence for thunderstorms to build and break out within a short period of time. When storms come up, how do you know when the conditions are safe outside or when it's time to head inside?

According to the National Weather Service website, each year thunderstorms produce an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the United States and approximately 300 people are struck by some of these flashes. Of the people struck, about 30 die due to their injuries! So far this year, 8 people have died from lightning related injuries in the states. Some people will suffer neurological injuries that can stay with them for the rest of their lives. We must take these storms seriously every time they occur!



Experts say that thunder can be heard for a distance of about 10 miles. If you hear thunder, it is best to start looking for shelter right away. Lightning can strike approximately 6-10 miles from the base of a thundercloud, so even if the storm seems far away, its best to go to shelter early. Remember that no place outside is safe when thunderstorms hit. Once inside, stay away from windows, doors, plumbing and anything that conducts electricity like computers, phones, and TV's. If there are no buildings to go into, a vehicle is the next best place to go. Stay inside until the storm has passed and it's been at least 30 minutes since the last rumble of thunder has been heard.

There are many myths about lightning, and we'd like to help clear up some of these misconceptions. Test your knowledge and see how many you can get right:

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: **Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall isolated object.**

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: **Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and sides that protect you, not the rubber tires.**

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: **The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim and give them first aid!**

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: **Being underneath a tree is the 2nd leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!**

Myth: Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, phone, watches, etc.) attract lightning.

Fact: **Height, pointy shape and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes no difference on where lightning will strike.**

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground or crouch down to reduce risk of being struck.

Fact: **Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by deadly ground current. Crouching doesn't make you any safer. Run to a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. Keep moving to shelter.**

(Source: Separation Between Successive Lightning Flashes in Different Storms Systems: 1998, Lopez & Holle, from Proceedings 1998 Intl Lightning Detection Conference, Tucson AZ.)

Knowing outdoor safety during thunderstorms can be the difference between life and death. If you would like additional information on lightning and thunderstorms, go online to <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>.

Remember, when the thunder roars ... go indoors!

Premium Channels Available on XITV

Are you a big movie buff? Do you like to watch movies day and night? If so, then check out XIT's premium movie channel lineup on our IPTV service! XIT offers a variety of premium movie channels that you can watch in the comfort and security of your own home! No more standing in line at the theaters, standing in line at the concession stand and sitting in a noisy theater waiting for the movie to start. And, best of all, no COVID worries!

XIT offers great movie packages from HBO, Cinemax, Showtime/The Movie Channel and Starz starting at just \$18.95/month. And, the more premium channels you subscribe to, the more of a monthly discount you can receive! For the cost of going once to the movies, you can enjoy movie after movie right in your own home.

Enjoy exclusive series shows like The Sopranos, Game of Thrones and Sharp Objects on HBO; Billions, City of Angels and Penny Dreadful on Showtime; Hunted and Strike Back on Cinemax; and Power and Outlander on Starz. You can watch all the past seasons too ... all with easy access.

Call XIT today and subscribe to a premium movie channel package! Like the old saying goes ... try it, you'll like it!

Reporting Service Trouble To XIT

If you experience any issues with your XIT services during these trying COVID times, please know we are here to help! We care about our customers and want to resolve any problems as quickly as we can, safely and with minimal down-time. We know it is frustrating when services are not operating properly while everyone is social distancing and staying at home more than ever right now. **You can contact us at 384-3311 or 244-0811 to report trouble issues.**

When calling in trouble, please provide as much information as possible about the issue you are having. Many times when you call in a trouble issue our Customer Service Reps can walk you through fixing the problem while on the phone. If they can't resolve the issue, a trouble ticket will be generated and a XIT technician may be dispatched to your location.

If a trouble ticket is generated, you will be asked if you or anyone in your household has had or are currently experiencing COVID 19 symptoms. We want to resolve your problem quickly, but also need to take safety precautions to protect our employees. Please answer these questions honestly!

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

Questions about your XIT bill? Contact XIT's retail office nearest you for assistance:

Dalhart 244-3355 or 384-3311
Vega 967-3355

Stratford 366-3355
Boys Ranch 533-3355

Remember, we are here for you, our valued customers! Stay safe and stay healthy!

New Fiber IPTV Service Features

If you are an XIT IPTV customer and have been converted over to our new fiber IPTV system in Dalhart, Vega or our rural areas, let us tell you about all the exciting new features available with your TV service:

- RESTART TV:** You now have the ability to restart a program that is already in progress. Or, if you are browsing channels and see a show you wanted to watch that has already begun, restart it and watch it from the beginning! This is a great feature you will use again and again!
- CLOUD DVR (CDVR):** Cloud DVR storage gives you flexibility and reliability to record your favorite shows in the cloud and not in your set top boxes! XIT's CDVR is capable of recording up to five different programs at the same time. And, together

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Photographers Get Your Camera's Clicking!

Attention shutterbugs of all ages ... Get your creative juices flowing and help us celebrate the beauty of the Texas Panhandle through our annual directory photo contest. Submit your unique and vivid photographs for the 2021 XIT Communications Regional

Telephone Directory Photo Contest. You will gain valuable exposure and even get rewarded! If your photo is selected for our cover, you will win \$200 and your photo will be on the cover of 8,300 directories that are distributed areawide.

We invite all photographers at any level to participate! Photos can be of anything including people, places, buildings, animals, landscapes, flowers or anything else you can come up with that you'd like to submit. We look at all photographs submitted! XIT does ask that all photographs be in portrait (vertical) layout, in color (no black and white photos), and in the highest resolution available.

Be sure to include your name, address and a contact phone number with your entries. Also, make sure to include a detailed description of each photo. The more information the better! Photos can be submitted all at one time or submitted all year long. There is no limit to the number of photos a photographer can submit.

When photographing children do not to show their faces directly. Photos from the back, side or looking downward are acceptable.

Even if your photos are not used on the cover of the directory, XIT may use the photographs on the cover of our quarterly newsletter, XIT Connections. All photos become the property of XIT Communications and may be used for advertising purposes.

Digital photos can be submitted and emailed online at xitcom@xit.net. Photos can also be submitted by mail. Please submit photos at least 5"x 7" or larger in size if mailing them in. Photos can be mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022.

Deadline for all photos to be submitted for the 2021 directory contest is Friday, December 4, 2020. Any photos received after this date will automatically be entered into the contest for the following year.

So, get those camera's clicking and send in your photographs to XIT Communications!

Want to watch your XIT IPTV channels in Spanish?

XIT's IPTV service offers our Spanish customers the opportunity to change channel programming to Spanish speaking instead of English for ease of viewing!

To change to Spanish:

- Go to Menu
- Go to Settings
- Go to Display
- Change audio language to Spanish
- Press Save

If the channels have Spanish audio, it will now play. If channel does not have Spanish audio you will have to program system back to English to hear the audio on the channel.

What's Cookin' at XIT

Potato Casserole by Annie Garrison

- 1 can Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cheddar cheese soup
- 1 Tbsp. onion flakes or 1 small onion, chopped

- ½ can water
- ½ stick margarine
- 10-12 small potatoes, sliced



Place sliced potatoes in bottom of a prepared casserole dish. Mix tomatoes, soups, onion and water and pour over sliced potatoes. Slice margarine and place on top of the mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks (2 editions available) for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. They make great birthday, wedding and anniversary gifts!

NOW YOU CAN watchTVEverywhere

ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICES, LAPTOP, TABLET OR PC ...
AND IT'S **FREE** TO ALL XIT IPTV CUSTOMERS!

WatchTVEverywhere (WTVE) provides streaming access to top rated shows and movies from over 80 different networks. You can watch WTVE anywhere you can receive an Internet connection. Best of all, it's included with your XIT Communications' IPTV subscription-FREE! If you already have our IPTV services, register online at www.xit.net and click on the WTVE link to get started.

Go to WWW.XIT.NET for more info!

Reverse Number Lookup on Website

Want to locate a local phone number quickly and easily? XIT has Reverse Number Lookup on our website for quick phone number retrieval. Just go to XIT's website at www.xit.net and click on the Reverse Lookup Link on the left side of the page! You can locate a phone number from the numerical listings to see who the number belongs to. Or, if you need to find a telephone number, simply press the Control Key + F Key to bring up a search box. Type in the person's last name, then the first name and the listing will appear highlighted in blue. Non-published and non-listed numbers are not listed.

The Reverse Number Lookup is updated each year with the current listings from the XIT Communications Regional Telephone Directory. It's just another way that XIT can 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



These photos of the Dalhart Junior High School "Kindness Rocks" Rock Garden were taken by Kristen Hembree of Dalhart, Texas. The Rock Garden was the unique idea of DJHS Art Teacher, Stacey Przilas. She came up with the art project of painting rocks for her 6th, 7th and 8th grade students as one of their class assignments while they were studying at home during the Coronavirus. The students could paint the rocks anyway they wanted, and then they put the rocks in the Rock Garden. This has been a favorite place for the students to stop by and visit during the summer months.

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

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www.xit.net



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New Fiber IPTV ...

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- with Restart TV & CDVR, you can record a complete program, even if the program is almost over!
- 3. WHOLE HOME DVR:** You can view and manage shows you have recorded on any set top boxes in your home! Use the LIST BUTTON on your remote for quick access to your recordings.
 - 4. WEATHER APP:** Get instant weather at your fingertips by pressing the YELLOW BUTTON on your remote and clicking on WEATHER to get current weather conditions, 5-day forecast and radar with animation for your location.
 - 5. WHAT'S HOT APP:** Wanting some new ideas on what to watch? Click on the YELLOW BUTTON on the remote and click on WHAT'S HOT. This app gives you the most popular programs being watched in your viewing area as well as the most popular recorded programs and series.
 - 6. PARENTAL CONTROL:** Control what your children can watch and when they can watch it. Parental controls include TV ratings and time restrictions.
 - 7. FAVORITE LISTS:** You can have multiple favorite lists for everyone in your household. Each person can have his/her own channel list for personalized TV viewing!
 - 8. MYTVS APP:** Use the MyTVs app to turn your Apple or Android Device into a TV remote control. You can pair up to five devices to your set top boxes for ease of use and convenience.

Watching TV has never been more fun, easy and convenient! XIT is proud to offer these exciting features to our customers with the fiber upgrades!

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.