

XIT Connections

XXI, Number 1, Spring 2019

New 2019 XIT Directory!

It's 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 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.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to submit photos for this year's contest! Photos for the directory contest can be submitted all year long. To submit your pictures online, email them to xitcom@xit.net. You can also mail them to: XIT Communications, Attn: Marketing Department, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX. 79022. Be sure to include your name, address, contact number and a description of each photo submitted.

There is no limit to the number of photos you can submit! We look forward to seeing the selection of unique, vibrant and colorful photos that we receive each year! Please take all photos in the highest resolution available, and we ask that all photos be in color; no black and white photos will be accepted. Send them to us all at once, or email them as you take them all during the year ... just remember to send them to us!

Keep in mind that even if your photograph does not make the cover of our next directory, we may use it on one of our quarterly newsletter covers. So, keep those cameras snapping and be sure to submit your photos to XIT! Good luck photographers!



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XIT Supports Our Local Businesses

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. & XIT Communications are proud to show our support for the local businesses in our area. Several new businesses have opened in the City of Dalhart, and we would like to spotlight two of them in this edition of the XIT Connections Newsletter.

The Brick Street Florist is a new floral and gift shop located at 203 Denrock Avenue in Dalhart. The pretty store, owned by Sandy Miller, opened its doors for business on May 1, 2018. The store is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

As you first walk into the store, you get your first smell of the wonderful, fragrant candles they have in the store. The friendly faces of Sandy and her two employees, Kerstin Schroder and Martha Wall, make you feel instantly welcome and happy to be there! The store is beautiful, with lots of greenery, and fun, unique gift ideas for anyone that might be on your gift list.



The Brick Street Florist specializes in all kinds of floral arrangements, both green and blooming plants, handmade goat milk soaps, wonderful smelling candles, and other home décor and gifts. Sandy said they have some new spring inventory, including a 'garden in a bag', that are fun to grow and are selling really well. "Our floral arrangements are carefully made with the freshest of flowers, so they will be enjoyable and long-lasting for the person who receives them," Sandy said. She and her employees pride themselves on being very friendly and

courteous, and greeting everyone with a smile when they enter the store. "We are willing to help customers any way we possibly can," says Sandy. "Customer service is number one for us," she continued.

Sandy's floral background began back in 2000 when her husband, Keith, accepted a position at CSS Potato Farm as the equipment manager, and they moved their family to Dalhart from Kearney, Nebraska. Sandy went to work for Henry's Flowers, where she learned the art of flower design and arranging from Clara Franklin, Earleen Moore and Kathy Albrecht. Miller also worked for Jennifer King for a short time at her flower shop, and for Gaskill, Pharis & Pharis for about 5 years before opening her own floral business.

Sandy and Keith have 2 grown children who both reside in Dalhart. Kevin, who is 31, is married to his wife, Jade. Their daughter, Kelsey, 25, is married to Chanler Randall. Kelsey and Chanler have given the couple their first grandson, Kaysen, who is 3-years-old.

Make sure you check out this fresh, new and exciting downtown store! If you need a floral arrangement or a gift, the girls at The Brick Street Florist will help you find the best gift quickly and with a smile! Give them a call at 244-7673 today!



FNB Dalhart prides itself on hometown hospitality with a wide variety of banking services available for their customers. The new office is beautiful and welcoming, and the staff is very friendly. They make you feel right at home from the moment you walk in the door!

FNB Dalhart first opened their Dalhart branch as a loan processing center back in October of 2017 at 201 Denrock Avenue. They remained at this location until their new, permanent building was completed. On December 3, 2018, they moved into their current location at 219 E 7th Street in Dalhart. The bank is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FNB Dalhart is a branch of FNB New Mexico in Clayton, New Mexico, and is a family-owned business. Vi Reeves of Clayton, New Mexico, is the Chairman of the Board. Mrs. Reeves is 82-years-old and is still very active in the business. Her son, Craig Reeves, is the Bank President and CEO.

FNB Dalhart currently has 4 employees at their Dalhart location. Tim Hatch is the Branch Manager; his wife, Rebecca, is the Assistant Vice President who handles the



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residential mortgages and consumer loans; Teresa Gomez is the new accounts representative; and Vilma Aragon is the teller.

The bank offers a full line of services including all types of commercial and residential loans, home mortgages, lines of credit, farm and cattle loans, CDs, money market accounts, IRAs and checking and savings accounts. The bank even has a mobile app for their customers' convenience. "We finance all kinds of vehicle loans for cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, boats, motorhomes and campers. We also finance single and double wide trailers, which many banks don't do", says Hatch.



Hatch was born in Odessa, Texas, and is the son of a preacher. They moved often as a child, and he lived in many places including Central America. He served in Desert Storm while serving 6 years in the Marine Corp. He also worked for over 25 years in the prison correctional field, and was the prison warden in Clayton, New Mexico, for the last ten years before changing career paths. According to Hatch, "I was getting tired of correctional work and was wanting a change when I was approached by the president of the bank who asked if I ever thought about going into banking. He said they were looking for a branch manager to open an office in Dalhart, Texas, and I accepted. We were glad to get to move back to Texas again."

So, the Hatch family moved to Dalhart where he is enjoying the change from prison warden to bank branch manager. The couple have four children, two girls and two boys. Shelby, who is 26, works for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Houston, Texas. Chelsie, 22, is a registered nurse who lives in San Antonio, Texas. The couple's two younger sons, Reagan, who is 12-years-old, and Chance, 14, live at home.

If you are looking for a hometown bank with the personal touch then FNB Dalhart is the place! Go by 219 E 7th Street in Dalhart, or give them a call at 244-3621.

Is Your XIT Email Account Susceptible to Hackers?

Everyone needs to take extra precautions these days to protect their personal information online. One of the many ways that hackers can get your information is through weak passwords. If you are still using the same original password on your XIT email account as when you first got it, you could be at serious risk. Or, if you are using a different email provider now and are no longer using your XIT email account anymore, you still want to make sure the password on your XIT email account is secure and difficult for hackers to obtain. Once they gain access to your account, it can be a real nightmare to fix the damage.

XIT has password criteria that we recommend for all XIT email accounts. Our XIT email password criteria is:

- Must be at least 8 characters long
- Must contain an uppercase (capital) letter
- Must contain a lowercase letter
- Must contain a number
- Must contain a special character (#\$@%&*)
- Does not contain a complete word
- Is significantly different than previous passwords
- Does not contain the user name, real name or company name



Please make sure your XIT email account password fits the criteria above. If not, please come by or give us a call to get it updated. Thank you for assisting us!

Advertising on XITv's Channel One

XIT Communications offers an easy and economical way to advertise on the XIT's Channel One. Personal advertising is just \$10.00 per week, while business advertising is only \$20.00 per week. There is no charge for community service announcements. Birthday or anniversary wishes, school and church announcements, free and lost ads are also free of charge.

Ads must be submitted at least 24-48 hours prior to the event so the ad can be created and posted. We cannot guarantee that any ads submitted with less than a 24 hour notice will be run.

If you are interested on advertising on XIT's Channel One, give the XIT Marketing Department a call at 806-384-3311.



4th Annual Rise & Shine Food Drive Successful

The XIT Communications' 4th Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive had another successful year thanks to the generosity of our local friends and customers! XIT collected a total of 84 tote bags of food within our coverage area to distribute to the participating local food banks and pantries.

We are always amazed by the generosity of the wonderful people who reside in our local coverage areas! Everyone is so kind and gracious to help out their fellow neighbors, especially those who need some extra help to put food on their family tables.



Shown with the food bags that were donated to the Church of The Nazarene Food Pantry in Dalhart is Rick Calvert, Church Pastor (left), and Trena Howell, XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative.

According to several of the food bank volunteers, this food drive is anticipated by them each year because it helps to feed many elderly and school-age children a healthy breakfast. And, as we all have heard ... breakfast is the most important meal of the day!



Volunteers shown here with the food donated to the Food Pantry at the United Methodist Church in Vega are (left to right): Linda Wagner, Frances Kirkland, Brenda Dewees, Beth Morris, Janie Axe, Cynthia Artho, Mary Broman, Marty Cook and Pastor Linda Wimberley.

The local food pantries that participated in this year's drive included The Pantry of Stratford, The Food Pantry at



Students in Becky Day's CNA class in Dalhart participated in this year's Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive. What a great group of young people who helped out the needy in their local community.

Lincoln Street Baptist Church, Texline Food Pantry, Vega Food Pantry/UMC, and the Dalhart Church of the Nazarene Food Bank. We appreciate all the hard-working volunteers at these organizations who do so much to help their local communities.

Even though we have ended the breakfast food drive for 2018, XIT will never turn down any food donations that come into our offices. We will make sure all donations are delivered to one of the food pantries for distribution. XIT wants to help end hunger in the Texas Panhandle! A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our food drive this year!



Terri Griggs, volunteer at the Lincoln Street Baptist Church Food Pantry, is shown with the donated bags of food that were taken to the church for distribution.



Belinda Waide, Texline Senior Center Coordinator, is shown here picking up food from the XIT Headquarters Office to take for the Texline Food Pantry.



Cecily Yelek (left), and Ann Wells (right), are shown picking up the food at the XIT Stratford location for the Stratford Food Pantry.

XIT Employees Retire

After many years of hard work and dedication, two of XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative's employees have decided to take a permanent vacation and RETIRE!

Rusty Hammett, XIT Senior Installation & Repair Technician, retired on January 31, 2019, after working for XIT for just over 38 years. Rusty is an avid golfer and plans to work part-time for the Twisted Elms Golf Course in Dalhart this spring. Rusty also enjoys motorcycling and spending time with his family. He really likes rooting on his grandchildren at their sporting events.

Rusty also plans on spending more time with his two daughters, Sadye, who lives in Dallas, Texas, and Sarah and her husband Tyler, who live in Dalhart, Texas, along with his 4 grandchildren and his first great-grandchild. Rusty and his whole family are looking forward to taking a trip to Costa Rica this summer once the grandkids get out of school. Taking family trips is something they didn't do much of when he was working, so he is really looking forward to more of these kind of vacations in his future. He is also hoping to do some other traveling and enjoying 'the good life' as he put it. Congratulations Rusty!



Rusty Hammett

Billy Sisco, XIT Network & Switching Technician, also retired on January 31, 2019, after being employed with XIT for a little over 29 years. When asked what he plans to do now that he is retired, Billy said "I have no definite plans, I'm just going to take a deep breath, relax and live." Billy has many hobbies he enjoys, including fishing, bike riding, walking and target shooting. Although he has no definite travel plans at this time, Billy and his wife, Melody, who married on November 9, 2018, would like to travel around the country and eventually do some volunteer work in their community. The two also enjoy spending time with their family.

Billy has two sons, Carl, and his wife Amanda, who live in Colorado, and Jeremy, who lives in Dalhart, Texas. Melody has two children, Amber and RJ. The couple also have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild between them to spoil. Happy Retirement Billy!

The XIT Telephone staff and employees want to wish Rusty and Billy many wonderful years ahead relaxing and doing all the things they like to do with the people they love! These two guys have been a big part of XIT Telephone for a long time and will be dearly missed! We wish them both all the best in their retirement years! Congratulations guys!



Billy and Melody

XIT Service Awards Presented At Luncheon

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. recently held their Board of Directors' Christmas and Employee Service Awards Luncheon at the Cooperative's Headquarters Office in Dalhart, Texas.

Salad, peel-and-eat shrimp, and a delicious prime rib meal with all the trimmings was served, along with a variety of fruit pies for dessert.

After the meal, Darrell Dennis, XIT General Manager, recognized two employees and two directors for their years of service to the Cooperative. Employees receiving awards this year were Adrian Ruiz, who received a 5-year award, and Trena Howell, who received a 30-year award. Board Director, Barry Poling, was presented with a 5-year award, and J.W. McClellan, Jr. was presented with a 35-year award. Each honoree was presented with a company plaque, along with an NTCA (National Telephone Cooperative Association) plaque commemorating their years of service. Congratulations to all the recipients!



Those receiving service awards at this year's luncheon included (left to right): Trena Howell, XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative; Adrian Ruiz, XIT Switching Technician; Barry Poling, XIT Board Director; and J.W. McClellan, Jr., XIT Board President.



Christmas Open Houses: A Big Success!

A Big THANK YOU to everyone who came out to XIT's Christmas Open Houses this year! We appreciate all of you taking the time out of your busy schedules to come eat and fellowship with us! The weather was kind to us this year for all of our open houses, and for that we are thankful. Customers who came by enjoyed delicious BBQ sandwiches, chips, veggies and dip, along with some cookies for dessert. We are always happy to see and visit with our customers each year!

At our Stratford Open House, we had 95 people register for door prizes and served 132 plates of food. Winners of the door prizes awarded in Stratford were: Walt Berry and Teresa Edmond – hams; Leslie Reagan – Elite Indoor Grill; and Gina Gray – \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

At XIT's Headquarters Open House, we had 61 people register for door prizes, and served 107 meals to guests. Winners of the door prizes were: Bill Green and Larry Lucas – hams; Donna Wells – Elite Indoor Grill; and Erma Skalsky – \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

At our Downtown Open House, we had 140 people register for door prizes, and served 197 meals. Winners of the door prizes were: Kevin Douglas and Judi Weaver – hams; Barbara Flowers – Elite Indoor Grill; and Amelia Sifuentes – \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Open Houses. You made our holidays even more joyful and festive with your presence!





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

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XIT Regional Directory Advertising Sales Have Begun

Advertising sales have begun for the 2019 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory! If you would like to advertise to customers in the local area, we have the perfect opportunity to do just that! Simply call the XIT Marketing Department at 384-3311 or 1-800-232-3312 to set up a time to discuss all of your advertising options. We offer great rates and packages that fit any advertising budget.

XIT's Regional Directory is the perfect size with large, easy-to-read print. It has extensive city and county government sections, International area and calling codes, white and yellow page advertising, and Amarillo/Canyon listings in the back! It is the one directory that has everything you need all in one place!

The new directory will be published in July, and is delivered by mail to residential and business addresses in XIT's local coverage area. Copies of last year's directory are still available at any XIT office location or the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce. You can pick up extra directories for your home, office, vehicle, or anywhere else where you need a handy directory.

Remember, directory advertising is an inexpensive way to advertise your goods or services to your current customers and neighbors, along with future customers. We offer solutions to your advertising needs with a personal touch! Give XIT a call today!



Trena Howell, XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative

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.