

XIT Connections

XXVI, Number 1, Winter 2024



XIT Communications Continues Building Fiber Routes

XIT's fiber construction crew just completed the fiber route in the Beverly Hills Addition located a short distance north of Borger, Texas, and has now moved to Sunray, Texas, to start the fiber overbuild of the entire town.

Fritch, Texas, will be in line next. The central office is being built currently at 280 Matador Road. This building will house all the electronics. ... [Continued on Page 3](#)



Cattle Truck Demolishes XIT's Kerrick Central Office Building

Early Friday morning ... on January 26th, XIT received word of its Central Office building near Kerrick, Texas, being demolished. A loaded cattle truck had run off the road and hit the building. Thankfully, the driver of the truck and his passenger walked away from the accident.

... [Continued on Page 3](#)



XIT Board of Directors smile for a picture! Pictured here (left side - back to front): Steve Baskin, Barry Poling, and Walter E. Lasley. (right side - back to front): Nick Olson, Bryce Howard, Marcia French, Gared McBryde, and Gary Finch. Not present for photo: J.W. McClellan, Jr.

XIT Board of Directors & Employee Service Awards Luncheon

XIT held their annual Board of Directors and Employee Service Awards Luncheon on December 20, 2023, at the Dust Bowl Bar & Grill.



Trena D. Howell - 35 Years of Service

A delicious meal, dessert, service awards presentation

and door prize drawings were enjoyed by all the board of directors and employees who attended.

XIT recognized 3 employees and 2 board members for their many years of service to XIT and its customers. Each honoree was presented with a company plaque, and an NTCA (National Telephone Cooperative Association) plaque commemorating their years of service.



J. W. McClellan, Jr. - 40 Years of Service

Congratulations to all the recipients!
Thank you for your service and dedication!



Mark Stilwell
25 Years of Service



Barry Poling
10 Years of Service



Adrian Ruiz
10 Years of Service

Need a Higher Internet Speed?

Internet bandwidth, or the data transfer capacity of a connection, is not something most people think about unless they have issues with their Internet service. When the Internet slows down, starts buffering or lagging, or won't respond quickly enough, this is when people get frustrated with their Internet service. This is also a good sign there is not enough bandwidth for the household usage, and you need to look at upgrading to a higher speed package. The higher the Internet speed, the more bandwidth is available, and the less trouble you will have with your service.

Today, online activities like Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, YouTube, and multi-player online gaming all consume huge amounts of data and use much more bandwidth than ever before. Add on top of that, online classroom learning, tele-conferencing, Skyping and even watching TV. Then, top it all off with multiple online devices (phones, tablets, TVs, laptops, etc.) being used in the household, all at the same time. Before anyone knows it, the household is overloaded! This is why you should evaluate your Internet package periodically and make sure there is enough bandwidth for all your usage needs.

Another thing to know is: Are you sharing bandwidth with your neighbors or does your household have a connection all to itself? Many Internet providers make customers share bandwidth with the homes around them, therefore limiting the amount of bandwidth they actually receive. XIT Communications DOES NOT do this; each household is provided with their own individual connection! This makes a big difference when family members are all online at the same time!

Want to know what speed your household is getting? Try a speed test! XIT has one right on our website at www.xit.net, so give it a try! Then, call XIT Communications to get switched over to a high-speed Internet service that gives you ALL the speed (bandwidth) you need!

Building Fiber Routes ...

Continue from Page 1

The building is constructed of concrete-filled Styro-foam blocks. Soon the exterior will be completed with a stucco finish. The roof will be a metal a-frame.

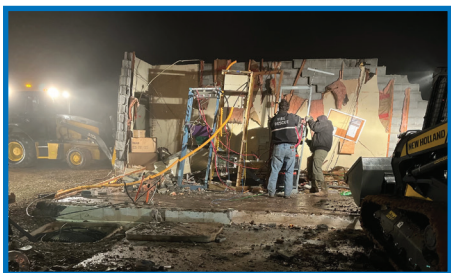
These projects are not short in duration. Construction ... drops ... splicing ... electronics ... and more! All a lengthy process.

XIT looks forward to adding another pan-handle town to its service area. Stay tuned for more details.



Cattle Truck Demolishes ...

Continue from Page 1



BUT, there was nothing left of the building or the equipment inside. XIT's employees worked tirelessly to restore the 22-hour service outage caused by the incident. A cabinet had to be brought in to house all the electronics, which had to be fully replaced.



Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses a Success!

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who came out to our Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses this year! It is a pleasure to see and visit with our customers! A delicious meal of BBQ sandwiches, chips, veggies with dip, and cookies was served to everyone who attended.

At our Stratford Open House, we had 86 people register for door prizes and served 135 meals. Winners of the door prizes in Stratford were Gena Ray Whatley and Cecelia Trejo, who both won hams; Martha Mungia won the crock pot; and Courtney Copley won a \$50 QVC Gift Card. At our Headquarters Open House, we had 46 people register for door prizes, and served 103 meals to guests. Winners of the door prizes were Don Bowers and Elvin Ringo, who each won hams. Grace Subealdea won a crock pot, and Adolph Encinias won a \$50 QVC Gift Card. At our Downtown Open House, we had 111 people register for door prizes and served 189 meals. Winners of the door prizes were Jesse Lujan and Christine Meyer, who both won hams. Soffie Lucero won a crock pot, and Judi Weaver won a \$50 QVC Gift Card.

Again, we would like to say thank you and express our deepest gratitude to all of our XIT customers. Without each of you, what we do would not be possible! We strive to keep you satisfied and hope you will join us next year at our Customer Appreciation Christmas Open Houses!



WatchTVeverywhere with XIT Communications!

As an XIT IPTV subscriber, you have access to a convenient way to watch TV when you are on the go! With watchTVeverywhere, you can stream some of your favorite TV networks and channels right to your computer, tablet, smart- phone, or other compatible devices from anywhere in the United States where you can receive an Internet signal. Best of all, it is FREE with your XIT IPTV subscription!

Watch “Kids Baking Championship - Bake To School” on food network with your watchTVeverywhere account through XIT! “Hosts and judges Valerie Bertinelli and Duff Goldman lead a group of talented young bakers through tasty challenges designed to find the most impressive and creative baker.” This series offers 12 seasons, so you don’t have to worry about running out of episodes! If you are an XIT IPTV subscriber, take advantage of the endless channels you have access to on the go with WTVE!



XIT’s Newest Employees



Gabe Flanders – Switching Technician

Gabe came to work for XIT in June of 2023 as a Switching Technician, but we would like to formally welcome him to the XIT family! Gabe has lived in the Texas Panhandle since 2012 from when they first moved here from Valdosta, Georgia. He is married to Darlene Flanders and together they have 3 children, Dakota, Brandon, and Mercedes. In Gabe’s spare time he enjoys spending time outdoors and traveling to new places! Gabe is a great asset to the XIT Team, and we are thankful to have him!

Cassidy Kuper – Customer Service Clerk

We would like to welcome Cassidy Kuper to our XIT family! She is a Customer Service Clerk at our Downtown location. Cassidy was raised in Dalhart and is also a graduate of Dalhart Highschool. Cassidy has one daughter, Taylen, who attends Dalhart Christian Academy. In their free time, Taylen rides horses and competes at a lot of rodeos! Cassidy also enjoys spending time with family, traveling, solving puzzles, and playing bridge! We are excited to have Cassidy be a part of XIT!



Welcome to the XIT Family!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

all underground utility lines and mark them free of charge. Accidental line cuts can be costly to repair and cause outages for you and your neighbors. Be safe and smart... dial 811 before you dig.

With summer soon to be in full swing here’s a friendly reminder when doing any home improvement projects or digging 16” or deeper on private property or any public right-of-way, you need to first contact Texas One Call Center at least 2 business days prior to starting your project. A technician will be dispatched to locate

Billing or Service Questions?

If you have any questions or problems with any of your XIT services or your XIT monthly statement, please don't hesitate to contact one of our offices. We can assist you in getting the issue resolved quickly and with limited interruptions to your service. XIT strives to take care of all service issues as fast as we possibly can!

Stop by one of our offices with any questions or concerns you may have. One of our friendly customer service representatives would love to help you!

Dalhart Headquarters
12324 US Hwy 87
P.O. Box 711
Dalhart, TX 79022
806-384-3311

Dalhart Downtown Office
1624 Tennessee Ave.
Dalhart, TX 79022
806-244-3355

Stratford Office
401 North 3rd
Stratford, TX 79084
806-366-3355

Boys Ranch Customers
806-533-3355

Vega Customers
806-967-3355

If you prefer, you can also send inquiries by email! Please email us at customerservice@xitcomm.net.

We are here to assist you in any way we can! We appreciate your business!

XIT's Policy for Location Transfers

XIT Communications and XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. customers need to provide XIT with at least a 2-week notice when moving into a new home or transferring service to a new location within XIT's service area. By providing us with prior notification, XIT can get the location transfer on the installation schedule so we can get your services hooked up at the new location in a timely manner.

Please note no credit will be issued for loss of service due to no prior move notification by the customer. We appreciate your cooperation!



What's Cookin' at XIT

Lasagna Soup by Rebecca Siebert

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 ½ lb. Italian sausage
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp. oregano
- ½ tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 28 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 6 c. chicken broth
- 8 oz. Fusilli pasta (corkscrew)
- ½ c. finely chopped fresh basil
- 8 oz. ricotta cheese
- ½ c. grated parmesan cheese
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 c. shredded mozzarella



In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add sausage and cook until no longer pink, about 5-7 minutes. Drain any fat. Add onions and sauté until soft. Add garlic, oregano and red pepper flakes and sauté for 1 minute. Add tomato paste and sauté until paste turns brown, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes with juice, chicken broth and bring soup to a boil. Add pasta, increase heat to medium high and boil the soup till pasta is tender to the bite. Stir in basil. Season with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, combine ricotta, parmesan and a pinch of salt and pepper. To serve: Place about 2 Tbsp. of ricotta cheese mixture in each bowl, sprinkle mozzarella cheese and ladle soup on top.

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!



XIT Conducts Breakfast Food Drive

XIT wrapped up its Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive December 31st, 2023. This was the 9th year for the food drive, and it was another success! The participating pantries this year included, The Pantry of Stratford, Texline Food Pantry, The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church, and Vega Food Pantry/UMC. Participants were encouraged to donate non-perishable breakfast food items such as grits, oatmeal, gravy, muffin, or pancake mixes, granola bars, peanut butter, jam, and fruit juice packs, amongst other items.

A total of 34 bags were collected between the food pantries! This beats last year's count by 14 bags! Each person who donated to the food drive this year was given an XIT reusable tote bag when they dropped off their food items. This was XIT's way of saying "Thank You" for participating in this year's drive and helping numerous families in our local communities to put food on their table. All food donated is much appreciated and desperately needed, especially in times like these! Please remember that the food pantries are open all year long and there is a constant need for food in our communities.

XIT would like to thank every single person who took the time out of their schedules and money out of their budget to participate in this year's food drive. Without your generosity, we would not be able to conduct the food drive each year.



Claud and Leonda Fedric with The Pantry of Stratford are shown here picking up the food collected at XIT's office in Stratford.



Pictured here are only a few bags of food that were collected at Taylor's Vega Market for the Vega Food Pantry/UMC.



14 bags full of food donated to The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church.

Let's all Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger together again next year!



Shown here with the food collected from XIT's Downtown and Headquarters offices in Dalhart, is Jan Chandler and Terry Griggs with The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church.

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



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PANHANDLE
PRESORT
SERVICES, LTD

12324 US Highway 87
Dalhart, TX 79022



STREAMING is as Easy as 1, 2, 3, 4 ...

- 1. Choose your Ideal Internet Speed for Streaming.** Selecting the optimal bandwidth for your household is the first step to streaming. Make sure that you'll have enough bandwidth for streaming in addition to your family's other internet activities. With XIT's blazing fast Internet and fiber optic service ... speed should be easy to determine!
- 2. Review your streaming service options.** There are many on-demand and live TV streaming services out there. Some paid-subscription services offer live TV viewing (with or without on-demand content) and can replace traditional TV plans, while others feature only on-demand movies and series. On a budget? Check out free streaming services.
- 3. Find, Purchase, and Connect the Right Device.** If you have a smart TV, it should be ready to stream right out of the box. No smart TV? No problem! You'll just need to purchase and set up a streaming device like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV Stick, which will enable streaming on older televisions.
- 4. Sign Up for Streaming Services.** Let the fun begin! Sign up for a streaming service or two ... or three. Most require only a 30-day commitment. This makes it easy to try out different services and cancel the services you don't find yourself using or enjoying.

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.