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Volume XIV Number 2 Fall 2012



This photo of Kannon Huckaby of Sunray was taken in a cotton field on the family farm, northeast of Sunray. Kannon is the son of James & Whitney Huckaby. The farm has been in their family for over 100 years, currently owned by Kent Cartrite.

Don't Get Hooked by 'Phishing' Scams

"Attn: XIT Webmail User ... Our webmail will be shutting down all unused Accounts due to the congestion in our email server. To confirm if this account is active you are required to fill in your details below and send back to us. This information would be needed to verify your account and to avoid being closed. Please provide your full name, user name and password." Have you received an email with a similar message like this? This is known as a scam called phishing (pronounced fishing).

What exactly is phishing? It is a fraudulent attempt to get information such as passwords, user names, bank account numbers or credit card information in the form of an email, by someone pretending to be from an upstanding business or organization. The email can also contain links to other websites that could be infected with harmful or corruptive malware, (366-2468) so be careful when you come across a suspicious email.

So how did the term 'phishing' come about? It's called phishing because it refers to the 'bait and hook' scheme used in the email. The scammer is hoping the potential victim will 'bite' by clicking on a link or opening an attachment in which their financial information, passwords or other information can then be stolen from them, a lot of times without their knowledge.

Phishing seems to be happening more and more often so please beware of emails that appear to have come from XIT Communications or any other legitimate business. Emails asking for information such as passwords, phone numbers, account numbers or other personal information will not come from XIT Communications.

Also, keep in mind that most other organizations will not send emails asking you to provide personal information to them either. If you are ever in doubt about an email you receive, take time to contact that business and talk to them in person (using a telephone number you know is correct, not one included in the email) before supplying any information to them online. This will not only help you validate the email is legitimate, but will also alert that company of a potential phishing scam using their name so they can stop it, if they in fact did not send it to you.

Protect yourself from these dangerous schemes by keeping your computer updated (244-2130) with current anti-virus software. Take the time to be safe and XIT will continue to keep you informed!

Look & Win!

In this edition of the newsletter, we have placed several of our customers' XIT home telephone numbers somewhere within the articles. If you find your home telephone number (Ex. 244-XXXX), call our XIT office at 384-3311 to claim your prize! Enjoy the newsletter and good luck!





Why Should I Keep My Landline Phone???

In this age of convenience and technology, many people are relying on cellular phones as their primary source of communication while on the road. Although cell phones are convenient, we would not recommend disconnecting your traditional landline phone at home, and here are the main reasons why ...

First, a landline phone provides affordable and reliable service, with unlimited local calling and unlimited incoming calls. Unlike a cell phone, a landline phone has great call quality and there are hardly any annoying “dropped calls”. A landline phone is also a reliable way to stay connected with family members during an emergency when cell phones can fail, batteries can die or towers can be overloaded. This makes trying to get a call through virtually impossible at the times when you are needing a phone the most.

During a power outage, if a cell phone is not charged up or the battery goes dead, you are simply out of luck. With a landline phone, there is no charging required. XIT Communications also maintains a backup emergency system (244-0407) that keeps your phone working for up to 8 hours, as long as you have at least one hard-wired phone in the home. That is peace of mind!

During an emergency at your home, you can dial 911 and the emergency dispatcher can see the exact location you are calling from and can dispatch emergency personnel immediately. If a child or elderly person calls and for some reason can't communicate with the dispatcher, help can still be sent immediately to them. This valuable time can save people's lives.

While a cell phone can be helpful on the road during an emergency, it is not nearly as reliable during an emergency at home. Remember, cell phones do not relay the exact address to the dispatcher, they only give a generalized area where the phone is located. If for some reason you can't talk, this can waste valuable time while emergency responders are “trying to find” exactly where you are located, and that valuable time can mean the difference sometimes between life and death.

Many other conditions can also affect cell phone towers ... like tornadoes, thunder storms and snow storms. When these storms happen, (365-4215) cell phones can be without service for long periods of time, which means no communication during that time. Landline phone service is more reliable, and local technicians are usually close by to fix problems quickly, so down time is fairly short.

So, think long and hard before you “pull the plug” on your landline service. It can cost you valuable time and possibly even a life. XIT wants you to stay safe and stay connected!

Calling All Shutterbugs

It's that time again ... time for the 2013 XIT Communications Regional Phone Directory Cover Photo Contest. We are looking for unique photographs of people, places or the history of our area to be used in designing the 2013 XIT Communications Regional Directory Cover. The winning photographer will receive a check for \$100 in addition to the publication of their photo.

All photos must be received by XIT no later than Friday, December 14, 2012. There is no limit on the number of entries submitted by each photographer. All entries must include the photographer's name, address and contact phone number, as well as a brief description describing the people or setting of the photo, (244-6044) and the location of where the photograph was taken. This must be written legibly on the back of the photo or included in the submission.

The photo should be taken in portrait layout and must be at least 5 x 7, if taken with 35 mm camera, or an 8 x 10, if taken with a digital camera. Please be sure the camera is set to the highest resolution. No black and white photos please.

The winner agrees to allow XIT to use the photo for advertising purposes in addition to having it featured on the cover of the directory. All photos become property of XIT Communications and can be used in future XIT publications. Photos can be submitted online to xitcom@xit.net or mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022

So all you photographers get busy and get your pictures submitted! You can win some cash and bragging rights to the directory cover! May the best photo win!



What's Cookin' at XIT

Toll House Pie by Joyce Burrow

2 eggs

½ C flour

½ C sugar

½ C firmly packed brown sugar

1 C butter, melted and cooled

1 (6oz.) pkg. chocolate chips

1 C chopped nuts

1 (9inch) unbaked pie shell

Whipped cream or ice cream

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add flour, sugar and brown sugar; beat until well blended. Blend in melted butter. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.

Pour into pie shell. Bake at 325 for 1 hour. Remove from oven. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

The recipe featured above was taken from our County Cookin' cookbook for sale at any of our XIT offices for \$7.00 each. We will feature more delicious recipes from our cookbooks in each of our newsletters, so watch for them and enjoy!



Dalhart Forklift Training

Forklift Operator Training was recently conducted at the XIT Communications headquarters office for twelve XIT employees. The training was conducted by Frank Phillips College Safety Training Center Instructor, Lann Harlen. Topics covered in the training included load limit and placement, steering control, elevating and moving loads, inclined surfaces, driving in reverse and operator and pedestrian safety. At the end of the training, each participant completed an On-Machine Skills Test that demonstrated forklift familiarization, inspection, controls and handling procedures. XIT employees participating in the training included Bill Green, Pat Gilliam, Rusty Hammett, Mark Stilwell, Brian McCoy, David McCollum, Clint Wheeler, Jeremy Jones, Eddie Carter, Joe Lang, Fidel Olivaréz and Jerry Dorsett. XIT highly recommends this course to any companies wanting to provide this type of training to their employees. Companies who are interested in this training may contact Shannon Degenhart with Frank Phillips College at 806-244-7669.



Moving a pallet from one location to another during his on-machine training is Clint Wheeler, CATV Technician.



Making the training course look easy is Brian McCoy, Installation & Repair Technician.

Lifeline Discount Available

If you need help and can't afford a local telephone line, then Lifeline may be able to assist you. If you qualify for Lifeline, the program will be able to save you money each month on your local telephone service by providing a "discount" on your monthly phone bill. CLEC customers can save \$13.47 a month, our Rural telephone customers can save \$12.75 a month for basic local service from XIT at the home in which they reside.

In order to qualify for Lifeline, customers (366-3786) must be registered in Texas as receiving food stamps, Medicaid, Child Health Plan (CHIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or the total household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Customers wanting to apply for enrollment can call 1-866-454-8387 or visit www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx.



Protecting Our Kids: Webcams

In this age of computers and cell phones, kids are getting more and more active online. Due to this fact, there is also a need to make kids aware of the dangers associated with being online and putting their information out there for the world to see. This series is to help parents and children take a preventative approach to online safety and to know the dangers lurking out there in cyberspace.

Webcams are small video cameras used on a computer or tablet. The camera can be built into the device or may be an extra attachment. Webcams are made so users can “talk to each other” through live streaming video or to record videos to post on video sharing sites (366-5992) or social networking sites. Unfortunately this extra exposure may put children and teens at a greater risk for online predators. So, if your family utilizes a web cam, please be aware of the risks so

that it can be used safely and effectively.

Parents will want to discuss with their children and teens what is considered “appropriate” for them to post online. Many videos show children singing, dancing, sharing their opinions or trying to get a message across to other viewers. Although these videos are being posted innocently, remind children that all information put on the internet is being seen by large audiences all over the world, not just in their hometown. Videos stay around for a long, long time too, so actions that seem funny at the age of 14 may be embarrassing to them in later years when they are applying for a job or trying to get into colleges. Have children and teens show you any videos before posting them online--this way you will have some say in what is being seen by others.

Video Streaming sites like Skype can be an excellent way for family and friends to keep in touch with each other over short or long distances. Users can connect to each other using real-time face chats. In other words, you can see the person at the same time you are talking to them. Some of these sites allow for the recording of these videos, so children and all users need to remember this and use the appropriate actions and language when “conversing”.

Some predators take advantage of web cam usage by children. Some will even send the child they have made contact with online a gift of a web cam to use while they “chat”. While children may view the camera as simply a gift, predators have something else in mind. They may start by having a child take a video of themselves, then gradually suggest doing a video that is inappropriate, and then it can (249-8685) escalate until they ask for full nudity. If a child stops cooperating with the predator, they sometimes will threaten to expose recordings or hurt family members in order to force them to comply with what the predator is wanting.

So teach your children and teens to think carefully before video chatting or posting videos online. Also have them report to you any uncomfortable situations they may come across and reassure them they are not helpless and they have control over what they do and don't do online. This will make their transition into the web world easier and safer for all involved!

Unique Christmas Gift

If you are looking for a unique and well-appreciated Christmas gift idea this season, look no further than to XIT Communications! We have our “Country Cookin’” cookbooks for (244-0461) sale at \$7.00 each. We are also in the process of creating a Country Cookin’ second edition cookbook, filled with all new recipes to savor and try for \$14.95 each. We will have both of these cookbooks available in any of our XIT offices in Dalhart or Stratford in time for Christmas gift giving. With all the delicious home-town recipes (compiled from our customers and employees) to choose from, there will never be a question as to “what’s for dinner”! Come by and pick up one ... or several ... for quick and easy gifts that won't break the bank!

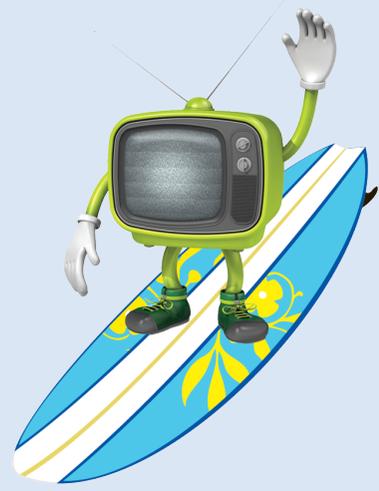


SMART SURFING...

New To XIT IPTV Channel Lineup

We have recently added EWTN Spanish to our IPTV channel lineup on channel 393. EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) is a global Catholic Television Network that provides Catholic programming and news from all around the world. The English version of this channel is also available on XIT IPTV on channel 93.

We have also recently added 2 new HD channels to our lineup. Hub HD is located on channel 550 and ID HD (Investigation Discovery) is on channel 531. You do have to subscribe to HD service in order to receive these channels!



Channel Change Notifications

Recently, XIT has had several name changes on channels in our IPTV lineup. Planet Green has changed its name to Destination America. HDNet is now Axs.TV. Also in the Music Choice Category, MC Mix Tape has now changed names to MC University. All these channels still reside on the same channel number that they were on before the name changes were completed.

Killer Karaoke ... New Series on TruTV

TruTV is taking singing competitions to an all time extreme level with this new series hosted by Steve-O premiering Friday, Oct. 19th at 10p.m on Channel 101 or Channel 601 in HD. Inspired by the popular hit show Sing If You Can, Killer Karaoke challenges the (366-5992) contestants to sing a hit song while Steve-O puts them through the most hilarious and unexpected physical challenges imaginable. It's a game show that hits "all the wrong notes" in the best possible way. Check it out and enjoy a laugh!

24 In 24 on Food Network

Jeff Mauro is eating his way across America as cheaply as he possibly can! Each week, Jeff will discover a new city and set out to spend just \$24.00 total on a delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner there. He will be hitting up local hot spots that specialize in serving tasty food that will make your mouth ... and your budget ... smile! He will also prove once and for all that good food doesn't have to break the bank! 24 In 24 premieres Monday, Sept 24 at 10p.m. on the Food Network, Channel 81 or Channel 581 in HD.

Sasquatch on The Outdoor Channel

This new show on Fridays at 8:30p.m. on Channel 89 features Laramy "Sasquatch" Miller, who was raised and trained by an Indian grandfather and mountain-man father growing up. Laramy, who stands 6'7" tall and weighs in at 270 lbs, uses only a handmade bow, black powder Smith and Hawken gun, and travels the route the mountain men did back in the mid-1800's. He hunts, traps and survives off the land, and does it all the hard way, the "Sasquatch" way. Laramay "Sasquatch" Miller shows us what real hunting and living off the land really entails.

What is Zap2it?

Never heard of Zap2it? Well, let us help ... Zap2it is a website that provides an electronic viewing guide of all television channels in the XIT Communication IPTV lineup, along with a movie guide for our area. It has a comprehensive show listing guide (with channel numbers and show times), TV ratings, and the latest in TV news, photos and videos and information on almost every TV show and celebrity currently on television.

The site is produced and maintained by Tribune Media Services. This website is a FREE service for XIT customers so you can see what is playing on all channels in an easy-to-view format. Just go to www.zap2it.com and in the purple "FIND IT FAST" box on the right (366-5992) side put in your zip code and click on TV Listings. Then choose XIT Communications-IPTV to get our electronic guide. It's that simple! You can even set up an online account which allows you to customize a favorites list to show your favorite channels and TV shows and when they are on, so you don't miss any of your favorites. So take some time and check out Zap2it, you'll be glad you did!



Dalhart Area Customer Appreciation Lunch

A special thanks goes out to all our customers who came and joined us for the Dalhart Area Hamburger & Hot Doggin' Customer Appreciation Lunch, which was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the Rita Blanca Coliseum in Dalhart. A FREE lunch consisting of hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's, chips, lemonade and ice cream for dessert was served to the over 530 people who were in attendance. (244-3204) You all helped to make it a HUGE success!

Congratulations to Barbara Kaul of Dalhart, who was the winner of the drawing for a 32" Samsung LED TV that was given away at the lunch. We appreciate ALL of our customers and want to Thank You All for your patronage and allowing us to serve your communications needs now and in the future!!

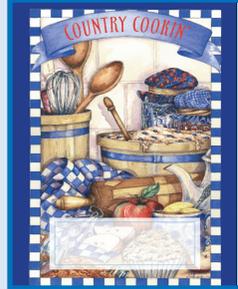


2012 Country Cookin' Cookbook Recipes

Won't you please help us? We have decided to publish a second cookbook, filled to the brim with the best recipes from the best cooks in our communities ... so we need your favorite recipes! The new cookbook will most definitely become a cherished keepsake on everyone's kitchen shelf, just like our first book published more than twenty years ago.

We need all recipes in our offices by Monday, October 15, 2012, at 5 P.M. to be included in the cookbook. Each person submitting a recipe will receive one coupon in the mail worth \$5.00 off the \$14.95 purchase price of the cookbook when it becomes available.

The recipe form is available on our website at www.xit.net/cookbook and click on the link to fill out the form your computer. You can email the completed form to xitcom@xit.net, returned it to either of our XIT offices in Dalhart or Stratford, or mail them to XIT Communications, Attn: Marketing Dept, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022. Thank you for your help in making our second cookbook as successful as the first!



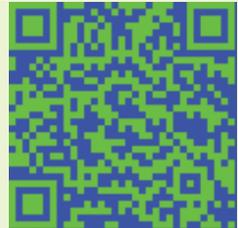
QR Reader Codes: Websites in a Box!

Have you seen these odd looking boxes placed in magazine ads, direct mailings, postcards and other literature lately? These small boxes with the funny designs are known as QR Codes or Quick Response Codes. These codes contain data information which hold website or contact information when scanned with a smart phone or a tablet.

A recent study shows that more than 14 million Americans have used a smart phone to scan a QR code. Although that number may seem large, it's only about 7% of the US mobile phone population. The majority of the scans were to look up product information, websites or coupons.

You must have a QR code scanning application on your smart phone or tablet in order to scan a QR code. The 3 big boxes included in every QR code shows (244-0900) the box boundaries and the colored designs inside the box contain digital information that translates into the website address, product information, coupons or contact information.

So, the next time you see a QR code on something, check it out. It's a fun way to view a website or to get contact information or coupons for a business. And, make sure to look for XIT's QR code on our newsletter and mailings to check out our website, www.xit.net quickly and easily!



Online Billing Coming Soon!

XIT Communications will soon be offering online billing! This will provide XIT customers with an easy way to view and pay their bill online. It will be simple, convenient and completely safe to use.

Our customers will be able to do several things online including editing their profile; view or print bills; call details; view one time charges and credits; payment history; report a problem (244-6750) with their services; schedule monthly payments and making a one-time payment. The website will be very user friendly and easy to navigate.

We are in the final stages of getting our online billing up and running. We will be sending out information as soon as it is available to customers!

High Speed Internet ... What Is The Speed I Need?

When you get on the Internet, what do you prefer to do? Do you do things like browse the web, shop online, Facebook, video chat or play video games? It is important to review what you do on line before deciding what speed package is right for you and your family. So, we have created a guide to help you decide which of XIT's High Speed Internet packages would be the best solution for you and your family! Here are our suggestions ...

3/1 MB Package-For users who primarily want to email, Facebook or surf the web, and usually only have one or two computers being used in the household at a time or users are doing just basic tasks online.

6/1 MB Package-Best for families who enjoy watching online videos, checking emails, downloading books, listening to online radio, or shopping online and have several users on computers at the same time.

12/2 MB Package-Perfect for multiple users who are doing more extensive online activities like playing online games, video chatting, downloading videos, (366-2196) and are online at the same time on different devices such as laptop computers, tablets and smart phones. This is a great speed for a household where numerous family members are on the internet a large majority of the time, at the same time.

20/2 MB Package-Recommended for individuals or small businesses with multiple workstations, who host a website, place online orders or who use vendor specific on-line software. This package is for high volume users who are on the internet a majority of the day or night.

Larger Internet Packages are available by Special Arrangement. XIT offers even larger packages than 20 MB for larger businesses who have multiple workstations at their location, connect to corporate offices in other cities, (249-2044) and upload training videos or other real-time events like video conferencing. These businesses may also use vendor specific software for daily online functions.

So, whatever your Internet needs, XIT Communications has an Internet solution for you! If you are unsure of your current Internet package with XIT, just give us a call! We can evaluate and help you get the most out of your Internet service. We'll get you connected correctly and at the right speed for all of your online activities!

Internet Survey Winners

Congratulations to Linda Rigg and Ronnie Patterson, who were the winners in our XIT High Speed Internet Survey drawings that were held in September. Customers who submitted a completed Internet survey to our office by August 31, 2012 at 5 P.M., were entered into the drawings for a Keurig Coffee Maker and an Amazon Kindle. Linda won the Keurig Coffee Maker, and Ronnie was the winner of the Amazon Kindle. (366-5684) Thanks to all who filled out surveys for us. It helps us to know what our customers want out of their XIT services, and also to let our customers know the new services we have to offer!



Mark Your Calendars

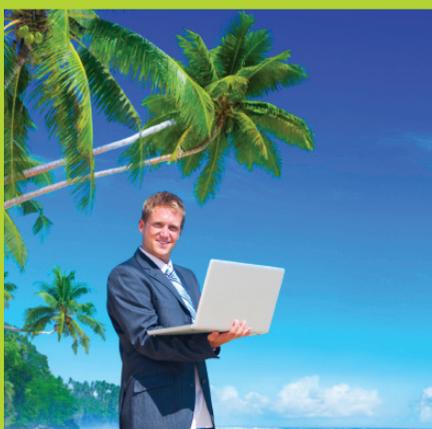
Dates have been set for the XIT Communications' Christmas Open Houses! The Stratford Open House is set for Friday, December 7th and the Dalhart Open Houses at headquarters and our downtown store will be on Friday, December 14th! Mark your calendars and come enjoy a delicious meal (366-7133) and join us in celebrating the 2012 holiday season!

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 EMAIL ON THE ROAD

Even if you are traveling down the road, you can still keep up with your email correspondence on your XIT Communication's email account. As long as you have a computer with internet access, you can go to our website at www.xit.net. In the upper right corner (244-8004) you will see a link that says Webmail and click on this link. You will then log into the site using your email address and password. Once logged in, you will be able to see any new messages that have come into your mailbox and you can also send outgoing messages as well. XIT will keep you connected ... even away from home!

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SERVICES, LTD

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Dalhart, TX 79022



TROUBLE REPORTING

If you are experiencing trouble with ANY of your XIT Communications services, please contact us immediately at 384-3311 or 244-0811. We take all trouble issues very seriously! Please don't assume that we are aware of the problem without reporting it to us. We can't fix it, if we don't know it's broken.

Often times our customer service team can assist you in resolving the problem over the phone, but if not, a trouble ticket will be generated and we will have a technician come to your location to fix the problem. Your satisfaction is important to us, so please give us a call if you have any problems!

Do Not Call Registries

If you are receiving a large amount of unsolicited phone calls lately, then don't forget to register your phone numbers with the Texas Do Not Call list. (249-2024) You must register every three years so your number stays on the list. It is free to register online by going to www.texasnocall.com.

You can also register on the National Do Not Call Registry for free and this listing never expires. You may call 1-888-382-1222 or go online at www.donotcall.gov to register.