Managing Your Passwords

Nowadays with computers more involved in our everyday lives than ever before, it seems like with all this technology comes more things for us to remember ... like passwords. If you are a typical online user, you probably have passwords for your computer accounts, work log-ins, email accounts, banking and credit card accounts, and possibly even a password to read the morning paper or your favorite paperback novel. And, trying to remember all these passwords can be frustrating and confusing!

The fact is most of us fall short when it comes to trying to keep all our passwords safe. So what do some of us end up doing? We have notes stuck to our computers with our

passwords jotted on them or have them written down on a piece of paper. Or, many people use the same password for all their log-ins, just so they can remember it. These are definitely not smart ways of keeping passwords safe.

When we resort to this type of password keeping, we open ourselves up to hackers, thieves and malware, possibly allowing them to access our most private and valuable information. It is just not smart to make it easy for them to steal or hack into our computers. There are better ways to keep passwords safe.

One way is through a password protector or keeper. These management systems keep your passwords safe and many allow you to access your passwords from multiple computers or web browsers, making them very convenient to use. There are many programs available, some are free, others are available to you for a fee.

One such free password protector is KeePass Password Safe which can be found on the web at http://keepass.info/index.html. This windows based site will manage ALL of your passwords in one place, and can be accessed with only having to remember a single password or you can select a key file that unlocks the whole database. Your passwords are stored in groups, so it's easy to locate the one you want quickly and easily. The databases are encrypted using two of the most secure algorithms currently available.

Another good program is LastPass, which can be found at <u>www.lastpass.com</u>. This is also a free program, although there is a premium edition for \$12.00 a year if you would like access to all of the program features. The free version is a good program for most folks, but the premium version offers a program for mobile devices, removes all advertisements and provides priority email and phone support. This program can also be accessed from anywhere at any time. All of your information is encrypted on your computer, so you are the only one that can unlock it.

There are many more programs available on the market to help you keep your passwords and other information protected. Take time to do the research and find the one that is most suitable for your wants and needs. You'll be glad you did!

ATTENTION!

Vega & Boys Ranch Customers

Anytime you are needing to reach XIT Communications for new services, upgrades or any other questions you may have, please keep in mind we have local phone numbers in Vega and Boys Ranch for you to reach us!

Vega customers can call XIT at 806-967-3355.

Boys Ranch customers can call XIT at 806-533-3355.

We strive to make it as convenient as possible for our customers to reach us at anytime! We appreciate your business if you are already an XIT customer. And, if you are not an XIT customer, give us a call and let's work together to get you Phone, High Speed Internet or Cable TV service that you will love and depend on for years to come!



Charlotte Burkhalter **Returns to XIT**

XIT is pleased to welcome back Charlotte A. Burkhalter as XIT's new Controller. Charlotte accepted the position as Controller and returned to XIT in mid-February of this year, filling the position that was vacated by Doug Schoppe, Comptroller, who retired on March I, 2013, after 28 years of service to the Cooperative.

Charlotte has moved back to Dalhart from Tularosa, New Mexico, where she was an Accountant for Tularosa Basin Telephone Company for the past 10 months. She is married to James Irwin and she has 2 grown children. Her daughter,



Jessica, is married to Tyler Bailey, and they have 2 children: Addyson, who is 4 years old and Bentley, who is 6 months. Her son Derek and his wife Rebecca complete the family.

Charlotte was employed for XIT in the past as a Customer Service Representative and Billing Clerk from 1979-1982, and again in 1989 as a Billing Clerk, before being promoted to (244-3253) the Billing Manager in 2000. She left XIT in 2005 to pursue other employment options.

We are happy to have Charlotte back in the XIT family and look forward to many years to come! Welcome back Charlotte!!!

Texline Boys Basketball

Continued from page I



Members and coaches of the Texline Boys' Basketball team are shown with their insulated snack bags that XIT Communications provided to them for their bus trip to Austin Trena Howell (front left), XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative, is shown here after presenting the bags of goodies to the team and coaches.

The team then continued on their journey south through Dalhart and Hartley and more groups of well-wishers, before heading for the open road. After many hours of traveling, the team stopped about 2 p.m. for a break and a workout at Abilene Christian University, before continuing on to their destination in Austin.

Of course the main highlight of the trip was yet to come. On Friday, March 8th, the Texline Tornadoes entered the Erwin Center, home of the (366-2442) University of Texas basketball team, to play Roxton High School (who was making their 3rd consecutive state tournament appearance), in the Class I-A Division II state semi finals. On all accounts it was a terrific game, with the Tornadoes coming from behind to go into overtime play. Unfortunately, they fell just shy of winning, with a final score of 65-71.

The members of the Texline Tornadoes Basketball Team can be very proud of what they have accomplished this year! They not only made school history, but at the same time, they put Texline on the radar as a team to watch for in the years to come! Congratulations guys!!!



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

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www.xit.net



TV STORM ALERT NOTIFICATIONS & AMBER ALERTS

With storm season rapidly approaching, local storm alert notifications by the American Broadcasting System are on the rise. If you encounter a weather alert on your XIT IPTV while watching a TV show, simply press any button on the remote control (except the volume keys) to remove the alert notification. This will allow your TV show to continue without any (244-2993) viewing interruptions. This will also work when Amber Alerts are issued by the American Broadcasting Service on TV.





Time for Directory **Advertising**

Sales are currently underway for the 2013 XIT Communication's Regional Telephone Directory. (249-6633) The directory reaches thousands of people each year and is the perfect place to let customers

know about your business and what services you have to offer them! The directory comes out yearly in July, and advertising with XIT is quick, easy and only takes a phone call to get started!

Call the XIT marketing department at 806-384-3311 or 1-800-232-3312 to set up a time to discuss your advertising needs with our XIT Directory Sales Representative, Trena Howell,

The deadline to advertise in this year's directory is coming soon, so don't delay! Give XIT a call today!





This beautiful Monarch butterfly photo was taken by Sarah Walton of Dalhart.

Texline Boys Basketball Team Advances to State Finals

The Texline High School Boys' Basketball Team recently made history by becoming the first team in the school's history to advance to the UIL State Boys' Basketball Tournament in Austin. With an overall record of 28-6, the boys played the entire season with a lot of heart, skill, determination and teamwork! Earning a chance to go to state was a dream come true for all the boys, and something they will always remember of their high school years.

So, on Wednesday morning, March 6th, a charter bus filled with 11 of the 14 boys who attend Texline High School, pulled out of the high school parking lot at 6:30 a.m., heading south for Austin, some 600+



XIT employees gathered in the early morning hours to cheer on the Texline Tornadoes as they drove into Dalhart on their way to the UIL state finals in Austin.

Look & Win!

The last Look & Win contest we did in our Winter Newsletter went over so big, we decided to do it again! We have placed several of our customer's 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 newslette and good luck!

the start of their great adventure.

niles from

Texline, and

As the bus carrying the coaches and players made its way through Dalhart and Hartley in the early morning hours, the boys were greeted by many well wishers who came out to support, wave and cheer them on as they made their way through town. (361-5875) One of the very first group of well-wishers they came across going into Dalhart was a group of XIT employees who were gathered outside the XIT headquarters' office along the highway to cheer them on as they drove by. Hanging from one of the XIT bucket trucks was a newly made banner displaying the saying: "Texline Tornadoes ... In It to Win It ... State Finals 2013".

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XIT Connections



Going over training for the safety harness is Frank Phillips' College Safety Instructor, Lann Harlan.

Bucket Operation Training Conducted Recently

Bucket Operation Training was held recently at the XIT Communications' headquarters office on Highway 87 for 10 outside technicians from XIT. The safety training was conducted by Lann Harlan, FPC instructor at Frank Phillips College Safety Training Center in (396-2117) Dalhart.



Getting ready to perform his bucket truck lift after putting his harness on is Eddie Carter, XIT Installation & Repair Technician

XIT employees participating in the training included: Rusty Hammett, Pat Gilliam, Mark Stilwell, David Mc-Collum, Bill Green, Fidel Olivarez, Brian McCoy, Yvonne Miller, Jeremy Jones and Edward Carter. Companies (366-2336) interested in providing this training to their employees, may contact Dr. Shannon Degenhart, Director of the Frank Phillips College-Dalhart Center at 806-244-7669.



Getting ready to begin his actual bucket lift is Bill Green, XIT Combination Technician. Here, he is shown clipping his harness to the bucket truck prior to his actual lift in the air.

Topics covered by the training included: hydraulic and hydraulic/electric systems; the mechanical systems; weight restrictions; high-voltage overhead power line distances and restrictions; proper grounding of tools and equipment; ground fault circuit interrupters (CFGI); site inspections and ground conditions; adverse weather conditions; proper attire and personal protective equipment (PPE); and fall protection. At the end of the training, each participant completed a hands-on truck inspection, lift inspection, and fall protection inspection; and also performed in actual lift in the bucket, demonstrating knowledge of the equipment and controls. As a result of participating in the training, each participant received a (365-4055) Bucket Truck Operator's Certificate and was awarded 0.8 Continuing Education Units from Frank Phillips College.



Performing his actual lift and final step in his hands-on training is Pat Gilliam, XIT Sr. Installation & Repair Technician

What's Your Local Calling Scope?

Ever wonder where you can call to from your home or (244-2030) business telephone without it being considered a long distance call and having to pay a toll charge? Well, we've taken the guess work out of it for you! Below is a list of all the different cities in XIT's calling area. Just find the city on the list where you live and follow it across to see what exchanges you can call locally (396-2083) at any time from your home or office by dialing just the 7-digit phone number. It's just that easy! This information can also be found in the front pages of the XIT Regional Telephone Directory.

Where You Live	Local Calling Cities
Adrian	Adrian, Amarillo, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado
Boys Ranch	Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Channing & Vega
Bunkerhill	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart & Middlewater
Channing	Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Channing, Dalhart, Dumas & Hartley
Coldwater	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart, Hartley & Middlewater
Dalhart	Bunkerhill, Channing, Coldwater, Dalhart, Hartley, Middlewater, Stratford & Texline
Hartley	Channing, Coldwater, Dalhart, Dumas & Hartley
Kerrick	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Lautz	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Middlewater	Bunkerhill, Coldwater, Dalhart & Middlewater
Stevens	Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Stratford	Dalhart, Dumas, Kerrick, Lautz, Stevens & Stratford
Texline	Dalhart & Texline
Vega	Adrian, Amarillo, Boys Ranch, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado
Wildorado	Adrian, Amarillo, Canyon, Hereford, Vega & Wildorado

What's Cookin' at XIT

Coke Salad by Hoyt Davis 15 oz. Bing cherries I c. water 2 c. Coke

2 pkgs. black cherry lello I c. chopped nuts 15 oz. can crushed pineapple

Place cherries, water and Coke in a pan and boil for a few minutes. Pour over Jello and (244-2124) when cool, add pineapple and nuts. Refrigerate until set. This makes a large salad.

This recipe is featured from our 2012 Country Cookin' Cookbook now available for sale at any of our XIT offices for only \$14.95 each. The new cookbook is made up of 709 of the tastiest recipes from the finest cooks in our communities! Come by and get yours today!



Staying Safe During Sever Storm Season

If you see a storm with lightning approaching your area, make sure to unplug your cordless phones, answering machine, computers and modems from their jacks and electrical outlets. This is even a smart idea if you have surge protectors because they will not guarantee 100% protection, so why take a chance?

During an active storm, stay off the telephone unless you need to make an emergency call. Lightning can occasionally strike telephone lines and there is a chance it could hurt you if you are on the phone.

Once the storm has passed, plug all your devices back in and test them to make sure they are all working again. If you notice static on your phone line or get no dial tone, make sure that a damaged cordless phone, computer or satellite dish are not causing the issue. Test this by unplugging your cordless phones, computers and cable or satellite dish and then plug a standard non-cordless phone into the phone jack and try the phone again. If the static is gone or you have dial tone again, you can assume that the other equipment is causing the issue and one of them may have sustained damage. You will need to have that equipment checked out more thoroughly to determine the issue. If you still have static on the line or no dial tone after plugging in the standard

corded phone, and you are an XIT Communications' customer, please give us a call at 806-384-3311 and report the trouble so we can have one of our technicians come out and check the line. Stay safe and XIT will keep you informed!

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Page 4

Protecting Our Kids: Online Gaming 3rd article in the series

Nowadays, the Internet is more popular than ever with kids. One reason for kids wanting to be online is to play online games with their friends and other people on the Internet. Statistics show that 97% of online teens, ages 12-17, have played some form of online games in the last year. 27% of them have played games with people they didn't know at all prior to playing a certain game with them.

Gaming is a billion dollar a year industry and growing at a steady rate. Even adults are getting more and more involved with online gaming. While gaming is pretty cheap

entertainment, it is also helpful in teaching children some life skills too. Children use their imaginations and usually have to do some problem solving in order to overcome obstacles to defeat their opponents. They also develop some social skills while interacting with other gamers via chat rooms or actual verbal interaction while playing. Unfortunately, this can also expose children and teens to unknown predators who may not have their best interest in mind.

Many (244-0910) of the game forums allow their players to interact anonymously when playing online. Some predators use this to target children to get to know them first, then form a friendship and eventually suggest meeting in person. Cyber bullies may also pick on fellow gamers by trash talking and some scam artists will sometimes try to obtain personal information by promising gamers merchandise that will aid in the game.

Parents need to be involved when it comes to your children's safety. Take an active interest in the games your children like and want to play online. Even sitting and watching them play allows you to see the exact interaction that is being done. Research can also be done online to see what the game ratings and content are before allowing your child or teen to participate. A couple of good websites to check out online games and their ratings are www.esrb.org and www.game-rate.com.

There are also several kid-friendly sites available for younger children and even teens. A couple are www.gianthello.com and www.gromsocial.com. These sites are safe and free to play. By taking an interest in your child's online game activities, you can not only help protect them from harm, but enhance their online experience and maybe even find a game for yourself!



SMART SURFING...

Outdoor Antics, hosted by comic Marc Ryan, is a new 30-minute, action-packed, side-splitting showcase of the wildest, most outrageous and downright stupidest situations, stunts, crashes, pranks and surprises ever seen outdoors and caught on video. From hunters attacked by their prey to off-roaders stuck in the mud and powerboat mishaps, Outdoor Antics presents the craziest clips from across America. Check it out on Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m. on the Outdoor Channel, XIT Channel 89.

Family Tools is a new comedy premiering May 1st on ABC, Channel 7 at 8:30 p.m. Mixing family with business is never easy, and Jack Shea (Kyle Bornheimer) is about



Flip or Flop is a new show on HGTV, Channel 45, premiering in April. Tarek is a selfproclaimed "real estate genius" with determination and drive. Christina is Tarek's pictureperfect wife. In each episode of Flip or Flop, Tarek and Christina flip a new property. From the nail-biting purchase at auction, to the frustrating renovations and showings, to the giddy acceptance of an offer, follow along with these two novice flippers as they try their hand at the toughest game in town. This young couple is putting everything they have into (244-7525) this venture, including fortunes of their crazy parents and stepparents! Watch for this new show!

Defiance is an upcoming American science fiction series coming to the Syfy Channel, XIT IPTV Channel 95, starting Monday, April 15 at 8 p.m. The series is set in the near future, where aliens known collectively as Votans have come to Earth seeking a new home after their star system was destroyed. After waging war with the humans, Earth is transformed making the planet dangerous to both humans and aliens. After mutual exhaustion of fighting on both sides, a ceasefire is declared. Local human and Votan militias begin to band together if they hope to survive on this new, almost alien planet called Earth. The series revolves around the character, Joshua Nolan, as chief law keeper of a refugee town named Defiance. This series looks like a must see!

New Caller ID Guidelines for Telephone Service

Migration to XIT's new telephone switching equipment is almost completed. With the new switch conversion, come (244-0553) some changes to the Caller ID guidelines now in place. All customer accounts are being updated to the new guideline standards.

Account holders now have 2 options available to them. First, Caller ID can be restricted in our new switch so that the Caller ID does not show on ANY outgoing phone calls. Or, in order for the Caller ID to appear, the following guidelines must be met as to what shows up on the customers Caller ID when they make an outgoing phone call:

- No dual names are allowed, only Last Name and First Name (No husband & wife combination of names is allowed).
- Caller ID can be only 15 characters long. No special characters that include backslash (/), parentheses () or tilde (\sim) are allowed.
- Caller ID field cannot be blank or say anonymous, unknown, private or just show the phone number.

Any new XIT telephone service that is installed will have to comply with the above guidelines. Please keep this in mind when adding or changing telephone service with XIT.



