

Vega Watches as Rory Cooks on Food Network

Fifteen year old Rory Schepisi was more interested in learning about cooking than bussing tables. She asked the chef in her father's restaurant to teach her. He laughed, but said ok. By the time Rory was sixteen, she was in the kitchen full time, and at seventeen she was honored to be accepted to the Culinary Institute of America. The average age of acceptance is 26 years old. Rory said, "Being so young, it was probably good that CIA is known as the military cooking school. While learning to cook, they also taught me the importance of hard work and respect for myself and others." Rory graduated in 1995. She took some classes in hotel management and then worked for several restaurants gaining experience. The most exotic place she has worked is the Waikki Beach Restaurant, in Mullett Bay, St. Maarten.

She opened her first restaurant, Bourbon St. Saloon and Grill, in Hillsdale, New Jersey. From the beginning it was her baby. There was seating for 270 people and with the French Quarter decor, which she mostly found herself, was the perfect setting for the Cajan/Creo cuisine for which it was famous for.



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Kayla Carson In Washington D.C. FRS Youth Tour Winner Talks About Her Trip

Going to Washington, D.C. was such a great experience, and it would not have been possible without the help of everyone at XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and their generous support of the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour. I am so excited to say that this tour was a success! I got to see so much of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding areas, learn about our nation and its history, as well as rural communications.

The first day of the FRS Youth Tour we visited Mount Vernon, George Washington's home and estate. There, we walked about the estate, saw his home, gardens, stables and many other buildings that were essential for living during that day and time. We visited several art galleries, a sculpture garden, The Museum of Natural History, where I saw the Hope Diamond; The Holocaust Museum and The Air and Space Museum. There was so much to see and do at all of the places we visited, but not enough time to do all of it! I saw so much there that I would never get to see in rural Texas! That night, we ate at the Hard Rock Cafe in D.C. It was amazing food! I had been to a Hard Rock Cafe before, but not one quite like that!

The second day was probably one of the most enjoyable days I spent while visiting



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XIT's Mission Statement

To provide high quality telecommunication services at the lowest possible cost to its customers.

New Wireless Data From ...

Get the latest news, check weather forecasts and find scores for your favorite teams. Add pictures or video to your text messages, check your email and Instant Message with friends.

Customize your phone with ringtones, wallpaper images and all your favorite games.

The XIT Mobile Media Net PAKs are designed to get you up and running in no time. All it takes is a quick visit to your nearest XIT Customer Care Center. Our helpful employees will set you up with the media PAK that fits your needs and show you how easy our fast track to wireless data and the Internet really is!



XIT Mobile Media Net PAKS

1 MB MEDIA PAK

\$4.99 Monthly

Overage Rate
\$.02 per KB

5 MB MEDIA PAK

\$9.99 Monthly

Overage Rate
\$.02 per KB

10 MB MEDIA PAK

\$14.99 Monthly

Overage Rate
\$.02 per KB

There will be a **\$5.55** charge for all outgoing MMS (MultiMedia Message) sent. There is no charge to receive a MMS. A nonrecurring setup fee of **\$9.95** will be charged for each Media PAK. Minimum **\$50.00** deposit may be required. XIT Mobile Media Net is billed based on kilobyte usage. 1MB = 1,025 KB.

Ringtones

Polyphonic **\$1.99**
Real (MP3) Tones **\$2.99**

All ringtone pricing is based on distribution rights in the USA.

Wallpaper

\$1.99

Price per image downloaded.

Games

\$3.99

Price per standard game downloaded. Premium or brand-name games quoted individually.

Charges for Ringtones, Wallpaper Images and Games are in addition to Monthly PAK pricing.

How many kilobytes are used for a typical task using XIT Mobile Media Net?

Actual usage will vary, but typical XIT Mobile Media Net tasks examples are as follows:

Example Usage

Check Email	4 KB
Check a Sports Score	6 KB
Check Weather Forecast	8 KB
Read News Headline	10 KB
Download a Ringtone	16 KB
Download a Game	64 KB
Download a Music Tone	120 KB

XIT Wireless offers text messaging plans for everyone from the beginner to the pro. Plans from \$4.95 per month to Unlimited Text Messages for only \$19.95 per month. Plus, with XIT, your Incoming Text Messages are FREE!

Rory said, "I was twenty-one when I opened, and I thought I knew everything. But, I learned a whole lot more real fast. I grew with the business and believe it set me up for what I am capable of today."

Rory was working as a consultant for a night club in Hollywood and spending a lot of time flying coast to coast. She was stressing a little and thinking about taking a vacation, when a friend told her about CMT's *Popularity Contest*. On a lark she emailed the casting director and asked to be on the show. She wound up spending her vacation in Vega, Texas. Rory said, "*Popularity* was all fun and full of new experiences. I got to drive a big rig, milk goats and make a lot of friends." One of those friends was a real cowboy, Klay Waters. She said, "The down side of *Popularity* was dealing with people making judgments about who you were from what they saw on a few minutes of TV." She also learned how editing can take things out of context and make it look totally different from what actually happened.



Bobby Flay, host of the Food Network's FoodNation show, works with Rory on the "Star" set and gives her some much appreciated suggestions. Rory was impressed with how helpful all the program host were.

After *Popularity*, Rory returned to Vega several times and continued a lot of the friendships she had started during the show. She also made new friends, and over the next year and a half, her friendship with Klay became more serious. She couldn't get Texas out of her system, so when a good offer came along, she sold her eight-year-old baby, Bourbon St. Saloon, and moved to Vega, Texas.

Rory started working on building her second restaurant. She wanted something with the feel of the old west. On the way back from visiting friends in Channing, Klay stopped at Boys Ranch and showed Rory Tascosa's Boot Hill

Cemetery. She fell in love with the rustic look and feel of the place and decided to name her restaurant Boot Hill.

One night her dad called and told her to send a video to the Food Network and enter the *Next Food Network Star* contest. She said no, but Klay and her dad said reality shows were what she did and talked her into it. She sent in a video about working with cattle. The network was interested, but asked her to please send another video with some cooking on it. She did and they made her a semi-finalist.

Rory went through what she called a crazy audition process. They gave her written tests, and she had to cook in front of forty people. After three weeks of this, they told her she was a finalist. Rory said, "*Popularity* was summer camp next to Food Network. It is the hardest thing I've ever done, and I've done some hard things. You are watched and judged every minute on everything you do. You have to be able to take a lot of criticism. I think I came out a stronger person." During the filming, all the contestants were living together in a two-bedroom house and sleeping on bunk beds. It was crowded, and they had very little privacy. There were floodlights on in all the rooms twenty-four/seven. Rory had to wear an eye mask to get any sleep. They would shoot segments of the show sometimes until 3 a.m. and expect you up, at 6 a.m. acting like you had a full night's rest.

Like in *Popularity*, Rory is amazed at how people form opinions and believe what they see on the *Next Food Network Star* as the truth. She said, "Eighty-five percent is cut out and the rest edited to portray what the producer wants. There's no truth to it. People can say some pretty hurtful things. You have to get tough."

Rory really liked meeting and working with the celebrity chefs. She loved talking with Rachael Ray. Bobby Flay was very down to earth, and Paula Deen is just like she appears on her show.

Rory is looking forward to the final show when the last two contestants go at it live and the fans do the voting.

No matter what the outcome of the *Next Food Network Star* contest is, Boot Hill Res



Guy Fieri, winner of "Star" 2, Takes time to encourage Rory in her quest for the title of "Star" 3.

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the Nation's Capitol. We saw many statues, memorials, monuments, and other buildings that honor the memory and mark with respect important events and people who are part of our nation's history. We saw the Lincoln Memorial; the Washington Monument, where Martin Luther King Jr. stood to give his *I Have A Dream* speech; the Korean War Memorial; the World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

On the third day of our trip, we visited Arlington National Cemetery. We saw so many different famous and influential Americans' final resting place and learned a lot of American history. The Eternal Flame for President Kennedy was very moving. We saw Arlington House, where General Robert E. Lee lived until the Civil War. It was built by George Washington's step-grandson and soon after General Lee left to lead the Confederate Army, the land



was selected as the site for the new Union Army Cemetery, today known as Arlington National Cemetery. The Changing of the Guard at the remains of the Unknown Soldier was so amazing to see. It was so detailed and precise! I am so glad to know that those men and women take their job seriously. Without them, our freedom would not come free! We also went to the National Zoo and got to see the Panda bears, which I absolutely loved, because pandas are my favorite animal! We also went to Maryland to go glow bowling. It was a full day!

During our last day of touring, we visited with the Federal Communications Commission. We listened to several speakers talk about the issues confronting rural telephone companies, like XIT. Then, they told us how those companies are constantly working with their legislators to make sure rural America receives the same quality telephone service as that available in metropolitan areas. We also went to the Senate building and heard

from the Nebraska Senator and others who work on rural issues throughout our nation. After listening to the speakers, we went to meet our Senators and speak with



them, if they were in their offices. The Arizona Senator wasn't in his office, so one of his attendants gave us passes to the Gallery. He also took us under the road, onto the tram, and all through the capitol underground, which was very exciting. While traveling to the Gallery, I saw John Kerry. In the Gallery, we heard a debate about immigration, which I thought was very interesting. Hillary Clinton was in the Gallery listening to the same debate!

For lunch that day, we went to ESPN Zone. That was a really fun place to eat lunch! It was a three-story restaurant. The top floor and second floor were for eating and private parties. The bottom floor had tons of games and other activities. That night, the Double Tree Hotel hosted a dinner for us that was amazing! We also had a farewell dance that night. It was a fun chance to tell everyone bye and exchange emails.

All in all, this trip was amazing and is something I know I will never forget! Everything from the lifelong friends I've made, to the wonderful things I saw, will forever be kept in my mind!



I would like to thank all of you and XIT for making this trip possible and FRS for all they do in planning and organizing such an amazing trip!



XIT TECH TIPS

from guest columnist
Eric Spellmann

Speeding Up Your Older PC

Want a faster computer? Buy one! But, if money prevents that choice, you may be able to eke out some more performance from that dinosaur on your desk. First, let's cover some maintenance tips for the biggest bottleneck on most systems: the Hard Drive.

Scrub-A-Dub-Dub

If you think "emptying your recycle bin" is the only way to clean a hard drive, think again. Various temporary files are strewn all over that spinning platter, taking up valuable drive real estate. Every now and then, it pays to clean this mess up.

When the amount of free space on your hard disk is less than twice the amount of RAM it has, your system will slow considerably. Did that make sense? As an example, if you have 128 megabytes of RAM, your system will start to get sluggish when your hard drive has less than 256 megabytes free. The more RAM your system possesses, the more free hard drive space will be required by the system for these work files.

One way to clean up some of the clutter (and free a lot of space to boot), is to run the Windows Disk Cleanup Tool. Click on the Start Button, then Programs, Accessories, System Tools, and finally, Disk Cleanup. If you don't have this program, find your original Windows CD and install it. It's that important.

Choose the drive to clean and hit OK. A list of proposed files will be listed. Take the default and hit OK. If you've never used this utility before, you'll probably be surprised by how much space you free up.

Throw Excess Baggage Overboard

Another way to dramatically clean your drive is to un-install programs you no longer use. Click the Start button, Settings, Control Panel, "Add/Remove Programs." If you have Windows 2000 or XP, the system can sort your programs by their amount of "use." Look through the list and "Remove" any programs you don't need. Don't fret if you make a mistake. You can always blow the dust off that old CD and re-install it later.

Depending on the age of your system, these changes will give you quite a boost in hard disk space and performance. Enjoy!

Eric Spellmann is the Owner and President of Spellmann & Associates, a technology company offering employee training, website design, PC repair, and network maintenance. He is a featured speaker at a number of state and national technology conferences and writes a syndicated column in fourteen newspapers. In addition, he produces a weekly television segment for his local ABC affiliate. To contact him, visit his website, <http://www.EricSpellmann.com>

Hereford & West Texas Rural Listings Added to Directory

With the addition of listings for Hereford and a portion of the surrounding rural area, phone numbers for all of XIT's service area are now provided in one convenient location-the ninth edition of the XIT Communications' Regional Directory.

Conveniently sized and loaded with useful features, the directory now includes combined listings for all the towns and communities in XIT's service area, plus the Amarillo and Canyon listings in a separate section, for easy access to all the numbers you use the most.

One of the most popular sections of the directory is the numerical section, which allows you to look up by phone number instead of name.

The XIT Communications' Regional Directory is the perfect book for your home, office, and car. The directory distribution will begin on Monday, July 16th. If you need additional copies, please contact your local Customer Care Center or Chamber of Commerce.





is a quarterly publication for **XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.** members, **XIT Communications** and **XIT Wireless** customers.

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With Whom Would You Like to Speak

Whenever you call a business, it can become a frustrating experience if you don't know to whom it is you need to talk to. Here at XIT Communications, we'd like to help out as much as possible by giving you an idea of which locations and departments handle what jobs. Hopefully, this information will make things easier the next time you need to contact us.

Rural members with questions about their service can call Headquarters or the Customer Care Centers in Dalhart and Stratford.

Customers, who have questions about buried cable, can call 1-800-344-8377, 806-244-0811 or 1-888-858-0886.

If you have a question about your bill, disconnect notices, arrangements for paying your bill, bill payment options, changes of address for your bills, activating a new service, ordering, disconnecting or transferring service to another location or name, you can talk to any of our customer service people at any of our locations.

For questions concerning your wireless service with XIT you can call any of our Customer Care Centers in Dalhart, Dumas, Hereford and Stratford.

For questions about our residential and business telephone services, Internet and XITv for customers in Boys Ranch, Channing, Dalhart, Hartley and Stratford, please call the Dalhart, Dumas or Stratford Customer Care Center nearest you.

XIT TV Cable customers in Hereford and Vega who have questions about their service, should call the Hereford Customer Care Center.

If you are unsure who you need to talk to, call the XIT Customer Care Center nearest to you. Our friendly customer service people will be glad to direct your call to the proper department or person.

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restaurant and Vega are Rory's home base. As soon as the show is over, she is going to devote all her time to getting the restaurant open. She said, "You cannot open a business like this without being full on all the time."

As for competing on any more reality shows,

Rory said, "Probably not." Then, she thought about it for a second or two and added with a grin, "Maybe *Dancing With The Stars*, that might be a fun way to lose weight!"

Vega, Texas residents, with subscriptions to XIT Cable TV, are able to watch Rory Schepisi compete on Food Network's ***The Next Food Network Star***. XIT scrambled to get the Food Network (channel 99) added to Vega's Cable TV lineup just in time to watch Rory compete in the first episode. In the near future, we hope to be watching Rory on her own Food Network Show.



Rory with Giada De Laurentiis, host of *Everyday Italian* on the Food Network.