

Message From the Manager

XIT Wireless began offering service in June of 1990 with only three analog towers. With bag phones and car-mounted mobiles, three towers provided coverage for much of the area at that time. To keep up with technol-



Network and switching technicians work long and tedious hours to cutover new GSM soft switch.

ogy and the new demand for digital service, XIT deployed a new switch in September of 2004, which was capable of both the old-car phone type and the new TDMA digital handsets. The number of cell sites grew from 3 in 1990 to 24 in 2004, at which time, XIT began its conversion to GSM technology - the new digital wireless platform. With this conversion, additional cell sites were required to accommodate the smaller footprint of the all-digital phone. Another 14 cell sites were added. Currently, XIT has 38 cell sites in its 6-county home area.

Customer demand for more and better wireless service at the same time as new wireless devices and technology are introduced was instrumental in XIT's decision to deploy a next generation soft switch, which is an IP (Internet Protocol) platform. We believe that as everything



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New Web Site

For a fresh new look and lots of information about XIT, crank up your Internet and go to www.xit.net. You're in for a real treat with the new interface, lots of color and graphics, current information and no pages under construction!

We wrote about Lisa and Duane Mungia of Scribbles Print & Web Design, located in Stratford, in the *Summer 2006 Connections*. If you have mis-

placed your copy of the summer newsletter, you can access it on the Internet through the XIT web site. Lisa and Duane impressed us so much, we asked them to design the new site. We're glad we did and we think you'll appreciate it too. They have created a very user-friendly experience for XIT customers. Please take the time to check it out and come back often.

The screenshot shows the XIT website with a navigation bar at the top. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Rural:** High Speed Internet, Wireless, Local Phone, Long Distance, and a link to "Learn More".
- Residential:** High Speed Internet, Wireless, Local Phone, Digital Cable, Long Distance, and a link to "Learn More".
- Business:** High Speed Internet, Wireless, Local Phone, Digital Cable, Long Distance, and a link to "Learn More".
- High Speed Internet:** The fastest, most reliable connectivity, with a link to "Learn More".
- Digital Cable:** All the channels you want at rates you'll love, with a link to "Learn More".
- Long Distance:** Real customer service with our long distance plans, with a link to "Learn More".
- Dependable, Affordable XIT Wireless:** We offer a variety of exceptionally priced wireless plans, and we'll help you find the one that best fits your communication needs and your budget, with a link to "Learn More".
- Bundled Services:** Wireless, High Speed Internet, Digital Cable, and Long Distance, with a link to "Learn More".

At the bottom, there is a footer with the text: "© 2007 XIT Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Contact Us | Privacy Policy".

XIT's Mission Statement

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

Toys for Tykes

XIT customers showed their generosity again this year by donating toys to XIT's Toys for Tykes program. This XIT tradition has helped provide toys to children each Christmas since the mid '90s.

This year's toys were donated to the following organizations: Edna's Light Christmas Basket Program in



Dalhart; Safe Place in Dumas; Blue Water Gardens Learning Center in Hereford; and the Angel Tree Project in Stratford.

XIT would like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** from these organizations. Your toy donation helped make Christmas a lot more special for a number of local children.

New Switch *Continued from Page 1*

from music to video and voice migrates to a data or Internet format, XIT will be better positioned to offer advanced 2.5G and 3G data and voice services like pre paid, content based service, short message service (SMS), location based service, multimedia service (MMS), ring-tone downloads, Internet browsing, corporate service and mobile video as they come along.

The switch project was begun in late 2005 and was installed by June of 2006. XIT went through extensive testing, which involved the collaboration of up to six vendors, at times. Many of the new features we take for granted, such as number portability and intelligent signaling made the coordination and implementation between the many companies more complicated. If the cell sites are the arms and legs of the network - then, the switch is the brain. This testing was completed in November 2006, and the switch was cut into service in the early morning hours of December 13, 2006.

XIT has made the choice to move ahead with this new technology because we believe the long-term benefit will payoff as the network continues to evolve to higher data rates and convergence between Internet and mobile products. We regret that this change may have caused our customers any inconvenience. We do realize the importance of each call made and received. Our technicians are working many hours, both day and



Top: Jerry Dorsett
Bottom: Shawn Blanton (Left)
Mike Slatton (Right)

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Holiday Open Houses

The open houses were a huge success again this year. Thanks to all the customers who took the time to come in and help us celebrate the season.

If you haven't attended any of XIT's open houses in the past, please plan now to attend next year. We promise you it will be fun!



FRS Youth Tour Announced

The Foundation for Rural Service's (FRS) annual Youth Tour is one of the most visible examples of XIT's involvement with, and commitment to, rural youth. Each year, in collaboration with the National Telephone Cooperative Association, XIT offers one area **junior high school student** the opportunity of a life time. The FRS Youth Tour brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, D.C. for a four-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation. While there, students also learn about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics are greatly enhanced by site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in addition to meetings with industry leaders and members of Congress.



The students also are given ample time to explore the Nation's Capital and its many attractions. While there, the group visits such sites as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; The Korean, Vietnam and new World War II Memorials; Mount Vernon, home of George Washington; the Smithsonian Museums; and, much more.

The FRS Youth Tour is a four-day, all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. XIT will select one winner from applications received. Students must attend a school located in XIT's 6-county service area, and receive service from XIT. Applications are available through each school counselor's office. Applicants are required to submit an essay on one of the following topics:

- How telecommunications has impacted your life in rural Texas.
- What would my life be like without a telephone?
- Describe a day in your life without a telephone.
- Why should you be selected to participate in the 2007 Youth Tour?
- If you could have one form of telecommunications, what would you choose (land line, wireless, Internet) and why?

Completed applications must be received in XIT's Headquarters Office no later than March 23, 2007. If you're a junior this 2007 year and this sounds like something you would like to do, check with your school counselor or contact the Marketing Department at 384-3311 or 1-800-232-3312.

This year's Youth Tour will be held June 2 - 6, 2007.

XIT Communications Regional Directory Sales will soon be starting. We will be contacting businesses about how we can help with their advertising needs. If you are interested in advertising in the XIT Communications Regional Directory, contact the Marketing Department at 384-3311, or toll free 1-800-232-3312.



Clint Formby, Managing Partner and President of Hereford Cablevision, along with Darrell Dennis, General Manager of XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., sign documents finalizing sale of Hereford Cablevision to XIT Communications while, Mr. Lloyd Ames, XIT Manager - Southern Area, looks on.

XIT Communications Purchases Hereford Cablevision

XIT Communications announces the purchase of Hereford Cablevision. The sale was finalized on November 1st when representatives from both companies met at the Hereford Cablevision office located at 119 East 4th Street in Hereford, Texas.

XIT Communications has assumed operations and will offer cable and Internet services from Cablevision's current location. Mr. Lloyd Ames, current manager of Hereford Cablevision, will continue with XIT Communications in the position of Manager - Southern Area. Cablevision employees Tony Martinez, Randie Villarreal, Janie Jimenez, Andrew Tijerina and Julie Green will also continue employment with XIT Communications. We welcome these new employees to the XIT family.

Mr. Formby, previous President of Hereford Cablevision, has agreed to serve in an advisor/consultant position during the transition period.



XIT TECH TIPS

from guest columnist
Eric Spellmann

Three Must-Have (and FREE) Programs for Your PC

I'm all about "FREE." Any time I can get a free program that does what the "pay" versions do, I'm all over it. The three programs below are my favorites and do not contain spyware.

AVG Anti-Virus

I am always receiving numerous calls from people upset about the prices for anti-virus software and the yearly update fees. The two biggest players in this market, Norton and McAfee, charge a pretty penny to keep your system free of viruses.

If you are a home user, though, STOP PAYING. A little known, but highly respected anti-virus company, Grisoft, makes a great, and free program called, AVG Anti-virus. The program and all updates (done automatically) are free for personal, non-business use. I use this program at home myself and am very pleased. Next time Norton or McAfee starts nagging you for money, un-install them and try out AVG. You can find it at <http://free.grisoft.com>.

Windows Defender

If you've ever doubted that Microsoft is testing the anti-virus software waters, check out one of their newest programs, Windows Defender. Calling it an anti-adware and anti-spyware program, they are positioning this great program as a major piece of their Windows security strategy. But, I digress ... get this program! You can find it at <http://www.windowsdefender.com>.

Copernic Desktop Search

Searching your hard drive for a missing document can be very time consuming, especially when you can't remember the name of the document. I remember one time I needed to find every e-mail and document that mentioned a certain customer's name. It took me hours of opening numerous files and waiting while Outlook searched through my e-mail archive. Today, I can get the same answer within three seconds.

Copernic Desktop Search has come to my aid during numerous file searching emergencies. Basically, you install the program, and during periods of non-activity, it indexes every word in every document and e-mail. Specifically, it can index Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint files, Acrobat files, photos, WordPerfect, and even his torical web pages. Try it and you'll be hooked. Find it at <http://www.copernic.com>.

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>

Sign Up Now for School Rebate Program

In support of the schools in XIT Wireless' 6-County Home Service Area, we are excited about our XIT Wireless School Rebate Program. This program is a means for XIT Wireless customers to earn cash for the school of their choice and raise funds for special school projects. There is no charge to the participating school and no additional charge to the customer. Here's how it works. XIT Wireless will pay 3% of each participating customer's monthly wireless plan charge to the

school of his or her choice. Current XIT customers, as well as new customers, can participate in the School Rebate Program as long as they are an active customer of XIT Wireless with a qualified rate plan of \$39.95 or higher. Corporate rate plans are excluded from the program.

Don't wait, this a great opportunity to help the school of your choice. You can sign up right now at www.xit.net, under SPECIALS, or contact your Customer Care Center. It only takes a minute.



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

All correspondence should be addressed to:

XIT Connections, Attn: Marketing Department
P.O. Box 1432 • Dalhart, TX 79022
or e-mail to: xitcom@xit.net

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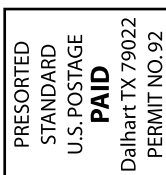
Jerry Dorsett, Network & Switching Technician, works diligently to assist with new switch cutover.

night, to review each trouble ticket received.

Additional test equipment has been brought in to resolve remaining issues. Once again, we appreciate your patience and want you to know how important it is to us that each and every call goes through.

My intention was to only talk about the XIT switch conversion; however, with the recent ice and snowfall in the area, XIT lost power over a wide portion of our service area. Many of XIT's sites have permanent stand-by power, but not all. We had crews out on Friday in the storm connecting generators to locations that were without power. We express our appreciation to our folks who were out on icy roads maintaining service to our customers. We would also like to express our appreciation to the crews from Rita Blanca Electric and Xcel Energy, who were on the poles in the wind and cold restoring power. It defines working in the worst conditions.

XIT looks forward to serving you in 2007.



12324 U.S. Highway 87
Dalhart, TX 79022



2007 Directory Cover Contest Winner

XIT's call for cover photographs for the 2007 XIT Communications Regional Directory was well received. A number of customers responded from many different parts of our service area. Once again, it was very hard to choose one over all the others. The judges finally decided that Whitney Stengel's delightful photo of horses in a winter wonderland would make a beautiful cover for this year's directory. Congratulations, Whitney!



Whitney Stengel, of Dalhart, took the winning photo on December 20, 2006 near Boys Ranch.

We want to thank everyone who entered the competition for their interest, involvement and time.