

XIT Connections

XVII, Number 4, Fall 2015



This pretty photo of a peaceful country road was provided courtesy of Vera Ruberti, formerly of Texline, who now resides in Italy. Vera was a foreign exchange student in Texline from August 2014 to June 2015. She lived with Michael and Sherry Hurley of Texline and took the photo in October 2014 near Texline.

Help Us Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger!

Ever since 1930, Cooperative Month is celebrated each October by over 29,000 cooperatives across the country. Cooperatives around the world generally operate according to the same seven core principles and values that include:

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



In keeping with the spirit of Co-op Month and the 7th Cooperative Principle, 'Concern for Community', XIT Communications has coordinated a breakfast food drive for area food pantries, and we sure could use your help!

The food drive began October 1st and will continue through the end of November. Customers, and community members alike, can come by any XIT office and pick up a XIT reusable grocery tote. Then, take the tote and fill it with non-perishable breakfast items for our breakfast food drive. Bring those items to our XIT office and drop them off. XIT will deliver the items to the area food pantries, including the Pantry of Stratford, The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church, Texline Food Pantry, Dalhart Church of the Nazarene Food Bank and Vega Food Pantry/UMC.

Persons in Vega can pick up their totes at Taylor's Vega Market and either leave the tote at the store for delivery, or take the filled tote to the Vega Chamber of Commerce Office. And, in addition to the great feeling you will have knowing you are helping those in need, we have a bonus incentive for you ... you get to keep the reusable grocery tote as our gift!

Sadly, many local families are struggling to keep food on the table, and numerous churches and local organizations, like those listed, are trying to help fill the hunger gap that continues to exist across the area. Breakfast items seem to be among the most needed of supplies, so we are focusing specifically on these items for this food drive.

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Kenneth Stanley

Former XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Board Director, Kenneth Stanley, passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2015 in Dalhart, Texas. Kenneth served on the XIT Board as a director for Hartley County for 14 years, from 1996 to 2010. Kenneth also served his community on several other boards including the Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative and the Dallam County Soil and Water Conservation District. He was a farmer and rancher in the Panhandle his entire life and was very active in his church, serving as a trustee for many years. He will be dearly missed!

Lifeline Discount Program

If you need help and can't afford local telephone service, you may be eligible to receive a monthly discount through the Lifeline Program. The program is designed to help qualified low-income individuals pay the monthly cost of basic telephone service. Lifeline reduces the basic monthly rate up to \$12.75 for those who qualify. The program does not cover the cost of additional services such as Caller ID or voice mail.

A resident may qualify for the Lifeline Program if they receive any of the following:

- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Child Health Plan (CHIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- National School Lunch Program-Free Lunch Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Or the current annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines

Customers wanting to apply for enrollment can either call 1-866-454-8387 or visit the website online at www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx.



Call Before You Renovate or Dig!

Please call our office if construction work is being done at your location that requires the utility lines to be temporarily disconnected or moved. XIT needs to be aware of changes in our lines before the work is done to ensure they are disconnected or moved correctly and safely. This will save time and money when it comes to having the lines reconnected after the work is completed. Safety is our priority!

Also, if you are digging more than 16" on private property or any public right-of-way, Texas law requires that you call the Texas One-Call Center prior to digging. Everyone, including contractors or homeowners alike, must call at least 2 business days prior to the start of digging. If you have to dig, call the statewide number: 811. For more information, visit their website at www.texas811.org.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Bits vs. Bytes

Many people use the Internet terms "bits" and "bytes" interchangeably, but they are NOT the same!

Bits are used to measure the speed of an Internet data connection. All data speeds are measured in bits-per-second (Kbps - kilobit, Mbps - megabit).

Bytes are used to measure the data usage. Songs, movies, word documents and web page visits are measured in bytes. This is how much content is sent via a data connection over the Internet. (KB - Kilobyte, MB - Megabyte, GB - Gigabyte) Here are some basic

Internet data usage files:

*Text Email 2-5 KB
MP3 Music 1-10 MB
Digital Pictures 1-8 MB
20 Sec. Video 3 MB
Entire DVD 1-2 GB
HD Movie 3-7 GB*

Dalhart High School FFA ... The Chapter to Watch!

This past summer was an extremely busy one for the young men and women of the Dalhart High School FFA Chapter. From attending Area Leadership Camp, to the State Convention, to the Washington Leadership Camp, members have enjoyed their time away from home and broadening their friendships with fellow members, and enhancing their knowledge of their country. And, with the FFA Motto of Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve - the group has really accomplished a lot this summer to live up to this motto in a short amount of time!

Four students participated in the Area Leadership Camp in Clarendon the third week in June. Leslie Batenhorst, Jake Massey, Danielle McMillen and Erin Nutter each attended workshops on different leadership traits and how to put these traits to use in their own FFA Chapter and in the community in which they live.

Then, 10 students and 2 adults attended the FFA State Convention in Corpus Christi in mid-July. Members got to hear several keynote speakers including Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, one of the Harlem Globe Trotters, and a military vet who had lost both of his legs in battle. They got to hear how the determination and drive that these men had helped them make it through some of their darkest times. State members also elected state officers during the convention.

While there, the Dalhart FFA Chapter's Dairy Judging Team was recognized for taking 4th place on the state level this past year. Danielle McMillen was honored and presented with the Lone Star Degree. This degree is the highest degree an FFA member can receive on the state level and is a big feat to accomplish! Congratulations Danielle!

But, what trip is complete without a little fun? While talking to the kids, Leslie Batenhorst stated she liked the State Convention best during her travels this summer. "We got to do a lot of fun things like deep sea fishing and played Capture the Flag," she stated. Payton Galloway also enjoyed the State Convention. "Yeah, going deep sea fishing was great and we got to see some of the old oil rigs, which was pretty cool," he added.

Other students who made this trip were Jake Massey, Shae Coston, Brittany Johnson, Corban Lehman, Anneke Boer, Parker Przilas and Erin Nutter, along with their sponsor teachers, Rebecca McEndree and Thomas Clay. Rebecca is an Ag Teacher at Dalhart High School. She has worked with the FFA Chapter at the school for two years. This is Thomas' first year of teaching at the high school.

From the State Convention, eight students and two adults drove to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. to attend the seventh week of sessions.

The trip took the group three days to get from Texas to Washington DC, and covered a total of some 4300 miles round trip! The kids were excited because they got to travel and see 19 different states on this journey. As Shae Coston said "It was funny. We drove one whole day and we were still in the state of Texas at the end of the day. The next day we drove about the same amount of time and went through 5 states. It's just crazy!"

Once the group arrived in Washington, they were paired up with students from different chapters from all over the country to room with. Some 300 students, in all, attended the convention. "They had to get out of their comfort zone a bit, and got to make some new friendships along the way" said Rebecca. While there, the members were broken into 'communities' and learned about different leadership traits. They later visited Arlington Cemetery to hear about some of the leaders buried there, which helped to

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XIT is a proud sponsor of the Dalhart FFA chapter. XIT gave a monetary donation to the group to help with travel expenses for their summer trips. Members of the Dalhart High School FFA Chapter stopped by the XIT Rural Telephone headquarters office recently to tell us about their summer trips. Members coming by included (left to right) Shae Coston, Rebecca McEndree, Jake Massey, Payton Galloway, Danielle McMillen, Leslie Batenhorst and Thomas Clay.



Danielle McMillen (far right) is shown with other FFA members from all over the state of Texas in front of the nation's Capital Building displaying the Texas flag.



Danielle McMillen, Dalhart FFA President, is shown here displaying the Lone Star Degree she received while attending the State Convention in Corpus Christi.



Members of the Dalhart FFA Chapter enjoyed a visit to Congressman Mac Thornberry's office while attending the Washington Leadership Conference. Shown here with Mr. Thornberry are (left to right) Parker Przilas, Tori Yanke, Leslie Batenhorst, Rebecca McEndree (Leader), Danielle McMillen, Shae Coston, Jake Massey, Erin Nutter and Aaron Hembree.

put all the lessons together. The group also got to visit the national monuments and made a trip to the Capital Building, which they thoroughly enjoyed! One of the highlights of the trip was the meeting of Congressman Mac Thornberry at his office. Maybe one day we may have some congressional interns in our midst!

Shae Coston said he enjoyed the trip to Washington very much! "We got to meet a lot of new people, and we got to see how different the FFA chapters are across the country. It was interesting how they do things so differently than we do here in Texas", he said. Then, Danielle McMillen added, "It was fun to meet people from all over the country. I made some new friends, and we got to see how everyone else does things."

The kids also participated in the packing of meals for the homeless and less fortunate in the Washington, DC. area. "There is an organization called Meals of Hope, and they came and brought all the food. We packed more than 55,000 meals in about 2 hours", Danielle said. "The meals we packed will feed about 100,000-110,000 people" added Jake Massey. Members also were served a poverty dinner, one evening, where the students were informed during the meal about how many people in the world are dying each and every day from starvation. What an impact this had on all the kids!

Members who attended the Washington trip included Leslie Batenhorst, Danielle McMillen, Jake Massey, Shaw Coston, Aaron Hembree, Erin Nutter, Tori Yanke and Parker Przilas. Teachers, Rebecca McEndree and Thomas Clay, also made the trip and attended the convention.

Once school started back this fall, the Dalhart FFA Chapter hosted a Greenhand Camp for incoming high school freshman students. The camp is designed to help the students adjust to FFA on the high school competition level and to inform them of what to expect during the year.

The members also elected their officers for the 2015-2016 school year. The officers are: President - Danielle McMillen; Vice-President - Leslie Batenhorst; Secretary - Erin Nutter; Treasurer - Anneke Boer; Reporter - Corban Lehman; Sentinel - Jake Massey; Student Advisor - Tori Yanke and Chaplin - Shae Coston. The Standing Committee Chair is Breanne Beller, and the Standing Committee includes Parker Przilas and Aaron Hembree.

XIT wants to wish all the FFA students the best of luck on the new school year and in their FFA competitions and stock shows this year!

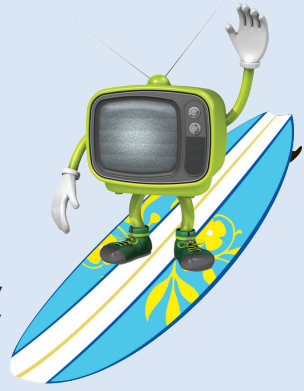
XIT Communications recently donated a gift basket to the Loreto On The Plains Fundraiser and Silent Auction in Hartley. Becky Voight is shown holding the gift basket. Loreto on the Plains is a Respect Life Care Home for the sick and terminally ill. XIT was proud to help out this wonderful organization!



XIT Communications recently made a monetary donation to the Dalhart High School Band Booster Club. The money was used to purchase food and supplies for the concession stand. Dalhart Wolves Band members, Brielee Moore (center), and Brynn Moore (right), are shown accepting the check from XIT Communication's Customer Service Clerk, Sherry Steffen (left). The concession stand is serving XIT Communications' Nachos again this year, so give them a try when you go watch a game! XIT Communications is a proud supporter of our Dalhart Wolves and Lady Wolves!

SMART SURFING...

Angel from Hell is a new sitcom which will premiere on Thursday, November 5th, at 8:30 p.m. on CBS, Channel 10/510 in HD. The series follows an angel named Amy, played by Jane Lynch, who acts as the guardian angel for Allison Fuller, played by Maggie Lawson. Allison is a dermatologist who is portrayed as a multi-tasking perfectionist. Allison thinks Amy is nuts with her crazy persona and the fact that she is always around, until she discovers that Amy knows everything about her. She soon starts believing all her crazy predictions. This comedy looks to have the makings of a very funny hit! Check it out!



Agent X is a new action-drama premiering on Sundays, starting November 8th, at 8:00 p.m., on TNT, XIT's IPTV Channel 37, and Vega Channel 43. John Case, played by Jeff Hephner, is Agent X, an operative who handles sensitive cases that the CIA and FBI cannot. He is hidden from the view of the public, and even from the President. This top secret agent is trained and ready to serve, to be deployed at a moment's notice, but only under the careful discretion of the Vice President, Natalie Maccabee, played by Sharon Stone. This high-energy drama has lots of twists and turns, big action sequences and some great stunts. Looks like a good watch!

Chicago Med is a medical drama series created by Dick Wolf and Matt Olmstead as a spin-off from Chicago Fire. The series takes viewers through an emotional ride of the day-to-day chaos that occurs in the city's most explosive hospital, and highlights the courageous team of doctors that manage to hold it all together. Some of the cases they tackle are inspired by events and intertwine with characters from the shows Chicago Fire and Chicago PD. Chicago Med premieres on Tuesday, November 17th at 8:00 p.m., on NBC, Channel 4/504 in HD.

The Expanse is a science fiction drama series based off of a series of novels by the same name. Set 200 years in the future, in a fully colonized the Solar System, detective Josephus Miller, played by Thomas Jane, is given an assignment to find a missing woman, Julie Mao. Joining him with his task is James Holden, played by Steven Strait. Soon the two find that the missing woman is connected to a vast conspiracy. The Expanse will premiere on Monday, December 14th, at 9:00 p.m., on the Syfy Channel, XIT's IPTV Channel 95 and Channel 46 in Vega. Looks interesting!

Did You Know??? Placement of your XIT wi-fi router in your home makes a big difference in the strength of your wi-fi Internet signal! The closer the device is to the XIT router, the better the speed & connection! Smart TVs should be within 50 foot of the router for the best connection!

Got A Great Story Idea?

XIT Communications is always looking for great story ideas for the XIT Connections Newsletters. We value the opinions and fresh ideas from our customers! We want to make our newsletter one that you enjoy and want to read every time it is printed! We do our best to fill it with valuable information that you can use. We also like to include human interest stories to keep things new and different.

If you know of a unique or special story that we might want to do a feature on, please email your idea to our marketing department at xitcom@xit.net. Make sure to give us as much detailed information as possible, contact information, and anything you think we may need to gather information on the story or subject. Although we can't promise we will do a story on every idea we receive ... we can tell you we will look at each idea to determine if it is one we want to pursue!

We appreciate all of our customers and hope that if you're not an XIT customer yet, that you will give us a try! Give us a call today at 244-3355 or 384-3311 in Dalhart; 366-3355 in Stratford; 533-3355 in Boys Ranch; or 967-3355 in Vega, to talk to one of our friendly customer care representatives about new or existing service options! We want to be YOUR communications' company!



Texas Telephone Assistance Numbers

Here is a list of handy phone numbers to use when you need help or to get more information! These numbers are good anywhere in the state of Texas! **Clip it and keep it!**

DIAL 2-1-1: Anywhere in Texas for free information and referrals to health & human service agencies, non-profit & faith-based organizations, disaster relief resources and volunteer opportunities.

DIAL 4-1-1: Directory assistance for any phone number in the United States. Private, local, national and 800 numbers available. (Charges may apply)

DIAL 7-1-1: Relay Texas is for users who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired, so they can have their calls connected using a TTY system to a regular telephone. Then, a operator verbally relays the conversation between the two parties.

DIAL 8-1-1: Texas 811 number. When planning an excavation project, simply call at least 48 hours (two working days) before you plan to start digging. Texas 811 will notify underground utility providers, who will send professional locators out to mark the approximate location of their utility lines. The call is free AND IT'S THE LAW!

DIAL 9-1-1: For emergency assistance. Any phone can dial 911 for police, fire and ambulance services from their landline or cellular phone. Calls are routed into the nearest 911 call center.

DIAL 1-800-525-5555: For Texas Roadside Assistance. This number is also on the back of your Texas Driver's License if you need help in the state of Texas with car troubles or other problems.

XIT Broadband Man To The Rescue!

Faster than lightning ... More powerful than any satellite connection ... Able to connect immediately every time ... No, it's not Superman ... It's XIT's Broadband Man! Delivering fast, high-speed broadband Internet service to Dalhart, Stratford, Texline, Hartley, Channing, Boys Ranch and Vega customers!

If you are tired of slow Internet connections with other carriers, then come by or give XIT Communications a call! With speeds up to 20 Mbps or even higher by special arrangement, free tech support and local customer care representatives and technicians, XIT has everything you need for reliable, fast, and always-on Internet service. And, you get it all from a local name you know and trust!

Sign up for new 6/1 Mbps or higher Internet service and receive a FREE Roku Streaming Stick! Or, existing customers can receive a FREE Roku Stick when they upgrade speeds on their existing Internet service!

If you are curious and would like to check and see what speed you are actually getting with your current provider, go to our website at www.xit.net and click on the Test Your Internet Connection Speed Now link on the left side of the page. If you are not getting the speed you are paying for, give XIT a call! Most of our customers report getting better speeds than what they are actually paying for! We want to be your Internet provider of choice too! Check us out!



Mark Your Calendar!

The dates have been set for the XIT Rural Telephone & XIT Communication 2015 Christmas Open Houses! The Dalhart Open Houses at headquarters and our downtown office will be on Friday, December 11, 2015! The Stratford Open House is set for Friday, December 4, 2015!

Make sure to mark your calendar with these dates and come enjoy some holiday fellowship and a delicious BBQ meal! We look forward to celebrating the 2015 holiday season with our customers and friends!



Suggested non-perishable breakfast food items include oatmeal, whole-grain cereals, Cream of Wheat, grits, pancake and muffin mixes, granola and cereal bars, syrup, jam, coffee, hot chocolate, Pop-Tarts, powdered milk, fruit juice packs and canned or dried fruits. Whether you can donate one item, a couple items or a whole bag, any donation is appreciated! Of course, we will not turn away any item that is donated ... even if it is not a breakfast food! We will also accept monetary donations for those who do not have time to shop! All items are welcome and appreciated!

We hope you will join us in this special and much needed effort! The state of Texas is still the greatest state in our nation, mainly because of its wonderful and caring people! Let's help to do our part for those in need!

Roku News!

Changing the look and feel of your Roku Streaming Stick can be very simple to do! There are several different themes you can choose from, each with their own different vibe. Here is how to change the theme on your Roku Stick.

- Turn on your Roku Streaming Stick and go to the main Roku menu.
- Go to Settings, then over to the right to Themes, and click OK.
- Scroll through the Themes to decide which one you like the best!
- When you come to the Theme you want, simply click the OK Button.

The screen will then show "Changing Theme." The download time will depend on your Internet connection. Once the download is complete, your new theme will be displayed.

We hope you are enjoying your new Roku Streaming Stick! If you haven't gotten yours yet, you still have plenty of time! Come by one of our XIT offices to sign up for new 6/1 mbps or higher high-speed broadband Internet service, or upgrade the speed on your existing XIT Internet service. We will give you a Roku Streaming Stick for FREE! It's just that easy and then you can Roku too!



XIT Payment Address Change

XIT customers who pay their bill at home by computer or through an online bank account will need to note XIT's new payment address! Please make the necessary changes so payments will continue to get to us in a timely manner. Please make sure you have our current billing address as XIT Communications, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022. We have several payments that are still coming into XIT's old P.O. Box 1432 in Dalhart. XIT will be discontinuing P.O. Box 1432 in the near future. The post office will also stop forwarding to this address, so it is important that the address be updated. Thank you so much for your assistance!



What's Cookin' at XIT

Hot Chicken Salad by Estelle Chambers

- 2 C cooked chicken
- 1 C Ritz cracker crumbs
- 2 C chopped celery
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 Tbsp. onion, grated

- 1 C mayonnaise
- 6 boiled eggs, chopped
- 4 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 C silvered almonds
- Salt to taste



Reserve 1/2 the Ritz cracker crumbs and 1/2 the almonds for the topping. The remainder of the ingredients mix together and put in a buttered 9 x 13 baking dish. Top with remaining Ritz cracker crumbs and almonds. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes or until bubbly.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbook available for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. They make great birthday, wedding and anniversary gifts!



is a quarterly publication for
**XIT Rural Telephone
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and **XIT Communications**
Customers.

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2016 Directory Photo Contest Ending Soon!

Calling all shutterbugs! The 2016 XIT Communication Directory Photo Contest deadline is coming soon! We are looking for a colorful and unique photograph for the cover of our 2016 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory. The winning photograph will be on 10,000 directories delivered to our local communities. The winner of the contest will have the bragging rights to the cover, along with \$100 in their pocket!



There is no limit to the number of entries a person can submit. Photos should be taken in portrait layout (vertical) and in the highest resolution as possible. No black or white photos, please. No photos of childrens' faces please. All photos submitted become the property of XIT Communications and some may be used on the cover of the XIT Connections quarterly newsletters.

Photos can be mailed in or submitted via email. Make sure to include your name, address, and contact number as well as a description of each photo submitted. Photos can be emailed in digital format to xitcom@xit.net, or mailed to XIT Communications, Attn: Marketing Department, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX. 79022. If mailing in your entries, please make sure the color photographs are 5x7 or larger.

December 11, 2015 is the deadline! Any photos received after this date will automatically be entered in the next year's contest. We do accept photos all year long! We can't wait to see all the beautiful photographs! So, get busy shutterbugs, and submit your entries today! **All photos must be received by Friday, December 11, 2015 for the 2016 contest deadline!**

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 http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.