

XIT Connections

XVIII, Number 4, Fall 2016



XIT's Breakfast Food Drive Begins!

XIT Communications has kicked off its Second Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive, which officially began on October 1st! This year's food drive will once again focus on non-perishable breakfast food items, since they are still in high demand. The food drive will continue through the end of November, so there is still plenty of time for anyone wanting to participate in this much-needed effort!

Each day, it is a difficult struggle for many families right here in our local communities to put food on their tables. It is a sad fact that some children (even right in our own neighborhoods) will go to bed hungry tonight because there is not enough food to go around. We are asking everyone to join us to fill this hunger gap, and to help our fellow neighbors in need!

Last year, XIT representatives collected and delivered more than 150 grocery totes of food to the following food pantries for distribution: The Pantry of Stratford, Vega Food Pantry/UMC, Texline Food Pantry, The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church and the Dalhart Church of the Nazarene Food Bank. The



same pantries are participating again in this year's drive. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who donate their time and service to the food pantries in our communities! You gals and guys are awesome!

Food drive participation is very easy! All you need to do is come by any XIT office location to pick up a XIT Rise & Shine reusable grocery tote. Take it to the store, fill it with one item, several items, or fill the whole bag, whatever you can contribute, and return it back to XIT. When you bring in your donated items, we will give you another reusable grocery tote to keep – our way of saying THANK YOU for helping us to feed those in need! That's all there is to it!

Vega residents can participate too! Just go by Taylor's Vega Market and pick up a XIT Rise & Shine reusable grocery tote. Purchase your donated items, put them in the grocery tote, and either leave the filled tote at Taylor's Vega Market, or drop them off with Keila at the Vega Chamber of Commerce Office for delivery to the Vega Food Pantry/UMC. Either way,

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This photo represents just a portion of the food that was collected in our Dalhart offices last year.

The Ugly World of Ransomware



Here is the scenario ... tomorrow morning you wake up, you turn on your computer, and you wait patiently for it to start up to check your email and see what is happening on Facebook. Instead of seeing all the new posts, you have a big, bold notice on your computer screen demanding that you pay \$150 within the next 24-hours or everything you have on your computer - all your email addresses, photos, family videos, banking information and more - will be erased and taken from you forever! Welcome to the nasty, but real-life world of PC ransomware! A growing, world-wide Internet crime affecting small and large businesses, government entities, and even everyday people, like you and me.

So, what is ransomware? It is a type of harmful computer malware (malicious software) that allows criminals to hold your computer 'hostage', making you pay the attacker a hefty ransom fee to gain access to your computer information again. There are different kinds of ransomware that are commonly used. A screen-lock ransomware shows a message on the screen or plays an audio file, while it blocks you from accessing anything on your computer. The message generally says you have to pay 'a ransom' in order to restore your computer files again. This malware can be loaded on your computer when you visit a malicious web page, open an email attachment or email link that is infected, or even by clicking on a bad link from a social media site. Once you click on one of these, the ransomware enters your computer, opens up and starts doing its nasty deed!

Another kind of ransomware is called scareware. Scareware is designed to do exactly what the name suggests. It tries to 'scare or trick' you into buying or downloading useless or potentially dangerous software. This can occur with a pop-up window opening up on your computer screen that looks like a Windows message, asking you to accept recommended updates, download antivirus software or a firewall, or download a registry cleaner. Or, the pop-up may say your computer files have been infected with a virus, and you are then prompted to purchase or download software to fix the issue. However, sometimes this software actually contains the real malware, so when it loads, it infects the computer instead of fixing it! Either way, the attacker has you right where they want you! Pay the ransom to unlock your files or else ...

There are some steps you can take to help reduce your risk of an attack. We suggest:

- Installing and always running a security software. Make sure to perform all updates when you are prompted to do so. This will help stop most ransomware before it can install itself.
- Avoid clicking on any spam emails and opening email attachments or links from people you are not expecting to hear from. Delete them immediately without opening them!
- Keep your operating system updated and always have a pop-up blocker on your web browser.
- Do regular backups of your important files. This way, if you happen to become a victim of an attack, you can remove the infection from your computer and then restore the unharmed version of your files.

Always be cautious about where you go and what you do online, so you don't become the next victim of this brutal and costly crime!



Billing or Service Questions

If you have any questions about either your XIT services or your monthly bill, please contact one of our XIT offices at:

Dalhart - 244-3355 or 384-3311
Vega - 967-3355

Stratford - 366-3355
Boys Ranch - 533-3355

Or call our Toll Free number at 1-800-232-3312. If you prefer, you can also send inquiries by email. Please email us at customerservice@xit.net. **We are here to help!**



XIT's Broadband Man (played by Russell Routon, XIT Customer Service Manager) made his second appearance recently at the Roundup Parade in Vega. Broadband man on his Segway was a big hit at the parade. He is a proud supporter of XIT's high-speed broadband Internet service! If you don't have XIT's super-fast broadband Internet service, you don't know what you are missing! Give XIT a call today at Dalhart - 244-3355; Headquarters - 384-3311; Vega - 967-3355; Stratford - 366-3355; or Boys Ranch - 533-3355

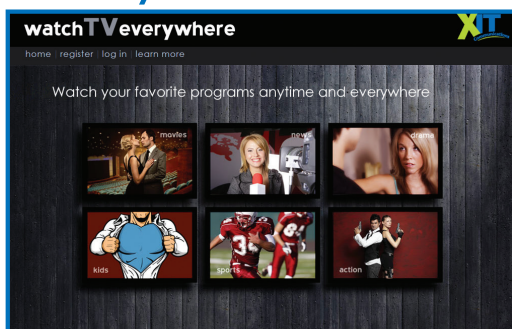
WatchTV Now – Watch TV Everywhere

These days, folks are more mobile than ever before! It seems like no one ever stays home anymore! So, it just makes sense that TV should somehow become mobile too, right? Well, thanks to Watch TV Everywhere (WTVE), that idea has now become a reality for XIT cable TV customers!

XIT customers can now Watch TV EVERYWHERE! With WTVE, customers can take their TV programs to their workplace, watch TV on lunch breaks, while waiting to pick the kids up from school, or while sitting in the airport waiting on a flight – just about anywhere the day takes them! Best of all, WTVE is FREE for all XIT cable TV customers as part of their standard cable television service package!

XIT TV customers can now access great entertainment at home or on the go! They can watch favorite TV shows on their smart phone, tablet or laptop, without having to wait till they get home. As long as there is a wi-fi Internet connection, customers can access over 65+ channels! Many channels offer live viewing, others can be viewed on-demand as wanted. No more having to wait a week or more to watch the new shows after they air, many are available just a day or two after they premiere. WTVE also makes it easy to view favorite movies, watch their favorite sports teams or the news anytime, and anywhere!

If you are a XIT cable TV customer, getting set up to use WTVE is easy! All you need to have is your XIT account number and name as it appears on your bill. Just go to our website at www.XIT.net and click on the Watch TV Everywhere Link. Click the Register button at the top and follow the simple registration instructions. Once you've registered online, you will need to go to your email account to click on the WTVE verification link to complete the registration. Once authentication is



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you will be given another reusable grocery tote to keep as our THANK YOU!

A card with a list of non-perishable breakfast food items is included in the pocket of each grocery tote to assist you when shopping. Some of the suggested breakfast food items

include oatmeal, hot and cold cereals, grits, gravy, pancake and muffin mixes, granola bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, and coffee and fruit juices. Of course, any kind of food items donated will be appreciated and accepted! Monetary donations are also welcome.

Please come and join XIT to Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger where we live. Let's shatter last year's total and stomp out local hunger ... Together!



This photo shows the food that was collected in Vega last year for the Vega Food Pantry/UMC.

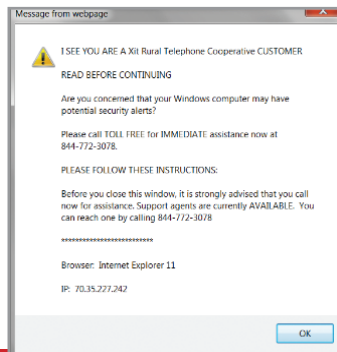


This photo shows the collection of food that was donated in Stratford last year.

ATTENTION XIT INTERNET CUSTOMERS!

PLEASE BE AWARE! There are a lot of scams going around these days on the Internet, and XIT has been notified by some customers that there are some pop-up boxes appearing on computers that look like they are from XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. or XIT Communications! These are not legitimate!!! The pop-up boxes might say something like "You've Won a Prize" or "I See You Are A XIT Customer". XIT IS NOT putting these messages on the web – they are scams! XIT will not ask customers for information via a pop-up window, email, text or phone call. We take the protection and security of customer information very seriously and will not ask for any information in these ways!

Also, keep in mind that no one can diagnose a problem with your computer without you having to give them access first! Do not fall for these scams! Do not give anyone remote access permissions to your computer unless it is for something that you have requested them to do for you. Do not give out any personal information, credit card or banking information to anyone on the Internet, unless you have made the first approach to them for their goods or services you want to purchase! Be safe in cyberworld!



What's Cookin' at XIT

Texas Caviar by Janan Green

2 (14 oz.) cans black-eyed peas, drained
1 (15 ½ oz.) can white hominy, drained
1 medium size green pepper, chopped
½ c. chopped onion
1 (8 oz.) bottle Italian salad dressing

2 medium tomatoes, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 jalapeno pepper, chopped
½ c. fresh parsley
tortilla chips

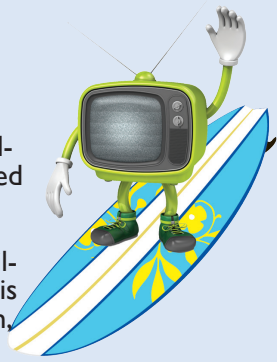
Combine all ingredients except salad dressing; mix well. Pour dressing over black-eyed pea mixture. Cover and marinate for at least 2 hours in refrigerator. Drain. Serve with tortilla chips. Yield: 7 cups. Note: You may use chopped green chilies in place of jalapeno pepper.

Find tons of wonderful recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks now available for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. We have 2 editions to choose from! They make a great gift for any occasion!



Smart Surfing

Man With A Plan stars Matt LeBlanc, who plays Adam Burns, a building contractor, who having spent time with his kids only in small, limited time periods, now is responsible for them 24/7. After Andi, Adam's wife, played by Liza Snyder, goes back to work full time after being home for 13 years, Adam is left at home to tend to the couple's 3 children. He soon learns to do the toughest job of his life. Check out this upcoming sitcom series, premiering on CBS on Monday, October 24th, at 7:30p.m., on Channel 10, or Channel 510 in HD.



Incorporated is a new drama series produced by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, which is set to premiere on Wednesday, November 30th, at 9 p.m., on the Syfy Channel, Channel 95, Chane 595 in HD. As the year 2100 approaches, the world is in total chaos. Governments have fallen and corporations have taken control. The people (who are separated as the haves and have-nots) are now living in either the red or green zones. The main character, Ben Larson, played by Sean Teale, manages to escape the red zone and infiltrates the green zone by posing as a young executive. He risks everything when he takes on the corporate world, in the hopes of finding the woman he loves. Unfortunately, it comes with deadly consequences. This show looks to be intense and suspenseful.

The Great Indoors is a new TV comedy series which premieres on Thursday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. on CBS, Channel 10, or Channel 510 in HD. The comedy stars Joel McHale as Jack Gordon, a world-renowned adventurer and reporter at an outdoor magazine, who returns from an exotic expedition only to find out his publication has now gone digital. Now, he is forced to live in the office as head of the magazine's content department. Jack has to learn how to deal with and understand the group of Millennials who work for him. The show looks to have the makings of being a great comedy. Check it out!



SOUTHWEST

Fox Sports

Southwest Now In HD

XIT is pleased to announce that we have recently launched Fox Sports Southwest HD on Channel 517 in our IPTV lineup! This is in addition to Fox Sports Southwest SD on Channel 17. If you currently subscribe to XIT's HD service, you now have the Fox SSW HD Channel available. If you do not have HD service yet, you can add it to your TV package for only \$10.95 per month! XIT currently has 70 channels of HD viewing! Give us a call at 384-3311 or 244-3355 to add HD to your TV package!

Watch TV Now ...

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complete, you can access the WTVE platform anytime by going to www.watchtvev-everywhere.com. Click on XIT Communications from the drop-down menu of providers, then log onto the platform to start viewing your favorite programs!

Make sure to log on often as new channels will be added as they are launched by the networks. When new channels are available, they will automatically appear in your WTVE platform when you log on.

Please keep in mind, if you are using a smart phone or tablet on a wireless data plan to access Watch TV Everywhere, and you are not connected to wi-fi, you will be using your mobile data plan. WTVE programs transmit a lot of data to watch TV. XIT has no way to notify you if you exceed your data plan limit, and you are responsible for all of the charges billed to you by your mobile carrier. So, please check on your data plan with your carrier if you plan to view WTVE on a mobile connection!

We hope you will try and enjoy Watch TV Everywhere with XIT Communications! We are excited to offer this new TV viewing option to our customers! If you have any problems or questions with the service or when registering, please give us a call at 806-384-3311. We are always happy to assist you in any way we can!

XIT Long Distance ... Keeps You Connected!

Are you aware that XIT Communications offers long distance services for your home or office with simple, straight-forward pricing? We have a long distance package to fit every need and every budget. And, you receive just one combined bill each month! Our customer service representatives can analyze your existing long distance plan to find one that is right for your usage needs! Give us a call!

Dalhart	244-3355 or 384-3311
Stratford	366-3355
Boys Ranch	533-3355
Vega	967-3355



Jessica Sanchez - Customer Service Representative at XIT Headquarters Location

We want to be your long distance company of choice!

Attention Movie Lovers!

If you love to watch new movies but hate having to get dressed and drive to the theater, then XIT's Video on Demand is just what you want! Watch all the new hit movies right from your comfy chair with just a couple clicks of the remote control. With XIT's on Demand, you can watch the new hit movies long before they are available on Red Box or Netflix!

Here are just a couple of block buster movies that are available this month:

<i>The Purge: Election year</i>	<i>X-Men Apocalypse</i>
<i>The Legend of Tarzan</i>	<i>Alice Through the Looking Glass</i>
<i>Ghostbusters</i>	<i>Independence Day: Resurgence</i>

Watch for more hit movies coming in November like Star Trek Beyond, Bad Moms, Finding Dory and many more! With Video on Demand, there is no waiting in line, no having to sit in a dirty theater, and no high ticket and concession stand prices to contend with! Just fast, affordable movies anytime you want to watch them!

Check out XIT's website at www.xit.net to see all the new movies now available and the ones that will be available soon. You can watch movie preview trailers on the website too!

Just grab your XIT remote control and follow these steps to try Video on Demand:

First, set up a Purchase Pin: Using your XIT remote control, set up a 4-digit numeric Purchase Pin to prevent unauthorized charges from occurring in the home:

Go to Menu>Settings>Account>Purchase Pin>Enter a New Pin Number>Confirm New Pin>Password (Default 1234)>Enable Pin Protection - Yes>Apply

To Rent a Movie:

Go to Menu>VOD>Movies>Choose a Category>Select a Movie>Rent the movie>Enter Purchase Pin>Enjoy

Then, pop some popcorn, sit back in your comfy chair, and enjoy your show!



Directory Photo Contest Deadline Approaching

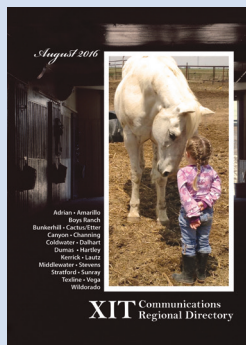
Have a great photo you'd love to share??? The deadline is fast approaching for the 2017 XIT Regional Telephone Directory Photo Contest! Each year, the XIT staff chooses a colorful and unique photograph to display on the cover of our directory. The winning photo also graces the cover of the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting Booklet, the Annual Meeting Invitation, along with other advertising opportunities during the year. The winner of the contest has the bragging rights to their photo being on the cover of 10,000 directories, along with a cash prize of \$100.

The deadline for next year's contest is Friday, December 9, 2016!

Photos submitted may include people, landscapes, events, flowers or anything else that is eye catching! The photos can be taken anywhere. Photos submitted after the December 9th deadline will automatically be entered into the following year's contest. This way, people can submit photos to us all year long!

Please make sure photos are taken in the highest resolution, and in portrait (vertical) layout. Photos must be in color, no black and white photos will be considered. Be sure to include your name, address and contact information, along with a detailed description of each photo submitted.

All photos become the property of XIT Communications and may be used for advertising purposes, in addition to having it featured on the directory cover. Digital photos can be emailed online at xitcom@xit.net. Photos can also be mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX. 79022.



Get those cameras clicking and remember to submit your photos to us by Friday, December 9, 2016, for the 2017 XIT Regional Directory Photo Contest!

Dates Set for Holiday Open Houses



The dates have now been set for the XIT's Christmas Open Houses! Make sure to mark your calendar and make plans to attend! Come enjoy a delicious lunch on us and help us kick off and celebrate the 2016 holiday season! Door prizes will also be given away at each office location, so make sure to register when you come by for lunch!

The Stratford Open House will be held on Friday, December 2nd. The Dalhart Open Houses at both the downtown store and headquarter locations will be on Friday, December 9th.



Invitations will be sent out to all XIT customers closer to the open house dates as a reminder. We look forward to this time of fun and fellowship with our customers every year! Please make plans to join us this year!



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



TTAF Scholarships

The Texas Telephone Association Foundation (TTAF) will award six, four-year scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 per year to students entering college for the 2017-2018 school year. Special consideration will be given to students who have established financial need. Students applying should be pursuing a college degree in the fields of study which are of particular interest to telecommunications (such as math, business, education, technology, engineering, computer science, etc.) Students do not have to have an XIT Rural Telephone number to apply!

TTAF will accept a maximum of two qualified applications per high school counselor. (For example, if your school has three counselors, there may be a total of six applications submitted from the school.) Applicants must meet the following criteria to apply:

- U.S. Citizen
- Student graduating from a Texas high school no later than June 2017
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- Student will attend a Texas college or university by the Fall of 2017
- A letter of acceptance from a Texas college or university where student has applied
- Enclose a copy of student's SAR (Student Aid Report)
- Include a current high school transcript with the completed application. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 17, 2017.

Winners will be notified in early May. Scholarship applications can be downloaded directly from the TTAF website at www.tta.org.

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