

# XIT Connections

XIX, Number 2, Spring 2017



## XIT Employees Retiring

Two XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. employees have decided to “enjoy the good life” and have announced their retirements effective this summer. Cathy Taylor, XIT Billing Manager, is retiring from XIT on June 30th. Cathy has been employed at XIT for a little over 24 years.



*Cathy working at XIT headquarters office.*



*Bill working in the head end at the XIT headquarters office.*

Bill Green, XIT Combination Technician, will be retiring on August 15th.

Bill has worked for XIT over 16 years.

We, at XIT, thought it would be fun to take a little time to reminisce about the lives of Cathy and Bill before they leave us. So, here we go ...

Catherine Diane Cross was born in Coleman, Texas, to Fred and Verna Cross. Cathy is the only sister to 3 brothers, and is number two in the family's sibling lineup.

Cathy's family moved to Stratford in the summer of 1966, which was the summer before her 5th grade school year. Her father, Fred, worked as a County Agent for Sherman County. Her mother, Verna, worked for the City of Stratford.

Cathy graduated from Stratford High School in 1973. She attended West Texas University for three semesters, and then attended Panhandle State University, where she received a Degree in Accounting. She passed her CPA exam, and went to work for Vernon Keepers, CPA, in Boise City, Oklahoma, for about 6 months. She then accepted a position with Keeney, Hembree & Co. in Dumas, where she worked for 1 ½ years.

After receiving her CPA license, she decided to go into business for herself and opened up her own office in Stratford. She was self-employed until January, 1993. After hearing about a job referral from Mary Wallace, a fellow CPA in Dalhart, Cathy came to work for XIT Rural Telephone in February, 1993. She worked in the Accounting Department until January, 2005, when she was promoted to Billing Manager. She has been the Billing Manager for twelve years.



*Cathy when she was a little girl.*

*... continued on page 4*

# Video on Demand Being Discontinued

The decision was recently made to discontinue Video on Demand (VOD) services on XIT's IPTV service effective June 1, 2017. This will also include the Karaoke Channels. VOD costs have continued to increase over the past several years, and viewership of the VOD movies has been declining due to the popularity of Over-The-Top (OTT) entertainment resources now available such as Netflix, Roku, Hulu and others. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our customers.

Please remember that XIT does offer several different movie channels in our Expanded Basic TV Pak, including all of the Starz Encore Movie Channels, Lifetime & Lifetime Movie Network Channels, Hallmark & Hallmark Mysteries & Movies Channels, Turner Classic Movies, FX Movie Channel and many more for your viewing pleasure.

Premium movie packages including HBO, Cinemax, The Movie Channel/Showtime & Starz, are also available on XIT for a small monthly fee. These premium packages give you many viewing options of newly released and hit movies, along with many of their own individualized series of shows.

If you would like to subscribe to any of the premium movie packages, please give us a call at 806-384-3311 to add them to your current subscription.

## Check Out XIT'S Channel One

XIT's Channel One is the perfect way to get the word out about any upcoming events! Whether it be a class reunion, church event, fundraiser or school program, Channel One can broadcast your event to the residents in the local communities quickly and effectively! The ad will be seen by thousands of local folks! It is a great way to advertise that is easy on the pocket book.

There are no fees charged for birthday or anniversary announcements, school functions, church activities, lost ads, items to give away or community ads.

Personal ads are billed at just \$10 per week, and business ads are \$20 per week. Graphics or photos must be in JPEG format please. There may be a small set-up fee depending on the time it takes for ad building and layout.

XIT needs to receive all information at least 24-48 hours prior to the event start time to allow for ad creation and placement. Information can be emailed to [marketing@xitcomm.net](mailto:marketing@xitcomm.net) or brought into any of our XIT locations.

## ENJOY FREE WATCHTVEVERYWHERE!!!

**WatchTVEverywhere (WTVE) streams programming from your XIT IPTV package, including live TV and episodes of current shows, right to your tablet, smartphone or laptop any time you want them! WTVE works off of Wi-Fi, so you can use it anywhere Wi-Fi is available during the day or night! Perfect for keeping the kids entertained when traveling, or for when you arrive at your destination and want to unwind! WTVE is FREE to XIT IPTV customers and you can watch any channel in your TV package that is available on WTVE! Check it out!**



To get started, simply go to [www.XIT.net](http://www.XIT.net) and click on the WTVE Link on our homepage. Click on "register" and complete the sign-up form. You will receive an email confirmation, which you will need to open to complete the registration. That's all there is to it! Once you are registered, you can start using the WTVE platform right away!



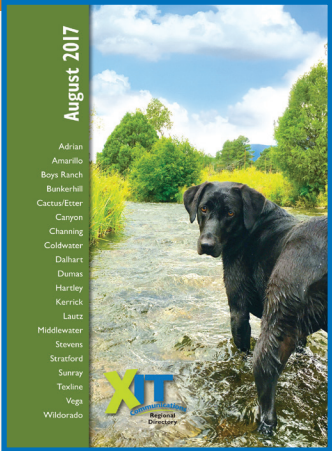
# Catch It On Camera!

XIT is on the lookout for unique, colorful and exciting photographs for our 2018 XIT Regional Directory Photo Contest! Whether it is adorable ducks in a pond, a group of deer in a pasture, or a beautiful scenic view, we want to see what you can capture on film! You can make some money too if your photograph is chosen for our cover!

There is no limit to the number of entries a person can submit. Here are the guidelines:

- Vertical layout in the highest camera resolution available so photos are clear and detailed.
- Color photographs only, no black and white photos will be accepted.
- Be sure to include the submitter's name, address, contact phone number and a detailed description (who, what, where and when) of all the photos submitted.
- We prefer photos which do not show children's faces. Photos from the back, side or looking downward are acceptable.
- Photos can be submitted anytime online by email at [xitcom@xit.net](mailto:xitcom@xit.net), or mailed to XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022.
- All photos become the property of XIT Communications and may be used for advertising purposes, in addition to having it featured on the cover of the directory.
- Photos for the 2018 contest must be submitted by the Friday, December 8, 2017 deadline. Photos received after this time will automatically be submitted for the following year.

Get those cameras ready and start snapping! We love seeing all the great photos submitted! We can't wait to pick our next directory contest winning cover photo!



## Low Income Assistance Available

Assistance for paying your telephone or Internet bill is available to qualifying low-income residents as part of a federal support program called Lifeline. Lifeline is available from XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications and provides a monthly discount on basic telephone or Internet service.

- If you use the discount for Internet service, you must subscribe to a 12/2 Mbps or higher Internet package to be eligible for the discount.
- There is only one discount allowed per household for either telephone or Internet, but not for both.
- In order to receive Lifeline assistance, you or someone in your household must participate in at least one of the following programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program, or your annual household income must be at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Customers signing up for Lifeline will be subject to a 60-day port freeze for telephone service, or a 12-month port freeze for broadband Internet service. This means that once you sign up for telephone or Internet service with a provider, you must fulfill the port freeze for the selected service BEFORE changing service to another provider. If you do not fulfill the port freeze requirement, you will lose the Lifeline discount for the remainder of the freeze timeframe. Once the port freeze time requirement has been fulfilled, then you are free to change service providers. There are some exceptions to this rule including one for customers who move their residential address.
- Subscribers need to recertify once a year.
- For more information, or to sign up for the program, either contact the Texas Low Income Administrator (LIDA) at 1-866-454-8387 or go online to [www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx](http://www.puc.state.tx.us/consumer/lowincome/assistance.aspx).



Cathy met her husband, Joe (Jody) Taylor, when she was in the 6th or 7th grade. He was a friend of a brother of one of her best friends, and they would see each other when they were visiting at the same time. She didn't see him for several years after he graduated, as he was several years older than her in school. They met each other again at WT while attending summer school and reconnected, and have been together ever since. They have been married for 42 years now and counting!

Jody and Cathy have 2 sons, Erich and Jordan. Erich passed away in 2001. After Erich passed away, XIT created a scholarship fund in his name, which grew over a five-year period. Seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) in scholarships were awarded from the Erich Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund.

*Cathy & Joe's wedding photo with their parents.*

Their younger son, Jordan, graduated from Stratford High School in 2006 as the Salutatorian. He attended TCU where he graduated summa cum laude in 2010. He now works and lives in Dallas.

Cathy is a member of the First Christian Church of Stratford where she serves as the church Treasurer. She is an avid sports fan, and really enjoys watching the Stratford Elks, TCU Horned Frogs, Duke Basketball, Texas A&M Aggies, Dallas Cowboys and the San Antonio Spurs. She also enjoys quilting and reading in her spare time!

After Cathy retires from XIT in June, the first thing she plans to do is turn off her alarm clock! After spending most of her 24 years at XIT commuting from Stratford to Dalhart, Cathy also stated, "I'm going to try as hard as I can to never drive on a two-lane highway again!" Although she has no definite plans for retirement, she and Jody plan to do some traveling, and will go to Dallas more often to see Jordan, along with spending more time with their family!



*Graduation photo of Cathy from high school.*



*Family photo of Cathy, Joe, Erich and Jordan Taylor.*

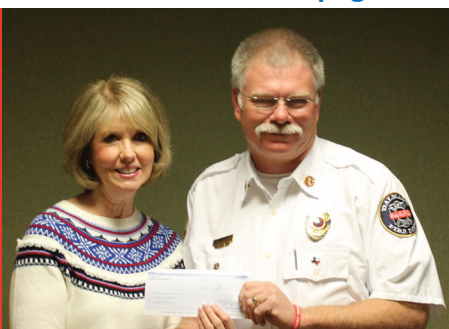
Billy (Bill) Mack Green was born in Tulia, Texas, on August 11, 1951, to Floyd and Mae Green. He was the baby of the family and has 2 brothers and a sister. Bill grew up in Tulia where he graduated from Tulia High School in 1969, before attending Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas, for 3 years. While at Jacksonville, Bill also attended classes at Killgore College for law enforcement training.

After college, he moved to Borger, Texas, and took a job as a Sergeant for the Hutchinson County Sheriff's Office. It was in Borger where he met the love of his life and future wife, Eden Mitchell, who was a dispatcher at the time for the Borger Police Department. The couple dated for a very short time before tying the knot on July 29, 1983, in front of George

Bryant, Dallam County Judge, who officiated the ceremony. The couple has been married almost 34 years now.

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XIT recently made a donation to the Dalhart Fire Department for their annual chili supper. Kathy Duggan (left), XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Assistant Manager, is shown presenting the check to Dalhart Fire Chief, Curtis Brown (right). XIT is a proud supporter of local organizations and events in the communities we serve.



# SMART SURFING...

**Dirty Dancing**, the original 1987 hit movie has been remade into a 3-hour TV movie, which will debut on Wednesday, May 24th, at 7:00 p.m. on ABC, Channel 7/507 in HD. The iconic story features a sheltered girl, Baby, played by Abigail Breslin, who falls in love with handsome bad boy dance instructor, Johnny Castle, played by Colt Prattes, while on vacation with her family in the Catskill Mountains. Other cast members include Debra Messing and Bruce Greenwood as Baby's parents. Sarah Hyland plays Baby's older sister, Lisa, who has a romance of her own during the summer vacation. This movie remake looks exciting!



**Love Connection** premieres on Fox, Channel 14/514 in HD on Thursday, May 25th, at 7:00 p.m. Andy Cohen will host the new one-hour unscripted series that amps up the original hit dating show from the 80's for today's audiences. Each show will feature three single men and/or women in search of romance, along with Cohen's comedic remarks to balance out the fun. If you liked the old series, you will want to check this new one out!

**World of Dance** is a new dance competition series that premieres on Tuesday, May 30th, at 9:00 p.m. on NBC, Channel 4/504 in HD. The show will give dancers the platform to showcase their talents, and the opportunity to receive a huge grand prize of one million dollars! The judging team is made up of extraordinary dance superstars Jennifer Lopez, Derek Hough, NE-YO, and host/mentor Jenna Dewan Tatum. The series brings the world's elite dancers together to compete in battles of artistry, precision and athleticism. Solo dancers will compete against duos and dance crews in hip-hop, popping, locking, tap, ballet, break dancing, ballroom, stomping and more. Looks to be an exciting series!

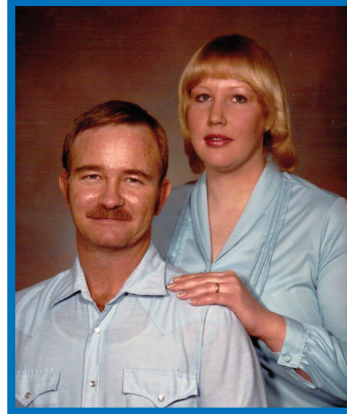
**Superhuman**, a new game show, will premiere on Monday, June 12th, at 8:00 p.m. on Fox, Channel 14/514 in HD. Hosted by actor, Kal Penn, this one-hour competition series will test the abilities of ordinary people to use their extraordinary skills to win big money. Each show features five contestants who possess super-human ability in the fields of memory, hearing, taste, touch, smell, sight and more. They will push their skills to the limit in order to take home the title of Superhuman and the \$50,000 in grand prize money. Check it out!

## XIT Employees Retiring ...

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In 1990, they made the move to Dalhart, and Bill went to work for the Dallam County Sheriff's Office. He came to work for XIT in January of 2001, after wanting a change from law enforcement work. He started out as an Installation Technician, and then moved to his current position as Combination Technician about 7 years ago.

Bill has 2 older children from a previous marriage. His son Troy, 47, lives in Germany and his daughter, Lisa, 45, resides in Borger. Eden and Bill also have a set of twin boys, Michael and Mitchell, who currently live at home and work in Dalhart.



*Bill & Eden after they were married.*

*Family photo of Bill, Eden, Michael and Mitchell Green.*

Bill's last day with XIT will be August 15th. He does not have any set retirement plans, but plans on working around the house, doing a lot of fishing and some traveling with Eden. He also stated "I plan on drinking coffee in the mornings with the really, really old guys in town."

Kathy Bailey, XIT Billing Representative, will be assuming Cathy's duties in the billing department. Brian McCoy, Installation & Repair Technician, will be taking over Bill's duties.

XIT would like to take this opportunity to thank Cathy and Bill for their years of dedicated service to the Cooperative and all of its customers! Congratulations Cathy and Bill on your retirement! We will miss you both!



# Call Before You Dig!

As the warmer weather approaches, beautification and yard projects will be in full swing! While working in your yard or alleyway, keep in mind that there are some utility lines that reside underground in your yard and alley. Accidental line cuts can disrupt service not only to you, but even your neighbors, and they can be very expensive to your wallet for the repair costs!

Texas law requires that anyone digging more than 16" on private property or a public right-of-way must call the Texas One Call Center at least two days prior to the start of digging. The statewide telephone number to call is 811. Utility providers will be notified to send employees out to your site to locate the lines and mark them before digging begins. The call is free and remember, it's the law! Know what's below ... call 811 before you dig!



## Digital Piracy is Against the Law

Many of us may think if something is on the Internet then it must be ok and legal to use. This includes downloading movies and music ... but this may not necessarily be the case! Please keep in mind that most of the material found on the Internet is copyrighted. Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), it is a crime to download any copyrighted material without paying for it. Even if you don't personally download the material, if it were downloaded illegally via your Internet connection, you can still be held legally responsible!

Artists, music and movie companies own the copyrights to a lot of this desired material. If you are downloading music or movies, and you don't have the permission from the owner, in the eyes of the law you are stealing. If found guilty, you can be required to pay large fines as a result. Keep in mind, even if you purchase content from a legitimate source, you do not have the rights to distribute the content to anyone else. XIT has the right to disconnect Internet service to any customer that is found in violation of the copyright laws.

Copyright owners can identify illegal downloads by the Internet connection's IP address when files are downloaded. Some will even obtain court orders to get the IP log files from other websites that host free copyrighted material downloads. These websites may technically be considered "a legitimate website," but once you download from the site you are in violation of copyright laws, and if caught, you can be prosecuted. It's better to purchase the movies or music you want so it is legal. It may save you a lot of money in legal costs and fees later on!



## What's Cookin' at XIT

Mountain Dew Cake *By Ava Griffin*

18.25 oz. lemon cake mix  
3.4 oz. vanilla pudding mix  
1 c. vegetable oil

4 eggs, beaten  
10 oz. bottle Mountain Dew



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, pudding, oil, eggs and Mountain Dew. Mix until all ingredients are moist. Pour into a 9 x 13 greased and floured pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes. Then make topping.

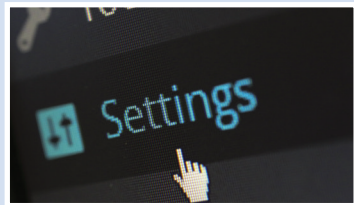
### Topping

20 oz. can crushed pineapple in juice  
1 c. sugar

1/4 c. butter  
1 c. flaked coconut

Find more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. There are two editions to choose from. They make great gifts for anniversaries, birthdays and weddings!

# Time for a New Email Password?



Hackers seem to be getting into everything these days, and email accounts happen to be one of the most popular! This is because many people do not take the security measures they need to make sure their passwords are secure.

By having a secure password, it helps protect you from hacking and all the costly problems that could arise from it. If you have an XIT email account, please read over this criteria and give us a call if you would like to create a more secure password:

- Password must be at least 8 characters long
- Must contain an uppercase (capital) letter
- Must contain a lowercase letter
- Must contain a number
- Must contain a special character (#\*&@!%)
- Does not contain the user name, real name or company name
- Does not contain a complete word
- Is significantly different from previous passwords

Also, it is recommended that you don't use the same password for all of your accounts. Numerous apps are available for password creation and upkeep, including ones like Sticky Password, LastPass and Roboform. These systems can generate strong passwords for you and even fill out login pages with the correct password automatically.

If you want to change your XIT email password so it's more secure, please give our office a call at 806-384-3311 today! Stay safe in cyber world!

## New HD Channels



XIT is excited to announce the addition of two new HD channels to the XIT TV HD tier! E! Entertainment HD is now available for HD customers on Channel 559. The Golf Channel HD is now available on Channel 518.

Also, NBCUniversal gave notice to XIT that the network will be discontinuing Universal HD, Channel 678, on XIT's HD tier effective July 15, 2017.

If you do not subscribe to XIT's HD package, it is easy to do! Just give us a call at 806-384-3311 to add over 70 channels of HD programming to your lineup for just \$10.95 per month. DVR service is also available for \$9.95 per month. There is a \$2.00 credit per month if both services are taken together! Give XIT a call today!

## Fun This Summer

With school about to be out in just a few short weeks for the summer, the kids will be looking for things to keep them entertained. With XIT's IPTV, parents can help avoid hearing the dreaded phrase "there is nothing to do" all summer long! XIT carries the favorite "kid" channels including TV Land, Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., Disney, Disney XD, Disney Jr., Cartoon Network, Animal Planet, Discovery, Comedy Central, along with many more!

XIT also offers high speed broadband Internet for online fun! With affordable speed packages for every budget, kids can be entertained with online gaming, music and videos. Give XIT a call today at 384-3311 to get the best in TV viewing and broadband Internet for the whole family, and avoid having to hear "I'm bored" all summer long!



*XIT recently made a monetary donation for the Texline Community Days, which will be held June 2nd and 3rd in Texline. Community Days is a weekend filled with contests, food, games and fun activities for families of all ages. Shown accepting the donation is Heather Luther (right). Presenting the check is Sherry Steffen (left), XIT Customer Service Representative. XIT is a proud supporter of Texline Community Days!*



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**XIT Rural Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc.** Members  
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Direct correspondence to:  
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**Dalhart, TX 79022**

or e-mail to [xitcom@xit.net](mailto:xitcom@xit.net)

[www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net)



## Beware of Scams

XIT would like to remind all of our customers not to give out any personal information to anyone over the phone, by email or by text message! XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications will NOT ask for personal information by telephone, email or text! If we require customer information to be updated or have a question regarding your information, we will mail you a letter requesting that you contact or come by one of our offices to provide us the information. This protects our customers against scams and fraud! XIT takes our customer's information and confidentiality very seriously! If you ever have a question about information that is being requested by XIT, please contact us at 806-384-3311. We are happy to answer any of your questions, and can confirm or deny the request is actually coming from XIT! Being safe is being smart!



## Weather Notifications & Amber Alerts

*Spring and the rainy season are upon us! If you encounter a weather alert from the American Broadcasting System while you are watching television, you can simply press any button on the XIT remote control (except the volume keys) to remove the notifications from the screen, and continue watching your program. This will also work when Amber Alerts are issued in your area.*

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/complain\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complain_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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