

XIT Connections

XX, Number 2, Spring 2018

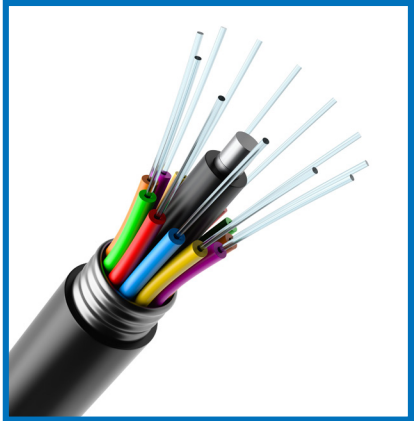


This unique photo of two owls was taken by Gary Langley of Dumas, Texas. Gary took this photo last spring. The owls live in an old prairie dog town located behind his home. The owls migrate to this area, raise their young, and then leave for the winter.

Fiber Optics Coming Soon To Your Neighborhood!

Very soon, XIT Communications will be able to provide your family with their daily dose of fiber! FIBER OPTICS that is! We are excited to announce that XIT Communications is bringing cutting-edge fiber optic technology to all the homes and businesses in Dalhart!

The construction project has already started on this exciting technology advancement! Buried fiber is being installed in the Pueblo Addition in south-east Dalhart. The aerial crew began working in the Denver/Denrock area from 7th Street south to Texas Boulevard. The Fiber-to-the-Premise Project means not only is XIT Communications bringing Dalhart the latest and greatest fiber optic technology, but we are making a huge investment in our local community as well! When construction is completed, all existing copper will be replaced with either buried or aerial fiber optics.



Fiber is the latest cutting-edge technology available today. Each fiber optic cable is made of strands of glass, each only slightly thicker than a human hair. Each strand can carry something like 25,000 telephone calls. These strands of glass are housed inside an insulated casing called a buffer coating, a plastic coating that protects the fiber from damage and moisture. These fibers are arranged in bundles inside optical cables. One cable can have as few as two strands, or as many as several hundred. The bundles are protected by the cable's outer covering, called a jacket.

Fiber can carry information over long distances without distorting, slowing down or losing any of the data. Fiber optic cables carry information by using pulses of light that are generated by small lasers or light-emitting diodes (LED's). Fiber is better than copper wiring because signals travel much farther and at super-high speeds, and fiber is immune to electromagnetic interference, which is a large problem for metal wires.

The center of each strand is called the core, which provides a pathway for the light to travel. The core is surrounded by a layer of glass called cladding, which reflects the light inward to avoid loss of signal, and to allow the light to pass through bends in the cable as it travels.

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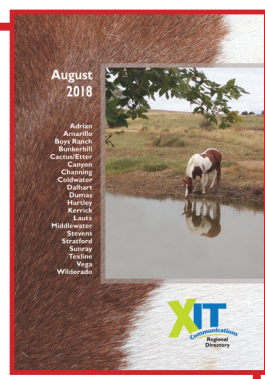
Directory Advertising Available

Directory advertising sales are in full swing for the 2018 XIT Communication's Regional Telephone Directory. Our directory reaches thousands of people every year, and can help you grow your business quickly and easily! Ads are available in all sizes to fit every advertising budget. The directory comes out in July and is mailed to all addresses in the XIT coverage area.

Extra telephone directories are also available for pickup at any XIT office location or at the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce office.

Call the XIT Marketing Department today at 806-384-3311 or toll-free at 1-800-232-3312 to set up a time to discuss your advertising needs.

The deadline for advertising in this year's book is May 28th, so don't delay! Give XIT a call today!



Directory Photo Contest

Here in the Texas Panhandle, we understand the meaning of 'small town living'. Being a part of a small town is wonderful, and XIT is wanting photographs that capture that warm feeling for our 2019 XIT Communications Regional Phone Directory Cover Photo Contest. We are looking for colorful photographs of animals, activities, buildings, people or things that highlight our area for the cover of the 2019 Directory. The winning photographer will receive a check for \$200 in

addition to the publication of their photo on 10,000 directories.

All photos must be received by XIT no later than Friday, December 8, 2018 for next year's directory, but photos can be submitted all year long. There is no limit on the number of entries submitted by each photographer.

All entries must include the photographer's name, address and contact phone number, as well as a brief description of the photo. This must be written legibly on the back of the photo or included in the submission.

The photo should be taken in portrait layout and must be at least 5 x 7. Please be sure your camera is set to the highest resolution. No black and white photos please.

The winner agrees to allow XIT to use the photo for advertising purposes, in addition to having it featured on the cover of the directory.

All photos become property of XIT Communications and can be used in future XIT publications. Photos can be submitted online to xitcom@xit.net or mailed to: XIT Communications, Attn: Photo Contest, P.O. Box 711, Dalhart, TX 79022.

So, photographers get your pictures submitted! You can win some cash, along with the bragging rights to the directory cover!



XIT Communications recently made a donation to the Dalhart Prison Unit as a sponsor for the Carson & Barnes Circus, which put on two shows in Dalhart on Tuesday, May 8th. Breanne Beller, XIT Customer Service Clerk (right), is shown presenting the check to Anthony Marquez from the Dalhart Prison. Donations from the circus were given to the Amarillo Medical League House in Amarillo.



Heather Luther, right, is shown accepting a donation check for Texline Community Days, which will be held the first weekend in June. Shown presenting the check to Heather is Breanne Beller, XIT Customer Service Clerk. Texline Community Days is a weekend filled with food, games and other activities for families of all ages. XIT is a proud supporter of the Texline Community!

What's This Thing Called Watch TV Everywhere?

Some time ago, XIT Communications introduced a new service for our IPTV customers called Watch TV Everywhere (WTVE). While many customers have already subscribed and are using the service, others may still be wondering what exactly is WTVE? We'd like to answer that question!



- Watch TV Everywhere allows customers to view TV shows, sports events, news and other programming on devices such as smartphones, laptops and tablets. You don't have to be by a TV to use WTVE!
- WTVE is FREE to all XIT IPTV customers! There is no charge to sign up or use the service! It's included with your TV package!
- You can use WTVE at home, in the backyard, on vacation, in the airport, anywhere there is an Internet Wi-Fi signal available. If you use your cell phone data, however, there could be data charges for any overages.
- XIT currently offers 80+ channels on WTVE. Channels including ESPN, NFL Network, Hallmark Channel, HGTV, Fox News, Lifetime, Nickelodeon, Disney and lots more. There is a channel for everyone-young or old!
- Sign-up is easy! Go to www.xit.net and click on the WTVE link. Follow the instructions to sign up. You must complete the one-time registration to get started. You will need your XIT account number and the exact name on your account. Once you register, you will only need your email address and password to watch WTVE.
- If you have any questions about WTVE, please call us at 384-3311.

We hope you will give Watch TV Everywhere a try! We think you will love the ability to watch TV anywhere you go! It's a great addition to your TV service!

811 Before You Dig

With the warm weather upon us, construction and beautification projects are in full swing. Whether planting a tree, fixing a fence or another home improvement project, XIT would like to remind you that Texas law requires that anyone digging 16" or deeper on private property or any public right of way, must call the Texas One Call Center prior to digging. Utility locates are free of charge.

Contractors or homeowners must call at least two business days prior to the start of digging, so the lines can be located and marked before the job is started. You can call the statewide telephone number: 811. This is to prevent damage to utility lines that are housed beneath the ground. If these lines are accidentally cut, you could face some costly repair costs. Be sure to call 811 before you dig this spring!

Storm Alerts & Precautions

Summer in the Texas Panhandle can mean severe thunderstorms and hail in our area! The American Broadcasting System is responsible for notifying us of any threatening conditions coming our way. If you encounter a weather alert on your TV while watching a TV show, you can simply press any button on the XIT remote control (except the volume keys) to remove the alert notification and resume watching your show. This also works the same when Amber Alerts are issued.

When bad weather does arise, make sure to take some simple precautions to protect yourself and your property from injury and damage:

- Unplug cordless phones, answering machines, computers and modems from the electrical outlets to prevent surges from possible lightning strikes. Remember, even surge protectors are not 100% guaranteed to protect your electronic devices.
- During a lightning storm, stay off the telephone or computer unless it is an emergency. Lightning can sometimes strike through phone and electrical lines and could hurt you.
- For storms with large hail, seek shelter in a building and stay away from windows or sky lights. If you are in a vehicle, and cannot get under an overpass or some form of shelter, pull over and stop and cover your head with your arms and hands.
- For storms with possible tornadoes, seek shelter in a building and go to the lowest level, preferably a basement. If there is no basement, seek shelter in an interior room or hallway, putting as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Stay away from all windows. You can also get in a bathtub and pull a mattress over you.

These are just a few reminders of things you can do to stay safe during storm season. Stay safe and be observant!

Fiber Optics Coming Soon ...

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This technology will allow XIT the ability to provide even higher broadband Internet speeds than we currently have, high-performance video services and crystal-clear telephone calls! Plain and simple ... fiber is faster! Websites load instantly, HD video streams with no buffering, video chats are clear with no distortion or freeze-ups, online gaming has no lag time, and no matter how many devices are connected, everyone has consistent, reliable Internet speeds with a dedicated connection! And, you don't have to share your connection with your neighbors, like you do with other providers. Everyone has their own fiber connection! Fiber will also allow XIT to offer additional services in the future that haven't even been thought of yet! Now that is progress!

Fiber technology will greatly enhance the quality of the communications services you have today! If you are an existing XIT Communication's customer, you will be converted over to fiber as soon as we get to your neighborhood. If you do not have XIT services, but would like to be included in the fiber optic conversion, please contact XIT Communications today to get signed up for services so we can construct fiber to your location when we are in your neighborhood. This will ensure a more timely conversion of your home or business.

We, at XIT, are excited about this new fiber optic technology, and we hope you are as well! We can't wait for you to experience the best high-speed Internet, HD IPTV and telephone fiber optic technology at your home or business! We appreciate your business and, as always, we are here to serve YOU! Give XIT a call today at 244-3355 or 384-3311, and get your daily dose of fiber from XIT!



SMART SURFING...

Candy Crush, a new game show will premiere on CBS, Channel 10/510 in HD, on Sunday, July 9, at 8:00 p.m. The show will be hosted by Mario Lopez. The TV game show is an adaptation of the insanely popular mobile phone game of the same name. If you like playing Candy Crush on your phone, you will want to check out this new game show.



Marvel's Cloak & Dagger, is set to premiere on Thursday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. on Freeform, Channel 13/513 in HD. The coming-of-age series is based on the beloved comic characters, Cloak & Dagger. The series stars Olivia Holt and Aubrey Joseph as Tandy Bowen/Dagger and Tyrone Johnson/Cloak, two teenagers who acquire super natural powers and start a romance with each other, each of them having grown up with a secret they never shared with anyone else until now. Check out this new series.

Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell & Back, will premiere on Wednesday, June 13, at 8:00 p.m. on Fox, Channel 14/514 in HD. This brand new series will feature Chef Gordon Ramsay as he drives to struggling restaurants across the country in his state-of-the-art mobile kitchen named 'Hell on Wheels'. Chef Ramsay will try to bring these failing restaurants back to life in just 24 hours. He will first send in a team to record secret surveillance, then he will go undercover himself to see what is happening first-hand. Ramsay and his team will then try to transform the failing restaurants with stunning building renovation and new menus. If you liked Kitchen Nightmares in the past, you will want to check out this new show!

Online Safety Precautions

Security is very important when it comes to online safety! By actively protecting your personal information and your equipment, you can save valuable time and money in the long run.

- Make online passwords very difficult to figure out. Use a combination of capital and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Make passwords longer than 8 characters and don't use common words, names or numbers, such as a birthdate or anniversary.
- Always keep antivirus software up-to-date on your computer and other devices. Perform routine updates whenever your system has them available. Don't let security measures lapse.
- Be leery when receiving emails from someone you don't know or are not expecting. Don't click on links or attachments unless you have asked for the information from the sender.
- Lastly, be careful of pop-up ads on the Internet or social media. Many contain malware or worms that can get into your system and infect your computer. Just ignore them. If you see something you might want to check out, close the window and go directly to the company website to view.

It's better to be safe than sorry in cyberworld!

Cyberbullying Is On The Rise

Most of us can remember the old saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me". This saying dates back to the days before smartphones and computers. Now, harsh words, unflattering pictures and hurtful comments have become serious, new problems for children and teenagers, alike. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online over digital devices like smartphones, tablets and gaming devices. It comes in the forms of text messages, social media posts, instant messages and emails. Cyberbullying is done mainly to cause embarrassment or humiliation to the other person, and it can be very destructive to children or teenagers.

When someone is being cyberbullied, it can often be very difficult to escape from the situation. Electronic devices operate 24 hours a day, seven days week, 365 days a year. And, because adults may not overhear or see cyberbullying

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as it is taking place, it may be harder to recognize when a child or teenager is the victim of this kind of harassment.

There are some warning signs to look for if you think a child or teen may be being cyberbullied:

- An increase or decrease of device usage, including texting, or the child has an emotional response (visibly mad or upset) while looking or reading something on their phone or computer.
- The child or teen hides their screen or messages when others are near, or avoids conversations about what they are doing on their device.
- Social media accounts, such as Facebook or Instagram, are shut down or new ones are started.
- The child or teen avoids social functions with their friends that they used to enjoy attending.
- The child or teen becomes withdrawn or depressed and loses interest in activities or friends.



According to cyberbullying statistics from the i-Safe Foundation:

- Over one-half of adolescents and teens have been the victim of cyber bullying at one time or another.
- Over half of the young people do not tell their parents that they are being bullied.
- Over 25 percent have been bullied repeatedly on their cell phone or the Internet.

If you suspect a child or teen is being cyberbullied, talk to them right away. Let them know it is ok to tell you what is going on, because this type of harassment is unacceptable. Get names of those involved. Make sure to document what is happening with screen shots, saving and printing of emails and texts, and a timeline of the incidents.

Lastly, report the incidents to school authorities (if it is occurring at school or by classmates) and law enforcement officials, especially if there are threats of violence, stalking, hate crimes or sexual messages or photos. If the bullying takes place on social media, you can report the offensive content to the social media company and have it removed or the account shut down.

It's not always easy to know how and when to step in as an adult or parent, but staying actively involved in childrens' day-to-day lives and their online activities, can help to protect them against this form of harassment!

What's Cookin' at XIT

Fudge Pudding By Linda Ward

1 c. all-purpose flour	½ c. milk	½ tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. butter (melted)	5 Tbsp. cocoa (divided)	1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking powder	½ c. brown sugar	
1 c. granulated sugar (divided)	2 c. hot water	



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together flour, salt, 2 Tbsp. cocoa, baking powder and ½ cup granulated sugar in a 2 quart deep baking dish. Combine milk, melted butter and vanilla. Mix into dry ingredients in baking dish, beating well by hand. Combine remaining 3 Tbsp. cocoa, remaining ½ cup granulated sugar and brown sugar and sprinkle over cake batter. Pour hot water over it all and place pan in oven. Bake for 30-40 minutes. Top with ice cream if desired when serving.

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!

Account Name Changes

Keep in mind that when an XIT customer passes away, and the account is under their name, the account needs to be changed over to the person assuming or taking over the services. They will need to contact XIT to let them know about the death and fill out the appropriate paperwork to make the account changes. A death certificate may need to be provided if CPNI information on the account is not known.

Changing the name on the account is especially important for rural accounts since Patronage Capital Credits (PCC) come into play. This way the person who assumes or takes over the account will receive their PCC payments accordingly.

If both spouse's names are on an account and one of the spouses passes away, please notify one of our offices so their name can be removed from the account.

XIT appreciates your help when these situations arise!

Tiffani Amber Ballew Honored As Outstanding Accounting Student

On April 24, 2018, Tiffani Ballew was recently honored with the Outstanding Accounting Student Award from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma. This award is presented by the Oklahoma Society of CPAs (OSCPA). The OSCPAs asks universities in Oklahoma to select one or two students who they feel are the most outstanding senior student(s) in their Accounting Department.

Tiffani was employed by XIT Rural Telephone on June 9, 2014. She worked in the Customer Service Department until being moved to the Accounting Department, where she serves as an accountant.

Tiffani graduated with honors from OPSU on Thursday, May 10th, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration: Finance. With a July wedding approaching, Tiffani will be adding another title to her name ... the title of MRS.

From all of us at XIT ... we say, "Congratulations, Tiffani! We are proud of you!"



Friendly Reminders From XIT

- If you are an XIT customer and are moving to a new location within XIT's service area, please provide XIT with at least 2 weeks-notice prior to the move. This is so XIT can get the location transfer on the installation schedule, and we can get your services hooked up at the new location in a timely manner. No credit will be issued for loss of service due to no prior notification of move by the customer.
- Please keep in mind that XIT runs billing on the 26th of each month. Any changes made after the 25th of the month will not appear on your XIT bill until the following month.
- If disconnecting XIT Internet or TV services, you must return all XIT equipment to one of our offices before the account can be disconnected. If equipment is not returned, you will be billed full price for the cost of the XIT equipment.



Problems? Questions? Give XIT A Call!

If you ever have any questions about your current services, a possible new service or your XIT account, please give your local XIT office a call! Our Customer Service Representatives will be happy to assist you.

In Dalhart please call 244-3355 or 384-3311. Stratford customers call 366-3355. Vega residents can call 967-3355. And, Boys Ranch customers, please call 533-3355.

If you prefer to send your inquiry by email, please email us at customerservice@xit.net. We want to assist you with whatever you may need! We strive to do our best for every customer!



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



Lifeline Assistance Program Available

Lifeline is a government assistance program that provides a monthly discount on basic telephone or Internet service to qualified, low-income customers. It is available to XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s and XIT Communications' customers who have phone or Internet service with XIT.

- The monthly Lifeline discount can be applied towards Internet or basic telephone service. With XIT, you must subscribe to a 12/2 or higher Internet package to be eligible for the Internet discount. Remember, there is only one discount allowed per household.
- 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.
- Lifeline subscriber's must 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.



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