

*This beautiful photo was taken in Spring of 2020 in the southwest corner of Sherman County. The photo was taken by Laura Rogers of Stratford.*

## Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing Coming to Multiple States/Area Codes

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.

In order for 988 to work in the 806-area code, 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented. The way local calls are dialed will need to change from 7-digit dialing to 10-digit dialing.

### **What will be the new dialing procedure?**

To complete all local calls, you will need to dial the area code + telephone number (806-XXX-XXXX). This applies to all calls within the 806-area code that are currently dialed with seven digits.

### **When will the change begin?**

The change will be rolled out over the next few months to allow everyone to get used to the new dialing pattern...

**Beginning April 24, 2021**, you should begin dialing 10 digits (**area code + telephone number**) for all local calls. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed as dialed.

**Beginning October 24, 2021**, you must dial 10-digits (**area code + telephone number**) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7-digits may not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. You will have to hang up and dial again using the area code plus the 7-digit number.

**Beginning July 16, 2022**, dialing “988” will route your call to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

### **What will you need to do?**

In addition to changing the way you dial local calls, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need to be reprogrammed to complete calls to 10-digit numbers. Some examples are life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines,

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# A Tribute to Former General Manager ... Jimmy R. White

It is with great sadness that XIT reports the passing of former XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s General Manager, Jimmy R. White, who served the Cooperative from June 30, 1975 until his retirement on December 28, 2004. Jimmy passed from this life on March 17, 2021 at the age of 81 years. A graveside service was held at the Muleshoe Memorial Park, near Muleshoe, Texas, at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021.

When Jimmy came to XIT in June of 1975, he had a vision! He was filled with dreams and aspirations of what XIT's Cooperative could become. He was never satisfied with what this little Cooperative was at the time. Instead, he was more concerned with what it could become in the future. During his time at XIT, many of his accomplishments exceeded his wildest expectations. Jimmy always did a remarkable job of not only keeping up with technology, but also staying ahead of it. His involvement and working knowledge of the Telephone Industry definitely kept XIT on the cutting edge of technology ... or as Jimmy often referred to it ... "the bleeding edge". Jimmy was instrumental in leading XIT's companies with the installation of the very first fiber optic route from the state line into Amarillo ... bringing cellular and paging service to the Northwest Panhandle of Texas ... going into competition in the Dalhart, Stratford, Hartley, Channing, Boys Ranch and Vega markets with phone, Internet and TV services ... and so much more.

Jimmy was a hard-working, ethical and moral leader and expected similar behavior from his employees. His door was always open, and he had a genuine interest in the lives of the people he came in contact with ... whether it be employees, directors, members, customers, suppliers, or his Industry peers.

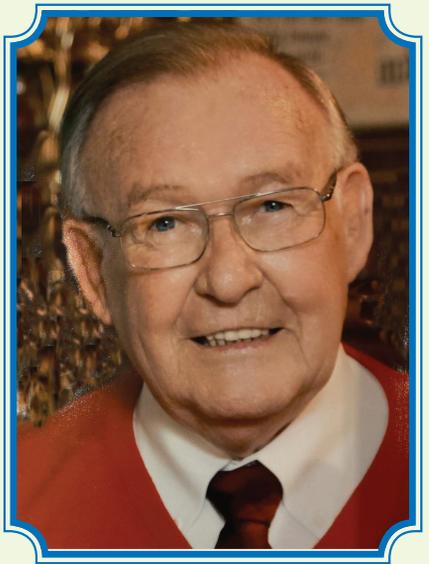
Jimmy always encouraged his employees to give back to the communities through donations of their time, talents and energy to it senior citizens – the schools and churches – civic organizations and many other causes. His employees were made aware that it is the communities in which they live and work that bring XIT its successes – and it is to these communities so much is owed. Jimmy's own participation and involvement in company and community events earned him the deepest respect and greatest admiration from his employees. He always led by example – never expecting anyone to do anything that he, himself, wouldn't do. It didn't matter if the employees were serving dinner to its rural members or to the senior citizens ... or if they were sweeping the floors after a customer appreciation dinner ... or washing dishes after an open house, Jimmy was there with his sleeves rolled up doing his part. Many times, employees could be heard commenting that "It's sure easier to work with someone instead of for someone".

It was always obvious to everyone that knew Jimmy that he was very grateful for the many opportunities that he was afforded during his career. He always said that a person could learn anything that he wanted to learn, and he could change anything about himself that he wanted to change. Numerous times, he offered advice to his employees ... "We set our own limitations as to how far we want to proceed, grow, and advance in life."

As we look back over Jimmy's early years ... his work experience prior to coming to XIT and the White Era at XIT, it is clear to everyone that Jimmy R. White was living proof of his own advice.

Jimmy's persistent efforts and successes in bringing new technology to XIT's serving areas has had a significant impact on the quality of life that we can all appreciate and enjoy as employees and residents of this area today.

The directors and employees of XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc./XIT Communications offer our deepest and sincere condolences to Jimmy's family. He will surely be missed by all that loved and admired him!



*"We set our own limitations as to how far we want to proceed, grow, and advance in life."* Jimmy R. White, Former XIT Communications General Manager

# State and National Do Not Call Registries

Are you tired of receiving calls from telemarketers to your landline phone soliciting? You can register on the Texas No Call List and National Do Not Call Registries to prevent receiving these calls. Most call registry lists are protected by your registering, except calls from charities, political ads, surveys, debt collections, or businesses that you have dealt with. By registering, you can notify telemarketers that you wish not to be contacted by them.

The registries are free and can be done any time. To register under the National Do Not Call List, visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222. Once registry has been completed, you will be on the list until you request to be removed. To register under the Texas No Call list, visit [www.texasnocall.com](http://www.texasnocall.com). Under the Texas No Call List, your registry will remain on the list for 3 years and you will need to re-register.

## XIT Communications Offers Online Bill Pay

Like most consumers in today's world, we all enjoy the convenient things that society offers us. XIT Communications offers Online Bill Pay where our customers can set up online payments, turn in trouble tickets, view invoices, and more! To take advantage of the Online Bill Pay Services we offer, follow the instructions below.



### XIT'S ONLINE BILL PAY INSTRUCTIONS

To sign up for XIT's Online Bill Pay, please follow these instructions:

- Go to the [www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net) website and click on **Online Bill Pay Link** on left side of screen.
- The Log In Screen will come up.
- Click on **Register Here**
- Enter the Invoice Number (not Account Number) and the Amount Due from your current XIT Communications/XIT Rural Telephone invoice.
- Click on the Recaptcha Box **'I'm Not a Robot'** and then click on the screens showing what the Recaptcha is asking for to verify to show you are not a robot. Once you do this, the box will show a green check mark and allow you to click **Continue**.
- Enter your Email Address (which will be your User ID).
- Enter a Password. (Password must contain at least 6 characters and one number, uppercase letter or special character.)
- Enter Password again to Confirm Password.
- Pick one of the security questions by clicking on the drop-down menu and choosing a question. Provide the answer to the question.
- **Click Register**
- The screen will show Account Created and it will say **'Success! Your account has successfully been created'**.
- You will receive an email to verify your email address.
- When you receive the email, click on the link in the email to verify your address.
- You will get a screen showing Email Verification and it will say **Success! Your email address has been successfully verified**.
- You can now log into the account by clicking **Redirect to Login**.

## National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline Gains 3-Digit Dialing Code

The FCC has given the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline a 3-digit code. After July 16, 2022, you will be able to dial 988 to reach the hotline. Until July 16, 2022, you can call 1800-273-TALK if you need to speak to someone regarding suicidal thoughts or mental health crises.

# The XIT Family Grows by 5 New Members

XIT Rural Telephone and XIT Communications are excited to announce new growth within our company. Since our last newsletter was published and sent out in January, we have added 3 new employees, and 2 employees have new additions to their families. New employees are Oscar Vasquez, D.J. Quillin, and Kelly Brown. The new babies have been born to the Tiffani Helms and Val Diaz families. Featured in this newsletter are Kelly Brown, and Lane Joe (L.J.) Helms.

Kelly Brown grew up in Pampa, Texas with a brother and a sister. He is 35-years-old and was hired as a Construction Worker in XIT's Plant Department. He has 4 children, 3 daughters and one son. Ethan is 9-years-old, Aubree is 10-years-old, Addison is 13-years-old, and Analisa is 16-years-old. Kelly also has 2 American Bullies that are part of his family as well. Kelly stated that his main purposes in life are provide for his family and have fun with family and friends. In his free time he likes to watch his daughters play sports, work on projects around his house, watch sports with his father-in-law, and working out. When asked what he enjoys about working for XIT, Kelly stated that he loves learning new and challenging tasks while running machinery, which he enjoys. He stated that he enjoys working in the positive atmosphere that XIT offers, and likes the care and respect that the company shows their employees. Kelly stated that he always tries to look ahead in a positive aspect and do anything possible to keep he and his family moving in the right direction. **Welcome to XIT, Kelly!**

Lane Joe (L.J.) Helms was born on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Amarillo. He was 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19 ½ inches long. L.J.'s parents are Chance and Tiffani Helms of Dalhart, Texas. Tiffani works in the accounting department for XIT Rural Telephone, and has been employed by XIT since 2014. Lane was named after his uncle and grandpa, who were special to both of his parents. He already loves watching basketball with his dad, Chance, who is a former coach at Texline ISD. **Congratulations Chance and Tiffani! Welcome, Baby L.J.!**



*Pictured above: Chance, L.J., and Tiffani Helms.*

Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing ...

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Internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and other similar functions. Be sure to check your website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, your personal or pet ID tags, and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

## What will remain the same?

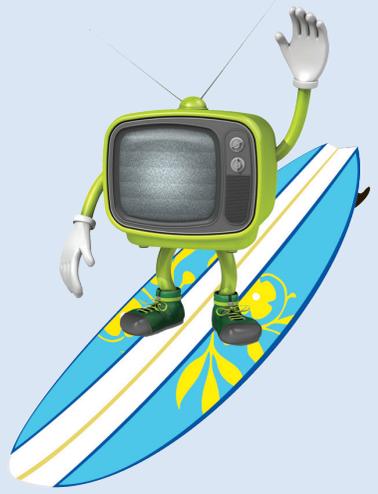
- Your telephone number, including the current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long-distance calls.
- You can still dial just three (3) digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8256).

## Who may you contact with questions?

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this notice, please call (XIT Rural Telephone/XIT Communications at 806-384-3311 or access XIT's website at [www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net). For further information. You can also visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.

# Smart Surfing

**Home Economics** is an American comedy series premiering on Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. on ABC, Channel 7/507 in HD. The series features 3 siblings and looks at the fun, yet uncomfortable and often frustrating relationship between the three. Jimmy Tatro stars as Conner, the rich sibling who is on top of the world; Topher Grace stars as Tom, the middle-class sibling trying to make ends meet and Caitlin McGee stars as Sarah, the poor sibling in the family, struggling to barely hold on. This looks to be a cute and entertaining series. Check it out!



**American Dad** is an animated sitcom beginning on Monday, April 19 at 9:00 p.m. on TBS, Channel 66/566 in HD. Stan Smith leads this All-American family, where he tries to apply the same rules and drastic measures he uses at his job in the CIA to his family and his home life. Driven by being very macho and the All-American dream, he is blind to how horribly his attempts fail at home. If you like animated sitcoms, you will want to check this one out.

**Rebel** is a new drama series premiering on Thursday, April 8 at 9:00 p.m. on ABC, Channel 7/507 in HD. The 10-episode series is inspired by Erin Brockovich's life and achievements and features Katey Sagal as Annie "Rebel" Bello. Bello is a blue-collar legal advocate without a law degree. She's a funny, brilliant and fearless woman who is a mess in her personal life, but cares deeply and faithfully about the causes and the people she is fighting to help. If you liked the Erin Brockovich movie you will want to watch this series. It looks really good!

## XIT Location Transfer Policy

XIT Communications and XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. customers need to provide XIT with at least a 2-week notice when moving into a new home or transferring service to a new location within XIT's service area. By providing us with prior notice, XIT can get the location transfer on the installation schedule so 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 move notification by the customer, so please make note of this policy.



## WatchTVeverywhere

**ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICES, LAPTOP, TABLET OR PC ...**

**AND IT'S FREE TO ALL XIT IPTV CUSTOMERS!**

**WatchTVeverywhere (WTVE) provides streaming access to top rated shows and movies from over 80 different networks. You can watch WTVE anywhere you can receive an Internet connection. Best of all, it's included with your XIT Communications' IPTV subscription. If you already have our IPTV services, register online at [www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net) and click on the WTVE link to get started.**

**Go to [WWW.XIT.NET](http://WWW.XIT.NET) for more info!**



## Texas 811

As most people do, you will likely begin to start outdoor projects as the weather warms up. Before beginning any projects, such as planting trees or shrubs, building a new fence, or anything involving digging or trenching deeper than 16 inches, you should call Texas 811 to put in a free line locate. Not only can you unintentionally cause damage to buried cables, or other lines, but you can also cost yourself financially with hefty charges for repairing damaged utilities. Make sure you call in at least 2 business days prior to beginning your outdoor spring projects to give Texas 811 the necessary time to relay your request to any utility company that could be affected.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

## Attention All XIT Rural Telephone and XIT Communications Customers ...

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative and XIT Communications have always strived to provide our customers with the latest and greatest technology that is available. We are proud to announce that we have the capabilities to offer VOIP services to our customers!

### **What is VOIP?**

VOIP stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol.

### **What are some benefits to using a VOIP system?**

VOIP allows our customers to use what would traditionally be considered "plain old telephone service" through the internet. This means more accessibility to our customers since they can access their phone line remotely, just as many people are needing to do in today's world. Having a VOIP phone system allows more freedom to work from virtually anywhere!

For more insight on how you can become a VOIP customer, or to start the process of receiving a quote, please contact us today at 806-384-3311!



## What's Cookin' at XIT

Cindy's Old-Fashioned Vanilla Ice Cream *by Cindy Tharp*

6 eggs  
2 cans Eagle Brand milk  
2 ctn. whipping cream  
2 ctn. Half & Half

2 tsp. vanilla  
1 c. sugar  
Half & Half to finish filling freezer



Whip the whipping cream with  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. sugar. Add other ingredients and remaining sugar. Mix well in a large bowl. Pour into ice cream freezer. Finish filling freezer to fill line with Half & Half. Freeze and enjoy!

This recipe is featured from our 2012 Country Cookin' Cookbook now available for sale at any of our XIT offices for only \$14.95 each. The new cookbook is made up of 709 of the tastiest recipes from the finest cooks in our area! Come by and get yours today!

# Slow Internet or Internet Trouble?

The 2020 outbreak of the Coronavirus made many people more reliant than ever on fast and dependable Internet service. The role that having access to quality Internet service plays was forever changed as many people use it daily for schooling, work, and entertainment. At XIT Communications, we strive to provide our customers with the highest quality service we can offer at a competitive price to our customers. If ever you feel that your internet, or any service, is not working as it should, please give one of our offices a call so we can remedy the issue in a timely manner. Our Customer Service Department is trained in troubleshooting problems so we can get them resolved for our customers! If troubleshooting does not resolve the issue, our Customer Service will escalate the ticket for further assistance with our NOC Center. **We thank you for your business!**

Dalhart  
806-244-3355  
1624 Tennessee Ave,  
Dalhart

Headquarters  
806-384-3311  
12324 US Hwy 87,  
Dalhart

Stratford  
806-366-3355  
401 N 3rd St,  
Stratford

Boys Ranch customers can call 806-533-3355.  
Vega customers can call 806-967-3355.

# XIT Rural Telephone Recognizes Newest Retirees

XIT would like to recognize Sherry Steffen, who retired from the Cooperative after 25 years of service. Sherry worked in the Customer Service Department since she became employed by the company. During her retirement, Sherry plans to spend more time with family and traveling.



XIT also would like to recognize Mary Brazell, who retired from the cooperative after 30 years of employment. Mary has worked in the Customer Service and Marketing Departments since she became employed by the company. During her retirement, Mary plans to spend more time with her family, travelling and babysitting her youngest grandchild.

**Congratulations on your retirements Sherry and Mary!**

Do you have a talent for photography, or did you happen to catch the perfect image at the right time? Have you taken a photo that was truly worth a thousand words? If so, you might be just the person the XIT Communications' Marketing Department is looking for! We have already begun searching for the perfect picture for our 2022 XIT Communications Regional Telephone Directory cover. If your picture is selected, you have the chance of winning some extra cash and bragging rights for being a published photographer. XIT Communications will use the selected directory cover photo in mailings, our Annual Meeting booklet, and more. If you have a photo or photographs you would like to submit, please send them to [marketing@xitcomm.net](mailto:marketing@xitcomm.net). We look forward to seeing your submissions!



# XIT Connections

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](mailto:xitcom@xit.net)

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



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Middlewater  
Stevens  
Stratford  
Sunray  
Texline  
Vega  
Wildorado



The 2021 Directory Cover Photo was submitted by Whitelea Mason of Dalhart, Texas. Pictured is her son, Richard Koe Mason.

## Contact Us Now For 2021 XIT Directory Advertising!

Directory sales have begun for the 2021 XIT Communications Regional Telephone Directory. Our directory offers an economical way to advertise and build your business! With your purchase of advertising in our directory, XIT will also put your advertising information on IPTV Channel One. We have advertising for any need and budget!

If you are interested in purchasing advertising in our directory, please contact our Marketing Department at 1-806-384-3311 or toll free to 1-800-232-3312. Our deadline for print is quickly approaching, so give us a call today!

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 <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form>, 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 USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).