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Boys Ranch, Texas Special People ... Special Place

On Monday, March 30, 2009, we were privileged to attend the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce Banquet held in the Adrian school gymnasium in Adrian, Texas. It was there that we noticed something very special about the man presenting the Outstanding Student of the Year Award. The man was Bruce Gregory. The student was Troy Mowatt from Cal Farley's Boys' Ranch. Bruce was Troy's house parent at the Ranch. His presentation came from the heart and the audience was deeply moved by his words. It was obvious to everyone that Troy was a very deserving young man, but his presenter was an extraordinary man in his own right.

Bruce Gregory and his wife, Evangelina, became house parents at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch on January 3, 2006. Before coming to Boys Ranch, Bruce was in the ministry for 30 years. He served as a pastor for 25 of those years. He began his career in youth ministry, which was a very rewarding experience.



Troy Mowatt, Oldham County's Student of the Year, stands proud with his friend, mentor and house parent, Bruce Gregory.

Bruce said, "Boys Ranch is a faith-based organization and believes the people there are 'Purpose Driven'. The ranch offers excellent programs for the students and residents. The centerpiece of Boys Ranch's philosophy is safety, and everything pivots around that. We offer a place for the children to feel safe. We focus on relationships and restoration of relationships and are very conscious on how they come into play. We offer an intensive service in more challenging areas for the children with more needs."

Visiting with Bruce, you can just feel the enthusiasm and the passion he has for the Ranch. He is a soft spoken man with a huge heart and has a vision for the future of the children and students that live there.

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Bruce and Evangelina Gregory are pictured here with Tyler, Luke and Tim of the Mize Home at Boys Ranch.

Special People....

Continued from page 1

Just recently Bruce was promoted to a new position as a Home Life Supervisor and will oversee house parents at the Mize and the Rafter R homes.

Bruce and his wife, Evangelina, have been married for 36 years.They have four children of their own and eight grandchildren.The two older sons, Nathan and Jeremy, live in Lubbock.Their only daughter,Andrea, lives in Amarillo and is a third grade teacher at Boys Ranch I.S.D.The youngest son, Joshua, attends high school in Bushland, where the Gregorys have recently purchased a home.”

As for Troy Mowatt ... he graduated from Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch High School in May of 2009. He is working, currently, at the Ranch with their summer recreational activities and will attend college this fall at Texas A&M. Congratulations, Troy, from all of us at XIT Communications.We wish you great success in the future.

Play. Share.Touch.

The Nokia 5800 XpressMusic touch screen has just arrived at XIT Wireless! With its amazing touch screen display and excellent audio quality, you can access music, pictures, videos and the web all with the simple touch of a finger. The Nokia 5800 has a 3.2 mega-pixel camera and comes with a stylus, 8GB MicroSD memory card, music headset, Nokia Video-Out cable and demo CD. Also, included with this phone is a Micro USB cable, which helps synchronize your calendar, phonebook and to-do lists on your phone with a compatible PC. What do you prefer? Vertical or horizontal display for texting? The Nokia 5800 has both and offers you a variety of options for text input with a full screen QWERTY keyboard or mini QWERTY keyboard or Alphanumeric keypad with predictive text or handwriting. This phone is perfectly proportioned for “one hand” use with side keys to lock and unlock the touch screen and adjust the volume. Also, included with this phone is one month of navigation with Nokia Maps. Available now at your local XIT Wireless store – come see it today!



More Minutes, More Options, More Unlimited Usage

XIT Wireless has recently made changes to some of our wireless rate plans.We have made sizeable investments in the area we serve to bring the latest and greatest technologies to our small towns and rural communities. We thank you for your business and appreciate the opportunity to tell you about our recent plan changes.

XIT Wireless rate plans can beat the competition anytime – with more minutes, more options and more unlimited usage. Let our trained Customer Service staff review your rate plan today!

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Rate Plans \$39.95 and higher now provide:

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Lifeline and Link-Up Programs Offer Assistance

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications offers reduced rates to eligible residential consumers under two programs: Lifeline and Linkup. Lifeline provides monthly discounts to an eligible customer’s basic local service. Linkup offers eligible customers a reduction in installation charges for telephone service equal to one-half of the service connection charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Customers who are eligible for the Lifeline and Linkup Programs are also eligible for toll blocking at no charge.

To be eligible for Lifeline and Linkup, a customer’s annual household income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, or a customer must receive benefits from or have a child in the household who receives benefits from at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA); Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); or Health benefits coverage under the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Additional information may be obtained by contacting XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications business office at (806) 384-3311 or by contacting the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) at 1-866-454-8387 (1-866-4-LITE-UP).

You may qualify for discounted phone service through Lifeline or Link-Up

Stopping Junk E-mail Completely

Yes, you read right: You can stop junk e-mail completely. But you must understand how spam filters work in order to make this happen. When idiots first started sending junk e-mail (or spam), there wasn't much you could do except delete it. I would tell people to treat their e-mail inbox just like their real mailbox: sift through the garbage and pull out the legitimate pieces.

However, as the spammers became more prolific, the art of "sifting" took more and more time. So, some ingenious programmer created an automated filtering system, the first spam blocker. It would simply scan all e-mail before it hit your inbox. If it found certain words, the message would be tagged as "spam" and moved to a junk e-mail folder.

Spammers caught on to this strategy and started devising ways around these filters. To this day, a junk e-mail battle continues. Spam filters keep blocking and spammers keep figuring out ways around them. And of course, you are caught in the middle, slowly drowning in a sea of e-mail garbage.

So, someone invented the "black list." Basically, this was a list of known websites and Internet servers that sent junk e-mail. By blocking all mail from these servers, you could reduce junk e-mail to a trickle without looking for trigger words.

But, once again, the spammers figured out a solution: Never send a junk message from the same server twice! And, alas, the good guys started losing again...would the cycle ever be broken?

Yes. Enter, the "White List." Basically, it's the opposite of a black list. Instead of allowing everyone through EXCEPT those on the black list, you are ONLY letting those on the white list reach your inbox. Receiving someone's messages only requires you to add their address to your white list. No spam. None at all.

Fortunately for XIT e-mail customers they have the ability to set their own e-mail "White List" and "Black List" preferences. Just go to <http://mail.xit.net>; Log in using your full e-mail address and your password; Click on Spam Management, then select the appropriate icon (From: Whitelist, From: Blacklist or Subject: Blacklist) and follow the onscreen instructions. If you have questions, just contact XIT at one of their store locations or call their Internet Help Desk at 1-800-687-0780.

Gain some piece of mind and get 20 minutes of your life back every day. Junk e-mail can be a thing of the past with the right tools.

Eric Spellmann is the Owner and President of Spellmann & Associates, a technology company offering employee training, website design, PC repair, and network maintenance. He is a featured speaker at a number of state and national technology conferences and writes a syndicated column in fourteen newspapers. In addition, he produces a weekly television segment for his local ABC affiliate. To contact him, visit his website, <http://www.EricSpellmann.com>



Darrell Dennis, XIT's General Manager, presents Sunny Russell with the \$100.00 in traveling cash that XIT provides to their FRS Tour representative. Also pictured is Sunny's mother, Cindy Russell.

An Incredible Trip to our Nation's Capital By Sunny Russell

I can honestly say that this Washington D.C. trip was one of the most incredible things I have ever done. I can't even begin to describe how much I learned and how much fun I had. I met so many incredible people that came from rural areas just like me. It was so amazing to me that all of those paintings, sculptures, documents, and buildings I had seen in my text books were right in front of me. The real things! Washington D.C. just had the best feeling. You always felt safe because security was everywhere. It was extremely clean, and everything had symbolism. For example, on the Vietnam Memorial, there are nineteen soldiers, but once they reflect onto the wall, there are thirty-eight; representing that North and South Vietnam were split on the thirty-eighth parallel. I had the opportunity to visit Mount Vernon, George Washington's home. It was immaculate. People were dressed in clothes of that time period. The chair George Washington sat in regularly was there, just as it was when he was living. It just gave me goose bumps to imagine that so many



important decisions were made in that house and even in that very chair. Everything was amazing and mind-boggling but I have to say that seeing the real Spirit of St. Louis in the National Air and Space Museum probably topped the list. I couldn't begin to fathom how he flew so far in such a tiny little plane.

I also learned an enormous amount about rural telecommunications. Our FRS group had the opportunity to meet with two out of the three commissioners we currently have for communications. Com-



Cory Bailey, XIT Technician gives Sunny Russell and her mother Cindy a tour of the XIT Head End which houses all the digital cable TV receivers and encoders.

missioner Jonathan S. Aldestein and Commissioner Robert E. Dowell were such an honor to listen to and learn about their plans for the future. One thing I found extremely interesting was the new fiber optic cable everyone is trying to gravitate towards because they can carry so much more information. Commissioner McDowell informed us that one tiny strand of wire in the cable could carry every call being made in United States right now.

I can't even begin to thank XIT Communications for giving me the opportunity to go on this awesome trip. Without them I would probably never have had the chance to see the Nation's Capitol, the Arlington National Cemetery with the Changing of the Guard, all of the Smithsonian Museums, the Library of Congress, Supreme Court building, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, the World War II Memorial, FDR Memorial, the Andrew Jackson Memorial, the Pentagon, the White House, and Mount Vernon. It was the chance of a lifetime where I met so many wonderful people that without ya'll I never would have. I will never forget my trip to Washington D.C. Once again, I would like to say thank you to XIT for funding my trip and for putting the opportunity out there to students. I would also like to encourage anyone with a chance to visit Washington D.C. to do so because you will see the history that few get to see and have the time of your life, just as I did.

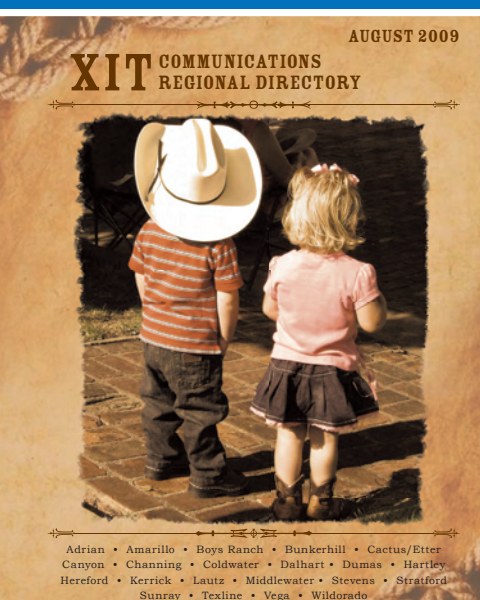


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HOT OFF THE PRESS – the 2009 XIT Regional Directory!

The 11th edition of the XIT Regional Directory is on its way to you! The new directory

is the one you will want to reach for with listings for 20 area communities; Amarillo and Canyon listings; numerical listings and an outstanding yellow page section for all your one-stop shopping. The 2009 directory will once again feature informational pages detailing area codes, international calling, wireless and landline custom calling features, county and city government pages and much more. Extra phone books will be available at your local XIT office...get one for your home, office, vehicle, boat and RV!

Vega TV Customers Get NEW Local Channel

XIT Communications recently installed equipment to provide its Vega TV customers with a NEW local channel just for them. The new channel will be located on Channel 99 and will appear in the Basic Tier. The audio on the channel will be provided by KPAN Radio Station out of Hereford, Texas.

For your local events, community activities, birthdays, anniversaries, special announcements, business advertising and non-profit advertising, please e-mail your requests to channel99@xit.net or call 806-364-1426. There will be a charge for business or any for-profit advertising.