

# XIT Connections

XVII, Number 1 Winter 2015



This beautiful winter photo was provided courtesy of Laura Rogers of Stratford. Laura's photo was taken on the Spurlock Farm on Highway 1573 in the winter of 2013.

## The Dalhart Senior Citizens' Center ... A Special Place to Be

When walking into the Dalhart Senior Citizens' Center, you will notice the wonderful aroma of the noon-time meal and the happy, smiling faces of the members conversing and enjoying each other's company. You can instantly see that it is a special place to be, and a place that folks want to come back to again and again!

The Dalhart Senior Citizen's Center has been in Dalhart since 1994. The building was the former education building of the First Baptist Church. When the church built a new sanctuary across town, the senior center moved into the building and has resided there ever since. The building also features a drive-up covered entryway for those needing additional assistance getting in and out of their vehicle or for use when the weather turns nasty.

The senior center is funded through private donations and grants and is currently governed by the Central United Methodist Church of Dalhart. The church conducts its Saturday evening worship service in the center's chapel at 5:30 p.m. Services are led by Pastor Steve Patterson, and the public is always invited to attend.

The center, headed up by Executive Director, Donna Beasley, has about 80 members currently. Donna loves her job and enjoys being there for the members. The members pay a \$10 monthly membership fee to belong. Lunch is served Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The members pay only \$6 per meal. Non-members are also welcome anytime for \$8 per meal.

The delicious meals are prepared by some special ladies who take their cooking very seriously. Adriana Unruh is the head cook. She has been cooking for the center for about 5 years. She is assisted in the kitchen by helpers Katrina Warkentin and Shania Unruh.

Donna also has several valuable volunteers that help out at the center. "Ruby Smith collects tickets for us on Tuesdays. Mary Reynolds helps us serve the Dalhart Lions Club,



*The Dalhart Senior Citizen Center located in downtown Dalhart.*



*Several of the members of the Senior Center gathered for the noontime meal and fellowship.*

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# Holiday Open Houses Held Recently

We would like to extend a great big “Thank You” to all who came to our Christmas Open Houses and helped us ring in the holiday season so joyously! We must say the weather was beautiful and the fellowship was wonderful! Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch of BBQ sandwiches with chips, veggies and dip, along with chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies for dessert. Door prizes were given away to several lucky winners at each location.

More than 500 people were served during the open houses and over 340 people registered for door prizes. Here is a list of the door prize winners:

Headquarters Office:	Downtown Office:	Stratford Office:
Billy Rammage – Ham	Avonelle Thompson – Ham	Darla Anderson – Ham
Marvin Schmidt – Ham	Tracy Helms – Ham	Larry Parsons – Ham
Mrs. Martinez – QVC Gift Card	Tom Vogel – QVC Gift Card	Al Baker – QVC Gift Card
Marvin Herbor – QVC Gift Card	Kerrie Barrow – QVC Gift Card	Ann Well – QVC Gift Card





## XIT'S ONLINE BILLING & BILL PAY!

XIT customers now have the ability to go online to pay ANY XIT bill, view bills and usage, obtain payment history and even report a trouble problem, all from the comfort of your home!

On your computer go to <https://billpay.xit.net>  
(or go to [www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net) and click on the Online Bill  
Pay link as shown here on the left)

You will need to register your account before you can log in! You will need to know your XIT account number and your CPNI password to register.

**You must complete the whole registration process in order to access your account!**

1. Enter your XIT account number, account CPNI password (in all lower case letters) and your email address. You will also create a User ID and Password for the website. Click the Register Button.
2. Choose 2 security questions from the drop-down list and answer the questions. Click the Save Button when you are done.
3. Once you have done this you can go directly into My Account. You can now set up online payments, view bills, and more! You now have your online account set up and ready for action!

## Internet Customers ... Need More Speed?

Do you know that XIT offers many different speed options to our Internet customers? We can provide our customers with all the speed performance they need and even more! XIT's Internet service is the best around ... reliable, stable, always-on and lightning fast! Sometimes the simple task of upping the speed on your Internet service can make all the difference in the performance of your computers and tablets.

Many factors can affect the speed of your Internet service. The number of computers, tablets or smartphones connected on your service can be a large factor. The more devices using the connection at the same time, the slower Internet speeds can become. Other applications like Facetime, Pandora, You Tube, Netflix, Skype and others can pull a lot of bandwidth and also significantly slow down your Internet connection.

By increasing your Internet speed, customers can combat slow connections! XIT offers several different speed options. 3/1 mbps is only \$39 per month; 6/1 mbps is \$49 per month; 12/2 mbps is \$69 per month; and 20/2 is \$89 per month. But, XIT offers even higher Internet speeds by special arrangements in most of our service areas. Just call one of our offices to visit with a customer care representative to see what speeds are available to you.

XIT also offers a FREE wi-fi router to in-town customers, along with 5 FREE email addresses. We work hard to provide the most reliable and stable Internet connections available. We want to be your Internet provider of choice! Call or come by today and see the XIT difference!



Curtis Brown of the Dalhart Fire Department recently conducted fire extinguisher training at the XIT headquarters office. Employees were instructed on how to put out various types of fires and received some hands-on training.



Marisol Wheeler and Sherry Steffen team up to put out a fire as part of the fire extinguisher hands-on training held for XIT Rural Telephone employees. Each employee took a turn putting out various types of fires.



and Helen Pack and Earleen Moore assist with serving the Dalhart Rotary Club. These ladies are all very valuable to the organization, and we appreciate their help so much," says Donna.

The center is also home to many different activities during the month and features something to do for just about everyone! Chair exercises are held at 10:00 a.m. during the week. The Dalhart Rotary and Lion's Clubs meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Weight Watchers meet Monday evenings. There are Zumba classes on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. A game night is held once a month for those wanting to join in the fun.

Coffee Memorial Blood Center holds quarterly blood drives. There is also a Monthly-Fundraiser Meal held one evening a month. A local business will sign up to sponsor the meal by covering the cost for the food and the cooks' salaries. The per-person charge for the meal is completely donated to the center. According to Donna, these sponsor meals are well worth attending, she explained. "Dalhart Federal Savings & Loan sponsored a meal recently. It was a full prime rib dinner. We served over 150 people in one hour's time with the help of their employees, and the cost was only \$10 per person. It was wonderful!"

Donations to the center are always very much appreciated. Donna says the center's biggest challenge this next year is "getting some building updates done. We've done a lot already, but still have some to do. The next project will be getting the heating and cooling units serviced and updated. We will require additional funds for that."

The center also conducts a 5K run each year during the XIT Rodeo & Reunion, which is held in August. The runners are treated to a delicious breakfast before the race begins. Also in the works are plans for a summer garden tour, along with other fun activities. Be sure to keep an eye out for more details.

What is Donna's favorite part of her job? She says, "it is getting to talk to the people every day. I try to get by every table during the meal to visit with everyone. It's been really fun." Donna went on to say that they need input from everyone as to how to make the center better. "Dalhart has a hidden gem here. We want the people in the community to know that it is for everyone to enjoy, not just the members," Donna continued.

Many people may not be aware, but the Senior Citizens' Center is available to rent for meetings. "We want as many groups and organizations as possible to use the building and get the benefit of having it," Donna said. The center has a game room featuring a ping pong and pool table, a chapel for weddings or memorial services, and a large dining hall with a full kitchen. There is space available for just about any age, whether it be for a family gathering, birthday party or group meeting. Just call Donna at the center at 244-8521 to book your event.

So if you want to enjoy a wonderful lunch with great fellowship, come and visit the Dalhart Senior Citizens' Center for lunch one day soon. It will absolutely make your day!

## Meet The Director ... Donna Beasley

Donna Beasley, Executive Director, started working at the center in October of last year and really enjoys her new employment opportunity. Donna and her husband, Curtis, moved to Dalhart in 1984. They are originally from Kermit, Texas, where they met and married. "I was 18 and worked at the local grocery store. Curtis was 7 years older than me and was a teacher and coach at the Junior High School. He would come into the store to pick up stuff and always managed to come through my checkout. One day, he got up the nerve to ask me out, and that was that," Donna said. The couple married on May 27, 1972 after a whirlwind romance.



Adriana Unruh (front left) and Shania Unruh (back left) are shown serving some of the members their lunch at the center.



Donna Beasley, Executive Director.

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# SMART SURFING...

**American Crime** is a new crime drama series that premieres on March 5th on ABC. The series is set in California's Central Valley and centers on a racially charged murder and the subsequent trial, which are examined through the personal lives of the people involved. The series tackles racial issues, focusing on America's hardened views on race, class and gender politics. Check out this series on Thursday nights at 9:00 p.m. on ABC, Channel 7/507 in HD. In Vega, watch it on Channel 7/407 in HD.



**Street Art Throwdown** is a fast-paced competition series premiering on Oxygen, Channel 49/549 in HD, and in Vega on channel 57. On Tuesday, February 3rd at 8:00 p.m. World-renowned street artist Justin BUA serves as host, co-judge and executive producer on the show, which pits 10 of the country's most promising artists against each other. The series will not only test their physical stamina, but also pushes their artistic skills as well. Scaling walls, climbing fences and navigating underground tunnels are just a few of the obstacles these artists will face during the competitions. The winner will not only get bragging rights, but will also walk away with the \$100,000 grand prize.

**Sons of Liberty** is a new 3-night miniseries on the Revolutionary War. From the Boston Tea Party to the Declaration of Independence, this series will tell of America's greatest fights for freedom and the events that have shaped our history's past. The series follows a defiant group of young men including Sam Adams, John Adams, Paul Revere, John Hancock and Dr. Joseph Warren, as they get together secretly to change the course of history and to make America the nation it is today. This 3-night series starts on Sunday, January 25th at 8:00 p.m. on the History Channel 34/534 in HD, and in Vega on channel 42. It continues on Monday and Tuesday nights, January 26th and 27th at 8:00 p.m. If you love history, check out this series!

## Directory Advertising

Want to put your business out in front of the competition all year long? Then look at advertising in the 2015 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory! Make it easy for your customers to find your goods and services quickly in one convenient spot. Advertising sales are currently underway for yellow and white pages in our 2015 directory, which comes out in July. If you are interested in advertising, please call the XIT Marketing Department at 384-3311 or 1-800-232-3312. You can set up a time to meet with our Sales & Customer Relations Representative, Trena Howell, to discuss all of your advertising options. Final deadline for submission is the end of May.

The XIT Regional Directory features:

- Large Print
- Convenient Size
- Amarillo/Canyon Listings
- Area Code Map
- Yellow & White Page Listings
- International Area & Calling Codes
- Extensive City and County Government Information
- XIT Services and Contact Information

Make sure to pick one up for your home, office and vehicle! Extra copies of the 2014 directory are currently available at any XIT office for pickup. Come by today!

## New Channels Added to IPTV

XIT recently added several new channels to its IPTV lineup:

- Galavision Channel 111
- Fox News HD Channel 527
- Fox Business HD Channel 529
- Oxygen HD Channel 549

These channels are now available for viewing! Vega ... watch for upcoming channel additions to your lineup soon!



# XIT Service Awards & Director Christmas Party Held Recently

On December 17th, XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. held its annual Board of Directors Christmas Party and Employee Service Awards Luncheon at the Dalhart headquarters' office. A wonderful meal of prime rib with all the trimmings was served, along with a variety of delicious homemade desserts.

After the meal, Darrell Dennis, XIT General Manager, conducted the employee awards presentation. Four employees were honored this year for their service. Kathy Duggan, Assistant Manager, was honored for 35 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative; Billy Sisco, Network & Switching Technician, was given an award for 25 years of service; Joe Lang, Engineering Manager, was presented an award for 20 years of service, and Kristen Hembree, Engineering Assistant, was honored for 15 years of service. Each honoree was presented with a company plaque, and an NTCA (National Telephone Cooperative Association) plaque commemorating their years of service.



Kathy Duggan, 35 years



Kristen Hembree, 15 years



Joe Lang, 20 years



Billy Sisco, 25 years

## Do You Roku?

XIT Communications is excited to announce a new promotion we are launching for all new and existing high speed broadband Internet customers! All new Internet customers will receive a FREE Roku Streaming Stick when they sign up for new Internet service with XIT. Existing customers who upgrade to a higher speed of service will also be eligible. Just come by one of our offices to sign up or upgrade. It's just that easy!



So what exactly is a Roku Streaming Stick? Let us tell you about it!

- Roku is a compact stick (like a zip drive) that plugs into the HDMI port on most TVs and gives customers the ability to watch more than 1200 channels of entertainment including movies, TV episodes, music, news, sports and much more.
- All shows stream in 1080P HD video.
- The Roku stick streams through your broadband Internet connection and works on your TV.
- Roku comes with a convenient remote control to access the Roku interface and includes shortcuts to your favorite shows. Customers can also use their mobile device to control the interface with the FREE Roku app.
- Customers can cast Netflix, YouTube and other media right to their TV.

The small Roku player gives customers the easiest way to enjoy the best selection of streaming entertainment on their TV. Watch what you want, when you want it, on your time. If you would like to know more about the Roku, come by any XIT office and let us explain how this new device can work for you! Then, you can join the many that say "I Roku!"





Donna and Curtis spent several years in Spearman and Plainview before making their way to Dalhart. Curtis taught social studies and coached weight lifting and football over the years. He retired last year from teaching after 43 years. Donna worked for several of the banks in town before retiring from Happy State Bank in September of last year. She was a new account and lending assistant. But, needless to say, she didn't stay retired for long!

The couple have 2 sons. Ryan lives in Amarillo, and Phillip resides in Lubbock. They are also the proud grandparents of two granddaughters: Madelyn who is 7, and Alicia, 10.

Donna loves her new job and loves being there for the members. "We are like a little family here", she says. "We have a core group that shows up each and every day for lunch. This is a big part of their lives, and they miss it when we are closed," she continued. Donna also wants the community to know that the center can always use more volunteers to help with lunches, fundraising dinners, and other happenings at the center. If you are interested in volunteering or getting more information about the senior center, please give Donna a call at 244-8521. Everyone is welcome!



## CPR Training Class

XIT management and employees recently completed CPR and First Aid Training. The training was conducted by Drew Parker of the Dalhart Fire Department and was assisted by his wife, Amy, who is a registered nurse. Training was held at the XIT headquarters' office. Thanks, Drew, for the training. Maybe one day one of us will save a life!

## TTA Foundation Scholarships



The Texas Telephone Association Foundation (TTAF) will be awarding six, 4-year scholarships in the amount of \$1500 per year to students entering college for the first time for the 2015-2016 school year.

Special consideration for these scholarships will be given to students who are pursuing a college degree in fields of study which are of particular interest to telecommunications, such as math, business, education, technology, engineering and computer sciences. Students DO NOT have to be XIT Rural Telephone members to apply for these scholarships.

To apply, students must be U.S. citizens, graduating from a Texas high school, no later than June 2015, maintain a 3.0 grade-point average and be attending a Texas college or university by the Fall of 2015.

Applications for these scholarships will be accepted through March 15, 2014. Applications and more information can be downloaded from the TTAF website at [www.tta.org](http://www.tta.org).

## What's Cookin' at XIT

Jambalaya by Kelly Willard



- |                                |  |             |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1 C long grain rice            | 3 Tbsp. dried minced onion                 | ¼ tsp. salt |
| 1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes   | ½ tsp. dried thyme leaves                  | 1 bay leaf  |
| 1 Tbsp. beef bouillon granules | ½ tsp. ground black pepper                 | 2 ½ C water |
| 8 oz. can tomato sauce         | 14 oz. can diced tomatoes                  |             |
| ½ tsp. garlic powder           | ½ lb. fully cooked smoked sausage          |             |
| ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper          | ½ - ¾ lb. medium shrimp, peeled & deveined |             |

Put all ingredients, except last 5, in a plastic bag and mix together. Then, set aside. Cut sausage into ¼" slices. In a Dutch oven, combine jambalaya mix, water, tomatoes, tomato sauce and smoked sausage. Bring mixture to a boil over medium-high heat. Cover, reduce heat and let simmer for about 20 minutes. Add shrimp and cook for an additional 5-7 minutes, or until shrimp are pink.

This recipe is featured from our 2012 Country Cookin' Cookbook, which is 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!

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**XIT Rural Telephone  
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and **XIT Communications**  
Customers.

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## XIT Regional Directory Photo Contest Winner Announced

XIT is pleased to announce Cassidy Horn as the winner of the 2015 XIT Regional Telephone Directory Photo Contest! The winning photograph was taken last summer and features Cassidy's little sister, Emory, and her horse Spider, at the family's ranch in Dalhart. The photo brilliantly displays the innocence and love between the little girl and her horse.

Cassidy has won \$100 and the bragging rights for the cover of the directory, which will be published and distributed in August 2015.

XIT would like to thank everyone who submitted photos for the contest this year! We had a large selection of wonderful photos to choose from, and it was a difficult to choose only one winner!

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