

XIT Connections

XVIII, Number 1, Winter 2016



The cover photo was taken by Laura Rogers of Stratford, Texas. It was taken last winter at their home outside of Stratford. The photo with the snow falling makes for a peaceful and lovely cover.

Photo Contest Winner Selected

XIT is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016 XIT Regional Telephone Directory Photo Contest is Katie Raney of Channing. The winning photograph is of her daughter, Bregan, and Katie's retired rodeo horse, Jolly, which was taken at Katie's parent's home in Gruver. Bregan loved Jolly and always took treats to him. The photo shows Jolly intent on getting his daily treat from Bregan.

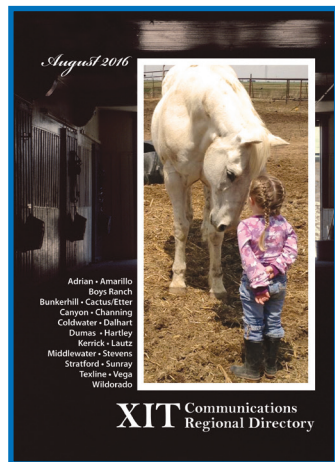
Katie's father, Frank Winters, was actually in the photo that was on the cover of the very first XIT Communications' Regional Directory back in August, 1999. Back then, Frank was the head cowboy/foreman for the Reynold's Ranch, which is located south of Dalhart. A great coincidence that grandfather and granddaughter have now both made the XIT Directory cover!

Katie has won \$100 and can now brag that her photo will be on the cover of 10,000 directories to be distributed around XIT's coverage area! The directory will be published and distributed in late July.

A big Thank You to all who sent in photos and participated in this year's contest! Without your wonderful submissions to choose from, our directory cover would not be the beautiful and colorful print that we publish each year!

Photos can be submitted to XIT all year long! To submit your pictures online, email them to xitcom@xit.net. Make sure to include your name, address, contact number and a description of the photo with each entry. There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit! Please take photos in the highest resolution available and we ask that all photos be color, no black and white.

Keep all the beautiful photos coming! We are excited to see what wonderful photos are submitted for this coming year!



Stingray Music App

XIT Communications IPTV customers now have FREE access to the Stingray Music App for their wireless phones or other devices to listen to your favorite Stingray Music channels on the go!

- Go into the Apple Store for I-Phones or the Google Play Store for Android phones.
- Search 'Stingray Music' to bring up the free app.
- Click install (you may have to accept the terms to begin the download.)
- Once the download is complete, open the app, and either sign-up or use Facebook to connect.

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Shown are volunteers for the Vega Food Pantry/UMC with a portion of the food donated in our Vega market. Volunteers include (left to right): Dave Bonnell, Marty Cook, Linda Wagner (Director of Food Pantry), Mary Brorman, Brenda Dewees, Teresa Potter, Patty Jackson and Cynthia Artho.



This photo shows the food that was collected and delivered to the Food Pantry at the Lincoln Street Baptist Church. Shown in the photo are (left to right), Makeyia Frazier, Douglas Frazier, Terri Griggs, and Trena Howell, XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative.

XIT Breakfast Food Drive



Audra Meitingner (right), from the Pantry of Stratford, is showing accepting the food that was collected at the XIT Stratford Customer Care Center. Shown with her in the photo is Lupe Duarte (left), XIT Customer Service Representative.

XIT's Breakfast Food Drive was a huge success thanks to all the wonderful residents in our coverage areas that participated! XIT collected over 150 tote bags full of breakfast food items for the local food banks and pantries in our area.

The food drive was held to celebrate Cooperative Month,

which is in October. Our focus was in keeping with the spirit of the 7th Coop Principle, which is Concern for Community. It was XIT's way of helping to insure struggling families in our coverage area could put food on their tables this winter. Our communities came out and supported the effort to help ensure it's success!

All of the food that was collected has been delivered to the food banks and pantries for those in need.

XIT would like to thank each and every person who participated in the XIT Breakfast Food Drive! Without the help from the caring people from our local communities, we could not have collected all the breakfast food that was delivered. We are proud to live and work in such compassionate and active communities!



Shown is a portion of the food collected that was delivered to the Texline Food Pantry. Accepting the food from XIT Customer Service Clerk, Tiffani Ballew (right), is Katelyn Unruh, and her adorable daughter, Chloe.



Trena Howell, XIT Sales & Customer Relations Representative (far left), is shown delivering a portion of the food to the Dalhart Church of the Nazarene Food Bank. Standing with Trena are (left to right), Norma Thompson, Rick and Julie Calvert.

Stingray Music App ...

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- If you sign up, enter your email address and a password you want to use.
- Press Continue at the privacy policy.
- Do you want to receive special offers – press Yes or No.
- Does your TV provider give you access to Stingray music – click Yes.
- Select your Provider – click on List all providers at the bottom of screen and choose XIT Telecommunications & Technology.



You will also have to authenticate within 5 days by syncing the device with your television (one of music channels has to be playing on the TV when this is done), to verify you are an XIT customer. You can do this right away at the time of signup, or if you are not by your TV, click Other Options, and you can authenticate later. If you want to authenticate right away, follow the instructions on your phone or tablet screen to do this. Authentication can be done later by logging into your Stingray Account, go to *Settings>Manage Account>Authenticate* and follow the simple instructions. Once verification is complete, you have 90 days before you will have to re-authenticate. You can continue to use the app as long as you are an XIT TV subscriber! Enjoy the music!

Loreto on the Plains: “The Home That Faith Built”

From the very first moment you walk in the front door at the Loreto on the Plains Personal Care Home you immediately know you have walked into a very special and unique place! The cozy, home-like atmosphere is so inviting, and directors, Ed & Nan Weber, are there to welcome you with big smiles and a cheery hello! Loreto on the Plains PCH is an end-of-life care home, whose motto “where the sanctity of every human life is respected and protected daily” fits it just perfectly. You can tell, just by watching the caregivers in the home, that the residents are their #1 priority and that they all love their jobs very much!

In the beginning, the home actually began as a vision, but has now become a well-needed reality. The couple have a long history of compassion and care for others. Ed is originally from Victoria, Texas. He received an Engineering Degree from Texas A&M University. Nan, a former teacher, graduated from Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania. She graduated with an art education degree, with a minor in religion.

Nan, who was widowed twice before meeting Ed, had 2 daughters from her previous marriages. After the couple got married, Ed adopted the 2 older girls. The couple were then blessed with 8 more daughters. The couple also has 45 grandchildren they adore! Ed and Nan started early in their marriage working first in the pro-life movement to help save babies in the womb. After several years, the family moved from Aurora, IL. to Prayer Town in the Texas Panhandle, where they raised their children and began a homeschooling program with other families.

In 1990, the Family Community was closed and it was after leaving Prayertown that the couple continued their mission to serve families by founding the Holy Family Ministry Center for the renewal and restoration of the family and Catholic Family Life. Things fell together just perfectly in their move to Hartley, Texas, where Ed worked for Thompson Agriplex. The couple also owned and operated a T-shirt business. In their travels with the T-shirt business, they began to become more informed about issues that were taking place in end-of-life care. Here is where the couple became active in end-of-life caregiving themselves. The couple were trained in hospice care and volunteered at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospice in Amarillo. Both felt a calling from God to minister in this work, and eventually felt the calling to build a personal care home to give the elderly and dying a place to receive tender, loving care in the final weeks, months or even years of their lives. “The home is centered deeply around our Catholic faith and brings people from all walks of faith together under one roof,” says Nan. “Patients of every denomination are welcome,” she continued.

Many changes then took place in Ed and Nan's lives. Ed's employment with Thompson Agriplex ended and the T-shirt business became their vehicle for support and education. In 2003, the couple became Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's). Nan went back to school and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) in 2006.

When the couple first made the decision to start building the home, again they say God was at work. There was a visiting priest from India who happened to come and visit their ministry to see what they were up to. It turned out that the priest, Fr. Jose Palathara, was not only an administrator for a hospital in India, he also happened to be both a civil engineer and an architect too. He helped the couple make final decisions for the home, offered his services and expertise, and helped them draw up the plans for the home. Then, they were off and running!

“When it came time to actually start building the home, things started to fall into place. God is amazing,” announces Nan. “He just knew what we needed and he provided,” she continued. The whole community of Hartley got behind the project and involved in building the home. When it came time to do the foundation dirt work, the couple contemplated how they were going to do it. Then Dean Graham heard what they were trying to do. He brought his equipment and workers and provided all the dirt work at no charge. And, it was laser-level by the time they were finished! In Sep-



Loreto on the Plains Personal Care Home opened its doors in December 2009. Nan Weber is shown here waving at the door.

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tember of 2007, God provided again with a couple of master builders and other volunteers who donated their services to help get the home beyond the foundation stage.

The couple also presented a letter to the warden at the Dalhart Unit of the Department of Criminal Justice asking for help. A team of eight men from the prison came and built about 90% of the home, doing a majority of the framing, drywall and painting in the home. "We are so thankful to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for all the help that the prisoner's did", exclaimed Nan. "They have been a big blessing and each contributed their special gift to the home," she added.

Loreto On The Plains Personal Care Home officially opened doors in December of 2009 to receive its first resident. Since then the staff has cared for 14 residents. The home has three resident rooms, a hospice room, a large kitchen, family room area, a lovely chapel, and even a playroom for visiting children. Nan did a wonderful job on the interior decorating to make the home a warm and inviting place for everyone. The grounds are beautiful with colorful flowers, tall trees and peaceful sitting areas, even a lovely pond. A simple plaque hanging by the front door that says 'the home that faith built', is a constant reminder to all who enter of how this special place came to be.

The home provides 3 forms of assisted care: end of life care, transitional care in a home environment, and respite care. Respite care is for when a person's at-home caregiver may need a little time off. There are 8 caregivers that currently work at the home. Ed and Nan are both very active in the daily resident care, Father Ron Mathews serves as the home's chaplain, and workers Jorge Santiago, Lucy Salazar, Paulette Mares, Diane Thomas and Denise Walker also provide nursing and resident care. "Jorge is our son-in-law and he found his calling here," says Nan. "We all assist with whatever is needed each day, from resident care, bathing, laundry, cooking to even emptying the trash. she continues. It is a wonderful group effort", she continued.

The residents at the home all have their own doctors. Family members take them to and from doctor appointments, and fill out any paperwork that is needed. Medicaid helps pay for many things at the home that the residents may need. The home also works with hospice when additional medications or assistance is needed for a resident. Residents can stay as long as needed, there is no time limit. One gentleman currently at the home has been there 6 years now.

Although residents at the home are self-pay, the center relies heavily on donations. The Weber's try to keep costs as low as they can so care is affordable. But, they are always looking for volunteers to assist at the home. "We can always use help doing laundry, cooking, cleaning or working in the yard and flower beds," Nan says. "It is great if someone just wants to come sit with the residents or read to them. They enjoy that a lot." She adds.

Donations are accepted anytime. They also welcome donations of building materials, food, yard equipment, and of course, time! High school students are welcome and encouraged to volunteer to get community service hours that they may need for National Honor Society and other organizations. The home is located at 1270 W Central Avenue in Hartley. Monetary donations can be sent anytime to the home by mailing them to Loreto on the Plains PCH, P.O. Box 104, Hartley, TX 79044.

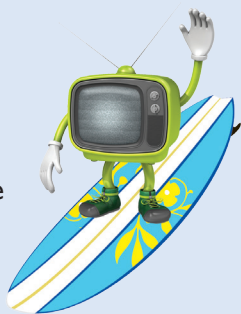
The couple has a dream of expanding into a larger home. "We have the vision", says Nan. "We just need to continue to pray about it and see what God decides. It is all in his hands and his timing," she continued. "We feel like personal care homes are the way of the future. They give the elderly and dying a safe, secure place to live," Ed adds.

Nan also offers several courses on end of life care for those wanting to volunteer with resident care. She offers a six week course and some Saturday courses. "We



Standing in front of The Giving Tree at the entrance to the home are members of the caregiving team. The Giving Tree mural has a leaf representing each person or organization who has donated time or money to the home. Members of the caregiving team shown are (left to right): Father Ron Mathews, Ed Weber, Nan Weber, Jorge Santiago, Lucy Salazar and Paulette Mares. Denise Walker and Diane Thomas were not available at time photo was taken.

SMART SURFING...



IPTV Channel Rebrands/Changes

There are several channels that recently changed names or content on XIT's IPTV service. These are changes that are performed by the network itself. XIT cannot control these changes. Here are the recent channel changes:

ABC Family (Channel 13/513 in HD) has rebranded to Freeform as of January 12, 2016. Programming is targeted for "Becomers", which includes an audience of people between the ages of 14-34.

Grit TV (Channel 110) was replaced by the network with Comet TV as of January 15, 2016. CometTV is a new television channel dedicated to sci-fi entertainment. Grit TV was geared more towards western and action films, targeting audiences of men between the ages of 25 and 54 years old.

H2 (Channel 104/604 in HD) will be rebranding and changing content as of February 29, 2016. H2 carried mostly historical and popular science programming. The channel will be rebranded to ViceLand, which will include a mix of news, entertainment and lifestyle programming, targeting to the 18-34 year old demographic.

TTA Foundation Scholarships Available

The Texas Telephone Association Foundation (TTAF) will award six, four-year scholarships, in the amount of \$1,500 per year to students entering college for the 2016-2017 school year. Through March 18, 2016, the TTA Foundation will accept applications for scholarships to be granted, beginning in the fall of 2016. Students completing an application will need to take the application to their high school counselor for processing and submission. Each high school counselor may submit only 2 applications each. The Scholarship Committee will make its selections based on the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen
- Student graduating from a Texas high school no later than June 2016
- Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Student planning to attend a Texas college or university by the fall of 2016
- Completed application postmarked no later than March 18, 2016, and current transcript
- Acceptance letter from a Texas college or university where student is accepted
- Copy of student's SAR (Student Aid Report).

Special consideration will be given to students who will be pursuing a college degree in fields of study which are of particular interest to telecommunications, such as math, business, education, technology, engineering and computer science. The courses of study in high school, extra-curricular/civic activities and demonstrated leadership will also be considered. Special consideration will be given to students who have established financial need. Scholarship recipients will be notified by early May. You may access an application form online at www.tta.org.

Loreto on the Plains ...

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just want the town to be blessed by us being here," says Nan. "We invite any of the retired people to come and get involved too. Just visiting and spending some time with the residents can be such a blessing," she adds.

Loreto is not just an end-of-life home where people go to die. It is a special place where the elderly and their families can 'be at home while they are away from home'. From the wonderful home-cooked meals around the dinner table, to music nights around the piano, to the game nights playing Farkle, precious memories are being made and sweet time is spent laughing and just enjoying time spent together.

The Webers would like to invite everyone to come out and visit Loreto on the Plains PCH. Whether you have a calling to care for the elderly; just want to volunteer some of your time or want to learn more about personal care homes, it's a promise you will leave uplifted and your visit will be fulfilling and very inspiring! It is definitely the home that faith built! Give them a call at 806-361-5097 or check out their website at www.loretoonthepains.org. You will be glad you did!

Pesky Robocalls!

There are few things that can be more annoying than answering the phone while you are in the middle of a family dinner or an important task, only to be greeted by a recorded message when you pick up the phone! How frustrating!

These type of recorded phone calls are typically known as robocalls. A robocall is an automated telephone call that delivers a recorded message, typically associated with political announcements, but can also be used for public-service recordings, emergency announcements or telemarketing. For some people, the increased occurrence of these types of calls are growing at a staggering rate, and can be very hard to get stopped.

The reason for the rise in robocalls these days is the fact that companies are now using auto dialers to send out thousands of phone calls every minute. By using the auto dialers, they can send the calls at an incredibly low cost overhead, and target a large group of people at the same time. Scammers can even put in false caller ID information, so that the calls look like they are coming from someone you may know locally, but in fact, are coming from another state, or even another country. Many of the companies that tend to use this technology don't bother to check numbers against the Do Not Call Registry, which is required by law! This way, scammers can prey on unsuspecting consumers and try to con them out of money. Scammers know it can be very hard for the law to catch and shut them down, so they take their chances and continue to market illegally.

On the other hand, many of these calls are legitimate, like schools announcing a late start, a pharmacy reminding you about a prescription refill, or a political candidate running for office. If the call is purely informational they are legal. But, if you receive a robocall trying to sell you something, and you haven't given the caller permission to contact you, it is considered an illegal call! Do not press 1 to talk to them, or press any number trying to get off the call list. Doing this may only increase the amount of robocalls you get, since they will know it is a live phone number. Instead, hang up immediately.

If you are not on the Do Not Call Registry, get on it. This will help slow down the amount of robocalls you get from law-biding solicitors. It is free to get on the list, and is available to both cell phones and landlines. You can register easily by going online to www.donotcall.gov or calling 1-888-382-1222. If you register online, you will have to respond to a confirmation email to confirm your submission.

If you have been on the Do Not Call Registry for over a month, and still get robocalls, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP or online at ftc.gov. It may seem like a waste of time, but it doesn't take long to do, and if they get alot of complaints, the policy might get changed! That is how most robocalling first got banned back in 2009. It does prompts the FTC to investigate complaints and fine violators they catch.

So remember, the next time you answer the phone, and hear the dreaded recorded message start, just hang up the phone and go on with your business!



What's Cookin' at XIT

Cowboy Stew by Bernard Davis

2 ½ lbs. ground beef or hamburger
1 medium onion, chopped
3/8 tsp. salt
Dash of pepper
4 large potatoes, peeled and cubed

15 oz. can ranch style beans
15 oz. can whole tomatoes, undrained
15 oz. can whole kernel corn, undrained
10 ¾ oz. can tomato soup, undiluted
4 oz. can chopped green chilies



Combine beef, onion, salt and pepper in a large Dutch oven. Cook over medium heat until meat is brown, stirring to crumble. Drain off fat. Add potatoes and water to meat mixture, then cover and cook over medium heat until potatoes are tender. Add remaining ingredients, cover and simmer 1 hour.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbook available for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. They make great birthday, wedding and anniversary gifts!

Holiday Open Houses A Success!



XIT's 2015 Christmas Open Houses were fun-filled with wonderful food, fellowship and prizes! Patrons enjoyed a tasty BBQ meal with all the trimmings, and enjoyed cookies for dessert. Door prizes of hams and gift baskets were given away to several lucky winners at each location!

The Stratford Christmas Open House was held on Friday, December 4th, at our Stratford store. There were 155 people that registered for door prizes, and came out to help us ring in the holiday season!

The Dalhart Open Houses were held on Friday, December 11th, at both locations. We had approximately 44 register for prizes at our headquarters office, and around 161 folks register at our downtown location.

We want to thank each and every customer who took time out of their schedule to attend our open houses! It is always wonderful to see our customers, and to visit with everyone!



Advertise On XIT Cable!

XIT is excited to announce that Suddenlink Media is now the official ad insertion company for XIT's cable TV service! Suddenlink Media takes the place of Advantage Advertising, which closed in May of last year. XIT enjoyed a long partnership with Advantage Advertising for many years, and XIT is looking forward to working with Suddenlink Media!

Businesses can advertise now on 22 channels with Suddenlink Media, instead of the 12 that were previously offered. This gives businesses a larger selection of channels to advertise on, and the TV presence to reach potential local customers!

Channels that are available for local advertising avails include: A&E, AMC, Bravo, CNN, Discovery, ESPN, ESPN2, Freeform, Fox News, Food Network, Fox Sports 1, HGTV, Fox Sports Southwest, History Channel, Lifetime, SEC Network, Super Station TBS, TLC, TNT, The Weather Channel and USA. XIT is excited to announce local advertising spots are now available on the HD channels, in addition to the standard SD channels.

Cable TV advertising gives local and regional businesses an affordable option to market their products and services. It combines the power of television, with the ability to specifically target likely customers. This helps businesses get the most from their advertising dollars!

Local markets are where potential customer's live, so businesses can reach the people that matter the most to them! Since over 92% of all monthly video consumption is viewed in the home, it makes the most sense to advertise locally on XIT's Cable TV!

If your business is interested in advertising on XIT's Cable TV, it is very easy to get started! Please contact the XIT Marketing Department at 806-384-3311. We will be happy to assist you. Give us a call today!



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



Time To Purchase Directory Advertising

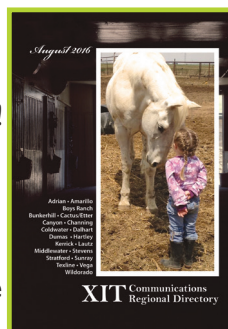
Sales for the 2016 XIT Communications' Regional Telephone Directory are now underway. XIT's directory is the perfect place to spend your advertising dollars, and get the most benefit for your hard-earned money! And, targeting customers in the area where they live, work and play is a smart investment choice!

The XIT's directory has it all! Convenient size, XIT service information, yellow and white page advertising, city and county government pages, International calling codes, custom calling features guide and even Amarillo/Canyon listings in the back! We want our directory to be the one you grab each and every time you need information or a phone number!

If you are interesting in advertising in the 2016 XIT Regional Directory, please contact Trena Howell in the XIT Marketing Department at 806-384-3331, or toll-free 1-800-232-3312, to set up a time to discuss your needs. We have ads available for every size and budget, so we can meet your wants and needs easily and effectively!

You can also add foreign listings to the XIT Directory. If you currently have a land-line phone number or wireless phone number that is not with XIT, you can still have it listed in our phone book as a foreign listing. The cost for a foreign listing is \$4.95 per month only. There is a 1-year commitment for the book. Give us a call to get your listing added!

Current directories are still available at each of our office locations if you need extras for your home, office or vehicle. Come on by and pick up one ... or several! We've got you covered!



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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/complaint_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.