



Cover photo provided by Kristen Hembree of Kristen Hembree Photography.

XIT Communications Discontinues Future Publications of Telephone Directory ...

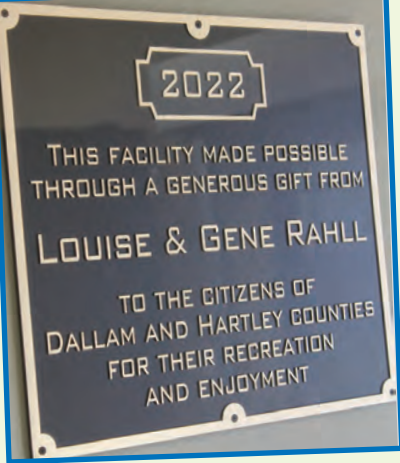
XIT Communications was notified recently by its directory publisher, Comporium Publishing out of Rockhill, North Carolina, that they would no longer be publishing telephone directories. Needless to say, XIT Communications had to make a decision. With paper costs skyrocketing ... freight increasing ... the use of social media ... and people just not using the directory as they have in years past, XIT Communications made the decision to no longer publish an annual telephone directory. The directory published and distributed in July of 2022 will be the last telephone directory to be published by XIT Communications.

Currently, XIT is working on a process to provide all of its active/published telephone subscribers' numbers on its website. When all the details are available, we will provide an update to our customers.

Back in 1999, when XIT first made the decision to publish a telephone directory, XIT wanted to create a directory that would fit all of its customers' needs. This was the time when XIT was just going into the Dalhart and Stratford markets with local phone service and competing with the



... Continued on Page 8



Dalhart Welcomes Its Newest Community Addition

Dalhart welcomed its newest addition, the Rahll Activity Center. The funds for this project were generously donated by two citizens known for their support of the community, Gene and Louise Rahll. The Rahlls paid for the facility's build as well as funds promised for the operating budget for 5 years. The open house for the center was held on Saturday, January 21st, 2023.

The Rahll Activity center will offer amenities to

Dalhart citizens of all ages. Located at the old Football field on Maple, the center will converge with the old Allen Finch gymnasium, creating a connected space for community events under one roof. Within the facility, an indoor soccer field, rock climbing wall, batting cage, virtual golf game, cornhole boards, shuffleboard table, and pickleball courts have been

added to create new ways for the people of Dalhart to enjoy fun in rain, wind, or sunshine. The facility will be run in conjunction with Kids Inc. of Amarillo.

Please join us in welcoming the new facility and all it has to offer to Dalhart! A special thanks also goes to Gene and Louise Rahll for their generosity!



The center of the soccer court was customized for the center.



This photo shows the batting cage and rock climbing wall at the Rahll Activity Center.



Chris Gerber and Craig Wilfong are shown hard at work hanging banners for the center's community sponsors.



The old boys Locker Room at the Allen Finch Gym has been converted to the Pickleball court, as seen here.



Keli Ann Frates and Twyla Lusk work on the mural found outside the old Allen Finch Gym. This mural includes features symbolic to the Dalhart community and Gene and Louise Rahll.



Featured in this photo are Dannie Claycomb and Stacy Knight who took a quick break from work to snap a photo.

XIT Conducts Breakfast Food Drive

XIT Communications wrapped up its 8th Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive on December 31st. The food drive ran from October 1 -December 31, 2022. The drive starts in coordination with National Coop Month, which is celebrated each October. Customers were able to bring them by one of our locations for us to deliver.



The food pantries that participated in this year's drive include:

- The Pantry of Stratford,
- Texline Food Pantry,
- Vega Food Pantry/UMC
- The Food Pantry at Lincoln Street Baptist Church.



There were delivery locations and times set up by the pantries for people to drop off their donations. There were approximately 20 bags in total of food donated to all the food pantries this year. The counts were down from previous years, but all food donated is much appreciated and desperately needed, even more so this year due to hard financial times.

Each person who donated to the food drive this year was given an XIT reusable tote bag when they dropped off their food items. This was XIT's way of saying "Thank You" for participating in this year's drive and helping numerous

families in our local communities to put food on their tables. Without such kind and caring members of our communities, we could not conduct these annual food drives.

On behalf of the participating pantries and recipients of your donations, thank you!

Retired Dalhart ISD Art Teacher, KeliAn Frates Devotes Expertise and Time to the Rahll Activity Center

Retired Dalhart ISD Art Teacher, KeliAn Frates, oversaw the planning and execution of murals and art at the Rahll Activity Center. Mrs. Frates, along with the assistance of Twyla Lusk, Natalie Peeples, Valerie Salas, and the Dalhart High School Interact Club designed and painted the Interactive Mural, Pickleball Court Mural, and Pickle People at the center.

KeliAn was courteous and spent a few minutes providing details on how the ideas for the art were formed. She stated that the group of ladies that worked on the mural wanted to make tribute to Gene and Louise Rahll's experiences and legacy brought forth to our community. They wanted to create a way for the people who enjoy the Rahll Activity Center to share the fun in their experiences and what better way to do that than with art. Mrs. Frates explained



... Continued on Page 7

XIT Board of Directors & Employee Service Awards Luncheon

XIT held their annual Board of Directors and Employee Service Awards Luncheon on December 21, 2022 at the Dust Bowl Bar & Grill. XIT recognized a total of 11 employees and 1 board member for their many years of service to XIT and its customers. A delicious meal, service awards presentation and door prize drawings were enjoyed by all the board of directors and employees who attended.



Val Diaz, Ethan Garza, Braydon Barrow, Oscar Vasquez, Aaron Chacon, Jeff Heiskell, Glenn Pyle, and Gene Phillips pose for a picture.

Those recognized with their years of service:

Not present for presentation of service award: Breanne McCollum



Garrett Coates is recognized for 5 years of service



Louisita Dyck is recognized for 5 years of service.



Eddie Carter is recognized for 10 years of service.



Lori Pruett is recognized for 10 years of service.

Congratulations to all the recipients!



Jessica Sanchez is recognized for 15 years of service.



Lupe Duarte is recognized for 15 years of service.



Brian McCoy is recognized for 20 years of service.



Jon Wyatt is recognized for 25 years of service.

Thank you for your service and dedication!



Kathy Bailey is recognized for 25 years of service.



David McCollum is recognized for 25 years of service.



Gary Finch is recognized for 50 years of service.

Reminders of XIT Billing Policies

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and XIT Communications would like to remind our customers of some important policies regarding our billing process.

- XIT sends out invoices at the beginning of each month for the full month's charges. Should you have services installed after bills are sent out, your prorations for time you had service will be added to your next invoice.
- Bills are due on the 18th of each month. If the 18th falls on a weekend, or holiday, the bills are due the following business day by 5:00 p.m. If we do not receive payment by 5 P.M. on the due date, your payment is considered late, and you will be subjected to a late fee and a reminder notice.
- We mail reminder notices the morning following our billing due date. If payment was not received by the time that the reminder notices were run, you will receive a late notice.
- We notify our customers in the late notice the last day that they will be able to pay before entering a non-pay suspension status. We require payment to be received by 5 P.M. on the date listed in the reminder notice.
- If payment is not received by 5:00 p.m. the day payment is needed, but before disconnects are started, you may also be required to pay our administration fee.
- Once your account reaches a non-pay inactive status, payment of the past due amount and any applicable reconnection fees must be paid to resume your service. If no payment is received to reconnect your service, you will become exposed to our final disconnection process.



XIT Communications offers several convenient ways to pay your bill.

- **Pay In Person** – Come by any XIT office and make your payment. We love to see and visit with our customers! We are open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Mail It In** – You can always mail in your payment using the envelope provided with your monthly statement.
- **Drop Box** – You can always drop your payment in one of our payment drop boxes at each office location. This can be done any time of day or night.
- **Auto Bank Draft** – You can have your payment automatically drafted each month right from your checking account. You choose the payment date of either the 10th or 18th of the month to make it convenient for you!



- **Pay Over The Phone** – You can always call in and one of our representatives can take your payment right over the phone.
- **Online Bill Pay** – You can sign up for online bill pay right from our website at www.xit.net.

We thank you for your continued business!

Need a Higher Internet Speed?



Internet bandwidth, or the data transfer capacity of a connection, is not something most people think about unless they have issues with their Internet service. When the Internet slows down, starts buffering or lagging, or won't respond quickly enough, this is when people get frustrated with their Internet service. This is also a good sign there is not enough bandwidth for the household usage, and you need to look at upgrading to a higher speed package. The higher the Internet speed, the more bandwidth is available, and the less trouble you will have with your service.

Remember the slow dial-up Internet days? The things people do online now are very different from back then. When the Internet first came online, people typically looked at text pages and some pictures. Surfing the web was more for informational purposes, light shopping or sending/receiving emails, and there generally was only 1 computer connected in a household. Bandwidth was not an issue then!

According to the NPD Group, there are an average of 5.7 online devices per household in the United States. That is twice the average number of people per household. Today, online activities like Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, YouTube and multi-player online gaming, all consume huge amounts of data, and use much more bandwidth than ever before. Add on top of that, online classroom learning, tele-conferencing, Skyping and watching TV. Then, top it all off with multiple online devices (phones, tablets, TVs, laptops, etc.) being used in the household, all at the same time. Before anyone knows it, the household is overloaded! This is why you should evaluate your Internet package periodically and make sure there is enough bandwidth for all of your usage needs.

Another thing to know is: Are you sharing bandwidth with your neighbors or does your household have a connection all to itself? Many Internet providers (like Brand W) make customers share bandwidth with the homes around them, therefore, limiting the amount of bandwidth they actually receive. XIT Communications DOES NOT do this! Each household is provided their own individual connection! This makes a big difference when family members are all online at the same time!

Want to know what speed your household is getting? Try a speed test! XIT has one right on our website at www.xit.net, so give it a try! Then, call XIT Communications to get switched over to a high-speed Internet



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

and mark them for you. Accidental line cuts can be costly for you to repair and can cause area utility outages for you and your neighbors. Be safe and smart ... Dial 811 before you dig!

Just a reminder that before doing any home improvement projects and are digging 16" or deeper on private property or any public right-of-way, you need to call the Texas One Call Center at least 2 business days prior to digging. A technician will come and locate all underground utility lines free of charge

What's Cookin' at XIT

Spicy Hamburger Soup by Jennifer Gergen



- 1 lb. hamburger meat
- 2-10 oz. cans Ro-Tel
- 4 small cans chopped green chilies
- 16 oz. can crushed tomatoes
- 2 c. cubed potatoes
- 3 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. onion salt
- 1 can hominy or corn
- 2 chopped jalapeno peppers

Brown meat in a large saucepan. Stir in all other ingredients and simmer, covered, for 2 hours, stirring occasionally. Add a small amount of water if needed.

Find even more great recipes in the XIT Country Cookin' Cookbooks (2 editions available) for sale at any of our XIT locations for just \$14.95 + tax. They make great birthday, wedding and anniversary gifts!

significance behind images in the mural and their importance to the lives of Gene and Louise Rahll.

Louise Rahll grew up in Dalhart, TX in a family of 6 girls. Her family, the Childers, were one of the prominent families in Dalhart to thrive in the twentieth century. The clock in front of the courthouse is dedicated to her family. The time is set to 1:23, the date that the center opened to the public. Wheat, her childhood home, and the clock downtown recognize the rich history that Louise and her family have in the community. She attended college at Loretto Heights College, a Catholic women's school, in Colorado. She was a recruiter for the school and would travel by train from Dalhart to Denver.



Mrs. KeliAn Frates demonstrates how the interactive mural's bench can be "sat" on.

She lived in Chicago where she worked at a media agency that did radio and print communications. Louise loves to shop at Nieman Marcus, represented with a shopping bag with "NM" on it. When she moved back to Dalhart, Louise did hour long social radio spots for KXIT.

Gene Rahll grew up in Iowa, also in a family of 6 children. His family raised tomatoes for Campbell Soup company, represented by the Tomato blossoms. They also raised Jerseys, Guernseys, and mainly Holstein dairy cattle. 167 was the number representative to the Rahll Dairy Farm, as seen on the cream can. He plays the string bass, was an inductee into the Rental Equipment Hall of Fame for mentoring young people in the industry, and has hiked to Base Camp of Mount Everest and Mount Kilimanjaro. Gene served as Mayor of the City of Dalhart and the Welcome sign at Denrock and Seventh Street recognize his service to the community.

Together, Gene and Louise lived in Maryland and loved to enjoy crab cakes. They share a love for Jazz music, traveling, their church, and Polka Dots and Moonbeams by Frank Sinatra. They have traveled to all 7 continents, 128 countries, and have been around the world twice. Gene and Louise built

the facility that the Frank Phillips College Dalhart Campus is at. They have awarded over 2.5 million dollars in academic scholarships to help those in our community to pursue education past High School.

KeliAn Frates grew up in Yuma, Colorado. She and her husband, Kelly Frates have a son and a daughter, Kip and Kaci. Kip was a recipient of scholarship funds awarded by the Rahlls and he attended the University of Nebraska. He is engaged to be married in November of this year. Kaci went to Creighton University in Nebraska and Vanderbilt University. She obtained a MBA and currently lives in Nashville. Keli Ann dedicated 21 years to teaching students of Dalhart ISD. During her years as an art teacher at the Junior High and High Schools, she shared her passion for art with the kids she taught. After her retirement a year and a half ago, she decided to work on art and projects for herself. She loves to spend time with her Labradoodle, Millie.



Mrs. KeliAn Frates shows how you can "kick" the soccer ball in the interactive mural.



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



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PANHANDLE
PRESORT
SERVICES, LTD

12324 US Highway 87
Dalhart, TX 79022



XIT Communications Discontinues ...

Continue from Page 1

carrier already in these markets. XIT Cellular was in full swing. Internet and Digital TV services were on the horizon. XIT was experiencing tremendous growth. The need for a telephone directory was of great importance.

From 1999 through 2022 (24 years and 24 directories) XIT created, proofed, and published a great local telephone directory. Yellow page ads and white page display ads were sold by an XIT employee. XIT had a photo contest to determine the cover of the directory. The pages in the front of the book had to be Public Utility Commission (PUC) compliant. Listings from XIT's competitive carrier had to be included. Amarillo/Canyon listings were included for convenience sake. This process continued for the full 24 years with the creation of 24 very successful directories.

We have truly appreciated the continued support over the years from our advertisers and customers. A very special thanks to the photographers who submitted prize winning photographs to grace the cover of each of our directories.

As we take a quick trip down memory lane, please enjoy the pictures of the very first XIT directory ... right down to the very last one!

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.